

## COVID-19 is a challenge ...and an opportunity.

Due to the ongoing novel coronavirus pandemic, much of our city's creative life has entered a state of flux. During this moment of uncertainty, Brooklyn Arts Council's team is taking solace in the steady hands and inspired visions of our borough's artists. We're no strangers to the resilience that bursts forth from our sixty-six neighborhoods, even during moments of hardship like the one we are now entering.

COVID-19 may be unprecedented, but Brooklyn' uniquely calm and creative responses to misfortune are well-documented. From Truman Capote's impoverished migration to Brooklyn Heights during the Great Depression to The Notorious B.I.G.'s daunting childhood in Clinton Hill, we know that perseverance is an innate part of calling Brooklyn home. We know that we will get through this – *together*.

## What Brooklyn Arts Council is Doing

- Considering any and all change of scope revisions to ongoing grantee projects;
- Proactively ensuring that our DUMBO offices remain a safe, sanitary place for gatherings in the distant future;
- Exploring new possibilities for our in-school and in-senior facility programs that require contact with populations vulnerable to COVID-19;
- Canceling and postponing any immediately forthcoming mass convenings;
- Embracing remote communications, internally and externally;
- Listening to the newly arisen needs of artists and working to find solutions; and
- Sharing sustaining resources, like those listed in the subsequent pages, with the Brooklyn artists who've helped sustain us.

We're here for you. Tell us how we can better serve Brooklyn's artists during the COVID-19 pandemic [by completing our COVID-19 Impact Survey](#).

# New Yorkers, here's what YOU need to know about the coronavirus



**You can prevent the spread of any virus by staying home if you feel sick, covering your sneezes and coughs with your sleeve (not your hands) and washing your hands often.**



**If you feel flu-like symptoms (fever, cough and shortness of breath), and recently traveled to an area affected by coronavirus, or have been in close contact with someone who has, go to your doctor. If you have symptoms but no travel history, stay home and call your doctor. If you need connection to a medical professional, call 311.**



**If you're feeling well, no need to wear a face mask - and don't worry if someone else does. People wear masks for many reasons - be respectful.**

Check [www.nyc.gov/health/coronavirus](http://www.nyc.gov/health/coronavirus) for updates and other helpful information.



# PROTECT YOUR BODY (AKA ‘What You Probably Already Know’)

- **If you are sick, stay home.** This is an instance where sharing is not caring.
- **Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.** We recommend humming the chorus of your favorite Beyoncé anthem twice.
- **Avoid touching your face.** Your complexion will thank you, too!
- **Cough and sneeze into a tissue or your sleeve; not your hands.** Consider it advance preparation for allergy season.
- **Develop creative ways of greeting others that does not involve shaking hands.** We know. We’re hoping the ‘elbow bump’ grows on us, too.
- **Monitor your health closely, including your temperature.** The average body temperature is between 97.7 and 99.5 degrees fahrenheit.

## The Experts

- **New York City** leadership [has created a tip sheet](#) for preventing the spread of COVID-19.
- **The Centers For Disease Control** [affords daily updates](#) and advice regarding the outbreak.
- **Text 692-692** for the latest updates on COVID-19 in NYC.

## Keeping it Clean

- The Environmental Protection agency [has published a list of disinfectants](#) effective for combatting COVID-19.

# PROTECT YOUR CREATIVE PRACTICE

- **Alliance of Resident Theatres New York** [is taking a survey](#) to assess members' revenue loss and expenditures stemming from COVID-19.
- **Dance NYC** [is coordinating a survey](#) to assess the needs and concerns and needs of performers during the pandemic.
- **Dr. Daphnie Sicre** of Loyola Marymount University [has crafted a guide](#) for teaching theater online.
- **Performing Arts Readiness** [offers sample emergency plans](#) for artists and organizations.
- **The National Coalition for Arts Preparedness and Emergency Response** [has an existing manual](#) for supporting local artists in the aftermath of a disaster.
- **The League of American Orchestras** [has created a dedicated discussion](#) group on COVID-19 for its members.
- **The Theatre Communications Group** [has organized a web campaign](#) to obtain federal relief for theatre artists and nonprofits.

## Urgent Funding

- **ArtsNYS** is requesting an additional \$40,000,000 to be reallocated for capital grants through NYSCA in this year's budget.
- **Foundation for Contemporary Arts** [has a long-standing](#) Emergency Grants program.
- **Hannah Fenlon, Ann Marie Lonsdale, and Abigail Vega** [have developed](#) a comprehensive living document of emergency resources, including funding, for freelancers.
- **Local 802** [runs an Emergency Relief Fund](#) for New York-based musicians.
- **New York Foundation for the Arts** [is providing visual, media, and choreography](#) artists with one-time emergency grants of up to \$5,000.
- **The Mayer Foundation** [offers one-time grants](#) of \$2,000 to anyone with demonstrable need who is based in New York City.
- **The Trust for Governors Island** [is soliciting proposals](#) from creative organizations for residencies.

## PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY

- **Charis Hill** [has written an essay](#) on COVID-19, 'The Cripples Will Save You,' through the lens of disability activism.
- Independent artists [have created a Pod Mapping Tool for Mutual Aid](#) in underserved communities.
- **Kamina L. Fonseca** [has written a piece](#) about the intersection of immigrant communities and the pandemic.
- **Medical experts** [have shared their thoughts](#) on caring for the elderly during COVID-19.
- **The Design Studio for Social Intervention** [has written an essential guide](#) to continuing social justice practices during the time of social distancing.
- **Steven Blum** [has penned an article](#) on COVID-19's impact on the LGBTQ+ community.

## Event planning

- In light of Winter Storm Jonas in 2016, **ArtsReady** [developed best practice](#) tips for communicating event cancellations.
- **PR Boutiques International** [has created a list of ten best practices](#) for communications management during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- **The Event Safety Alliance** [created an evergreen webinar](#) on hosting events during the pandemic.
- **The World Health Organization** [has prepared recommendations](#) for mass gatherings; the Centers for Disease Control [offers a similar checklist](#).

## PROTECT YOUR SPIRIT

- If you're a grantee, **share your ongoing work** with Brooklyn Arts Council via email so we can post it for our broad social media audiences.
- [Check up on the work](#) of your favorite Brooklyn Arts Council grantees.
- **Berkeley University** [has developed a guide](#) for grounding breathing exercises.
- **Brooklyn Public Library's** Lynda Program [offers cardholders access](#) to web tutorials in Adobe Creative Suite and other computer applications.
- **Calm**, a free phone application, [offers mood-stabilizing](#) visualizations and narrations.
- **Coloring.com** [boasts an array of meditative online coloring sheets](#) for kids and kids-at-heart alike, updated each day.
- **Fragrant Heart** [provides guided meditation](#) audio files, free of charge.
- **Gallaudet** [offers complimentary lessons](#) for American Sign Language online.
- **Origami.me** [is a free resource](#) for learning and creating masterpieces from folded paper.
- So long, "Happy Birthday!" **The Los Angeles Times** [has generated a list](#) of popular 20-second songs to hum while washing your hands.
- **The Healing Justice Podcast** [has devoted an hour-long episode](#) to COVID-19.
- The Instagram feed [@tasteofstreep](#) features amusing photos of actress Meryl Streep transposed onto popular cuisines.
- The online library **Project Gutenberg** [contains a bevy](#) of acclaimed books in digital formats, available cost-free.
- When obtaining mental health services, inquire about the possibility of remote sessions.
- **The Social Distancing Festival** [provides an outlet](#) for homebound artists.