



## SU-CASA

### ARTS PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS

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2025 GUIDELINES

#### FOR INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS

Application Deadline: **Friday, December 13, 2024**

#### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

SU-CASA is a community arts engagement program that places artists and organizations in residence at senior centers across the five boroughs of New York City. The program, funded in FY25 by the New York City Council, provides grants to artists and organizations for the creation and delivery of arts programming for seniors. Teaching artists will engage participating seniors in an art project or series of cultural programs over the course of the residency, which will also include a public program component – an exhibit, reading, performance, open houses or other cultural interactions open to the surrounding community. The program will support residencies for individual artists and cultural organizations at senior centers across the City's 51 Council districts. Residencies will take place in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

This initiative seeks to connect artists with seniors in senior centers and to positively impact the well-being of older adults through arts-based activities. SU-CASA supports artists and organizations sensitive to the needs of older adults and who are interested in engaging their communities. Selected artists and organizations will work with the senior center where they are placed to further refine project goals and coordinate a schedule for residency activities and use of facilities.

Individual artists are eligible to participate in partnership with select local arts councils.

Residency grants to organizations in the Bronx, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island are \$15,000 in FY25 and include a requirement of 20 contact hours. Contact hours include participant engagement time and may also include participant work time. These hours do not include planning, preparation, or travel.

**Bronx Council on the Arts** is proud to be part of this program on behalf of the borough of the Bronx. BCA will accept applications from individual artists seeking residencies at participating senior centers in the Bronx only.

Individual artists-in-residence will receive a stipend in the amount of \$6,000, an additional \$2,000 materials/supplies budget, and access to materials and supplies from Materials for the Arts. Individual artists can apply directly to participate in the program without a fiscal sponsor.

**All components of the application must be received no later than Friday, December 13, 2024.** Applicants will be notified of their application status and, if selected, which participating senior centers via email. Residencies will take place between January and June 30, 2025.

## GUIDELINES

### APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

BCA will accept applications only from individual artists. Applicants must meet the following criteria to apply:

- Artists must be 18 years of age or older and a resident of New York City.
- Artists cannot apply for or receive funds on behalf of a non-profit organization or a for-profit entity (CDF-eligible organizations may apply directly to DCLA for 2025; interested applicants should contact their DCLA program officer).
- Artists cannot be currently enrolled full-time in a degree-granting institution.
- Artists must demonstrate a residence in the borough in which they apply.

**Individual artists may apply to only one local arts council for consideration in only one borough. Applicants who submit proposals to multiple local arts councils will be disqualified.**

Previous SPARC and SU-CASA artists are eligible to apply for the 2025 program and may apply to work with a previous senior center partner and/or in one or more new centers. All returning artists must submit a complete application to be considered for placement.

### PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Programs may be offered in any artistic discipline. Projects should be adaptable and customized in collaboration with the senior center partner; nonetheless, all programs must meet the following requirements:

- Project must be cultural in nature. The humanities and natural sciences are included in the definition of arts and culture but not physical fitness, social services, or nutrition/diet.
- Project must consist of regularly scheduled interactive engagement programs for the senior participants at the center where the residency is held (e.g., workshops, classes, art making projects created by seniors or in collaboration with seniors). Activity occurring offsite (e.g. field trips) is restricted to no more than 20% of the total amount of contact hours provided.
- Programs should provide a minimum of 20 contact hours for participants.
- Programs must be free of charge for senior participants and advertised as such.
- Project must also include a public program component for the general public to experience and engage with the arts at the senior center (exhibit, open house, performance, reading or other cultural interaction that allows participating seniors to share their work with the surrounding community). The public program activities must be promoted and available at no charge. Organizations are strongly encouraged to engage other members of the senior center community as part of the public program component.
- Project activities must conclude no later than June 30, 2025.
- For CDF applicants: Project may not overlap with any CDF-funded project, unless it is a clear and defined expansion of the CDF project or a discrete activity not included in the CDF project's budget.
- Funded services cannot include; fundraising events and receptions, capital expenses (including the purchase of equipment such as tablets, computers, digital cameras, and most musical instruments), religious activities or programs with religious content.
- Project activities, including the public component, must take place either at the senior center or virtually (unless otherwise agreed to by the senior center director). Organizations and senior centers shall determine program design based on the most recent public health guidance.

### SELECTION PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

Artists will be selected through a competitive review process. The Bronx Council on the Arts will review all artist applications for the borough of the Bronx for completeness and eligibility. A panel comprised of representatives from the Bronx Council on the Arts, Bronx-based artists, arts professionals and community members will review applications from individuals and organizations and recommend placement in each pre-selected center.

The panels will evaluate proposals based on the following criteria:

- Artistic excellence of the proposed senior engagement project
- Potential impact on senior participants
- Project feasibility, taking into consideration budget, timeline, available resources, and stated goals
- Clarity and detail in the project proposal
- Quality of the applicant's prior work
- Potential impact on senior center and surrounding community

Prior experience as a teaching artist, artist-in-residence, and/or working with older adults is a plus.

Certain senior centers have identified languages spoken if they have a senior population with a significant number of bilingual, ESL or non-English speakers. This is provided for informational purposes only. Artists with foreign language proficiency are strongly encouraged to apply, but artists are not required to speak any language other than English.

### **RESIDENCY AWARD REQUIREMENTS**

The residency award is a contract for services; selected artists will be subject to the following requirements:

- Sign and return a residency agreement
- Include funding credit and logos on all marketing and event materials, print and electronic
- Submit event notification at least 2 – 4 weeks before your public program event(s) (a representative of the Bronx Council on the Arts, DFTA or DCLA may conduct a site visit to your project)
- Track artist contact hours with participating seniors and other evaluative data, as requested
- Submit final report on a timely basis after completion of all project activities

Artists who do not comply with the requirements will jeopardize their funding and future grant consideration.

### **APPLICATION:**

**All applicants must fill out a complete online application using [Submittable.com](https://bronxcouncilonthearts.submittable.com), accessible through <https://bronxcouncilonthearts.submittable.com>.**

Application elements include:

- Program Proposal
- Senior Center Selection
- Proposed artistic discipline
- Work Samples
- Website and Social media

### **TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION**

Complete applications with full details for 2025 SU-CASA individual artist residencies can be submitted to the Bronx Council on the Arts using [bronxcouncilonthearts.submittable.com](https://bronxcouncilonthearts.submittable.com). Applicants can find direct links to the application through our website: [www.bronxarts.org/programs/connector/artist-residencies/su-casa](https://www.bronxarts.org/programs/connector/artist-residencies/su-casa).

Applicants will be directed to create an account on Submittable.com if they do not already have one. Once the applicant has logged into a Submittable account, they will be asked to fill in demographic information and all application questions for the SU-CASA 2025 application and then submit the application. Applications will not be accepted after 11:59 PM on Friday, December 13, 2024. BCA suggests not waiting until the night of the deadline to submit in case there are technical difficulties.

**Still have questions?**

BCA staff is available to assist with application questions

**Please contact:**

**Chanelle Aponte Pearson**, Programs Manager – [chanelle@bronxarts.org](mailto:chanelle@bronxarts.org)

**Alejandra Delfin**, Programs Coordinator – [alejandra@bronxarts.org](mailto:alejandra@bronxarts.org)

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