

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BRAF

What is the mission of the Black Rock Arts Foundation?

The mission of the Black Rock Arts Foundation is to support and promote community-based interactive art and civic participation. For our purposes, interactive art means art that generates social participation. The process whereby this art is created, the means by which it is displayed and the character of the work itself should inspire immediate actions that connect people to one another in a larger communal context.

What are our goals?

The primary goal of the Black Rock Arts Foundation is to promote a revival of art's culture-bearing and connective function by removing art from its context in the marketplace and reintegrating it into community.

Why was it founded?

- In response to the lack of free, accessible art in the public, and to promote community-based exhibitions of socially interactive art.
- To be a dedicated source of funding of interactive art.
- To support the artists and art organizations affiliated with the Burning Man community.
- To share the art we've come to know and love with other communities. To bring to the world a different perspective on art – how it is created, displayed and interacted with.
- To create a movement of public art that invites interaction and personal relationship with the artworks.
- To provide ways for artists to connect with audiences outside of traditional arts institutions.

When was it founded?

The Black Rock Arts Foundation was established in May of 2001. The foundation applied for its 501(c)3 status in July of 2001 and received it in November of 2001. Our Federal Tax Exempt ID number is 91-2130056.

How was it formed? Who founded it?

Originally, Black Rock Arts Foundation was founded by a subset of several partners who produce Burning Man. However, because we work beyond the borders of Black Rock City, the foundation aims to establish a completely separate identity and organization. We bring art to communities “the other 51 weeks of the year”.

What does Black Rock Arts Foundation do?

Black Rock Arts Foundation is a grant making organization as well as a grant recipient. We currently have 3 main programs in place:

Grants to Artist: Furnishes artists with direct financial aid for the production and display of interactive art works, with particular focus on funding artists who include their community in the creation of a project that exists for and belongs to the public.

ScrapEden: Pairs artists with community groups and/or neighborhood parks to create temporary artworks both appropriate to the site, and that delivers the message about use of reclamation and composting.

Civic Arts Projects: Working with artworks and artists you might recognize from the Burning Man community, we help find new audiences and create new contexts for these works, in San Francisco and beyond.

How is Black Rock Arts Foundation funded?

We receive funds through grants from other foundations and organizations, individual memberships donations, donations from community groups, and private donations of cash or stock.

How can I get funding for my art project?

Artists may apply for funding through our Grants To Artists Program.

The deadline for 2009 grant applications was March 13, 2009.

Our grant cycle focuses on funding project-based proposals that span roughly one year, with some exceptions. We prioritize funding highly interactive projects that include their community in the creation of artwork that exists for and belongs to the public – a project that provokes immediate actions that connects individuals with each other and with their community at large.

Applications for our 2010 cycle will be available December 1, 2009. Applications will be due January 15, 2010 at 5:00 pm, PST. Grantees will be announced March 15, 2010. Awarded grantees receive their first funding in April, and are expected to complete their project in one year, with some exceptions.

We also occasionally have other calls for artists and funding opportunities. We encourage artists to make contact with us and tell us about their work.

Who's on our Board of Directors?

- The members of the Black Rock Arts Foundation Board are Alix Rosenthal, Christopher Bently, Crimson Rose, David Best, Dicky Davies, Freddy Hahne, Harley K. Dubois, John Mueller, Joseph Olivier, P.E., Larry Harvey, Mark Higbie, Mark Sinclair, Nick Morgan, Rachel Carpenter, Rae Richman, Terry Gross and Will Roger.
- Board meetings are held monthly at the Foundation's office in San Francisco. The Executive Director runs the Foundation's programs from the main office.
- The board is unpaid for any and all activities associated with Black Rock Arts Foundation endeavors, although individual members may be associated with particular projects.

Who else makes Black Rock Arts Foundation happen?

Black Rock Arts Foundation employs two full time staff members, the Executive Director and Program Assistant, and one part time Bookkeeper. We also have an Advisory Board, made up of community members and interested parties and an incredible crew of Volunteers, led by two Volunteer Coordinators.

Where's our office? From where do we operate? And legal stuff!

The Black Rock Arts Foundation is incorporated as a non-profit corporation in the State of Nevada and has its primary place of business and office at 1900 Third Street, San Francisco, California.

The corporation is also registered as a foreign corporation in the State of California. The corporation filed for charitable 501(c) 3 tax-exempt status with the I.R.S. in July 2001 and received its initial determination letter in 2001.

What's in our future? What are the upcoming projects?

- We hope to collaborate with other cities and metropolitan areas in creation and installation of projects from all three of our programs (ScrapEden, Civic Art and Grants to Artists).
- We'll be launching another ScrapEden project in the spring of 2009 that focuses on educating the community about composting.
- In the summer of 2009, we're proud to collaborate with Artist Laura Kimpton in the installation of her acclaimed fire and metal sculpture, *Celtic Forest*, in an empty lot in downtown Reno, Nv.

How do I contact the Black Rock Arts Foundation?

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