

BLINK Grant Application

Applicant Information

Name YWCA Madison - CEO Vanessa McDowell
 Address (no P.O. boxes) 101 East Mifflin Street
 City/State/Zip Madison, 53703
 Phone 608-205-8861
 Email vmcdowell@ywcamadison.org

Deadlines

- Deadlines are: February 1, June 1, and October 1
- All application materials must be emailed to the Madison Arts Commission (madisonarts@cityofmadison.com) by 4:30 pm on the day of the deadline.



"The Beehive Project" by Chele Isaac, was an interactive public art project consisting of a large scale beehive, featuring a queen bee inside typing a story on an old typewriter. The public participated by helping to write the story.

Madison Arts Commission

The City of Madison (MAC) recognizes the unique value of the arts and the contribution they make to the quality of life within our community. Madison Arts Commission was created by ordinance in 1974, to advise the Mayor, Common Council and city agencies on matters which relate to the creation, presentation and funding of public art.

Project Description

Project Title Black Thought Wall Interactive Art Installation
 Location(s) Villager Mall

Start date/time 10/01/20 End date/time 10/01/21

Project costs:

Construction costs \$ 5,000.

Black Artists Fees \$ 2,000.

Materials \$ 1,000.

Additional project income (if any):

\$

\$

\$

Amount requested from MAC 8,000.00
 Estimated Total Costs / Income 8,000.00 8,000.00

Do you have the necessary insurance coverage?

Yes No

Do you have all necessary permits and permissions?

Yes No In progress

Conceptual Approach

What would it take to create a sacred public space and time in Madison in which Blackness is not threatened but guaranteed safety, refuge, and protection? Centering Blackness in this way does not just happen. It requires an intentional and consistent commitment from a community. To receive and witness this experience, one must understand it as an honor—a sacred ritual in which that which has been feared and suppressed is given reverence as wisdom for the world ' s healing.

Project Description (400 words or less)

YWCA Madison in collaboration with the Black Thought Project and with the training and guidance of our 2020 Racial Justice Summit Opening Keynote Alicia Walters together with a local team of Black co-creators including artists Brooklyn Doby, Opal Tomashevskaya and YWCA racial justice and restorative justice practitioners Alyssa Ivy, Kyra Johnson and Jasmia Hamilton envisions to co-create a Black Thought Wall (BTW) interactive art installation here in Madison, Wisconsin.

The construction of the wall will be coordinated with Operation Fresh Start as an envisioned partner, as well as determined by conditions in its final location.

The team of Black co-creators mentioned above will be trained by Alicia Walters and plan to collaborate with additional Black local artists here in Madison such as musicians, spoken word artists and dancers with a particular attention to Black youth.

BTW co-facilitation will be provided by the Black co-creators team, integrating the support of local Black guest artists as mentioned above. BTW aims to offer a co-facilitated experience for Black community members, and in particular Black youth to express reflections on topics that center their healing, love, and liberation.

Non-Black space keepers will be also trained by Alicia Walters in stewarding this space and experience of Black Thought and sacredness. We are aiming to offer this BTW experience sometime in the first week of October. YWCA Madison as a local organization with a longstanding location in the South side will partner with other peer organizations in the community to steward this offering to Madison.