



FOUNDATION FOR NEW AMERICAN ART, INC.
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FOUNDATION FOR NEW AMERICAN ART RECEIVES \$15,220 CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANT FROM NYC DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

*Public support will go toward Foundation for New American Art's
"Paintbrushes Not Guns" 2023 Initiative*

New York, NY – Foundation for New American Art, a 501c3 arts education nonprofit organization, is pleased to announce that it has received an award of \$15,220 from the City of New York. The NYC Cultural Development Fund will support Foundation for New American Art's free after school program **"Paintbrushes Not Guns: Multimedia and the Power of Cultural Memory."** This grant comes as part of New York City Mayor Eric Adams Cultural Development Fund (CDF) grants.

The weekly "Paintbrushes Not Guns" program invites children to attend free art, music, performance art and dance training sessions with special guest Master Artists from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Native America.

Each week children will create their own works of art. During "Sharetime" the child will tell the meaning of their art and how it relates to their lives right now. The sessions will be held at Materials for the Arts in their Long Island City headquarters.

According to Phoebe Legere, Founding Director of the Foundation for New American Art, "We are an indigenous, Two-Spirit and woman-led charity.. We grew out of a basement space on the Lower East Side. Since 2006 our small, grassroots organization has been fueled by the passion of volunteers and small donations from the community. We are overjoyed to receive this vote of confidence and support from DCA to continue the FNAA mission: We bring free high-quality arts education to children of low-income BIPOC communities that have no art classes in their schools.

DCA support is helping us to expand our cultural footprint, to impact new boroughs and bring artistic and musical spirit to new populations. We serve ages 8 -12. According to experts at Boston Children's Hospital , children who have witnessed violent events suffer from PTSD. Traumatized children have two ways to express their emotions – they can become violently disruptive or creatively constructive. 10 -12 is the age when children join gangs and start selling and doing drugs. We're here to run interference with colors, sounds, and beautiful stories – Art saves lives.

We strengthen children's voices so they can articulate their goals and tell authentic stories about their lived experiences. We offer a safe space where children can sing together and move together. We teach how to lead and how to follow. We celebrate diversity as we cheer for each other. At our free, public events we perform our shared vision of a harmonious future for our community; we also give each child a chance to step into the spotlight and shine.

We introduce young children to the ineffable, eternal spirit of beauty and truth that is called Art – but never lose sight of the mathematical and scientific nature of sound and light. Our pedagogy is multi-disciplinary.

Critical artistic thinking helps students be decisive. Strong, bold, courageous choices are the bedrock of youthful self-development.

Here at FNAA we hold our mission like a candle in our hearts: We educate, nurture and strengthen the artist and musical spirit of the children of low-income communities of color. We are deeply grateful to DCA for helping us expand our mission to underserved populations in the Bronx, Queens, the Lower East Side and Brooklyn.”

The DCA award follows the 'Challenge America' Grant awarded to the Foundation for New American Art by the National Endowment for the Arts in 2022.

“Culture is the bedrock of our communities and an integral part of who we are as a city,” said **DCLA Commissioner Laurie Cumbo**. “We are honored to invest this historic funding in New York's vast and vibrant nonprofit cultural community.”

Foundation for New American Art's “Paintbrushes Not Guns” will begin March 8, 2023, and run for nine weeks. The second semester will commence in Fall, 2023.

Learn more and find a full list of this year's CDF grantees in [the City's official press release](#).

To learn more, please visit www.FoundationForNewAmericanArt.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FoundationForNewAmericanArt>

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The Foundation for New American Art is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation that fosters art and music education programs geared to underserved communities. We help educate, nurture and strengthen, the artistic and musical spirit of the children of low-income communities, as well as provide support for after-school programs.

We bring art and music to low income, at-risk children.
We offer self-expression as an alternative to gang violence, drugs and crime.
We engage children in experiences that reinforce a positive personal identity, strong peer relationships, quality skill development in the arts, and a powerful sense of community responsibility.
Our teachers are trained to nurture, educate and support the artists of tomorrow.
Studies show that art and music education improve cognitive function, memory and social skills.

We cherish the young visionary artists of tomorrow.

We serve communities of color, immigrant communities, diverse communities, artistic and talented LGBT children, Native American children, children with disabilities, abandoned and forgotten children.
We are advocates for programs that empower young girls.
Our board is as diverse as the communities we serve.
All children are precious. It is our honor to serve them.

