



## VERSES or VIBES Frequently Asked Questions

---

### BACKGROUND

#### **What is the Boston Art & Music Soul (BAMS) Festival?**

Boston Art & Music Soul Festival is one of the fastest growing urban arts and music festivals in the City of Boston that celebrates Afro-centric identity and Black artistry, all while amplifying the voices and creative contributions from local, regional and national entertainers of color. Since its debut in June 2018, more than 8,500+ people have attended the summer annual event – inside the historic Franklin Park - Playstead Field (the largest outdoor green space in the heart of the City of Boston).

#### **What is VERSES or VIBES Battle?**

Sponsored by Berkshire Bank, *Verses or Vibes Battle* is a virtual music competition for New England-based artists to win a chance to secure their spot at a future BAMS Festival. The winner receives \$5,000 in cash and prizes.

### THE APPLICATION

#### **When do applications open?**

Wednesday, September 1, 2021, via [bamsfest.org](https://bamsfest.org) website

#### **When do applications close?**

Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 11:00PM EST via [bamsfest.org](https://bamsfest.org) website

#### **Who can apply to this year's Verses or Vibes Battle?**

Any New England-based musician/band. The individual or band must all reside and/or live within one of the following states: Connecticut, Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Hampshire.

#### **Is there a specific genre that can apply?**

No. We are open.

#### **Are there any special preferences or considerations when applying?**



## **VERSES or VIBES**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

---

Our application process is open to everyone (age 18 and older who lives/resides within one of the six New England states). We do encourage that women/womxn, LGBTQIA+, and those who identify as a person of color to apply.

#### **Is there an application fee to apply?**

No.

#### **What is the age minimum to apply?**

Must be at least 18 years of age to apply.

#### **If I applied last year, can I apply again?**

Yes, so long as you were not a finalist in the competition.

#### **What is the maximum number of people allowed in a band?**

No more than 5 people in the band.

#### **What type of music is acceptable/encouraged?**

Original music is highly recommended. If you are a cover band or performer, do not apply for this competition.

#### **Do I need to be a US citizen to apply?**

Yes, you must be a US citizen to apply for this competition

#### **What are the prizes?**

The total value of all cash and prizes is five thousand (\$5,000) dollars, which comprises of the following:

- \$1,000 cash prize
- Secured spot at BAMS Festival 2022
- Professional photo shoot
- One on one brand management consulting session
- Studio rehearsal time

#### **What happens if I am a finalist?**

All finalists must be available and ready to pre-recorded their live performance in mid-to-late October 2021. Travel and lodging are at the expense of the artist. Additional details will be sent to finalists to prepare for their professional performance video. All members of a band/group will be required to show a negative COVID-19 test (48 hours prior to the pre-recording), or their vaccination card (24 hours prior to the pre-recording).



## VERSES or VIBES

### Frequently Asked Questions

---

#### JUDGING

##### **How will video submissions and applications be judged?**

Each 90 second video submission will be judged on the following:

- Professionalism
- Musicality
- Lyricism/Flow
- Quality of video
- Personality

##### **How will pre-recorded live performances be judged?**

- Delivery and overall performance
- Presentation (style, fashion, professionalism)
- Lyrics and Music: Were the lyrics appropriate? Did you feel the music?
- Persuasion: Would you watch this perform again?

##### **How many judges will there be during the livestream?**

A total of three judges and one moderator.

##### **Who are the judges?**

To be revealed at a later date. All judges have music and entertainment industry experience.