

artist subsidy program fabrication and budget guide



Print fabricator Saki Sequeira and 2025 Artist Subsidy recipient S. Erin Batiste admiring the prints.

The Powerhouse Arts Artist Subsidy Program (ASP) is designed to subsidize fabrication services for New York City based artists facing financial barriers in realizing their projects. We recognize that these barriers may stem from various systems of oppression, including racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, and economic inequality, which create significant obstacles for artists in accessing and participating in the arts.

To address these challenges, we aim to prioritize self-identifying low-income artists intersecting with marginalized identities, specifically Black, Indigenous, artists of color, LGBTQIA+, disabled, and refugee artists. Based on data from our demographic survey covering May to August 2024, these findings reveal that the Powerhouse Arts community which includes clients, community members, and event attendees identifies as: 49% Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC), 14% LGBTQIA+, 41% low to moderate income backgrounds, and 17% who report having a chronic condition. While we strive to support as many artists as possible, our fee-based fabrication services have not been readily accessible to some artists who would highly benefit from them. This program is a direct response to that.

Through our research, we have identified that a majority of our current artist clients can afford our fees, as our research shows that only 5% of our projects are declined due to high costs. Accordingly, a key focus of this program will be outreach to artists who mostly lack funding, institutional support, knowledge of available resources, and/or gallery representation.

We define low-income based on annual low-to-moderate income (LMI) individual earnings at or below \$68,606, which represents 80% or less of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) area median income for New York. We acknowledge that low income is not solely determined by earnings from labor but also by access to resources, which can be influenced by factors such as family wealth, property ownership, debt, caregiving responsibilities, and other socioeconomic factors. By requesting applicants to voluntarily share with us information about their access to funds, we can make more informed decisions in our artist selection process.

By actively addressing these obstacles, Powerhouse Arts aims to amplify voices that are historically under-resourced. We believe this program will break down participation barriers in the arts for those who need it most. In this way, we are attempting to enable more artists to freely create, experiment, explore, grow, and evolve their practice in meaningful ways that will positively impact their communities.

Artist will receive:

Subsidized labor costs for fabrication services including materials up to \$10,000 in **one** of the six Powerhouse Arts fabrications shops with the specific allocation subject to the approval of the Shop Directors in:

1. Print: Silkscreen, large scale, and experimental printing
2. MGC Community Print Studio: Interdisciplinary printmaking
3. Digital Print Lab: UV flatbed printing and wide-format latex printing
4. Ceramics: Sculpture, 3-D printing, mold making, slip casting, wheel throwing, and more
5. The Alpha Workshops: Decorative paper and textiles
6. Public Art: Design, model-making, or prototyping

Artists will receive guidance and support from our team of expert fabricators, as well as opportunities for professional development and participation in other program offerings. This package also includes promotional marketing through our Instagram and newsletter.

Who this is for:

We aim to prioritize self-identifying low-income artists with other marginalized identities such as Black, Indigenous, artists of color, LGBTQIAP+, disabled, and refugee artists. This also encompasses artists with little to no institutional support or gallery representation.

fabrication

Artists will have access to one of our six Powerhouse Arts' state of the art fabrication shops in print, ceramics, public art, decorative paper and textiles with support from fabricators and studio technicians.

Each artist will participate in a kick-off meeting during orientation with the Shop Directors and Project Managers to plan and align on the workflow and specific needs for the artists' proposed project, establishing a mutually agreed-upon cadence for the work as needed. Artists are responsible for coordinating their time with the selected fabrication shops via each shop's specific communication system.

Depending on the proposed project and shop, artists may be encouraged to use their own materials and tools. Certain standard tools may occasionally be made available under staff supervision on a case-by-case basis.

Please note that work with fabricators must be scheduled in advance. While we understand that projects may evolve unexpectedly, unscheduled “drop-in” requests can disrupt workflow and create confusion.

Artists are responsible for planning and communicating their needs in a timely manner to ensure fair and effective use of resources.

print



The Printshop at Powerhouse Arts offers services that include design, film output, screenprinting, and finishing. The Printshop creates over 300 unique works per year and each project has a unique budget. Project budget is determined by the size of the image, the number of prints per image, the number of colors to be printed, and the substrate.

An image can be very simple in appearance but have complex needs to achieve the desired result. For example, an artist working with the Printshop could effectively use the budget to create CMYK screenprints with multiple panels within 36 by 48 inches. Alternatively, this subsidy budget could be used to create background layers with a half-tone print.

Standard rates for screenprinting start at \$1,200 for one day of printing with one fabricator. To work with additional printers, this increases to \$2,400 for one day of printing with two fabricators and \$3,600 for one day of printing with three fabricators.

Example 1: 2025 ASP Recipient S. Erin Batiste's project encompassed a print edition of collages she created, reclaiming and working with the early 1900's archival mugshot photographs of the Black women and girls from the New Orleans Public Library Archive. The Print team executed digitally printing and screenprinting for three images. See the itemized service list and image below for reference.

Digitally printing and screenprinting for three images	\$3,600
Proofing	\$2,200
Gold leaf, UV ink, enamel ink	\$200
Total	\$6,000



NOTES: She was a wilful breaker of rules, print from mixed-media collage by S. Erin Batiste

Example 2: 2021 ASP Recipient Rodrigo Moreira created *Desiiiire/Diiiistortiiiion*, which incorporate vintage portraits of bodybuilders, distorted through experimental applications of scanning techniques. Below shows the printing of two editions of 20 prints, full bleed made in one day of production with two fabricators. See the itemized service list and image below for reference.

2 editions of 20 plus APs. Printing full bleed and 2-UP. One image CMYK and one image CMYK+ grey wash. 1 day production.	\$2,400
Coventry Rag 335 gsm 25 sheets	\$125
Total	\$2,525



Desiiiire/Diiiistortiiiion and *Body/Meat* by Rodrigo Moreira

digital print lab

The Digital Print Lab is equipped with a 10-foot-wide HP 36000 printer that stands out for its capacity to print lengths up to 100 ft on a myriad of surfaces including fabrics or vinyl. Powerhouse Arts is the only non-profit organization in the US offering this service.

The Digital Print Lab also hosts the Swiss Q Nayla Flatbed UV latex, and inkjet printing in large-scale format printer which has the capacity to print on wood, metal, glass, paper, and fabric. The Swiss Q is capable of printing rigid substrates up to 10 by 6 feet by 2 inches thick. This technology also has the ability to print white primers and varnishes of any finish.

The standard rates are:

Latex printing	\$15 per square foot
UV printing	\$40 per square foot
Inkjet printing	\$25 per linear foot

Example 1: 2025 ASP recipient artist Shay Salehi worked with the Digital Print Lab to produce *Ghost Index*, a central wall-paper piece and *Two Strap Minimum*, a series UV prints on glass for her exhibition *HARD SHOULDER*, which explored the complexities of human–nonhuman relationships to examine how infrastructure and technology shape interspecies connection. See the itemized service list and image below for reference.

Archival printing on Entrada at \$25 per linear foot 12 files	\$2,390.75
Archival printing on adhesive fabric (wallpaper) at \$25 per linear foot	\$1,750
UV printing at \$40 per square foot	\$1,750.25
Trimming, packing, and sampling at \$175 per hour	\$350
Total	\$6,250



Ghost Index, exhibition *HARD SHOULDER* at Baba Yaga Gallery, 2025



Two Strap Minimum IV, (detail) exhibition *HARD SHOULDER* at Baba Yaga Gallery, 2025

Example 2: Artist Lauren Cohen worked with the Digital Print Lab to complete pieces for *Gallerina* (~~Do Not~~ *Disturb*), a self-reflective multiverse of the artist's part-time at an art gallery in Chelsea, where she reimagined and recreated objects from her everyday environment. For this exhibition she worked with the team to create a series of UV, latex, and inkjet prints on shower curtains and primed canvas. See the itemized service list and image below for reference.

12 napkins UV printed at \$40 per square foot	\$120
5 prints on latex HP at \$15 per square foot	\$2,250
10 inkjet prints on archival cotton rag paper at \$25 per linear foot	\$120
20 inkjet prints on bond paper at \$20 per linear foot	\$700
Test: Inkjet printing on shower curtain	\$60
Total	\$3,250



Napkins printed at the Digital Print Lab, *Gallerina*: (~~Do Not~~ *Disturb*) at The Ace Hotel, 2024



Shower curtains printed at the Digital Print Lab, *Gallerina*: (~~Do Not~~ *Disturb*) at The Ace Hotel, 2024

MGC Community Print Studio



MGC members working on lithography prints.

MGC Community Print Studio contributes to the overall print offerings at Powerhouse Arts with practitioners and facilities to fabricate works in the full range of traditional and experimental printmaking processes. This includes the broad categories of intaglio, lithography, relief, screen printing, and photo-based print processes, all described more fully below.

Standard rates for printing start at \$1,200 for one day of printing with one fabricator. To work with additional printers, this increases to \$2,400 for one day of printing with two fabricators and \$3,600 for one day of printing with three fabricators. Project costs will vary depending on materials, complexity, and whether the artist participates directly in creation of the image on a print matrix (e.g. draws on a stone, plate, etc. as opposed to providing source material for staff to execute completely).

This is the first time The Artist Subsidy Program offers fabrication services with MGC Community Print Studio, so we don't have a project example to share at this moment. However, please take a look at the services and prices below.

6 Color Photolithograph, Edition of 40

2 day of printing with 3 printers, printing 6 photolithograph plates	\$7,200
½ day of printing with 2 printers	\$1,200
Film output and layout design	\$250
20 plates processed	\$1,200
Total	\$9,850

Single Color Etching on Copper, Edition of 40

2 day of printing a 12x12" copper plate with 3 printers	\$7,200
½ day of printing with 2 printers	\$1,200
Preparation of Mirror Finish Copper plate	\$150
Chine Colle	\$500
Special Process (ex. Egg aquatint, sugarlift, spit bite)	\$200
Rosin aquatint	\$600
Total	\$9,850

Black and White Stone Lithograph, Edition of 25

1 day of printing a 16x20" stone with 2 printers	\$2,400
½ day of printing with 2 printers	\$1,200
Stone Preparation: graining the stone too grit # 220	\$200
Etching, processing stone, proofing, additions/deletions,	\$2,250
Conservation Enclosure	\$200
Total	\$6,250

processes

Intaglio	Lithography	Relief	Screenprint	Photo-based
Hard Ground	Stone lithography	Japanese Style	Screens up to 36"x48"	Cyanotype
Soft Ground	Ball Grained Aluminum Plate	Western Style		Photogravure
Rosin Aquatint	Photo Lithography	Linoleum		Photolithography
Spit Bite	Paper Lithography			
Engraving				
Mezzotint				
Viscosity				
Various Monotype				
Collagraph				

equipment

Intaglio/Etching Presses	Screenprinting	Lithography	Exposure Room
Charles Brand, 22" x 42"	Drying Racks 46" x 30"	Charles Brand Litho Press, 24" x 40"	Douthitt vacuum exposure unit (can accommodate photo litho plates, photopolymer intaglio, or screens up to 36x48")
Charles Brand, 30" x 46.5"	Work Tables (6)	Charles Brand Litho Press, 32" x 48"	
Charles Brand, 26" x 48"	Light Table 38" x 40"	Litho Sink 40" x 48"	Rosin Aquatint Box
French Tool, 30.5" x 48.5"	Pressure Washing Area	Dark Room	Jump Shear Plate Cutter
Water Soak Tray 43" x 30"	Screens and Squeegees	Exposure Room	Epson Large Format inkjet (44" wide)
Rosin Box 33.5" x 36"	Screen Storage	Guillotine	
Hot Plates 20" x 20" & 24" x 36"		Rulers and Tear Bars	
Blotter Area 42" x 30.5" & 35" x 31"		Self-Healing Mats	
Tray Size 30" x 20" & 24" x 36"		Solvents and Acides	
Etching Room Sink 43" x 30"		Lithography Stones	
Ventilated Etching Room		Various (~17) sizes approx 16"x 23"+/-	
Work Tables (9)			

ceramics



Ceramics Director Biata Roytburd in the wheel

Our Ceramics Shop offers services spanning project management, sculpture, wheel throwing, ceramic 3D printing, mold making & slip casting, surface decoration, decal creation, glazing, hydraulic pressing, and electric and gas firing.

With the Ceramics Shop, there are several options within the scope of this subsidy, examples of which are identified below. The RAM press is an effective method of producing a larger quantity of pieces. For this process, mold-making rates begin at \$2,000 and can be used to create an edition of 100-200 pieces. The team could otherwise handbuild one small to medium size sculpture or create wheel-thrown pieces depending on complexity. Artists may choose to work with slip casting, with the possibility of creating two to three 4 to 5 part molds. The 3D printer is also a tool that artists can work with.

Example 1: 2025 ASP Recipient Cat Luo worked with the Ceramics team to create two large stone lion figures. These lions draw on Chinese Buddhist imagery and add a contemporary queer Asian American perspective to think critically about the impact of communism on cultural artifacts. See the itemized service list and image below for reference.

Moldmaking and casting: Design of plaster molds for replication	\$208.25
Moldmaking and casting: Creation of plaster molds for replication	\$2,082.50
Moldmaking and casting: Slab Rolling & Forming, and assembly guidance to maintain structural integrity and avoid warping	\$624.75
Firing Services: Bisque and glaze	\$416.50
Hands-On Demonstrations & Skill Development	\$833.00
Clay, Fibers, Plaster	\$321
Project Management	\$1,764
Total	\$6,250



Guardian Lion 1, Heaven, 2025, Ceramic by Cat Luo



Guardian Lion 2, Hell, 2025, Ceramic (unglazed) by Cat Luo. Documentation by [Rommel Nunez](#)

Example 2: Sophia Wallace worked with our Ceramics fabrication team to create sculptures using plaster molds for their ongoing project to invent an iconography of the “clitoridian”. See the itemized service list and image below for reference.

Edition of 9 glazed in Palladium	\$4,155
Materials - Plaster, slip, glaze	\$665
Project Management	\$720
Total	\$5,540



Swan Series by Sophia Wallace, 2021

public art



Fountain for Survivors by Pamela Council installed in Times Square, 2021

The Public Art Shop offers custom fabrication services supporting artists through design, fabrication, assembly, and installation of sculptural work. Working across wood, metal, and other materials, artists can partner with fabricators to develop concepts suited for a range of scales and creative applications.

In lieu of completing full-scale installations, artists may use the five-month period to work alongside fabricators to research, model, or prototype new concepts. This program emphasizes material exploration, technical development, and proof-of-concept work that can lay the groundwork for future large-scale projects. Public Art fabrication is costly and takes a great deal of time. So, we encourage applicants with existing funding to apply. The allocated program budget of \$10,000 can typically support consultations and digital modeling, but likely not the completion of large-scale final pieces. An additional matching amount of at least \$10,000 is recommended to help ensure their project's successful completion with the Public Art team.

Artists are responsible for covering fabrication costs beyond research, modeling, and prototyping. Please review the example below to better understand the fees associated with fabrication.

Example 1: 2025 ASP Recipient Victor "Marka27" Quiñonez worked with the Public Art team to fabricate parts of *Elevar La Cultura NYC*, an immersive sculptural installation featuring a twenty-foot-tall Mayan pyramid built from the objects of everyday hustle—ice coolers reborn as icons and infused with ancestral textiles, sacred symbols, and mural work. The monumental structure is a powerful tribute to the beauty and resilience of immigrant street vendors.

Please note that the partial list of services displayed below reflect only a small fraction of the overall project expenses. Total fabrication costs for this project exceeded the subsidy amount. For this reason artists are encouraged to apply with existing financial support. Marka27 applied with funding that supported these expenses. The range of Public Art services provided for this project included, design & modeling, digital fabrication, fabrication, painting, handling & packing, transport/delivery, and installation/deinstallation. To demonstrate how an artist subsidy may be applied to this scope of work, see the partial list of services and image below for reference.

Digital Fabrication (~21 hrs)	\$2,499.60
Design & Modeling (~63 hrs)	\$7,500.00
Total	\$9,999.60



Elevar La Cultura NYC (front) by Victor "Marka27" Quiñonez at the Shed.
Documentation by [Pivot Language Media](#)



Elevar La Cultura NYC (back) by Victor "Marka27" Quiñonez at the Shed.
Documentation by [Pivot Language Media](#)

Example 2: As an example of a smaller-scale project, 2021 ASP Recipient Caroline Garcia worked with the Public Art team to fabricate the internal aluminum armature for an artist's sculpture that modeled the anatomy of a life-sized animal, with overall dimensions of approximately 47" wide by 51" tall for *The Headless Headhunt*. Garcia adopts the Indigenous practice of headhunting from the Philippines with the motivation to process grief. See the itemized service list and image below for reference.

Metalwork: Bending and welding (56hrs)	\$4,984.00
Material: 2 x 8 x 3/8 flatstock	\$210.00
Material: 40 ft, 3/8 solid aluminum rod	\$112.00
Packing & Delivery	\$230.00
Subtotal	\$5,536.00
Tax (8.875%)	\$491.32
Total	\$6,027.32



The Headless Headhunt by Caroline Garcia at The Shed

alpha workshops



The Alpha Workshops is an award-winning design and decorative arts studio founded in 1995 as a proactive response to the AIDS crisis in New York City. Modeled on the historic artisan guilds of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the studios seek to preserve traditional handcraft and provide a new model of economic development for at-risk individuals living with disabilities or other vulnerabilities. With nearly 30 years of expertise in art fabrication and interior product production, The Alpha Workshops continues to pioneer unique ways of working, teaching, creating, and collaborating that benefit the community.

This is the first time The Artist Subsidy Program offers services with the Alpha Workshops, so we don't have a project example to share at this moment. However, please take a look at the services and prices below

Types of services, materials, and trainings:

Wallpaper Artisan

Fabrication	\$75.00 / hour
Design Development	\$125 / manager hour

Textile Artisan

Fabrication	\$75.00 / hour
Design Development	\$125 / manager hour
Executive Director Consulting	\$125 / manager hour

Custom Wallpaper

Fabrication	\$300 / yard
Design Development	\$125 / manager hour

Custom Painted textile

Fabrication	\$375 / yard
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Gilding services

Fabrication	\$75.00 / hour
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Technique Training

\$75.00 / hour
\$125 / supervisor/ exec hour