



Dr. Timuel Black Inspiration and Education Project

Program Guidelines

The Jazz Institute of Chicago is currently accepting proposals for its new **Dr. Timuel Black Inspiration and Education Project**. Through this project, the JIC will select and award specialized grants to musicians whose proposals engage with select Chicago neighborhoods of their choosing to provide music and programming. The projects will include formalized and pop-up educational workshops and classes, performances and other collective creative opportunities. The JIC has named the program for Dr. Timuel Black who continues his lifelong efforts in the African American community, including serving on the board of the JIC at the age of 102.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for a DR. TIMUEL BLACK INSPIRATION AND EDUCATION PROJECT grant, applicants must meet each of the following criteria:

- a. Be at least 18 years old
- b. Be legally authorized to work in the United States without requiring visa sponsorship
- c. Be a resident of the city of Chicago, Illinois
- d. Perform actively within the city of Chicago
- e. Complete the project before March 2022
- f. If working with students, be willing to complete a background check and submit fingerprints in accordance with Chicago Public Schools requirements.

Overview of Program Pillars:

Successful proposals will address three pillars: Community, Education, and Showcase.

Community : Priority will be given to artists whose proposals serve Chicago South and West side neighborhoods that capture the essence of community engagement through listening and working directly with residents, local arts or social service organizations, civic leaders, and businesses.

Education: Quality proposals will include a workshop or workshops (1-4) that engage students and/or adults in learning about jazz music and its impact in the community or neighborhood.

Showcase : The grantees must present a concert of original music fitting the community in which they will be performing. Strong proposals will reach beyond jazz music to engage artists from multiple disciplines, whether that be visual art, dance, or literature. Applicants are encouraged to select showcase locations that

are non-traditional performance spaces, such as: businesses in need of a boost, churches or community centers, and outdoor spaces that allow for safe gathering.

We strongly encourage projects that:

- Foster cross-industry collaborations
- Are artist-led and activate Chicago communities and institutions to address broader social issues, opportunities, and challenges.
- Use music to inspire community organizing, civic engagement and participation.
- Activate underutilized spaces, or non-traditional music performance spaces.
- Seek to celebrate and preserve the cultural traditions of underrepresented or historically marginalized groups.
- Recognize and illuminate the character defining attributes of Chicago's neighborhoods.
- Increase dialogue, civic discourse and exchange around Chicago's unique social issues.

Grant Details

- Grants will be awarded in the amount of \$10,000.
- JIC will award grants to 5 individuals.
- Project timeline: September 2021 - March 2022
- JIC may be able to assist with costs associated with the production and implementation of awarded projects.

Review Process and Criteria

All proposals will be reviewed by a grant review committee consisting of music experts, as well as residents of priority neighborhoods and communities. This committee will select finalists to interview, participate in interviews, review full proposals, and make final funding recommendations to JIC.

Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- **Strength of proposed project**: The proposed project possesses artistic merit and vision alongside quality opportunities to engage neighborhood residents in music and culture activities.
- **Community experience**: The applicant demonstrates a depth of experience, relationships and engagement with artists and partners in identified communities/neighborhoods. The applicant and its partners demonstrate experience working in, on behalf of, and leading communities.
- **JIC's capacity to assist in program realization**: JIC is committed to assisting in the realization of each funded project.

JIC Contact Information

Please direct inquiries to:
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