

True New Mexico: Young Black and/or AAPINH New Mexican Artists Looking to Discuss and Dismantle the Tricultural Myth

2025 Application Packet

Thank you for your interest in applying for the 2025 fifth annual True NM Project!

** We ask that you read the application **thoroughly** before answering the questions. We suggest drafting your responses first before officially submitting. You can find a copy of this application packet on our website www.truenm.com. We will be selecting **10 young artists aged 16-22**. Please fill out and submit your application by **Friday, January 10th!** **

About True NM: This project is an annual anti-racism, youth-centered, arts-based project developed as a collaboration between the New Mexico Asian Family Center (NMAFC) and the New Mexico Black Leadership Council (NMBLC). Each spring, a cohort of young Black/African American and/or Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Native Hawaiian (AAPINH) artists come together to build cross-racial solidarity, invest in communal healing, and work to dismantle the state's tricultural myth. The youth work over the course of a few weeks to create self-portraits and presentations guided by the prompt, "What's your True New Mexican story?" Each young artist receives a stipend for supplies and their time to complete the project. They also gather on a regular basis to build community, support each other's projects and progress, and participate in guest artist workshops over the course of three months.

What is the **tricultural myth**? The tricultural myth is a widely accepted misconception about the racial makeup of New Mexico that implies that Indigenous, Latina/o/x, and white people live here in a harmonious, interracial community. Not only does it ignore the current and historic racism and disenfranchisement that Indigenous and Latina/o/x communities experience systemically, but it also inherently removes Black/African American and/or AAPINH peoples from the narrative entirely. Here in New Mexico, this myth runs deep. Through this project, we hope to create and build conversations dismantling this myth.

2025 General Expectations: + Create and complete an original self-portrait through any artistic media (visual arts or performing arts invited) in response to the prompt below + Attend, actively engage in, and co-lead activities in the required gatherings + Give a 5-10 minute presentation about your artwork to the community, your peers, and NMAFC and NMBLC staff during a public exhibition + Presentations and group discussions are primarily held in English, so the ability to communicate with others in English is beneficial to enjoying the full experience (interpretation support provided as appropriate) + Arrange for your own transportation to workshops and events + Continue to participate in True NM showcases as they arise beyond the program's conclusion

2025 Prompt: We are looking for creative, unique, and truthful pieces of art that reveal something about life in New Mexico as a young Black/African American and/or AAPINH person. Use one or more of the following prompts to inform your creation of an original self-portrait (in your medium of choice):

- What is your sense/idea of your *true* self?
- How do you identify yourself or your experiences being an AAPINH and/or Black/African-American youth in New Mexico?
- What is your *true* New Mexican story?

2025 Timeline: February 1, 2025 - May 3, 2025 (10 gatherings + independent creation time)

- Application Deadline: Friday, January 10th
 - Select Applicant Interviews: January 21st-23rd
 - Artist Acceptance Deadline: January 29th
 - Program begins: February 1st
 - Completed Project Deadline: **Saturday, April 19th**
 - **Required** Weekly Gatherings: These in-person gatherings will be approximately 2.5 hours long, and they will be **paid time** (locations around Albuquerque will vary and will be revealed when we send acceptances)!
1. *Program Welcome:* **Saturday, February 1st** (you will be contacted by email before this date if you have been chosen to participate in the 2025 program)
 2. *Workshops:* **Friday of 2/7 and Saturdays of 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, 3/29, 4/5, and 4/19.** These regular gatherings are designed to build community, support each other's projects and progress, and participate in workshops facilitated by local, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) artists with the goal of expanding a network of vibrant, young, BIPOC artists.
 3. *Optional Special Events:*
Cohort Worktime 3/15, 3/22; other events TBD
- Public Exhibition: **Friday, May 2nd**
 - Required Program Close Gathering: **Saturday, May 3rd** (feedback, reflection, alumni event planning, etc.)

2025 Stipends: Artists will be paid a stipend for their participation in the program, time attending the group gatherings, working on their projects, and presenting their work in different venues. Artists will receive a stipend of **up to \$1,000 each**. Project supplies or materials will be purchased for you through True NM (estimated budget must be submitted).

Application Questions

Personal and Contact Information

1. Email address
2. First name
3. Last name
4. Pronouns (i.e. she/her, he/him, they/them, ze/zir, etc.)

5. Racial/Ethnic Identity (i.e. Black, African American, Asian, Asian American, multiracial API/Black, Thai/Mexican, etc.). There is no “right” answer.
NOTE: This opportunity is specifically targeted for young Black/African American and/or Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Native Hawaiian (AAPINH) artists aged 16-24.
6. Date of birth
7. Phone number
8. Preferred method of communication: Email, phone, other
9. Social Media (If you have any social media platforms for your art (website, Instagram, Facebook page, etc. that you would like to be uplifted through this project, please list them below.)

Disclosures

The below questions will help us understand your ability to fully participate in the program. If you answer no to any of the questions below, **you can still be considered** for the program, but we will have to follow up and assess.

10. **COVID-19:** Can you provide proof of vaccination and/or a regular negative COVID test? – yes/no
11. **Transportation:** Will you have your own form of transportation?
12. **Media Release:** Do you feel comfortable having photos of you and your art taken and displayed, along with your basic information (name, pronouns, identity, age), and shared on our social media, website and other platforms? – yes/no
13. **Age:** If you are under 18 years old, do you have your parent/guardian’s consent to participate in this program? Please have your guardian initial below.
Note: If you are over 18, please put “N/A.”
14. Parent/ Guardian Name (if under 18, otherwise put “N/A”)
15. Parent/ Guardian email (if under 18, otherwise put “N/A”)

Project Proposal

Remember, we suggest you read the whole application thoroughly before answering the following questions. You can find a copy of this application packet on our website www.truenm.com.

16. Why do you want to participate in the 2025 True NM program? (1 paragraph)
17. Project Proposal (1-2 paragraphs): Please describe your idea for your project in more detail (include your self-portrait concept, artistic medium(s), execution plan, etc.).
Note:
We are looking for creative, unique, and truthful pieces of art (in your medium of choice) that reveal something about life in New Mexico as a young Black/African American and/or AAPINH person. Use one or more of the following prompts in your response:
 - What is your sense/idea of your true self?
 - How do you identify yourself or your experiences being an AAPINH and/or Black/African-American youth in New Mexico?
 - What is your true New Mexican story?
18. Can you commit to finishing your self-portrait by **April 19, 2025**? – yes/no

19. How much money for supplies and materials do you think you will need for your project?
(You can request up to \$250)
20. How will you use your supply and material funds? Please provide a budget proposal below. This can be a rough, expected breakdown.
Note: If you don't need any funds, you can put "N/A."
21. ATTENDANCE: There are 10 required in-person gatherings (Fridays of 2/7, 5/2 and Saturdays of 2/1, 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, 3/29, 4/5, 4/19 and 5/3). Can you commit to attending all 10 required gatherings? Check the boxes of those you can commit to attending.
2/7 will meet from 4:30-7:30pm
5/2 will meet from 4:30-8:30pm
2/1, 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, 3/29, 4/5, 4/19 and 5/3 will meet from 1:00-3:30pm
22. Attendance: Please share any details about your availability.

Anything Else?

You made it to the end, congrats! If you have any questions, please send an email to NMAFC's Youth Engagement Program Coordinator, [Zee Azibo](mailto:zee@nmafc.org) at zee@nmafc.org

23. Please use this space to share anything else you would like us to know regarding your project.

Once your application is submitted, it will be reviewed by the selection committee. Qualified applicants will be contacted to schedule a brief Zoom interview in January to allow our committee to learn more about you, and provide you with the opportunity to ask additional questions you have.

The first required meeting of the 2025 cohort will be held on Saturday, February 1st from 1:00-3:30pm.