BROOKLYN ECONOMIC JUSTICE PROJECT
SPRING 2023 GRANT GUIDELINES

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STRATEGIC AND GEOGRAPHIC PRIORITIES

In 2020, The New York Women’s Foundation, with support from Fondation Chanel, launched a three-year economic justice initiative to invest in organizations working collectively to interrupt the negative impacts of gentrification while strengthening economic prosperity for women and gender expansive people and their families in four neighborhoods in Brooklyn: Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brownsville, Bushwick and East New York. In addition to responding to the challenges created and economic inequities perpetuated by the COVID-19 pandemic, The Brooklyn Economic Justice Project (BEJP) came together to identify critical issues for community members and develop a governance structure to collectively address and meet these needs.

Major achievements of the cohort’s first three years of engagement include a successful microgranting program that redistributed resources to support emerging community leaders as they led projects to support low-income entrepreneurship, enhance neighborhood safety, and improve health, wellness, and collective healing for Black residents. Examples of projects range from creating nonprofit organizations focused on upholding the economic and human rights of women and gender expansive people in the borough to hosting community-focused events that uplift economic justice issues in Central Brooklyn. Other critical achievements of the project’s first phase include a wide-scale campaign and advocacy against gentrification and displacement in the area.

As the cohort continues to explore innovative ways to support the community, there is an opportunity to expand the table and cultivate further leadership committed to this hyperlocal network of collective action. Organizations funded through this grant opportunity will be expected to participate in a shared decision-making cohort model, which will provide an opportunity for organizations to exchange ideas while gaining insights to strengthen their work to advance economic justice for women and gender expansive people in the focus neighborhoods of Central Brooklyn.

PHASE 2 – REDISTRIBUTING POWER AND RESOURCES TO UPLIFT COMMUNITY

After three years of collaboration—and renewed funding from Fondation Chanel—BEJP is now entering its second three-year phase. BEJP is prepared to advance a larger-scale effort to foster systems change through solidarity economy approaches to security and justice in the borough. Focused on expanding the existing efforts of the cohort, Phase 2 of this work will explore and galvanize opportunities to redistribute
power and resources back to community and advocate for policies and practices that halt uncontrolled gentrification and predatory capitalist policies.

During Phase 2, an expanded cohort will explore opportunities to develop collective economy models – potentially through the creation of a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) or a Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) program – and by advocating for policy changes critical to the economic security of women and gender expansive people living in Central Brooklyn. Together, the Phase 2 cohort will collaborate to collectively implement innovative approaches to new, more equitable economic systems that redistribute power and resources back to the community.

Recognizing that cohort-based work is often intensive, members of the Phase 2 cohort will be expected to engage with the group to accomplish their collective goals during at least one meeting per month and subsequent working group discussions. Cohort members will show up for each other through consistent attendance and participation. Multiple team members will participate in cohort activities – including organizational leadership – to help maintain institutional knowledge of BEJP activities. Finally, cohort members will take chances together as they build new systems that work for women and gender expansive people of color in Central Brooklyn.

**ELIGIBILITY AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

The New York Women's Foundation is seeking proposals from organizations that meet all of the following criteria:

- Focused work, expertise, and/or have piloted programs in economic justice and security issues, including advocacy, innovative solidarity economy models, just transition and sustainable models for community wealth creation
- Registered 501(c)3 or have a 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor
- **Based in** one or more of the four target neighborhoods in Central Brooklyn: Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brownsville, Bushwick and/or East New York
- Woman or gender expansive person of color in leadership
- Has the capacity to participate in a cohort experience, including at least one staff member that regularly engages in all cohort activities who is supported by their organization’s leadership
- Prioritizes populations including people with disabilities, TGNC people, immigrants and/or youth
In addition, all members of the BEJP cohort will be working towards the values (listed on page 7 of these guidelines) put forth in the group’s manifesto, created in collaboration by the cohort during Phase 1.

Eligible organizations may apply for a 1-year grant in the amount of up to $80,000 or $120,000. Organizations may apply for either of the following roles:

- **Anchor Partners:** Two organizations will be supported up to the $120,000 level as leading grantee partners for BEJP. These anchors will have at least one full-time staff member dedicated to the project, and they will provide technical support for movement building efforts determined by the group. With additional resources, anchor partners will play a key role in collaborating with the BEJP facilitator to help guide the direction of the group. A member of the organization’s leadership will be required to attend regular meetings at least part of the time in addition to a staff member representative.

- **Cohort Members:** Up to four additional organizations will receive grants up to the $80,000 level to be active participants in BEJP (e.g., attending meetings regularly, engaging with cohort projects, providing technical leadership where needed). Collaborators will work closely with anchor partners to design and implement actions as determined by all members of the cohort. A staff member will be required to participate regularly in BEJP meetings and activities.

Two people per anchor or cohort member organization must actively participate in the coalition to ensure multiple perspectives are brought to the table and that institutional knowledge is maintained or transferred should there be a shift in individual team members. The cohort typically meets once per month to discuss ongoing work but may meet more frequently if there is an immediate need. Examples of this participation include managing communications across and on behalf of the cohort, leading community-based efforts such as micro-granting or developing thought leadership materials on behalf of BEJP.

Given the level of commitment needed in Phase 2, organizations are encouraged to consider what role might be best based on existing capacity for and interest in this work.

Organizations are encouraged to apply for General Operating Support if the majority of your work aligns with the geographic and strategic priorities outlined above. If a
majority of your organization’s work extends beyond the geographic and strategic priorities outlined above, please apply for Program Support for your organization’s specific aligned program.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS

Interested applicants must confirm their intent to apply. To confirm your intent to apply and request an application be opened for your organization on Fluxx, our web-based grants management system, please contact Cecilia Cortes Vila (ccortesvila@nywf.org), Program Officer, and Marissa Crawford (mcrawford@nywf.org), Director, Grants & Operations.

Applicants must submit an application in Fluxx by Sunday, January 8, 2023 at 11:59 PM ET. Applicants will be notified if they have been chosen for a site visit by Friday, January 13, 2023. Site visits will be conducted Tuesday, January 17, 2023 – Friday, January 27, 2023. Applicants will be notified of funding decisions on Friday, March 10, 2023.

The following materials are required and must be uploaded to the Fluxx application:

- Narrative Proposal [recommended 1-2 pages in your own format] addressing the following:
  - An overview of your organization’s mission
  - 3-5 key goals that you would like to achieve during the grant period
  - Interest in BEJP and why being part of a cohort model is timely for your organization
  - Challenges and/or areas of growth that you would like to address organizationally or programmatically as part of the BEJP cohort [including capacity building needs]
  - How your organization embodies the values in the BEJP Manifesto
- Organizational Budget for your current and next fiscal year
- Program Budget (if requesting Program Support)
- If you are a fiscally sponsored project, a Fiscal Sponsorship Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] valid for the period of the grant [must include full terms of fiscal sponsorship]

You may upload optional additional documentation to support our understanding of your work, such as: annual reports, strategic plans, or reports for other funders.
FLUXX INSTRUCTIONS

Once you confirm your intent to apply via email as outlined above, an application will be opened for your organization in Fluxx. To complete your application in Fluxx and upload the required materials listed above, please:

1. Login to your Fluxx account [https://nywf.fluxx.io/user_sessions/new]. If you do not currently have credentials, these will be shared with you when you confirm your intent to apply
2. Navigate to “My Organization” on the left-hand side bar and complete the Organizational profile
3. Navigate to “Drafts” under “Requests” on the left-hand side bar. Click on the application beginning with Grant ID numbers 2212.
4. Complete all sections of the application form
5. Upload the Required Application Materials listed above in the Request Documents section
6. Once you have updated your organizational profile, completed the application form, and uploaded the required materials, please hit Submit on the lower-right hand side.

Please note, submitted applications may take a minute to appear under “Submitted” and you may need to refresh your webpage.

FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

Funding may not be used for lobbying activities.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding these grant guidelines or the Brooklyn Economic Justice Project, please contact Program Officer, Cecilia Cortes Vila at ccortesvila@nywf.org.

If you have any questions regarding Fluxx and submitting your application, please contact Director of Grants and Operations, Marissa Crawford at mcrawford@nywf.org.
BROOKLYN ECONOMIC JUSTICE PROJECT MANIFESTO

- **Move at the speed of trust** – Grow trust with community and move together with fluidity at whatever speed is necessary.
- **Plan with, design with** – Walk with people as they imagine and realize their own futures. Be connectors, conveners, and collaborators—not representatives.
- **Seek people at the margins** – Acknowledge the structures that create, maintain, and uphold inequity. Learn and practice new ways of intentionally making space for marginalized voices, stories, and bodies.
- **Create ownership, not hierarchy** – Create less hierarchy and more dialogue, inclusion, and empowerment.
- **Be humble learners who practice deep listening** – Listen deeply and approach the work with an attitude towards learning without assumptions and predetermined solutions. Take constructive criticism without dispute.
- **Celebrate, catalyze & amplify Black joy** – Black Joy is a radical act. Give due space to joy, laughter, humor, and gratitude.
- **Manifest the future** – Black people, Black culture, and Black spaces exist in the future! Imagine and design the future into existence now, working inside and outside of social and political systems.
- **Reckon with the past to build the future** – Meaningfully acknowledge the histories, injustice, innovations, and victories of spaces and places before new work begins. Reckon with the past as a means of healing, building trust, and deepening understanding of self and others.
- **Cultivate wealth and liberation** – Cultivate a wealth of time, talent, and treasure that provide the freedom to risk, fail, learn and grow.

For more information on the Brooklyn Economic Justice Project, please visit: [www.nywf.org/bejp](http://www.nywf.org/bejp)

ABOUT THE NEW YORK WOMEN’S FOUNDATION

Since 1987, The New York Women’s Foundation has advanced a dynamic philanthropic strategy based on the fundamental reality that, when women thrive, their families and communities also thrive. We invest in women-led, community-based solutions that promote the economic security, safety, and health of the most vulnerable women in New York City. The New York Women’s Foundation fosters women’s leadership, creates partnerships that spark catalytic change, exchanges insights with experts across sectors, and empowers women by training them in activism and philanthropy to accelerate and sustain forward progress. For more information, visit: [www.nywf.org](http://www.nywf.org)