Brooklyn Community Foundation

SPARK

Application Clinic
Tuesday, June 7, 2022
11:00AM - 12:00PM
Notice of Recording

• This session is being recorded to provide a reference for other applicants (it will be posted on the website)
About Brooklyn Community Foundation

We Spark Change. We are on a mission to spark lasting social change, mobilizing people, capital and expertise for a fair and just Brooklyn.

Brooklyn Community Foundation (BCF) is the first and only public foundation solely dedicated to Brooklyn’s charitable community, working in partnership with generous donors and community leaders to invest in racial justice and community-led change. Since our founding in 2009, the Foundation has provided over $75 million in grants to hundreds of nonprofits throughout the borough.
Here’s to the changemakers, the catalysts, the igniters, those who never say never.

Here’s to celebrating what works here, in Brooklyn, and great ideas that started here, in Brooklyn.

Here’s to creating solutions together that harness the diversity, courage, and creativity of three million people across 70 neighborhoods.

Brooklyn is more than New York City’s largest borough. With urban farms and community gardens, performance halls and street parades, murals and museums, mosques and temples, brownstones and boardwalks—it’s the proudest and the boldest.

From Bay Ridge to Brownsville, Gravesend to Greenpoint, Brooklyn is (and always has been) home to the most electric do-ers, artists, activists, advocates, educators, innovators, and trailblazers anywhere, from everywhere.

You are the SPARK that lights up Brooklyn for all the world to see. A spark that starts movements, kindles collaboration, incites bold new ideas.

This is your moment to share the hurdles you’ve overcome, the justice you’ve won, and the future you envision.

This is your moment to show how community can come together to lead Brooklyn forward.

This is your moment to shine.
Spark Prize Values

**Born in Brooklyn**: Organizations that have a deep history in Brooklyn and a continued commitment to serving the borough.

**Commitment to Equity**: Organizations that address systemic challenges and advance racial and social justice for all Brooklynites.

**Values Driven**: Organizations that have articulated values that permeate through all aspects of their work.

**Vision for Future**: Organizations that have a strong vision for the future work of their work in Brooklyn and beyond.
BCF’s Racial Justice Lens

• We define racial justice as the systemic redistribution of power, opportunities, and access for people of all races. We believe that all people should be equally seen, heard, valued and respected.

• Whether through grantmaking, advocacy or special initiatives, we aim to increase the ability of Black, indigenous and people of color to determine and sustain a more equitable future for themselves and their communities.

• We can address racial justice through grantmaking by giving priority to organizations led by members of affected communities and who center the voices of those directly impacted by structural racism in decision-making.
In reviewing proposals, we will give preference to organizations that:

• **Use a racial justice lens in their work.** Organizations consider inequities based on race and their impact in designing programs, looking for solutions and defining success;

• **Center the voices and leadership of community members.** Organizations craft solutions to problems and work in authentic partnership with community members to actively engage those most impacted in directing their own lives and shaping their own communities, and building the capacity of emerging leaders in their organizations;

• **Acknowledge intersecting oppressions.** Organizations understand how multiple oppressions impact one another and the lives of the people with whom they work;

• **Work on the frontlines of issues.** Organizations that are grassroots and doing work on the ground and at the community level.
The Spark Prize provides support to organizations with a strong track record for effectively addressing challenges that overwhelm communities of color in Brooklyn.

20 finalists will be eligible for $5,000 in #BrooklynGives matching funds on Giving Tuesday.

5 winners will receive $100,000 in unrestricted grants distributed over a 2-3 year period.
Eligibility Requirements

• Be in operation for longer than 5 years
• Show a minimum organizational budget of $200,000 for most recent fiscal year
• Be an eligible 501c3 organization
• Have an active governing body

We especially encourage organizations that are not current BCF grantees to apply.

Organizations that have applied for the Spark Prize in previous years are encouraged to apply again (including finalists; past winners are ineligible).
2022 - Arab American Association of New York
- Black Women’s Blueprint
- Brooklyn Movement Center
- Groundswell Community Mural Project
- Weeksville Heritage Center

2020 - Brownsville Community Justice Center
- Children of Promise, NYC
- The Noel Pointer Foundation
- North Brooklyn Coalition
- Sadie Nash Leadership Project

2019 - The Campaign Against Hunger
- Cypress Hills Child Care Corporation
- Girls for Gender Equity
- Red Hook Community Justice Center
- Voices of Community Activists & Leaders (VOCAL-NY)

2018 - Cave Canem
- Center for Law and Social Justice
- Exalt
- GRIOT Circle
- Red Hook Initiative

2017 - The Audre Lorde Project
- Common Justice
- Make the Road New York
- The Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts (MoCADA)
- Neighbors Together

Girls for Gender Equity
Spark Timeline

- Spark Prize 2022-2023 Timeline
- Monday, April 25, 2022: Online Application Opens
- Tuesday, June 7, 2022: Application Clinic - Webinar at 11:00AM (RSVP Below)
- Friday, June 24, 2022: Applications Due at 5:00PM
- June 2022: Spark Prize Committee Announced
- July – October 2022: Applications Reviewed by Committee
- October 2022: 20 Finalists Announced
- November 7 – December 2, 2022: Finalists Interviews with Committee
- November 29, 2022: #BrooklynGives on Giving Tuesday
- January 2023: Five $100,000 Spark Prize Winners Announced
- February 2023: Spark Breakfast