



CHOCOLATE FACTORY THEATER

Who we are

The Chocolate Factory Theater was built by and for artists to encourage and support artists in their process of inquiry. We engage specifically with a community of artists who challenge themselves and, in doing so, challenge us. We believe that by supporting the labor of these artists, we contribute to elevating New York City as a thriving and more equitable wellspring of ideas.

The Chocolate Factory embraces artistic practice as an integral part of the artist's whole life, an essential component of the life of our community, and a key element of a larger national and international artistic dialogue. As such, we host artists as our equal partners with shared autonomy, trust, and appreciation. While we seek to make big ideas and extended relationships possible, we commit to working at a small, intimate, and personal scale, with few artistic compromises or boundaries.

What we do

The primary activities of The Chocolate Factory are to support artists in the creation of new work. Each year, 9-10 artists receive commissioning funds, exclusive access to our space and equipment for creative residency and performance, and hourly wages for lead artists, performers, and design collaborators. Additionally, 2-3 artists receive early-stage paid creative residencies. All artists supported by The Chocolate Factory receive high-quality video documentation of their work (which is added to our freely available [online archive](#)), marketing, fundraising, administrative and technical support. Our work with artists is highly customizable as we strive to use our resources in the best way possible for each individual artist and project. A full list of artists who have participated in these programs can be found [here](#).

Since its first season in 2005, The Chocolate Factory has supported the work of hundreds of dance, theater, and multidisciplinary artists, and has drawn many thousands of visitors to its former industrial facility in Long Island City, Queens. Works supported by The Chocolate Factory have received numerous Bessie and Obie Awards and have toured nationally and internationally.

The Chocolate Factory regularly partners with local, national, and international peer organizations on co-presentations and resource sharing. Recent partnerships include Issue Project Room, Abrons Arts Center, Japan Society, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Portland Institute of Contemporary Art, Fusebox Festival (Austin, TX), Walker Art

Center (Minneapolis, MN), Wexner Center (Columbus, OH), Los Angeles Performance Practice, Sophiensaele (Berlin) and many others.

Community & Civic Engagement

The Chocolate Factory is deeply rooted in and engaged with our local community. We produce and assist in the production of activities with and for our local community that may or may not directly connect to our arts programming.

The future, a new building, a permanent home! What is happening next?

In 2017, The Chocolate Factory completed the purchase of a 7,500 square foot industrial facility in the neighborhood. The organization owns the building fully, without debt thanks to NYC. The first project of its kind in Western Queens, the \$3.8 million dollar purchase was made possible by lead capital fund allocations from New York City Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer, Queens Borough Presidents Melinda Katz and Helen Marshall, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and the Office of the Mayor; and was administered by the New York City Economic Development Corporation. Renovation Funds totaling over \$5million have been raised from the Borough President Donovan Richards and Sharon Lee, the New York City Council and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. The design for the renovation of the facility is complete and we are gearing to launch a public capital campaign to raise the final dollars needed.

Once complete the fully accessible facility will allow us to better support artists with a larger performance space while still maintaining the ease of flexibility and experimentation we currently have. We will be able to welcome larger audiences and host community events in a new community room. Office space will be expanded with space for the organization's resident artists.