The Boston Foundation

Arts & Creativity
Live Arts Boston (LAB) Information Session

"Gathering the Threads" : Circus 617 Credit: Full Bloom Photography

Welcome and Introduction

- Meet the LAB Team
- Live Arts Boston (LAB) Introduction

- Grantee Experience: Four Phases

- Key Dates
- Eligibility: Who can apply

- How to apply: SmartSimple!

- Q & A
- Follow-up

TBF Arts & Creativity Team

Catherine T. Morris
Director, Arts & Creativity
She/Her/Hers

Laura Reyes
Program Officer, Arts & Creativity
She/Her/Hers

Dylan Mitchell
Associate, Community Wealth
He/Him/His

What is Live Arts Boston (LAB)?

- LAB is a co-partnered grant program, with the Barr Foundation, that previously supported 60+ projects of all disciplines

- Now, LAB supports 30 artists of all disciplines, in all stages of their career

- Grant amounts have increased from $15,000 to $30,000 per grantee

- LAB funding supports new AND existing work, as well as the creative practice and entrepreneurial pursuit of becoming a thriving artist!

- Grantees will experience an 18-month cycle, previously a 12-month cycle

- Applications are a two-stage process

- Projects must take place between **December 2025 and June 2026**

Grantee Experience
The Four Phases

Phase 1

(July thru October)

(Re)Define Self as Artist: Personal Growth and Health & Wellness Exploration

Phase 2

(Nov - February)

Career Coaching & Accountability

Phase 3

(March - July)

The Business of Creativity – Training and Professional Development

Phase 4

(August - Dec)

Creative Works in Progress: Ideation, Collaboration and Constructive Feedback

Grantee Experience
Time Commitment

- Estimated at ~15-20 per month

- Seminars are ~6-8 hours total, with one seminar per month

- Individual and group coaching are ~3-5 hours per month, depending on grantee requirements and growth

- At your pace, real time skill application will take ~6-8 hours per month
  - *NOTE: Your growth and development will depend on how much time you invest in your practice, and yourselves through this process!*

Key Dates

- **Information Sessions:** October and November 2023

- **Application Opens:** Monday, December 11, 2023 @ 9:00am ET

- **Application Closes:** Friday, January 12, 2024 @ 4:59pm ET

- **Round 1 Review:** Early March 2024

- **Round 2 Review:** Mid-April 2024

- **Tentative Notifications:** Late May 2024

Scan QR Code or visit the URL
below to View Application Site:

tbf.org/lab

Eligibility: Who can apply?

- Performing/visual artists, creators, and cultural practitioners living/based in the Greater Boston Area

- Groups such as bands, collectives, collaborations, etc.

- Small performing arts non-profits with budgets of less than $450,000 and 501(c)3 Status

- Grad- and Undergraduate Students are NOT ELIGIBLE to apply

- You must be at least 18 years old to apply

Scan the QR Code to view The Boston Foundation Catchment Area

Eligibility: Supported Disciplines

- Dance
- Theater
- Opera
- Musical Theater
- Music, including:
  - *Rap*
  - *Rhythm & Blues/Soul*
  - *Classical*
  - *Contemporary*
  - *Rock/Pop*
  - *Electronic/EDM*
  - *Indie*
  - *World*
  - *Fusion*
  - *Jazz*
  - *Folk*
  - *Singer-Songwriter*

- Performance Art
- Circus Arts
- Folk and Traditional Arts
- Spoken Word
- Literary and/or Performance Festivals
- Any inter- or multi-disciplinary combination of the above

NOTE: *Projects can include a visual art or film component*

"The Ancestral Call" Credit: Maria Amalia Quesada Chavarria

What if I'm applying as part of a group?

- Collaborator = someone considered a co-owner of the project, and generative part of the team

- One collaborator must serve as the LEAD APPLICANT who....

  - ...Will receive grant funds if awarded (and may experience tax implications)

  - ...Must play a principal role in the project

  - ...Must fulfill eligibility requirements (not necessary for all collaborators)

  - ...Will be the key point of contact for the LAB Team

  - ...Must be at least 18 years old to apply as the LEAD APPLICANT

How do I apply?
Round One

APPLICATION OPENS

Opens: December 11, 2023, at 9:00am ET

Deadline: January 12, 2024, at 4:59pm ET

"Inherited": Heiraza Credit: Marilyn Humphries

Online Application (Open to all) - SmartSimple

- Eligibility quiz, Residence verification, and Work samples

- Brief and compelling artist statement, program/project overview

Review Process

- Large panel review

- 150 applications will advance to Round Two

- Notifications March 2024

How do I apply?
Round Two

Round One Finalists invited to submit full proposals, Due: Friday, April 5, 2024, by 4:59pm ET

Question Set Example(s):

- Career aspirations and/or long-term professional vision aided by LAB

- Full artistic and program/project information
  - Proposals of existing work need to be open to transformational change by the end of the grant cycle.
  - Works that have already received LAB funding are ineligible to receive a grant unless it is in a restructuring phase of its development.
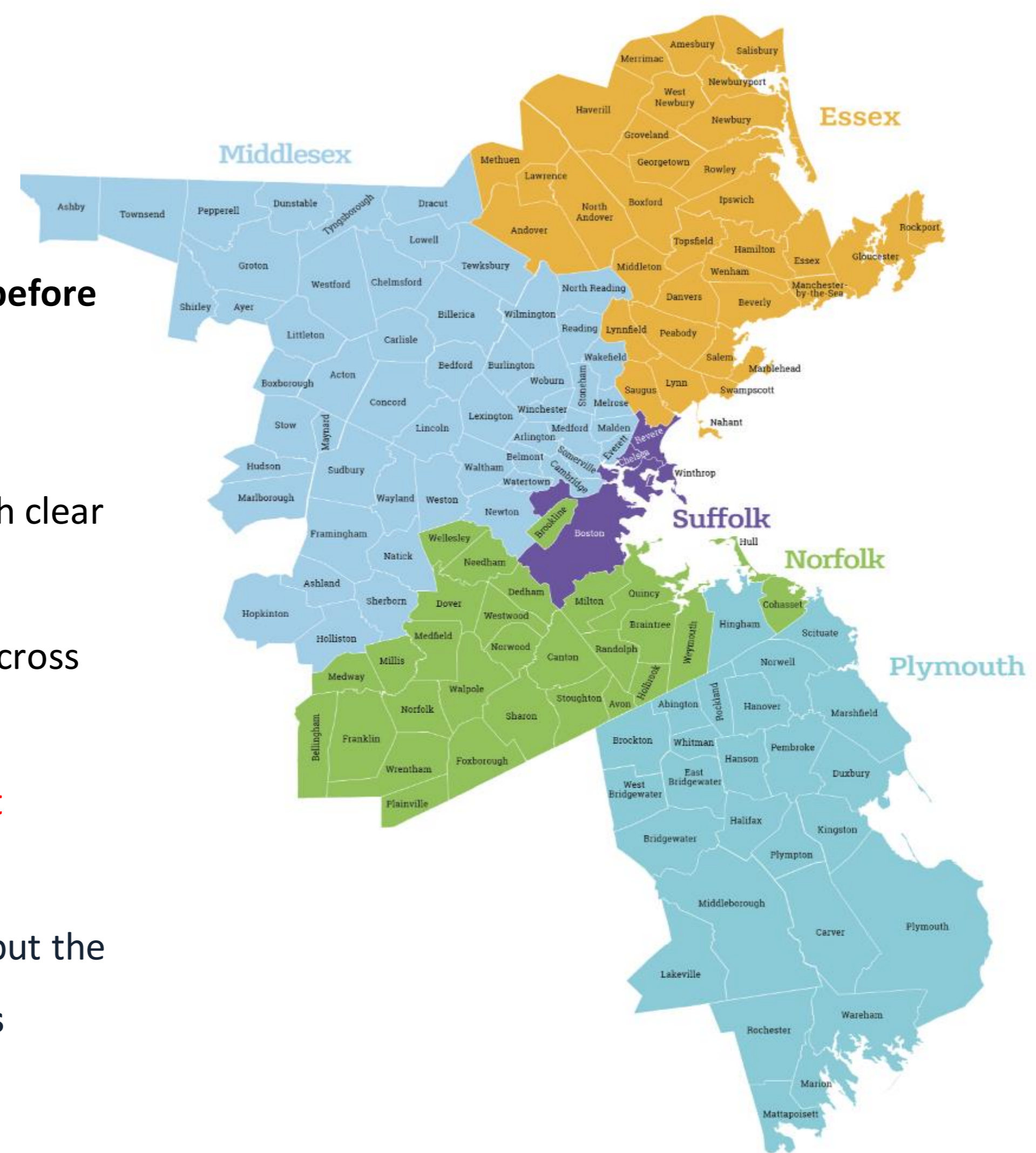
Things to remember:

- Technical support and office hours available during application process

- A second panel reviews eligible applications and selects final 30
  - Award notifications -- May 2024

- Feedback available for Round Two applicants who do not receive funding

More about LAB

- Final projects must be presented to Greater Boston audiences **before June 30, 2026**

- **All artists must be paid,** including applicant where relevant

- All proposals must have a clear artistic vision, in connection with clear career-vision

- Grantees must participate in at least 70% of the sessions held across all phases

- Funds may be used to support **any** aspect of the project, except fundraising, and full-length albums

- Requests can support touring work outside of Greater Boston, but the project must be primarily shared with **The Boston Foundation's Geographic Area Served**

How do I apply? SmartSimple!

Login

Email

Password

Login

Forgot Password?

New to the System as a Grant Applicant?

For Grant Applicants Only: Please first try using the "Forgot password?" link to access your account. If you do not receive an email after 10 minutes and it is not in your spam folder, you may be new to our database. Please click the "Register" button below to set up an account. If you have any trouble, reach out to grantsinfo@tbf.org.

Register

The Boston Foundation Portal

Welcome! In an effort to provide you with the best possible service, the Boston Foundation's online portal is customized specifically for fundholders, grant applicants, and grant reviewers. The portal provides streamlined experiences for:

- Donor Advised Fund holders to make grant recommendations, review pending grants, and access gift history, resources, and events
- Grant Applicants to apply for grants, review previously submitted applications, submit grant reports, and learn about upcoming offerings and opportunities
- Grant Reviewers to review applications and submit rubrics

If you are logging in for the first time or have forgotten your password, click the "Forgot Password?" link underneath the Login button and enter the email address associated with your portal account. If you do not receive an email with password reset instructions after 10 minutes, please reach out to one of the following contacts:

- Donor Advised Fund holders, please email donorservices@tbf.org or call 617-338-2213. If you have questions about establishing a fund or charitable fund options, please visit our website or email donorservices@tbf.org.
- Grant Applicants and Reviewers, please email grantsinfo@tbf.org.

NOTES:

- SmartSimple is TBF's Grants Management Software
- Access and Apply for the LAB Application
- Reviewing Process
- Your LAB application is linked to the email address you enter in Smart Simple

bostonfoundation.smartsimple.com

Setting up your Account

Registration Options

Please click on one of the buttons below to set up a **new** SmartSimple account **as a grant applicant**. These forms are for new grant applicant registrants only. If you already have a SmartSimple account, please go back to the main login page https://bostonfoundation.smartsimple.com and use the password reset link. For questions, please email grantsinfo@tbf.org.

I am applying for a grant:

> On behalf of an Organization

> **As an Indvidual or as part of a Group of Individuals (only available for Paine Scholarship, Live Arts Boston, and Next Steps grant programs)**

First Time Applicant/New User

1. Choose Register
2. Apply as an Individual
3. Submit Your Contact Information
4. Set your Password
5. Fill out My Profile
6. Access LAB Application under Funding Opportunities

Returning Applicant

1. Choose Forgot Password
2. Check for a Password Reset Email from SmartSimple
3. Reset Password
4. Check that your Profile is Compete
5. Access LAB Application under Funding Opportunities

Welcome Luke Skywalker

(Individual Artists) to the Boston Foundation Portal

Thank you for visiting our new grants portal! We thank you for your patience as we implement this new and improved platform. Please reach out to grantsinfo@tbf.org with any feedback or questions.

To access your funding opportunities, you must complete your profile. Click the "My Profile" icon below and click the blue "Complete Profile" button. When you return to the homepage, you will see the "Funding Opportunities" icon next to the "Resources" icon.

My Profile   Resources

w: bostonfoundation.smartsimple.com | e: grantsinfo@tbf.org

Accessing the Application

Funding Opportunities

This page is regularly updated to share grant opportunities open for application at the Boston Foundation. If you do not see any open opportunities below, please be sure to check back at this page periodically, or, subscribe to the Nonprofit Update e-newsletter at this link to be informed of open opportunities as they arise.

Please note that grant programs will close on 11:59pm of the listed "Closed On" date. For example, if the Closed On date is listed as 2/20/23, then applications must be submitted by 11:59pm on 2/20/23.

OPEN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (5)

1-5 of 5 ‹ ›

	#	Name	Description	Closed On
Apply for Grant	1	Next Steps for Boston Dance	This grant program supports choreographers and circus artists creating original work in any dance genre to move forward and take a "next step" in their careers. Applications are due 10/23 at 11:59pm.	10/23/2023
Apply for Grant	2	Latino Equity Fund FY24	The Latino Equity Fund is open to nonprofit organizations in Massachusetts who are working... Latinos by creating economic prosperity opportunities or addressing health disparities and w... 10/22 at 11:59pm.	
Apply for Grant	3	Stephen D. Paine Scholarship FY24	Established in 1999 by the Boston Art Dealers Association, The Stephen D. Paine Scholarship... who are entering their final year in studio art programs at colleges in the city of Boston. Awa... talent and of the promise for making important work in the future. Applications are due 10/2...	
Apply for Grant	4	Live Arts Boston Organizations - Test	Test for LAB	
Apply for Grant	5	LAB Individual Artist - Test	LAB Individual Artist - Test	

Once you Complete your Profile

Navigate back to the homepage by clicking GMS Home in the top right. Once there, you will see the "Funding Opportunities" icon where you can apply to LAB once the grant application opens.

Welcome Dylan Mitchell

(Dylan Mitchell) to the Boston Foundation Portal

Thank you for visiting our new grants portal! We thank you for your patience as we implement this new and improved platform. Please reach out to grantsinfo@tbf.org with any feedback or questions.

My Profile   My Organization   Resources   Funding Opportunities

What makes a strong LAB application?

Artistic and Proposal Narratives

- Write for a multi-disciplinary panel or broad audience

- Assume the panelists do not know you, your work, your history, or your artistic principles

- Give a clear and detailed answer regarding your artistic vision, project plan, and career goals, with specifics

- Read specific prompts and draft your answers before submitting – when in doubt, sleep on it!

- What do you envision as your impact as an artist, and growth as a professional, through LAB? How will you communicate that?

- Have a friend or collaborator give feedback

  - *Hint: If they do not understand your project, goals, or discipline, the panel likely won't either!*

Work Sample(s)

- Video wherever possible

- Recent examples

- Each sample at least two minutes with the sample totals not exceeding six minutes

- Visible and audible – high production value not necessary

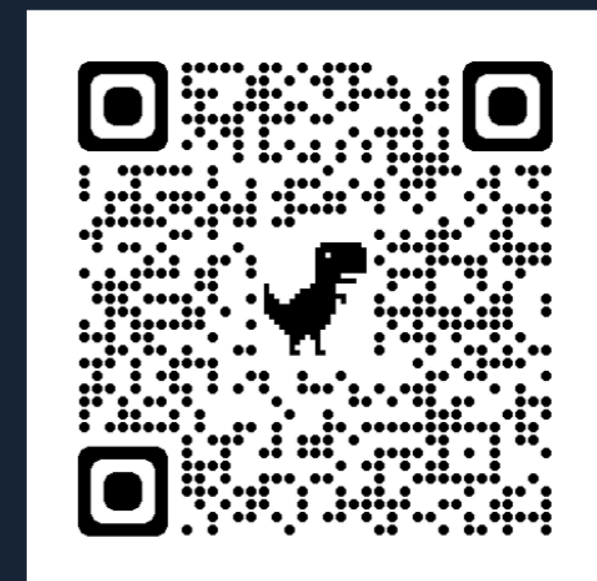- Provide cue times, context, relevance, and/or password if necessary

"The Ancestral Call" Project: Album Release Concert at the Lincoln Center
Credit: Photo by Lawrence Sumulong, © Lincoln Center

Questions?

For more information, visit **tbf.org/LAB** or scan the QR code!

Questions? Email us at **lab@tbf.org**

Thank you!