



leeway foundation

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Online:

2024 grantee announcements: leeway.org/news

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2024 News Release

Leeway Foundation awarded 12 artists with the Transformation Award, moving \$180,000 of unrestricted support to women, trans*, and gender nonconforming artists and cultural producers.

The Transformation Award provides unrestricted annual awards of \$15,000 to women, trans, and gender nonconforming artists and cultural producers living in greater Philadelphia who create art for social change and have done so for the past five years or more, demonstrating a long-term commitment to social change work.*

PHILADELPHIA (January 15, 2024) -- In December 2023, Leeway Foundation awarded 12 artists with the Transformation Award, moving \$180,000 of unrestricted support to women, trans*, and gender nonconforming artists and cultural producers at the intersection of art and social change in Greater Philadelphia.

The 2023 cohort includes an array of artistic practices and social change intents. The awardees include performers challenging respectability politics, filmmakers documenting community resistance and joy, playwrights combating medical racism and sexism, podcasters creating audio in support of decarceration, visual artists painting liberatory futures, and more. 2023 awardees are committed to building a vision for a more just world, particularly for BIPOC communities and queer and trans* folks. All showcase at least 5+ years of utilizing art and cultural production to shift or transform the perception of power and/or privilege and the dynamics associated with justice, equality, and/or accountability.

The 2023 Transformation Award (LTA) Recipients are (in alphabetical order):

[Amir Khadar](#) of Spring Garden, Multidisciplinary
[Chelsey Luster](#) of West Philadelphia, Visual Arts
[Debra Powell-Wright](#) of Clifton Heights, Multidisciplinary
[Heidi Ratanavanich](#) of Mantua, Multidisciplinary
[Jaq "Jingle" Masters](#) of Kensington, Visual Arts & Crafts & Textiles
[Kim Wilson](#) of West Philadelphia, Media & Visual Arts
[Kristal Sotomayor](#) of Newbold, Media Arts
[M. Nzadi Keita](#) of Southwest Germantown, Literary Arts
[Nikki Brake-Sillá](#) of Southwest Philadelphia, Performance
[Nikki Powerhouse](#) of North Philadelphia, Performance & Literary Arts
[Priscilla Bell Lamberty](#) of Haddington, Visual Arts
[Queen Jo](#) of Sharswood, Music & Performance

A national panel of artists and cultural producers convened to review applications and work samples in this two-stage process. The 2023 panel included multidisciplinary cultural worker, dramaturg, and facilitator for radical imagination, [Arielle Julia Brown \(ACG '18, '20; LTA '21\)](#), community-based visual artist, curator, and folklorist from Baltimore, Maryland, **Ashley Minner**, and Brazil-native and longtime activist in women's, LGBTQIA, Latine, immigrant, and arts and culture issues, **Bia Vieira**. The second stage panel welcomed queer pop composer and storyteller from Washington D.C., **Be Steadwell** and fat, queer/trans Floridian freak and visual artist, **Shoog McDaniel**, and was facilitated by Amadee Braxton, Philadelphia-based trainer, coach, energy healer, and facilitator.

Applications are made available on the Leeway website and may also be obtained by calling 1(215) 728-9273 or emailing info@leeway.org. Potential applicants are encouraged to attend one of the many support sessions offered throughout the year or schedule an appointment with a staff member for one-on-one support.

The next deadline for the Transformation Award is May 15, 2024 learn more at www.leeway.org/grants/

Press inquiries and photo requests should be directed to Bee Knight, 215.728.9273 or bknight@leeway.org

ABOUT LEEWAY

The Leeway Foundation supports women, trans* and gender nonconforming artists and cultural producers working in communities at the intersection of art, culture, and social change. Through our grantmaking and other programs, we promote artistic expression that amplifies the voices of those on the margins, promotes sustainable and healthy communities, and works in the service of movements for economic and social justice. For more information about Leeway, its grant programs, grantees, and events, visit leeway.org.

**Leeway is a trans-affirming organization committed to gender self-determination, and we use the term "trans" in its most inclusive sense, as an umbrella term encompassing transsexual, transgender, genderqueer, Two-Spirit people, and anyone whose gender identity or gender expression is nonconforming and/or different from their gender assigned at birth.*