



Kelly Strayhorn Theater
5941 Penn Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Offices + The Alloy Studios
5530 Penn Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

kelly-strayhorn.org
t 412.363.3000
f 412.363.4320

The Black Femme Musical Artist Incubator Sunstar Festival: Womxn & Music 2022

Program Guidelines

The Black Femme Musical Artist Incubator: Sunstar 2022

KST's annual Sunstar Festival celebrates the power of womxn in music. Since its 2009 inception, Sunstar has endeavored to highlight a diversity of womxn musicians and to center BIPOC womxn.

For Spring 2022, the focus of KST's Sunstar Festival is KST's The Black Femme Musical Artist Incubator (BFMA). Through this new program, KST positions the Sunstar Festival as an opportunity to build out a model of support for Black femmes pursuing music in our city.

Over the course of six weeks, BFMA will provide two black femme-identifying artists professional development sessions designed to expand their palette of possibility for future stage performances and equip them with the tools to carry their vision forward in the field. Session topics will include artist statement and biography writing, funding your work, building a dossier for your stage performance, and considering the theatricality of your stage performance with regard to lighting, effects, direction, and choreography.

While further developing these skills, the artists will apply what they are learning through:

- Developing and rehearsing a headlining 40-45 minute performance.
- Curating one night of the festival in collaboration with KST staff by selecting three performers from their artistic family to present short sets surrounding the artist's headline act.

The program will culminate with each artist presenting their performance and curated acts at Kelly Strayhorn Theater, March 18-19, 2022.

An information session for The Black Femme Musical Artist Incubator will take place Wednesday, December 8th, from 6:00pm-7:00pm. The session will be led by Programming Manager Chanel Blanchett and KST Programming Director Ben Pryor who will talk attendees through the application process and hold time for answering questions. The event will also be broadcast to KST's Facebook and available for viewing after the initial broadcast.

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of diverse artists from KST's community and KST's Programming Team.

Applications open: Friday, December 3, 2021

Applications close: Friday, December 31, 2021

Residencies will be announced in mid-January.



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Program Goals

- To provide black femme-identifying artists with the professional development, resources, and administrative support to advance their artistic goals.
- To promote and showcase the work of multiple early-career musical artists in the Pittsburgh community.
- To equip artists with the tools and confidence to both independently and collectively navigate their career.
- To encourage artists to explore their ideas and work within the context of a community-minded performing arts center.
- To bring artists into a dynamic community of creative practitioners.

Program Details and KST Responsibilities

- Each artist will be granted six weeks of professional development sessions at KST's Alloy Studios.
 - KST will hire two consultants to meet with each artist both together and individually. These consultants will be professionals in aspects of the music industry, such as career development or stage performance, in order to support artists' professional growth.
 - Artists will be scheduled to meet with a consultant each week. Artists will alternate which consultant they work with each week, for a total of 3-4 sessions with each consultant.
 - Artists receive consultations and check-in meetings with KST staff throughout the program to discuss ideas, questions, the development of their work.
- Each artist will develop a 40-45 minute performance that will be shown at Kelly Strayhorn Theater.
 - This performance will be part of a night curated by and for that artist.
 - Each artist will receive 10-12 hours total of studio time at KST's Alloy Studios.
- Each artist will work in collaboration with KST Staff to hire 5 artists that will perform short pre- and post-show sets that fit the chosen artist's vision for their performance night.
- Each artist is provided with a \$2,000 honorarium, paid as \$1,000/month, over the course of the program.



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- Each artist is provided with a \$1,000 resource budget for project expenses. Kelly Strayhorn Theater recognizes that this honorarium and resource budget will most likely not cover all of the artists' costs.
- Each artist receives a technical rehearsal with KST-hired crew members during their presentation week.
- Each artist will be provided with photo and video documentation of their performance.

Artist Responsibilities

- Artists must participate in a program orientation with the KST programming team and sign an agreement committing to make full use of their allocated time and resources and to complete program activities.
- Artists will be granted six weeks of professional development sessions between January 31st, 2022 and March 13th, 2022.
- Artists will be given the opportunity to develop and perform a 40-45 minute performance at Kelly Strayhorn Theater on March 18th, 2022 or March 19th, 2022.
- Artists will be given in-studio rehearsal time at KST's Alloy Studios.
- Artists will be given the opportunity to hire artists and collaborators from their artistic community to perform pre- and post-show sets on their assigned night.
- Artists will recommend and help confirm at least 3 artists to KST Staff to perform pre- and post-show sets.
- Artists must take the initiative throughout the process to brainstorm, plan, and execute how they will use their time and resources during the program to advance their professional development goals. The artist will be responsible for communicating these ideas to the KST staff and to the consultants.

Program Schedule

Below is the proposed schedule for The Black Femme Musical Artist Incubator Program.

Artists must have availability to meet with consultants and/or KST Staff during each week of the program period. Actual times of meetings and consultant sessions will be decided upon once artists are chosen. However, **artists should expect to set aside 2-10 hours per week for the program.**

Monday, January 31st - Sunday, February 6th

- Artists meet together with KST Staff for Orientation/Introduction
- Artists meet together with Consultant 1

Monday, February 7th - Sunday, February 13th

- Artists meet together with Consultant 2
- Each artist meets individually with Consultant 1



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Monday, February 14th - Sunday, February 20th

- Artists submit names of their pre- and post-show artists by Monday, February 14th
- Artists meet together with KST Staff for check in & talk over production details
- Each artist meets individually with Consultant 2

Monday, February 21st - Sunday, February 27th

- Artists meet together with Consultant 1
- Each artist meets individually with Consultant 1
- Each artist schedules studio time

Monday, February 28th - Sunday, March 6th

- Artists meet together with Consultant 2
- Each artist meets individually with Consultant 2
- Each artist schedules studio time

Monday, March 7th - Sunday, March 13th

- Artists meet together with KST Staff in prep for production week
- Each artist meets with the consultant of their choice
- Each artist schedules studio time

Monday, March 14th - Saturday, March 19th (Production Week)

- Artists meet with KST Staff regarding last-minute production questions
- Artists rehearse with technical crew
- Artists attend and perform at their curated night on March 18th or March 19th

Black Femme Musical Artist Incubator 2022: Application Preview

Personal Details & Demographic Information (required):

Please fill out the following personal details. We ask for additional demographic information to better understand our community and fulfill our grant reporting requirements. The options for some of these questions were provided by our funders. Please select and/or write the best answers to these questions. Thank you.

First Name:

Last Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone Number:

Race:

Gender:

Sexual Orientation:

Age:

Disability Status:

How long have you lived in Pittsburgh?:



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Artistic Details (optional):

Please use the fields available to introduce the panel to your work. We recognize that artists may communicate about themselves in different ways and therefore have tried to make a number of options available. You may use as many or as few as you like.

Website:

Social Media (if applicable for work):

Upload Resume (upload file):

Narrative Questions

Please answer the following questions in the fields provided below.

Your responses should provide detailed insight into your artistic practice and the goals you'd like to focus on during the program. Your answers will help our Panelists get a better sense of who you are and the artistic ideas you are passionate about exploring.

Each response has a word limit; however, please be as brief or lengthy as you need within that limit.

If you prefer to submit your answers to these questions via video, please record yourself answering all of the questions below, upload the video to YouTube or Vimeo and submit a link to your video in the final question field of this form. All questions in this section are required. If you choose to respond by video, please write "Submitting Video" in each answer field below and then submit a link to your video in the final question field of this form.

Your video submission should be no more than 10 minutes and can be submitted along with a password. Video can be shot with a phone, on a computer, or whatever is accessible to you.

If you have any technical questions or issues, please contact Programming Manager, Chanel Blanchett, at chanel@kelly-strayhorn.org

- 1. Please provide a brief artist's bio. (200 words)**
- 2. Describe your work and practice as a musical artist. This can include talking about your creation process, the questions you explore in your work, and any form(s) and medium(s) you experiment with. (300 words)**
- 3. What are your goals for your practice over the next 3-5 years? What are the skills you would like to develop through this program to achieve your goals? (300 words)**
- 4. Please tell us about the project you intend to develop during The Black Femme Musical Artist Incubator. How will this work help you build the skills mentioned above? (500 words)**



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5. **As part of The Black Femme Music Artist Incubator, you will get the chance to curate an evening of performances to accompany your own set. You'll be able to pick 3-4 performers from your local artistic family to perform 10-15 minute sets. If chosen, which of the artists you know would you collaborate with and why? (300 words)**

 6. **Please attach an image to represent you in KST marketing materials if you are selected for the program. (Please attach a jpeg - images should be photographs or artwork without text on them. No flyers please.)**
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Work Samples

Here we ask you to submit samples of your artistic work.

Please provide us with the following work samples:

1. Two-three recorded tracks of your music
2. One 5-7 minute recording of you performing your work. This can be an excerpt from a concert, footage of you practicing, or a recording of you performing to camera.

Please include any links necessary to view and listen to the samples, including any necessary passwords. Each sample should have a brief description of the content (75 words or less)

Work samples must be sent in addition to any video responses to the narrative questions above.
