



BRONX COUNCIL
ON THE ARTS

2024

Bronx Recognizes Its Own (BRIO)

Guidelines

Deadline: Monday, January 13, 2025 at 11:59 PM

For Bronx-based

Individual Artists

NYC Cultural
Affairs

This program is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

Bronx Council on the Arts

Bronx Recognizes Its Own (BRIO)

Recognizing outstanding artists in the Bronx for 35 years

For over 35 years, BCA's **BRIO** Award has recognized artists from a wide range of creative disciplines who demonstrate proficiency, knowledge, and intense practice in their chosen artform. Each year, BRIO provides direct support to individual Bronx artists who create works in the literary, media, visual, and performing arts with awards of \$5,000. Artists who have received a BRIO award represent the vast diversity of Bronx residents, inclusive of all ethnicities, ages, and genders. Over the years, BRIO has emerged as one of the most coveted distinctions amongst artists residing in the Bronx.

BCA highlights BRIO's core emphasis of recognizing outstanding artists in the Bronx and has distributed over \$2 million in support to over 600 artists over more than three decades. Peer review panels for BRIO are comprised of seasoned artists and arts professionals from outside the borough who are guided by discipline-specific criteria and experience, review submissions anonymously, and select grantees for distinction whose work demonstrates the following:

- An innovative approach to the discipline;
- Probing and pushing of boundaries;
- Technical expertise and high level of skill;
- Ingenuity and rigor in its production;
- An awareness of the medium within a historical context; and
- Compelling vision and original voice.

In addition, grantees are required to complete a one-time public service activity known as **Artists for Community Enrichment (ACE)** within a year of receiving the award. ACE events range from performances with Q&As to workshops and classes, provide artists with additional visibility, and demonstrate the wealth of artistic talent available in our borough.

BCA is proud to continue the BRIO tradition, offering this invaluable honor in the Bronx that:

- Highlights previously unknown voices;
- Recognizes quality artistic practice; and
- Fosters connections between Bronx artists and their communities.

SELECTION OF AWARDS

BRIO is reviewed on a blind submission process. New panels of arts professionals are convened each year to select grantees. All materials and information involved in the process are kept confidential and are viewed anonymously by the panelists. When an application is received, the corresponding work samples are assigned a code number. The applicant's coded work sample is the only potentially identifying information available to the panelists for review. Materials not meeting the submission guidelines will render an application ineligible.

AWARD NOTIFICATION

Award determinations will be emailed to all applicants in Spring of 2025. Grantees will then be invited to a ceremony in June, at which they will be honored and receive the award.

ABOUT ACE (ARTISTS FOR COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT)

ACE is an integral component of BRIO and is a requirement of the grant. Each grantee must present a one-time public service activity within the one-year period after the award. This initiative was created to provide artists with additional visibility, and to provide Bronxites with the opportunity to experience the wealth of talent available in the community.

All BRIO awards are subject to verification of information submitted and proof of Bronx residency.

Who can apply?

- You must be 18 years old or older;
- You must be a resident of the Bronx (Applicants must provide 2 forms of proof of Bronx residency. See instructions below);
- You must have an email address; and
- You must have a Social Security number.

Who is not eligible to apply?

- Full-time graduate or undergraduate students enrolled in any degree program;
- Recipients of 2024 BRIO awards; and
- Individuals who work for Bronx Council on the Arts.

General submission information

- Eligible applicants can submit only one application in one discipline.
- Work samples must be from work created in the last 5 years (between 2020 – 2024).
- BRIO awards are reviewed in a blind submission process. Panelists will evaluate submissions based **only** on the materials they are viewing, hearing, or reading. Applicants are advised to be highly selective and intentional in choosing work samples to submit. Poor-quality work samples and materials will affect the panel's evaluation.
- To submit an application, you must first create an account on BCA's online grants portal [Submittable.com](https://www.submittable.com).
- Only submit materials necessary for the discipline in which you are applying.
- Any incomplete application at the time of panel review will be ineligible.
- Work samples must not contain any identifying information (name, email, etc.). Identifying information in any part of the application (including file names) will render the application ineligible.
- Application links are available online at www.bronxarts.org beginning November 15, 2024.

NOTE: Detailed guidelines for each category are available on the Submittable application forms for each category.

CATEGORIES:

Literary Arts:

Fiction, Non-Fiction, Poetry, Playwriting, Screenwriting, Illustrated Text

Media Arts:

Digital Arts, Film or Video (Narrative/Documentary/Experimental), Film Animation

Performing Arts:

Acting, Choreography, Dance, Instrumental Music Performance, Vocal Music Performance, Music Composition, Performance Poetry/Spoken Word, Storytelling

Visual Arts:

2-D: Artist book, Digital Visual Art, Drawing, Illustration Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Mixed Media, Street Art

3-D: Installation Art, Mixed Media, Performance Art, Sculpture, Architecture, Crafts, Graphic Design, Environmental and Interior Design

A COMPLETED APPLICATION WILL INCLUDE:

All fields of the online Submittable application with an asterisk (*) must be filled out. Please note that all of the items below must be uploaded in order to apply:

- ✓ Your (Literary, Visual, Performing, or Media Arts) work samples. Detailed descriptions of work sample requirements are available on the online application in Submittable.
- ✓ None of the information below will be shared with panelists for review
- ✓ Current resume citing your artistic, professional, and educational background.
- ✓ Proof of Bronx Residency - (submit 2) any of the following are considered acceptable:
 - NYS Driver's license
 - New York State or New York City ID
 - Voter Registration Card
 - Mortgage, rent receipt or lease agreement
 - Utility bill (e.g., electricity, cable, gas, etc.)
 - Credit card or bank statement (first page only; social security number/financial information blacked out)
 - NYS or Federal tax return
 - Bursar's receipt (required for part-time students)
- ✓ Applicant Bio (150 words)
- ✓ Head shot (jpeg 300 dpi) (used for website and promotional purposes)

BCA will offer 6 “Information Sessions” in November, December and January. First-time applicants are **required to attend.**

Go to <https://www.bronxarts.org/grants/bronx-recognizes-its-own> for upcoming dates and to RSVP.

QUESTIONS? Contact Tracey O'Reilly | tracey@bronxarts.org | 718-931-9500 ext. 33

Note: Applicants CAN apply to BRIO and Arts Fund but must choose only ONE Grant if awarded both. An artist may not accept money from both BRIO and Arts Fund because both grants are funded through the same source. Eligible applicants CAN receive money from BRIO, New Work, and Community Arts in the same year.