

From Roots to Arts Open Call FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

1. Who can apply to the From Roots to Arts: Celebrating NYCHA's Cultural Heritage Artist in Residency program?

Artists living in New York City and who are 18+ years old are welcome to apply. For additional eligibility, visit the application form at: [From Roots to Arts: Celebrating NYCHA's Cultural Heritage](#).

2. Do I have to be a U.S. citizen?

No, but the artist must be eligible to work in the U.S. for the length of the residency. The residency will not sponsor green cards, visas, or citizenship. Paperwork should be sorted out prior to the residency start date.

3. I am a student, do I qualify?

No, currently enrolled students are not eligible for this opportunity.

4. Do I have to be a NYCHA resident or from a specific development?

Though having a resident from the specific development is preferred, we also understand that this may not always be possible. Some sites may be open to different perspectives and cultural experiences. All applications will be accepted and reviewed. There is also a budget for consultants/fabrication/programming and a short-list of potential artists could be consulted later in the program.

5. Can artist collaborators apply as a group?

No. Individual artists only.

6. Can we apply to more than one residency?

Yes. If you are applying to multiple residency, please fill out separate applications for each submission.

7. Can artists in any medium apply?

Yes, artists working in any medium are encouraged to apply. However, applicants are encouraged to review the appropriate site summary for additional information on community interests. Artists must have extensive experience with community engagement and collaboration as part of their practice. We accept applications from artists with one or multiple art mediums and diverse creative backgrounds.

8. Can artists at any level in their careers apply?

While artists at any level in their career may apply, the From Roots to Arts program seeks artists with a proven track record of working with multiple community stakeholders and organizations, and with considerable experience using art to address public issues, as well as demonstrating artistic excellence.

9. What is the selection process? Are interviews in-person or Zoom?

Applications will be reviewed by an artist selection committee composed of public art and community experts, partner agencies, resident association leadership, and select residents. Onsite interviews will be conducted the week of June 24-28, 2024.

10. How were the NYCHA partner sites selected?

They were selected through DYCD Cornerstone nomination and participation of specific NYCHA site community centers with active resident engagement and space for an artist-in-residence.

11. How was resident input taken into consideration for the Open call?

PHCF and partners engaged residents in surveying and community brainstorming events. Engagement included over 200 residents and 150 site surveys.

12. Is this a teaching artist position?

While the From Roots to Arts program does not specifically require community art workshops or other courses, we seek artists who actively engage with the community and create new work as part of a collaborative process.

13. What public or community art projects will be allowed during the residency?

Work can take on multiple forms. We ask that artists and communities think beyond “murals” for a public or community art project. The proposed project won’t be implemented until after the engagement phase and reviewed by the site partner, PHCF, and other associated agencies.

14. Are there resources available for the fabrication and production of works?

Yes, for each site, there is an additional fabrication budget of \$160,000 after approval of the proposal and budget.

15. Can I ask the NYCHA site partners if I have any questions?

No. Please contact the Public Housing Community directly at arts@communityfund.nyc or call 212-210-2369.

16. Can I visit the site or community center?

Feel free to visit the outdoor development grounds as it is publicly accessible to pedestrians. However, we will not be able to accommodate any community center direct visits or tours.

17. Does the residency include a “studio space” at the community center?

There is no dedicated studio space. Each partner site will work with the resident to designate a station (could range from an office desk to a classroom) to work from. There is an array of program or recreational spaces, including classrooms, kitchens, open spaces, computer labs, gyms, multi-purpose spaces, etc. to host community workshops

or convenings. Please see the site summary for more specific information. Per qualification guidelines, we ask that artists be flexible with the community center in determining the artist-designated space.

18. The site summaries are helpful. The majority of surveys mentioned visual arts or other conventional art practices, while event comments showed a range of ideas. For the application, what project areas should we focus on giving the varying interests and needs of the community?

We are not looking for project proposals. There will be a more in-depth implementation phase when the artist residency begins. We ask that the artist consider multiple types of feedback, uniqueness, and a wide range of interests in working with residents for 20 months. What has prepared you to take on this dynamic challenge of recognizing the diversity of ideas, while collectively synthesizing feedback into a community art project or programmatic experiences? What is your process for narrowing down focus areas and finding common themes that align with multiple voices?