

Ebony McKinney Community Stewards Grant (EMCS)

Program Overview

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The late Ebony McKinney was a visionary Black woman artist and a determined and energetic cultural advocate for artists and social justice. Ebony co-founded [Emerging Arts Professionals San Francisco Bay Area](#) (EAP/SFBA), a network focused on empowerment, leadership and growth of San Francisco Bay Area emergent arts and culture workers; and [Arts for a Better Bay Area](#) (ABBA), a coalition of San Francisco arts organizations that advocate for funding for the arts. Ebony McKinney was deeply committed to these values and a valued staff member of the Arts Commission's Community Investments team. She made a lasting, positive impact locally and nationally before her untimely passing in July 2017.

In 2017, EAP/SFBA began the process to create the Ebony McKinney Arts Leadership Grant with a circle of close colleagues and community members to honor Ebony's legacy. This grant launched in 2018, supported by funding from the San Francisco Arts Commission (SFAC). After two rounds of releasing the grant, SFAC acknowledged an imbalance of power and made efforts to restore good will with Ebony's Community and EAP/SFBA. In 2020, EAP/SFBA, Ebony's Community, and the SFAC began a process of restorative justice with the goal of re-launching the grant opportunity in a way that both honored Ebony's legacy and addressed past harm.

This ongoing conversation led to the Ebony McKinney Community Stewards Grant (EMCS), a regranting opportunity that supports the collaborative development and release of the Ebony McKinney Arts Leadership Grant with a focus on reimagining and centering racial equity, addressing harm, and the ideals embodied by Ebony: vision, determination, and advocacy for the arts as social practice.

Grant window: November 15, 2021 through June 15, 2023, with potential to extend.

The guidelines and application were released on September 9, 2021 with a deadline to apply by Friday September 24, 2021.

Panel Composition

The three-member review panel convened on October 8, 2021 to discuss and score the application. The participants brought deep expertise and familiarity with the Ebony McKinney Arts Leadership Grant, the SFAC, EAP/SFBA, and Ebony's Community.

FY21-22 Ebony McKinney Community Stewards Funding Recommendations

The SFAC received one application this grant category. The panel discussed the strengths and areas of improvement of this applicant as well as the guidelines and recommended funding. The panel is excited to recommend Queer Women Media Arts Project for funding in this category.