

California Black Voices Project Request for Proposal

**Grant funding opportunity for Black artists and curators in California
to create or curate artwork(s) for an exhibition at Minnesota Street Project**

California Black Voices Project

Minnesota Street Project Foundation invites Black artists and curators working in California to create or curate artwork(s) for an exhibition as part of its grantmaking programs to help address the systemic racism in the art world.

The grantmaking program is administered by Minnesota Street Project Foundation, a nonprofit organization that operates as a catalyst expanding Minnesota Street Project's mission to retain and strengthen the Bay Area's contemporary art community. Furthering the multi-faceted Project—innovative in both design and purpose—the Foundation broadens the base of direct financial support to the arts and creative process.

The Award

Five \$10,000 grants to California Black artists or curators to create or curate artwork(s) for an exhibition specifically for this award.

The California Black Voices Project Intent

The California Black Voices Project rose out of frustration about the consistent lack of recognition and under-resourced Black voices in the arts community. The vision for this program is to recognize and reward the exceptional work of Black artists and curators in California. The artwork(s) or exhibition will be installed at Minnesota Street Project's landmark location, the 1275 Minnesota St. Galleries. It will also be presented virtually on [Minnesota Street Project Adjacent](#), the Project's online platform.

Each grantee will be provided:

- appropriate space at the 1275 Minnesota St. Galleries to mount a physical exhibition
- assistance to build an online version hosted on Minnesota Street Project Adjacent virtual exhibition and live programming platform
- digital and print materials for public distribution and archival purposes
- Minnesota Street Project staff support for talks, programs, and other educational events in person at the 1275 Minnesota St. Galleries, online at [Adjacent](#), or both

Eligibility

Artist applicants must be:

- a practicing Black artist with at least 3-5 years of professional experience (e.g., exhibitions, sales, or publication)
- a California resident
- working in an artistic discipline(s) (e.g., visual arts, media arts, or multidisciplinary works)

- proposing never exhibited artwork(s), at least one work made or in progress from 2020, and other works completed within the last five years

Curator applicants must be:

- a Black curator with 3-5 years of professional experience producing scholarly curatorial projects (e.g., exhibitions or publication)
- a California resident
- reflecting the true diversity of the contemporary art field in their curatorial work
- proposing an exhibition never displayed

The artwork(s) or exhibition will be installed and promoted in consultation with the Minnesota Street Project staff. The project timeline will be determined after grantees are announced.

Restrictions

Please note the following are ineligible for funding:

- students, administrators, critics, and collectives
- individuals or groups seeking emergency relief assistance
- individuals or groups not residing in California
- nonprofit or equivalent organizations
- more than one application per applicant
- commercial (for-profit) enterprises or activities

Later cycles of grantmaking from the California Black Voices Project are planned for currently ineligible applicants such as art collectives and other groups.

How to Apply

Black artists and curators interested in the California Black Voices Project must prepare and submit the following:

- **Application—via the free online platform, Submittable**
 - artists apply [here](#)
 - curators apply [here](#)
- **Required Support Materials—details under Application Submission Checklist**

Applications are due by August 31, 2020, and grantees will be notified the week of October 12, 2020. Please note the application is 100% virtual. Please do not submit or mail physical applications.

Jury Evaluation and Review Criteria

Criteria for Selection:

- Proposed artwork(s) or exhibition concept that reflects the California Black Voices Project Intent as described above
- Must be a Black California-based artist or curator
- Professional exhibition history and/or demonstrated body of work reflecting artistic excellence
- Experience showing artwork suitable for artistic venues, such as gallery and museum spaces and online formats
- The jury will only review applications first processed by Minnesota Street Project Foundation staff that meet eligibility and application requirements

The Selection Jury

[Dewey Crumpler](#)

[Karen Jenkins-Johnson](#)

[Andrew McClintock](#)

[Lava Thomas](#)

Evaluation

Minnesota Street Project Foundation is committed to reflecting the Bay Area's diversity and cultural richness of the Bay Area in our selection process. Recommendations for California Black Voices Project grantees are made through a juried selection process comprising of Bay Area artists and arts leaders.

Minnesota Street Project Foundation is under no obligation to award grants and reserves the right to reject applicants during the review process if the artworks contain materials that might pose a risk to Minnesota Street Project Foundation, its affiliate organizations, its staff, and/or the public.

Application Submission Checklist

- Contact Information
- Artist or Curatorial Statement (100-word maximum)
- CV or Resume (PDF only; Maximum file size 1 MB)
- Six representative and two installation images (similar in quality to your proposal; Images need not be the exact pieces)
- Summary of concept proposal (200-word maximum)
- Proposed artwork(s) or the exhibition concept (500-word maximum)

Each uploaded file must be labeled with your full name and content—for example, jane.doe.resume.pdf or jane.doe.image1.jpg.

If eligible, **artists can apply [here](#), and curators can apply [here](#)**, via the Submittable platform. If you've used Submittable before and have an existing account, you will need to enter your login credentials. If it's your first time using Submittable, you will need to create a new account. If you have any technical issues on Submittable, please contact support@submittable.com.

Questions? Please contact Ivana Colendich, Development Director, at ivana@minnesotastreetproject.org.

Thank you to the Rappaport Family Foundation for the gift to Minnesota Street Project Foundation to establish the California Black Voices Project grantmaking program.