

New York City Pan-African Artists Exchange Program

Partnership Proposal: Office of the Brooklyn Borough President

I. Overall Intent

A cultural exchange program will be established between a group of four artists from different regions of the Pan-African diaspora (African American, Afro-Latino, Afro-Caribbean, and Afro-Indigenous). The exchange will be based in Brooklyn, New York and will draw artists who currently live within one of New York City's five boroughs. This pilot exchange program is being organized by an independent program director, Melissa Parke.

Ms. Parke plans to carry out the activities of this program by partnering with an arts and cultural organization and a higher-education institution in Brooklyn. Currently, Ms. Parke is also seeking a third partnership, with the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President, in order to foster community awareness of this exchange program and to liaise the partnership with a higher-education institution in Brooklyn.

The purpose of this program is to connect individual artists from the Pan-African Diaspora through art—one of the most powerful tools we have for human expression—in order to unify and strengthen intercultural understanding between marginalized Pan-African populations. Forming this type of connection between Pan-African artists has the potential to combat individual feelings of isolation, foster personal empowerment, and ultimately, through the transmission of knowledge and shared experiences, put entire communities on a path towards social inclusion and economic growth.

The primary activities for this exchange will consist of a series of artist-led workshops, held over the course of six weeks and culminating in a collective workshop to be shared with a higher-education institution in Brooklyn.

Each week, a different artist will lead a workshop, which will explore the individual artist's own Pan-African culture. The leading artist will also prepare an art project to showcase during this workshop, which will further explore their lived experience as a Black artist within their home community. These individual projects may incorporate themes such as "Cultural Diversity in Afro-Latino Communities Through Music," "Understanding Double-Consciousness in America Through Hip-Hop Culture," and "Social Politics in the Caribbean Through Literature."

During the fifth week of the exchange, the participating artists will come together to reflect on their experiences and cultures, as they create a final, collective workshop. Through their diverse mediums and distinct cultures, the participating artists will work to uncover a unified Pan-African connection in this cumulative workshop.

The participating artists will then go on to share this workshop with a higher-education institution in Brooklyn—a follow-on service project that will enable the artists to continue the

transmission of knowledge of one another's Pan-African cultures and the shared Black experience in New York City.

II. Agreement Participants

This partnership agreement will be between Melissa Parke, the program director and independent representative of the New York City Pan-African Artists Exchange Program, and an organizational leader at the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President.

III. Time Frame

Due to the ongoing and unprecedented circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, it is difficult to know the exact start and end dates of this program. However, Ms. Parke currently hopes to be able to conduct this exchange program as early as October 2020.*

IV. Specific Roles and Responsibilities of Participants

As director of the New York City Pan-African Exchange program, Melissa Parke agrees to:

- Oversee all program development operations, with primary responsibility to:
 1. Hire staff and consultants
 2. Identify partners and stakeholders
 3. Organize meetings
 4. Develop funds and resources
 5. Manage public relations and communications
- Manage roles for all key personnel
- Maintain partnerships and coordinate with key leaders throughout the course of the program
- Oversee all program activities, primarily including:
 1. Selection of the participating artists
 2. Coordination of artist-led workshops
 3. Coordination of the collective workshop
 4. Coordination of the follow-on service project with a partnering higher-education institution
 5. Completion of all monitoring and evaluation plans
 6. Completion of marketing plan

As a key partner, the organizational leader at the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President will:

- Formally agree to partnership terms via contract
- Participate in regular meetings and communications with the program director, key personnel, and key partners (Meetings will sometimes occur in-person in Brooklyn or virtually via Zoom. Regular communications may be via email or telephone.)

- Assist the program director in building community awareness of the exchange program and successfully implementing the marketing plan. These objectives will be primarily achieved by helping the program director to staff the marketing volunteer position.
- Assist the program director in locating a donated space for the artists and key personnel to meet, potentially host the workshops, prepare for the follow-on service project, and share their overall experiences with the program
- Assist the program director in locating a Brooklyn-based higher-education institution to partner with for follow-on service project (the collective workshop)
- Assist in the facilitation of the follow-on service project (the collective workshop)
- Participate in monitoring and evaluation discussions with the program director, educational coordinator, and other key partners
- Potentially provide a stipend for the participating artists or liaise a speaking-stipend between the artists and the partnering higher-education institution

V. Finances

Estimated financial contributions have not yet been calculated for this program.