

2021 NAP Grantees

The Neighborhood Access Program (NAP) supports the cultural vitality of every neighborhood via grant programs and partnerships designed to be responsive to the complex needs of individual communities. It was created to support arts and culture activities in all neighborhoods with a focus on those that have traditionally not received significant funding through DCASE’s Cultural Grants Program, and to collaborate with other City departments to make a collective impact on neighborhoods identified through the INVEST South/West initiative.

Grantee	Project Title	Short Project Description
A Knock at Midnight in partnership with FreshLens Chicago	Exposure to Photography	AKAM and FLC will partner again to provide three high-quality photography education courses for 30 under-resourced middle school students interested in photography from the Auburn Gresham community.
Albany Park Theater Project	Port of Entry	Port of Entry is a new original immersive production that will tell the stories of a century of immigrants from around the world who have made the Albany Park neighborhood their first home in the U.S.
Ashwaty Chennat in partnership with Mandala Arts	Mandala Makers Festival: South Asian performing arts programming in West Ridge	The 4th annual Mandala Makers Festival launches in June 2022 and supports emerging South Asian artists. Community-driven, free programming will engage West Ridge's residents over the 10 day festival.
Asian American Culture Center	Moon Festival	We are requesting funding for the Moon Festival Event to be held in Chinatown Square.
Ayodele Drum and Dance	Ayodele African Drum and Dance Conference and Concert	We are producing a 3 day African dance conference with 14 classes, live drumming, and a drum and dance concert.
B U I L D INCORPORATED	BUILD Community Arts Program	BUILD respectfully requests DCASE funding for its Community Arts Program, immersing 50 Austin youth ages 14+, in three artistic disciplines—Public Arts, Dance, and Creative Writing—in 2022.
Bethel New Life	S.O.U.L. Arts Festival Performance Program	Soul Arts Festival Performance Program infuses physical and mental health practices with performance to achieve better social connectedness, increase exercise habits, and improve nutrition habits.

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Building Community Foundation Inc. in partnership with the Bronzeville Art District	Bronzeville Art Tour	Bronzeville is a focal point for Chicago's vibrant African American culture. Bronzeville Art District consists of five visual art spaces collaborating to drive cultural tourisms in the community.
Community Christian Alternative (CCA) Academy	North Lawndale Whirligig CAN Project (working title)	The North Lawndale Whirligig CAN Project is a set of kinetic structures to unify nine community gardens. They are inspired by adinkra symbols chosen by each site that best represent their mission.
Damon Lamar Reed	The Still Searching Project	Damon Lamar Reed will create murals of missing woman and girls to raise awareness in the Chicagoland area.
Derric Clemmons	The Talking Tree	Through partnerships and youth programming, I will create a sculpture and landscaped area that will activate a dark space underneath the Skyway to connect two sides of the Southeast side.
Edra Soto	EGP Beautification Project	Through growth, stewardship and visualizations, the EGP Beautification Project proposes to provide a series of civic activities that visually stimulates and educates, promoting care and generosity.
El Paseo Community Garden	Nuestra Herencia: Legacy Film Project	A legacy film project with On the Real Film honoring seniors of Pilsen who garden at El Paseo Community Garden. The documentary series captures their emigration stories and how gardening connects them to home.
Elizabeth Johanson	Kids Summer Jam	A week long camp focusing on music creation (including songwriting skills, beat creation and performance) while also having a art class for painting and drawing. We will have a concert & art show.
Hutch Pimentel	Queer Futures	A placemaking event and theatrical happening celebrating the radical history and potential of Chicago's Queer communities.
Ignite	Amplify with iSkills	Ignite seeks support for a year-long music, mindfulness, & life skills residency to support the mental health & professional development skills in youth transitioning from homelessness in Chicago.

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in c/o: Black women	Maker's Workshop Series	We will provide free makers workshops for Black women and non-binary identified individuals in the 20th Ward.
Jaclyn Rodriguez / MECA	Chicago's Footprint: La Huella de Chicago	Chicago's Footprint: La Huella de Chicago is a series of workshops/performances that aim to help bridge the Black and Brown communities in Chicago through their cultural dances.
John Edel in partnership with Bodies of Work	Unfolding Disability Futures	Site-specific performances and art installations by disabled artists in The Plant, a revitalized former meatpacking facility, demonstrate the importance of sustainability and community care in artistic practice.
Kehrein Center for the Arts	Promoting Justice and Peace in Austin through the Performing and Spoken Arts	KCA will continue its symposium series and promote peace and justice through a song competition, a decorative mural, and making space available to local artists and nonprofits with limited budgets.
Lawndale Pop-Up Spot	1 Lawndale (working title)	This project will connect North & South Lawndale through events, exhibits, and mapmaking. We will bring young people together to curate a multisite exhibit and create a map linking the Lawndales
Lional "Brother El" Freeman	Sandbox Symphony VII	Sandbox Symphony is an arts activation on the beach of live PA electronic music, visual arts, wellness, movement, food, and nature for healing and inspiration.
Live the Spirit Residency	Monthly Concerts leading up to the 2022 Englewood Jazz Festival	From October 2021 through December 2022, Live the Spirit Residency offers a free, monthly program in parks in and around Englewood, building excitement for the Englewood Jazz Festival next September.
Mia Park	Let Me Tell You: Stories About Asian American Authenticity	Chicago Asian Pacific Island Desi American (APIDA) participants will learn how to tell stories about their personal responses to anti-Asian sentiment and perform them at a storytelling event in May, 2022 - Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The performance will be in Uptown, simultaneously in person and online, with deaf/HOH interpretation.

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Northwest Side CDC	Belmont Cragin Artes y Cultura	We will engage neighborhood-based Latinx artists,businesses,and residents to participate in arts-focused workshops that result in creative expression,promote cultural exchange,and preserve traditions
Open the Circle	Body of the City	Body of the City is a poetic documentary film made by Footwork dancers in Chicago to tell the story of their craft. Footwork started as a Black dance to house music in Chicago in the 1980s.
Pablo Serrano, Mateo Zapata, and Richard Morales	La Esquina Community Center	La Esquina, will be a safe space that will provide youth, young adults and families from Chicago's Lower West Side with instructional courses on the arts, digital media and photography.
Pilsen Arts & Community House	18th Street Pilsen Open Studios	18th St Pilsen Open Studios is a neighborhood wide art-walk. It is a two-day event in which the artist community shares the environment they create their work in and exhibit to the public.
Praize Productions, Inc.	Praize Productions – Bronzeville cultural hub	Praize is a cultural hub for the South side and Chicago's Black community. This project would help cement our vibrant organization in Bronzeville and begin to reverse decades of disinvestment.
Puerto Rican Cultural Center	Holiday Celebration Walking Story: Tales from the Barrio and Beyond	A Walking Story depicting traditional Christmas Celebrations in Central America, Latin America, and Puerto Rico, including the Three Kings Day. The installations will incorporate literature, visual art, lighting, and music (through QR code). The installations will cover part of the Invest South/West North Ave. Corridor and Paseo Boricua.
Railroad Tracks Music Academy	Songs In The Key Of Chicago	Songs In the Key of Chicago takes young aspiring artists and emphasizes on the three pillars of creating recorded music. The project focuses on music composition, songwriting, audio engineering and entrepreneurship. Participants gain an understanding of intellectual property and how to protect and monetize their creations.
Sarah Ross	Walls Turned Sideways	Walls Turned Sideways (WTS) will create a pop-up art space that connects people impacted by incarceration on both sides of the prison wall through cultural production, workshops, exhibitions& events.

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South Shore Works in partnership with Hyde Park Jazz Festival	Back Alley Jazz	Back Alley Jazz is requesting funding for the fifth anniversary event in summer of 2022, as well as for strategic capacity building towards the long term sustainability of the project.
SSA 72	POPCourts Community Plaza	POPCourts Community Plaza is located at Chicago and Lockwood, in the SSA 72, Soul City and Invest South/West Corridors, where Westside Health Authority is the SSA 72 Service Provider. We would like to continue to create community programming for 2022
Ted Williams III	1619 Musical Washington Heights Performances	The 1619 Musical will partner with Julian High School to present the production for multiple audiences during the spring of 2022. The engagements will include community panels and workshops.
Teena's Legacy	A Message from the Soul of Our Community: Bringing our Seats to the Table	With artists and volunteers, a 6 session activist art workshop for residents & 4 community art shows provide access to art locally & engages Austin neighbors in self & social/community transformation
The Original Sixty Fourth Street Beach Drummers, Inc.	The Way We Rejuvenate!	Presenting a Peace Drum Circle every Saturday in July and August 2022. Teaching the art of conga hand drumming with teach-back and a Limbo Dance contest.
The WasteShed	Collage and Collaborate	The WasteShed will present 26 low-cost or free artist led workshops in and around Humboldt Park, connecting the many artists in our community at large, and to West Side organizations and schools.
Vernon Herrion	Chi-Town Chess: The Englewood Open	Ten chess tables handcrafted from reclaimed wood are the foundation of The Englewood Open, a fun outdoor chess tournament that brings people of all ages & abilities together to play, learn & compete.
Voice of the City	Pullman: Laboring Together	VOTC will produce a series of arts experiences with facilitated discussions celebrating Pullman's original footprint, 103rd to 115th Streets, while confronting its historic structural divisions. VOTC will regrant to 10 artists and 2 organizations for this program.

2021 NAP Panelists: Arturo Barrera, Cassandra Bell, Angela Benson, Alpha Bruton, Jose A. Burgos, Domini Gamble, Christine Jacob, Ginger Leopoldo, Kittie Morris, Frayne A. Payne, Matthew Riggen, Najee-Zaid Searcy, Violeta Sosa, Brian Tyler, Adrienne Whitney-Boykin, and Destine Young.