



What Can We Do?

A micro-grant opportunity for AAPI artists addressing community care in creative ways

Presented by The Asian American Arts Alliance (A4)

“Movements are born of critical connections rather than critical mass.” – Grace Lee Boggs

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

What Can We Do? (WCWD) presented by the Asian American Arts Alliance (A4) is a micro-grant opportunity for artists looking to support the AAPI community in NYC with engaging, creative projects rooted in care. Honoring the power of art as healing, **WCWD** invites artists with a desire to affect change in their communities to carry out a project, however small, within a two-month period, planting a seed that may grow beyond the program.

The sharp increase in anti-Asian hate and violence during the pandemic has caused many Asian New Yorkers to experience grief, anxiety, fear, feelings of unsafety and overwhelm. A survey of Asian seniors released in March 2022 by the Asian American Federation found that 75 percent fear leaving their homes due to the anti-Asian violence across the city. In response, many mutual aid groups, direct service organizations, and community and business leaders have stepped in to take care of elders and other vulnerable AAPI community members.

WCWD gives artists a chance to find their place in the care ecosystem either by complementing existing services and offerings, or creating their own.

The primary objectives of the program are to quickly and effectively fund and support creative projects with a simple, no-fuss application and selection process; and to cultivate a space for artists to collaborate with each other and participating community organizations.

PROGRAM GOALS

For this program, 30 NYC-based artists will be selected as project awardees by a random draw. They will each receive \$500 to create and carry out ideas to engage, aid, and care for the Asian New Yorker community with a focus on (but not limited to) Manhattan, Chinatown, Flushing, Queens, and Sunset Park, Brooklyn.

Projects may take many forms such as performing music for seniors waiting in line at food pantries or leading workshops to create 'zines that reinforce positive aspects of AAPI culture. While we prefer projects to be in-person activities, we understand that for safety reasons, projects may need to be virtual.

Artists may apply with an idea and community in mind, but it is not required. If you have a strong desire to be a part of a project, but do not have an idea or community in mind yet, we will be asking you to name skills and ways you'd like to contribute. If you are selected, A4 will assist in connecting you with other artists and/or community organizations.

Projects completed during the program may also plant a seed that leads to a larger project that might be realized beyond the two-month scope.

A selection of community organizations and nonprofits we can connect you to:

- [Hamilton-Madison House](#) – Hamilton-Madison House is a voluntary, non-profit settlement house dedicated to improving the quality of life of its community, primarily those in the Two Bridges/Chinatown area of Manhattan's Lower East Side.
- [YWCA of Queens](#) – The YWCA of Queens serves over 5,000 families annually through its multi-generational and cross-cultural services. With our overarching goal to address the diverse needs of Queens residents, we are able to stand as a beacon in the communities we serve and offer integral services to encourage educational, economic and personal well-being.
- [YWCA of Brooklyn](#) – YWCA Brooklyn offers a safe haven for survivors of gender-based violence, an opportunity for teens and immigrant women to enhance their lives, and a hub for advocacy and community action. We work daily to level the playing field for all Brooklynites while truly empowering women and girls.
- [Sapna NYC, Inc.](#) – Sapna NYC is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization transforming the lives of South Asian immigrant women by improving health, expanding economic opportunities, creating social networks, and building a collective voice for change. We recognize that women are the backbone of our families and that by empowering women, we are impacting whole families and uplifting entire communities. We strive to increase access for the women in our community – access to services, access to knowledge and information, access to systems, and access to pathways for social mobility
- [Communities Resist](#) – Communities Resist is a community-based legal services and advocacy organization established and led by people of color to empower, educate

and represent low-income communities and community coalitions preventing gentrification and displacement. Understanding that housing is a human right, the fight for tenants' rights and housing justice must advance racial, gender, and economic justice.

- [SAYA](#) – Established in 1996, South Asian Youth Action (SAYA) is a 501(c)3 youth development organization providing accessible, safe, and culturally affirming year-round programming to New York City students. While South Asian-focused, SAYA is inclusive and committed to connecting youth from all backgrounds to opportunities. The SAYA experience offers mentorship beyond the classroom so students confidently grow into engaged community leaders ready for college, career, and personal success.
- [Mixteca](#) – Mixteca Organization Inc. is a community-based organization located in Sunset Park. It was established in 2000 by a group of concerned community members to address critical needs in health, education, social and legal issues facing the burgeoning Mexican and Latin American immigrant community in Brooklyn.

Information Session

An information session for those interested in applying will be held on Wednesday, July 6 from 12:00-1:00 pm EDT via Zoom. To register for the information session, [please visit the link HERE](#).

ABOUT A4

The Asian American Arts Alliance (A4) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring greater representation, equity, and opportunities for Asian American artists and cultural organizations through resource sharing, promotion, and community building. Since 1983, A4 has sought to unify, promote, and represent the artistic and cultural producers of one of New York City's fastest-growing populations. We are a diverse alliance of artists, organizations, and arts supporters who believe that working together as a pan-ethnic, multidisciplinary community is essential to nurturing the development of artists and arts groups. A4 serves as a thoughtful convener of the Asian American cultural workforce around issues of race, identity, and artmaking and provides a critical voice for this community. We are the only service organization in the country dedicated to the professional development of Asian American and Pacific Islander artists in all disciplines.

Connect with A4

[Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#)

www.aaartsalliance.org

#A4

WHO SHOULD APPLY

Are you a NYC-based artist interested in exploring and/or developing a creative project with the aim to offer care for the Asian community in New York? Do you feel you want to *do something* about anti-Asian hate and violence and its effects on the community, but don't know what or how? Your skills and talents can make a difference, and we want to hear from you.

WCWD? is seeking 30 participants with a range of artistic expression, social justice / social impact expertise, organizing frameworks, and lived experiences.

Eligibility Criteria includes:

- A resident of New York City & primarily based in New York City during the program period.
- All disciplines are welcome. No prior organizing experience required.
- Create or develop an existing or new project that centers community building, healing, reflection, and joy. The project can be a one-time gesture or an ongoing, longer term idea as long as its intentions are rooted in community and care.
- The event or project must take place within the two month period (August 1 - September 30, 2022)
- Must have a SSN, ITIN, or EIN
- Must be at least 21 years of age

Apply [HERE](#)

PROGRAM STRUCTURE + TIMELINE

As part of the program, participants will:

- Carry out their project idea in the months of August and/or September, providing periodical progress updates to A4;
- Write and submit a brief, final report of their work including 2 photographs, the community they served, its impact, and any next steps;
- Receive an honorarium of \$500 per artist

The program schedule is as follows:

July 5, 2022	Application opens
July 6, 2022	Pre-submission Information Session (12-1pm EDT)
July 24, 2022	Deadline for all submissions (by 11:59 pm EDT)
July 26, 2022	Applications elected based on random draw
July 27, 2022	Awardees notified
Aug 1-Sept 30 2022	Awardees carry out project
October 3, 2022	Final reports due
October 6, 2022	Project share out & potluck

This program is presented by the Asian American Arts Alliance (A4) and made possible through support from the Asian American Federation (AAF).

APPLICATION QUESTIONNAIRE

To access the application, please click [HERE](#).

Personal Information (For all applicants)

Full Name

Pronouns

Birthdate (you must be born on 7/1/2001 or before to be eligible)

Email Address

Phone Number

Address of Residence (you must reside in one of the five boroughs of New York City to be eligible)

Borough of Residence

Demographic Information (For all applicants)

A4 seeks to be inclusive and accessible to all applicants. For this reason, we request this information to assess whether our program is achieving its diversity objectives.

Gender Identity

Sexual Identity

Do you identify as a person with a disability?

Ethnicity (please select all that apply)

- A. Central Asian
- B. East Asian
- C. Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- D. Middle Eastern
- E. Multi-Regional

- F. South Asian
- G. Southeast Asian
- H. Prefer not to say
- I. Other

Applicant Type (For all applicants)

Artists may apply with an idea and community in mind, but it is not required. If you have an idea for a project and a community (or communities) you'd like to benefit, we would like to hear more details. If you have a strong desire to contribute your skills, but do not have an idea or community in mind yet, we will assist in connecting you with other artists and/or community organizations.

Do you have a project idea in mind?

- A. Yes, take me to the section to fill out project details
- B. No, take me to the section to fill out skills I can contribute

Proposed Project Details (For applicants who have a project idea)

Projects may take many forms such as performing music for seniors waiting in line at food pantries to leading workshops to create 'zines that reinforce positive aspects of AAPI culture. Projects will be focused on AAPI communities in Manhattan, Chinatown; Flushing Queens; and Sunset Park Brooklyn; but, we are open to other communities and neighborhoods as well.

Proposed Project Description

Proposed Engagement Dates

How do you plan to reach the communities, partners, and/or collaborators in your proposed project?

Community Impact (For applicants who have a project idea)

If you have a community and/or an organization you already plan to benefit with your project, please fill out the below information.

What community or communities do you hope to benefit through your project? (Check all that apply)

- A. Chinatown, Manhattan
- B. Sunset Park, Brooklyn
- C. Flushing, Queens
- D. Not sure yet
- E. Other

Community Organization Name (optional)

Community Organization Location (optional)

Community Organization Website (optional)

Do you have a relationship with the Community Organization? (optional)

- A. Yes
- B. No

Collaborators (For applicants who have a project idea)

Please tell us about your other collaborators or your needs for additional collaborators.

Are you planning to work with other collaborators on this project?

- A. Yes, I have collaborators in mind
- B. No, I plan to work on this project solo
- C. Yes, and I would like assistance on finding collaborators

If you would like assistance on finding collaborators, please select skills you are seeking.

- A. Visual Art
- B. Photography
- C. Videography
- D. Sculpture
- E. Music
- F. Dance/Choreography
- G. Theatre/Performance
- H. Craft/Textiles
- I. Writing
- J. Organizing/Outreach
- K. Marketing/Communications
- L. Language/Translation (Spoken or Written)
- M. Other _____

Skills I Can Contribute (For applicants who do not have a project idea)

Please share the skills you hope to contribute to a community care project. If you are selected, we will do our best to match you with another artist or community organization that could use your skill set.

What skills do you hope to contribute?

- A. Visual Art
- B. Photography
- C. Videography

- D. Sculpture
- E. Music
- F. Dance/Choreography
- G. Theatre/Performance
- H. Craft/Textiles
- I. Writing
- J. Organizing/Outreach
- K. Marketing/Communications
- L. Language/Translation (Spoken or Written)
- M. Other _____

Please feel free to expand on additional skills or ways you hope to contribute to a project.

Supplementary Information (For all applicants)

This information provides us additional ways to get a greater sense of who you are, explore your body of work, recent and past projects, and collaborations.

Resume/CV

Headshot

If you are selected, we will use this image for the public announcement. Please check this box to indicate that you give A4 permission to use this image for promotional purposes.

Please provide the name of the photographer of your headshot, if applicable.

Website (optional)

Instagram (optional)

Other handle (optional)

Documentation (For all applicants)

Applicants must be a resident of New York City & primarily based in New York City during the program period (this program will take on a hybrid form with some in-person meetings), and must be 21 years or older. Please upload documents that verify your proof of residency and age below.

Documentation of NYC residency (Upload Document)

(Note: Documentation must be an official document stating the applicant's name, date, and NYC address; Can be, but not be limited to: utility bill, bank statement or bill, credit card

statement, valid government ID listing NYC address issued in July 2022, residential lease, idNYC issued in July 2022, roommate agreement, rent receipt or proof of rent, studio lease or any other form of official documentation listing the above.)

Proof of age (Upload Document)

(Upload passport or state-issued ID, including iDNYC)

###