

## **Investment of \$6 Million to Transform the Arts Landscape for Underrepresented and Underfunded Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and People of Color Artists in Houston Announced**

*The highly anticipated 2023 BANF Artist Awards recipients were unveiled in a momentous ceremony.*

*A groundbreaking Cultural Treasures initiative supporting under-recognized BIPOC anchor art organizations launched.*

**Houston, Texas, June 11, 2023-** The Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) Arts Network and Fund, affectionately known as [BANF](#), has announced a transformative investment of \$6 million over the next three years. This significant funding initiative aims to empower and transform the future of artists, organizations, and communities of Greater Houston's Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern, and other communities of color.

The announcement was made during a prestigious awards ceremony hosted at Stages in Houston on Sunday, June 11, where 25 [2023 BANF Artist Awards](#) recipients were celebrated. Each deserving awardee was granted a remarkable \$20,000. These funds carry no restrictions on usage, enabling recipients to support their artistic endeavors as they see fit. BANF will open applications for the second round of awards in Fall 2024 to provide continued opportunities for artists in our vibrant city.

In addition to the artist awards, the ceremony marked the launch of the [Houston Cultural Treasures](#) initiative, an ambitious undertaking representing an investment of over \$5 million over three years. Through this groundbreaking program, under-recognized BIPOC anchor art organizations will receive invaluable multi-year operational and technical support grants. These grants will empower organizations to envision and achieve their unique goals, fostering a vibrant arts ecosystem that truly reflects the diversity of our community.

Building upon the initial \$2 million crisis relief support announced in January 2021, these initiatives are part of a broader effort to transform Houston's arts scene. BANF is committed to championing the creative spirit and amplifying the voices of historically marginalized artists and organizations, ensuring their contributions are celebrated and valued.

The overarching strategy of BANF is centered on providing support and recognition for the remarkable history and achievements of Houston's vibrant BIPOC art community while also empowering them for a promising future. Future investments will focus on arts education and an emerging cohort of Cultural Treasures. A key component of this vision involves establishing a dynamic network that fosters unity, amplifies collective power, and enables the BIPOC art community to shape its destiny.

The prestigious 2023 BIPOC Arts Network and Fund Artist Awards are made possible thanks to the invaluable support of esteemed organizations, including the [Ford Foundation](#), [Houston Endowment](#), [Kinder Foundation](#), [The Brown Foundation, Inc.](#), [The Cullen Foundation](#), and [The Powell Foundation](#).

List of recipients and photos (credit BANF):

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1agSA7md9FdGeg6NgYwIYoKDHdqv9-mQB?usp=sharing>

---

---

### **About BIPOC Arts Network & Fund (BANF)**

The BIPOC Arts Network & Fund (BANF) is a multi-year initiative dedicated to providing resources that support the vibrant BIPOC arts community of Greater Houston in fully displaying their power, values, and traditions. Established in 2021 as a collaborative community effort, BANF is guided by the very artists, nonprofit organizations, and local leaders it seeks to serve through its grant funding, advocacy, and networking initiatives. BANF works to revolutionize the local funding landscape by changing cultural value systems, breaking down silos that separate communities in the arts ecosystem, and welcoming everyone to participate, support, and learn from BIPOC arts communities.

Contact: Jose Monterrosa

[jose@imaginacommunications.com](mailto:jose@imaginacommunications.com)

**Imagina Communications**

Office: (832) 699-0217

<http://www.imaginacommunications.com>