

EMERGING ARTIST INITIATIVE

EMERGING ARTIST RELIEF FUND EXPERIENCES OVERWHELMING DEMAND

(July 30, 2020) Emerging Artist Initiative (EAI) has closed the Emerging Artist Relief Fund application that launched nearly three weeks ago. The grassroots initiative received 1,721 applications from young artists across the country in dire financial need. The EAI team of young arts professionals continues to raise funds towards their \$15,000 goal.

171 actors, 88 painters, 39 mixed media artists, 86 photographers, 32 graphic designers, 8 comedians, and 30 administrators and producers are among the 1,721 applicants. The most common financial needs include rent, utility, and grocery bills. Due to their age, inexperience, and citizenship status, many haven't been able to access unemployment benefits, and the Emerging Artist Relief Fund is the only relief effort they are eligible for. In addition, an overwhelming majority of applicants are from BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color), Native, and transgender communities.

Emerging Artist Initiative has currently raised \$7,730 towards their \$15,000 goal to fund 30 young and emerging artists. All donations received go directly to a young artist in need. Donations can be made through their Facebook Fundraiser, PayPal, or Venmo (@eai_fund). Those interested in mailing a check can contact emergingartistinitiative@gmail.com to arrange a donation. The team at EAI extends their heartfelt appreciation to those who have donated for their generous support of this grassroots initiative.