

2007



leeway foundation

GRANTS AND AWARDS

The Leeway Foundation is committed to art making as an integral part of social change, to movement building, and to anti-oppression work where Leeway is accountable, accessible to, part of and governed by the communities Leeway's programs support. Leeway is guided by the values of fearlessness in action, speech and self-examination and commits to breaking down boundaries and barriers with creativity, respect and openness to the process.



support
storytelling
quitting
ceremonies
speaking
silencing
vocalization
transformation
PHOTOGRAPHY
production
Dance
theatre
spoken
word
artists
word





www.leeway.org

Singers
 spoken
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 transformation
 vocal
 painters
 silk
 ceramics
 film
 support
 storytelling
 publishing



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Start... Engage... Imagine... Consider... Count... Listen... Toast...

In 2007 the Leeway Foundation provided a total of \$335,000 in grant support to 69 women and transgender artists in the Greater Philadelphia region who create art for social change. Fifty-five artists received the project-based Art and Change Grant, which was offered in February, June and October. The Transformation Award, offered once annually, was given to 14 artists, each having demonstrated a commitment to this work of art and change for five years or more.

We asked the folklorist and cultural worker Debora Kodish, director of the Philadelphia Folklore Project, to share her reflections on Leeway's "class of 2007." Her essay "Seven Ways to Use This Book" suggests that we think deeply about what (and whom) this book represents. She asks us to begin ... to imagine ... to engage ... guiding us to a celebration of the artists contained in these pages while at the same time providing a framework for each of us to reflect on and celebrate our own practice, whatever it may be.

Five years ago, we at Leeway embarked on a journey that has resulted in a dramatic transformation of the Foundation and its culture. We began with a redesign of our grant programs and moved on to an internal inquiry into what it means to embrace a social justice framework that examines the nuances of race, class and gender in the context of philanthropy and foundation work. It has been quite an adventure!

As of this writing we are coming to the end of a yearlong planning process in which we identified three primary areas of focus for our work over the next three years. They are:

Exploring connections between art and social change — an ongoing exploration of the ways in which art transforms individuals and communities and acts as a catalyst for change.

Expanding Leeway's role in participating in, supporting and increasing the visibility of social change work in the context of social justice philanthropy. Internally, this means establishing and maintaining practices that are in line with our social justice values. Externally, it means working with our colleagues in the philanthropic community to move more resources and visibility to art and social change practitioners.

Building community — making meaningful connections with artists, change-makers and others working for women's empowerment; racial, transgender and economic justice; and other liberation work as it relates to making art that is about making change. At the same time, we will nurture existing relationships with the artists and others who have been part of Leeway's work throughout its history.

We are grateful to the many people who contributed to this planning process through interviews, focus groups and community meetings — applicants; grant and award recipients; current and former board, staff and advisory council members; community partners; consultants; panelists; and foundation colleagues. We appreciated



Photo: Hannan Saleh

their honesty and the stories they shared about their experience of Leeway. We have been bolstered and encouraged by the energy and good will expressed by all involved for the vision of the future that we share.

We would also like to acknowledge the other members of the Strategic Planning committee — Gretjen Clausing, Sabina Neem, Alison Roh Park and Patience Rage — who provided leadership, deliberated over countless hours of meetings, and gave shape to the process.

And, to our consultants Jennifer Henderson, Ellen Murphey, Rebecca Subar, Alix Webb and Felice Yeskel, who approached the work with curiosity, sensitivity and good humor — thank you for your commitment to movement building and all your hard work helping us to tell all our truths.

As we at Leeway turn our gaze outward, we are excited to reach new communities of artists, strengthen our existing relationships and cultivate new ones, create programs that support a set of clearly articulated artistic and social justice values, and — finally — engage in a community-wide dialogue about the nature of art and change, and the ways artists contribute to the transformation of our world. We invite you to join us.

...And who will join this standing up
and the ones who stood without sweet company
will sing and sing
back into the mountains and
if necessary
even under the sea:

we are the ones we have been waiting for.

— **June Jordan**, “Poem for South African Women”

Philadelphia 2008

Julia López
Board President

Denise M. Brown
Executive Director

Seven Ways To Use This Book

ONE: Start as they all started. Start in anger or recognition. Start in refusing caricatures or silence. Start in love and concern. Start because you must, and take a step. Call yourself an artist, a maker: someone who can pick up a pen, a camera, can listen, can say no or yes when the time and place require. Know that taking on the name “artist” comes far more easily for some than others. Look past names and labels, as Leeway struggles — as we all struggle — to do.

TWO: Engage. The work is huge. Endless. Complicated. Think of this book as a guide to some pressing issues and necessary action. Learn who these 69 people are, this sampling of brave souls. Settle down and read about people sewing/dancing/juggling/singing/writing/filming/painting/documenting their way and ours. Meet them through these pages and remember. Keep an eye out for their names and work. Notice. Pay attention.

Making art for social change is rarely a solo endeavor. Most often, this is work done in community with others, for collective benefit. What is art? What is social change? Who are artists and change-makers? Who risks? Who benefits? No easy answers. This book (and Leeway) asks that we name ourselves and our struggles in our own terms, as best we can. This book says we can learn from one another and from this work. Use this book as an invitation to sisterhood and struggle, to movement building and responsibility, to strategies and media, to what it means to be an ally.

THREE: Imagine: What would you do with a Leeway grant? If you had the time and freedom that one of these awards might allow, what would you do? What possibilities can you see and work for? How would you make some measure of social change — more equity, justice, peace, freedom — in the middle of the mess in which we find ourselves? On whose behalf, at whose side, would you labor? Where and how might you spend time and (most precious of all) attention, love and respect? Start by seeing yourself among those in these pages. What difference could you make with what \$2,500 or \$15,000 might buy?

FOUR: Consider: What does it mean to be in this book? The money is important. Necessary. But one of the most enduring gifts enjoyed by those named in these pages is that someone told them yes. A small selection committee, people who would also say they are engaged in some work of art and social change, read their applications and said: “Yes. We want to see what you can do with this chance, this time, this money.”

Struggling against the odds, it matters to be affirmed and encouraged, to have others find us worth investing in, not out of our minds. The people in this book know: The first step is believing in ourselves, in our own capacity to speak and act and make a difference (regardless of how a panel chooses).

FIVE: Count. There are many ways for an advocate to read this book. Here is one. I am committed to keeping folk and traditional arts — local vernaculars — sustainable and vital. I believe in the importance of these deeply rooted and fundamentally alternative forms of cultural heritage (contemporary yet also grounded in community-relevant language and practice). Working in this area for decades, I can tell you that these kinds of artistic practice are both crucial spheres for enabling diversity, self-determination and local authority, and chronically marginalized, overlooked, dismissed, exoticized and underfunded. Nationally, people working in folk and traditional arts generally can expect to get access to only 2-4% of arts grant dollars. In contrast, at Leeway more than 15% of awardees are doing work in folk arts and cultural heritage. This is significant: It shows that Leeway gets out there to places and people who aren't the usual suspects on grant lists, that it takes seriously people whose credentials are embodied in their own work and measured in neighborhood respect. It shows that you can work at access and fair process. You can work to keep doors open, kick them down, pay attention to what might be barriers. This work makes a difference in who gets a shot.

SIX: Listen to just four of those represented here:

“I am a minority within a minority and it has been an important responsibility to preserve this tradition and speak out.”

“I am changing possibilities for girls and women.”

“I was outraged: I decided to speak up. This was when I realized the true power of an artist.”

“We can reclaim cultural traditions that we were denied for so long, and, by doing that, make our sense and practice of community building even stronger.”

SEVEN: Toast in gratitude and appreciation, in honor of this book and those it represents: Leeway, the awardees, all those who applied and all who have yet to apply, all those who struggle for justice and joy. To our health and well-being. May we thrive in just and good work, and may this book be one of many signs that there is wider company than we imagine. May our contributions be useful, enduring resources in larger struggles. May we support one another and find justice and joy in good measure. And may we all say, “Amen.”



Debora Kodish
July 2, 2008

History

Leeway's commitment to funding women and transgender artists creating social change through their art is the result of diligent work by the Foundation to find new ways to more fully live out its mission.

Funded by an initial gift from Philadelphia-based artist Linda Lee Alter, Leeway began in 1993 as a foundation dedicated to supporting women artists in the Philadelphia area. Inspired by artists and activist organizations devoted to connecting art and social change, as well as by individuals in the Leeway community who believed in the powerful potential of this link, **Leeway's leadership made a commitment to explore art as a means of helping achieve social change in the late '90s.**

By 2003, Leeway's board of directors (including members of its donor family), staff and advisory council were working to transform the Foundation in several remarkable ways — they committed to a process of dismantling racism in the Foundation's practices, policies and programs; moved decision-making power from a single-family-member structure to a community-based board of directors; and committed to an active framework of personal and political transformation. **Grant programs that reflected these cultural shifts were implemented in 2005, and in 2006 Leeway's mission was expanded to include transgender artists.**

In 2007, Leeway turned its focus to an intensive planning process to deepen and concretize its renewed vision. Over 60 stakeholders — past and current staff and board members, applicants, awardees and grantees, review panelists, community partners, and foundation colleagues — participated in interviews, focus groups and community meetings facilitated by an independent consulting team. These interviews, which included stories of Leeway's past and present as well as a broad set of perspectives on its strengths, challenges and opportunities for moving forward became the basis for a strategic plan that supports Leeway's values and outlines the work of the Foundation for the next three years.

Our Work

The Leeway Foundation's grantmaking programs honor women and transgender artists (including those who identify as transsexual and genderqueer) for their ability to inspire, challenge, provoke and reflect, as well as for the beauty and strength of their art.

Leeway supports the natural intersection of art and social change. We understand that art is not born in a vacuum. What we create, how we create and why we create grow out of who we are, how we relate to our communities and how we view the world.

This work impacts people in many ways. It can:

- create space for expression and building a sense of community
- reclaim traditional cultural practices as a form of community building or resistance
- alter how we think about our society, our culture or ourselves
- raise consciousness
- create a vision of a more just world
- be a tool or strategy for organizing and movement building
- challenge racism, classism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ageism, ableism or other oppressions
- question mainstream culture and beliefs

Implemented in 2005, our grant programs, the Art and Change Grant and the Leeway Transformation Award, are open to women and transgender artists living in the Philadelphia region working in any medium of art, including traditional and nontraditional as well as multimedia and experimental forms. Creating change must be integral to the ideas, beliefs and goals that are woven throughout the work and the process of creating and sharing the work.

Art and Change Grant (ACG)

The project-based Art and Change Grant provides up to \$2,500 to fund art-for-social-change projects and opportunities.

Leeway Transformation Award (LTA)

The \$15,000 Transformation Award, offered annually, honors artists who have demonstrated a commitment to creating art for social change for five years or more.

For more information please visit our website, www.leeway.org, or call 215.545.4078.



"Tribute to Dad," quilted fiber textile by Christina E. Johnson



ART & CHANGE GRANTS



Video still courtesy of A. Q. Quintero

A.Q. Quintero

A.Q. created a personal video documentary detailing the decision-making process of his gender transition that included interviews with family, friends and people from the transgender and genderqueer communities, along with reenactments and video-diary entries detailing his experiences. In addition to sharing this very personal story with people outside the transgender community and providing an important resource for those within the community considering a similar decision-making process, through this video he also explores ideas of gender fluidity and expression (i.e., “genderqueerness”) that are not often talked about.

Neighborhood:

South Philadelphia

Change Partner:

Joe Ippolito

Discipline:

Film and Video

Grant Amount:

\$2,400



Photo: Loza Moleambo



Alexandria Brinae Ali Bradley

Alexandria provided training in visual and performing arts to youth to build their self-esteem, promote a healthy lifestyle, preserve culture, and increase learning, comprehension, listening skills, focus, memory and coordination. She hopes that as a result of their training, the students will sharpen their skills, brighten their outlook on life, and gain an advanced understanding of African American history as related to arts and culture.

Neighborhood:

West Philadelphia

Change Partner:

East Park
Revitalization Alliance

Discipline:

Music, Visual Art,
Dance

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



Photo: Hannan Saleh

Barbara L. Gregson

With the goal of creating a visual and performing arts studio (Independence Arts Studio) for adults with mental and physical disabilities, Barbara traveled to Richmond, Calif., and studied with NIAD, a longtime arts center for people with disabilities. Her time at NIAD provided her with the skills to create programs that will have a positive impact on people with disabilities and engage people in artmaking and sharing in respectful ways. The center Barbara creates will have ongoing arts classes and performances, and will show people how to make money from their art by putting it on sale in the gallery, in stores or on a website.

Neighborhood:

South Philadelphia

Change Partner:

National Institute of Art and Disabilities (NIAD)

Discipline:

Community Arts

Grant Amount:

\$1,500



Photo: Beverly Collins-Roberts



Beverly Collins-Roberts

Beverly is a Camden, N.J., native photographer, curator, filmmaker, historian and arts educator who developed an exhibition and documentary film project titled *Unhushed*, which reveals the history of the African slave trade conducted in and around Camden and its continuing cultural and social impact in the city. This work weaves together stories, images, artifacts and contemporary artwork developed by Beverly and selected artists from her community. The film will serve as a catalyst for consciousness raising while also transforming how residents of Camden view their history as they build their future.

Neighborhood:

Camden

Change Partner:

Camden County
Cultural and Heritage
Commission

Discipline:

Film and Video

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



Photo: Geoff Hall

Camae Dennis

Camae organized 16 politically focused rock shows, which she hoped would also serve as networking and movement-building events for marginalized groups, including people of color, LGBT youth, artists, activists and musicians. Her goal was to build a community where young people can support each other in various socially conscious projects and share resources.

Neighborhood:

South Philadelphia

Change Partner:

Rebecca Roe

Discipline:

Music

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



Photo: Sarah Stefana Smith

Cherina N. Booker

Cherina produced a series of short films featuring one-on-one interviews with queer and gender-variant people of African descent who self-identify as “femme.” Her project attempts to establish “femme” as a gender expression that can be embraced by individuals who fall anywhere on the gender spectrum. The series addresses the ways in which misogyny, racism, homophobia, classism and sexism inform our understandings of gender and power.

Neighborhood:

West Philadelphia

Change Partner:

Finding Space
Collective

Discipline:

Film and Video,
Photography

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



Photo: Seif Productions Inc.



Earth-fx

Earth-fx created an album of 12 original songs to reach people living in inner-city areas who are dealing with high rates of poverty that affect mental, spiritual and emotional levels. Her music works to be inspirational, raising consciousness and promoting peace. She creates music to speak out against Philadelphia's growing crime rate and its impact on African American youth in particular, as well as the impact of the rising level of young African American women contracting HIV. Earth-fx was able to distribute many copies of the LP and promote herself as an artist throughout the various locations of performance provided through her change partner.

Neighborhood:

Mayfair

Change Partner:

Indigenous People's
Heritage Society

Discipline:

Music

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



Photo: (L-R) B-girl Peppa and Nathan Sherman

Emiko Sugiyama

Emiko's project, the B-Girl Challenge, trained eight women in Philadelphia to improve their breakdancing ability by staging a 10-week breakin' training. The women attended local dance competitions and performances to test their skills during the training program. Emiko hopes to teach the women to be more well-rounded performers, teachers and role models for youth in Philadelphia. She also began developing an arts and culture exchange program between her native Japan and the United States via the art of breakin'.

Neighborhood:

West Philadelphia

Change Partner:

University City
Arts League

Discipline:

Dance

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



Photo: Elaine Liebenbaum

Emily Nepon

Emily traveled to Vilnius, Lithuania, to participate in a monthlong Yiddish language and culture program. According to Emily's change partner, Elliott, Yiddish is an endangered language, and is the home of a tradition that is both woman-centered and a natural voice of those on the margins. This research/education experience in a language that has survived both genocide and assimilation informed the writing and production of a full-length play focused on modern feminist/queer retellings of classic Yiddish folktales, including "The Dybbuk" and "The Golem of Prague."

Neighborhood:
West Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Elliott BatTzedek

Discipline:
Theater

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Photo: Ife Nii-Owoo

Ife Nii-Owoo

Ife created a series of mixed-media and collage pieces for her first solo show in over 30 years, dealing with two distinct topics: slavery and the contradictions of democracy in the United States; and her own family history from Germantown to London to Africa. This show, at the Greene Street Artists Co-op, set the stage for further community dialogue on the role of women artists of color, specifically in Germantown, and their unique challenges to exhibit their work.

Neighborhood:

Germantown

Change Partner:

Barbara Bullock

Discipline:

Visual Art

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



Isabel C.F. DeBeary

Isabel created a 10-week arts program at Casa de Venezuela for families to learn more about Venezuelan art and the relationship of Venezuelan artists to American artists. As a Venezuelan, Isabel understands the importance of learning about and passing on the language, culture and history of her native country. In an effort to do this more fully, the program was taught entirely in Spanish. Each participant created their own 16"x20" painting that was exhibited around the city. By bringing families together to learn about their rich cultural heritage and learn new skills as artists, Isabel created an environment in which people feel empowered and connected to each other and their culture.

Neighborhood:

Mount Airy

Change Partner:

Casa de Venezuela

Discipline:

Community Arts

Grant Amount:

\$1,900



Isyss Adams

Isyss began developing a documentary about the negative stereotypes that are often placed on transwomen as leading tragic and depressed lives. Isyss feels it is time for her, as a transwoman, to be the author of her own story about her community. She wants to show non-transgender people that transwomen are human, with lives that are complex and full of hope.

Neighborhood:
Frankford

Change Partner:
Sky Vasquez

Discipline:
Film and Video

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Photo: Nilda Ortiz

J. Mason

J. created a book of photography documenting environmental racism and its systemic effects on people of color. Disposable cameras were distributed to high-school- and college-aged youth, who were invited to take pictures of the trash, dumpsites and/or chemical waste in their neighborhoods. The final photographs are included in Mason's book, which also serves as an organizing tool, made available to schools, youth programs and other organizations in the Philadelphia area interested in learning more about urban environmental issues.

Neighborhood:

Nicetown

Change Partner:

Timothy Bazemoore

Discipline:

Photography

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



Photo: Alwatan Kwele



Jamese Wells

Jamese created a documentary video, *We Are Women, We Play Drums*, that details the history, contribution and significance of Voices of Africa, a Philadelphia-based, all-women, a cappella and percussion ensemble whose music spans the African Diaspora. The film explores the significance of women drummers and shares the story of the group's founder, Nana Bakaan. Using archival footage and interviews with past and current members, along with film of the group's live performances, this documentary gives audiences insight into their struggle for recognition as women drummers in a male-dominated field, and shares the power of this group whose art seeks to transform audiences.

Neighborhood:
West Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Serena Reed

Discipline:
Film and Video

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Jaye Allison

Jaye led tap workshops as part of the Philly Tap Challenge (PTC) "ON FIRE!" PTC was created to honor Philadelphia's role as a historical site for street-dance rhythms from the 1930s to 1980s and the African American artists whose contributions made tap and street dance synonymous with the city. These workshops will share this vital part of North American dance, educate students about the African American roots of tap and street dance, and resist marginalization of these dance forms while encouraging a broader audience to reclaim this cultural tradition.

Neighborhood:
West Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Senator Anthony
H. Williams

Discipline:
Dance

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Jenée Alicia Chizick

Jenée worked with 15 Philadelphia youth from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds to dialogue, reflect and write on their perceptions of culture, race and identity. The students worked with professional authors, poets, publishers and graphic designers to lay out a special section showcasing their work in *Motivos*, a bilingual magazine for young people, with hopes of spreading their message of social change through their words and artwork to over 40,000 other youth.

Neighborhood:

Powelton Village

Change Partner:

Soledad Chavez-Plumley

Discipline:

Writing,
Graphic Design

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



Portrait by Ed Kennedy, III Performance photo by R. R. Jones

Jeri Lynne Johnson

Jeri conducted a chamber orchestra of young Latino/a and African American classical musicians who perform commissioned works by composers of color and serve as “ambassadors” of classical music for other aspiring musicians. Jeri wants the orchestra to change the perception of classical music and hopes to remove the barriers between audiences and musicians by performing in alternative venues (e.g., art galleries, churches and nightclubs) and inviting the audience to participate in the artistic experience.

Neighborhood:

Bryn Mawr

Change Partner:

Beverly Harper

Discipline:

Music

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



Photo: Sarah Stefana Smith

Jessica Rodriguez & Pascal Emmer

Jessica and Pascal used the art of storytelling to document the history of ACT UP Philadelphia's 20 years of mobilizing people with HIV/AIDS and their allies to direct action. Through interviews with past and present members they created a mini-magazine and produced a multimedia exhibit that explores the legacy of the organization's intergenerational efforts.

Neighborhood:
North Philadelphia

Change Partner:
ACT UP Philadelphia

Discipline:
Oral History,
Media Arts

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Jovida J. Hill

Although “kinship” care is on the rise, Jovida’s film aims to address the lack of understanding of the needs of these care providers (focusing mostly on African American grandmothers) and the children in their care. Jovida herself was raised by an auntie and grandmother, and her film shows the vital role kinship care plays in keeping families together and out of the foster care system — celebrating the contributions of these relatives, while exploring the issues of race, gender and class that impact the access kinship caregivers have within institutions, schools and so on. The film provides caregivers and children in their care an opportunity to tell social-service providers what they need to improve their lives. This information will be shared with the providers, educators and policy makers, providing information on how to be more socially and economically supportive of nontraditional families.

Neighborhood:

Logan Square

Change Partner:Grand Central Kinship
Care Resource Center**Discipline:**

Film and Video

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



Photo: Ruth Naomi Floyd



Joy Esther Phillips Butts

“You cannot fully recover, unless you help the society that made you sick recover” (from *Right to Recovery*). Produced and directed by Joy Butts, *Right to Recovery* brings to focus the work of Sister Margaret McKenna and the organization she heads, New Jerusalem Now, Inc., a community of former addicts helping each other achieve a “fullness of life” formerly prevented by drug and alcohol abuse. From the residents’ narratives, you learn how they run their community within a community in one of the poorest neighborhoods in North Philadelphia. You will experience the stories of redemption through their daily lives, as they rebuild abandoned homes, clean up neighboring streets and feed the elderly. *Right to Recovery* takes you on a journey through the world of holistic rehabilitation, guided by both residents and experts. It contrasts the devastating impact that substance abuse and alcohol addiction can have on any community, with the constructive optimism demonstrated by the residents as they rehabilitate not just themselves, but also the lives of those around them.

Neighborhood:
West Philadelphia

Change Partner:
George McCollough

Discipline:
Film and Video

Grant Amount:
\$2,350



Photo: Bernard Thorn

Joy Keys

Joy hosted an eight-week theater and visual arts workshop for 10 single mothers in Philadelphia. The end product of the workshop was a one- to two-minute monologue and a 20"x30" collage expressing each participant's perspective on how single motherhood has affected her life. Joy created a website where the mothers posted their artwork and eventually plans to publish a book of the collages and monologues accompanied by photos documenting the process.

Neighborhood:
West Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Coabode.com

Discipline:
Visual Art

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Joy Rose

Joy staged a production of her play, *Forces of Darkness, the Rosenberg Story*, in order to raise consciousness about the death penalty using the outcome of the Rosenberg trial as a case study. She hopes to influence young people and help create a vision of a more just world, without the death penalty and with a better justice system.

Neighborhood:

Media

Change Partner:

Philadelphia Dramatists
Center

Discipline:

Theater

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



Julia Galetti

Julia taught a sewing class at Project H.O.M.E., where she resides, ensuring that these classes are regularly offered to residents. As a formerly homeless person, Julia can relate to the students in her classes, many of whom are homeless or formerly homeless themselves. Through these classes Julia hopes to empower her fellow community members, teaching sewing as a means for building respect and positive representation. In addition, members of the class were able to learn entrepreneurial skills by selling their sewing projects at the Fairmount Arts Crawl as part of Project H.O.M.E.'s craft sale. This class was for women and men, helping people learn skills that go beyond basic mending.

Neighborhood:

Center City

Change Partner:

Project H.O.M.E.

Discipline:

Fiber Arts

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



Photo: Ruth Naomi Floyd

Kameelah Waheed

Kameelah presented The Castor Ave. Project, a presentation of the historical origin of hip-hop, poetry and urban rock music told through workshops and live performances presented by community artists for young people in Camden at the Powell Elementary School. The goal of this project was to reach young people and share the roots of urban music with them to help raise awareness of the social issues music can address and bring forward. For example, the workshops addressed homophobia in mainstream music and how that gets acted out in the community. As a lifelong resident of Camden, Kameelah uses her music to speak out against racism, poverty and educational bureaucracy in the city. This project enabled her to work with young people to raise self-esteem and consciousness in Camden.

Neighborhood:

North Camden

Change Partner:

Atajamil Salon and
Powell Middle School

Discipline:

Music

Grant Amount:

\$2,480



Photo: Patricia Melzer

Karl Surkan

Karl created a video documentary following himself and his partner as they plan an alternative family. By telling his story as a transgender person in a same-sex relationship facing infertility and a genetic predisposition to breast and ovarian cancer, he hopes to challenge and create awareness about gender expectations related to pregnancy, motherhood and fatherhood. Karl's desire to have a child biologically related to him has been questioned and misunderstood by friends, family members and reproductive medical specialists. The film consists of footage of his treatment in fertility clinics and OB/GYN offices and includes interview footage about the condition of his health and role as a professor of women's and gender studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge.

Neighborhood:

Mount Airy

Change Partner:

Michelle Parkerson

Discipline:

Film and Video

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



Photo: Ashley Phillips

Katrina Clark

Katrina led a group of eight upper-elementary and middle school students to produce a 10-minute oral history video documenting Philadelphia residents who experienced the Civil Rights era. The student producers used interviews, pictures, found footage and reenactment to connect their own lives to the recent past of their subjects. The video will be appropriate for use in grade school history classes and community film festivals.

Neighborhood:
West Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Montessori Genesis II
School

Discipline:
Film and Video

Grant Amount:
\$1,871

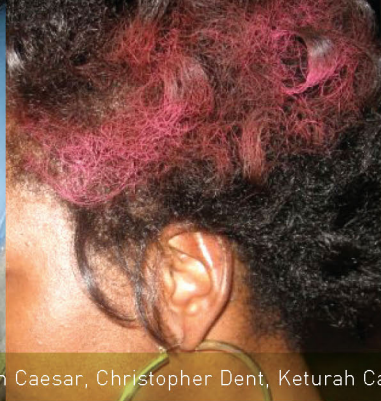


Photo: L-R. Keturah Caesar, Christopher Dent, Keturah Caesar, and Mighty Flipside Esq.

Leah Keturah Caesar

Keturah used her project grant to create Rock Ya Dance, an artist collective and network for dancers with the objective of providing professional development workshops for under-resourced dancers in the areas of marketing, promotions, grant writing, budgeting, auditions, studio spaces, internship opportunities, dance history, nonprofit organizational training and continuing education.

Neighborhood:
West Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Jacqui Bowman and
the University City Arts
League

Discipline:
Dance

Grant Amount:
\$2,170



Photo: Rachelle Lee Smith

Lili Bitá

Lili Bitá is a Greek American immigrant. She left her native country to escape a patriarchal culture that oppressed women and restricted their social and professional opportunities. In America, she and her two small children were faced with violent domestic abuse. It was then that she decided to fight against sexism, racism and all other forms of degradation against human beings, particularly women. She is using her own life story and her acting skills as an example of support, healing and empowerment. From the slums of Calcutta to the Odyssey House drug program in New York and to homes for the handicapped and the elderly in Philadelphia, she reads from her own inspirational poetry and from her autobiographical dramatic memoir, *Sister of Darkness* (Somerset Hall Press, 2005). These readings are followed by open conversations in which she both shares and seeks out common experiences with the audience. Lili created a one-woman show adapted from *Sister of Darkness* as well as a show that was performed at the 2007 Philadelphia Fringe Festival. Lili has just published a new book of poetic monologues, *Women of Fire and Blood* (Somerset Hall Press, 2008), which reinterprets the heroines of classical drama and antiquity as self-empowered individuals seeking their own freedom and determining their own mythology. She will perform these monologues in a dramatic program at the Rotunda and other venues this summer and fall. Lili believes that art and truth are one, and that together they can change the world.

Neighborhood:

Bala Cynwyd

Change Partner:

Gina Renzi and The
Rotunda

Discipline:

Theater

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



Photo: Morgan Rich

Lonnie Grant

Lonnie produced a traveling exhibit of photographs featuring Philadelphia-area transgender men of color accompanied by text, in their own words, about their experiences. This project was meant to increase awareness and fight transphobia by presenting transmen of color in a positive light, marking their place in history. A diverse group of subjects — from varying ages, socioeconomic statuses, educational backgrounds and lifestyle choices — were photographed and interviewed for the exhibit. Lonnie hopes to instill pride in his subjects, their families and their personal social networks.

Neighborhood:

North Philadelphia

Change Partner:Rick Feely and
Trans-Health
Information Project**Discipline:**Photography,
Writing**Grant Amount:**

\$2,500



Photo: Michelle Posada's and Lovella Calica

Lovella Rose Calica

Lovella worked with members of the Philadelphia chapter of Incite! Women of Color Against Violence to create a series of art-making workshops based on interviews with community elders about historical patterns of violence in communities of color and the connection between domestic and sexual violence and cultural traditions. Feeling unrooted, disconnected and lost, Lovella followed her *lola* (grandmother) home to the Philippines. She packed her camera, audio recorder, video camera and pen to collect all that she could, including: laughter, stories, trees, songs, ideas, smiles, history, waves — anything under the sun and moon. She looked into the ocean, her *lola's* eyes, cousins' backpacks, *ate's* (big sister's) hands, and even the old man on the bus for the tools to help her build a bridge home. She asked questions about assimilation, displacement, marriage, having children, family history, the Japanese-American War, colonization and what it means to be Pilipino. After returning to life in West Philadelphia, she co-birthed Tatlo Mestiz@ts (a Pilipino American artist trio) in order to process and create following their recent returns (to both the Philippines and Philadelphia). Discussing their experiences with family, going back, loss of language, colonization, assimilation, displacement and the need for connection, they created a multimedia performance, *Bumalik*. The process, collaboration, art and conversations have had a profound effect on the artists' lives, providing a sense of true community, friendship, hope and love. The show opened up space in viewers' lives for conversations about home, grandmothers, (im)migration, connection to culture and history, and so much more.

Neighborhood:

West Philadelphia

Change Partner:

INCITE!
(Philadelphia chapter)

Discipline:

Oral History,
Photography

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



María R. Texidor

María's social-change project enabled young people in Norris Square to connect to their community through gardening by creating window planters and flowerbeds in Las Parcelas, a community garden. Working with students at William McKinley Elementary School, this project took the young people outside their school gardens and into the community garden on their block. Some of the plants they grew included those used to make *sofrito*, a popular Puerto Rican food seasoning. This enabled the young people to learn a very useful skill, making their own version of *sofrito*. The project helped students learn more about their community and culture as they worked with community elders in the garden while helping beautify their neighborhood and growing ingredients that can be used in their families' everyday cooking.

Neighborhood:

Overbrook

Change Partner:Norris Square
Neighborhood Project**Discipline:**

Gardening

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



Marsi Maxwell

Marsi created two- and three-dimensional collages using recycled, new and processed materials depicting daily life in the Frankford community and covering issues of education, poverty and violence. Her goals were to inspire viewers to research these issues and find ways to be active in the fight against oppression, and to provide a lens for her community to see art with which they can directly connect.

Neighborhood:

Frankford

Change Partner:

Frankford Family
Support Services

Discipline:

Visual Art

Grant Amount:

\$2,500

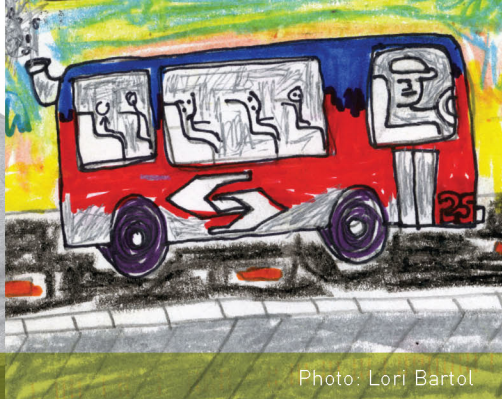
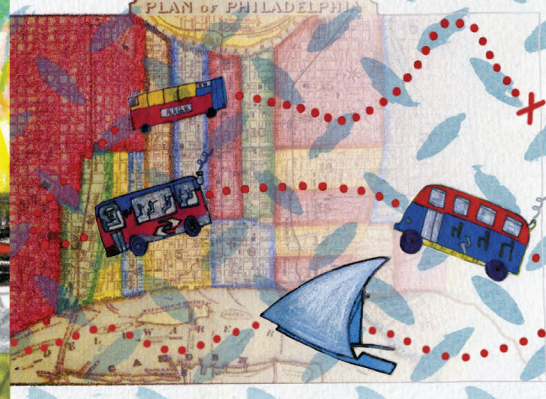


Photo: Lori Bartol



Melissa Ezelle

Melissa worked with special-needs students at Oasis Arts and Education to create works of art using traditional printmaking and written text that convey the struggle for autonomy, increased self-esteem and social equity. Melissa combined interviews with Oasis students with their illustrations and prints to create a catalog. An exhibition of the hand-printed illustrations at the Oasis Gallery coincided with the release of the catalog.

Neighborhood:

Brewerytown

Change Partner:

 Oasis Arts and
Education

Discipline:

Printmaking

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



Photo: Ruth Naomi Floyd

Michelle Posadas

Michelle created a multimedia art performance based on oral histories of her family members and activists she recorded in the Philippines about the current political climate and their experience with resistance movements of the past. This piece was performed at the Asian Arts Initiative.

Neighborhood:

Southwest Philadelphia

Change Partner:

Asian Arts Initiative

Discipline:

Multimedia
Performance

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



Missy Risser

Missy created a documentary with the Center for Literacy about their Adult Diploma Program, which was being revised to accommodate state standards. The Center's life-skills-based program functions as an alternative to the GED and offers adults a second chance to earn a district-issued high school diploma, on their own time and at their own pace, with the guidance of a mentor. Missy hopes the film will raise awareness about the field of adult education — the size and nature of its population and the funding — and issues programs like the Center's must face in today's educational climate.

Neighborhood:

East Kensington

Change Partner:

The Center for Literacy

Discipline:

Film and Video

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



Performance photo by Art Grobes Portrait by Taj El

Misty Sol

Misty coordinated a series of art exhibits, performances and workshops at the Friends Neighborhood Guild. The five-part series was called "Autumn African Arts @ The Guild." These events provided culturally enriching arts programming, beautified the Guild's common spaces, and also promoted literacy and the importance of family.

Neighborhood:

West Philadelphia

Change Partner:

The Friends
Neighborhood Guild

Discipline:

Community Arts

Grant Amount:

\$2,500

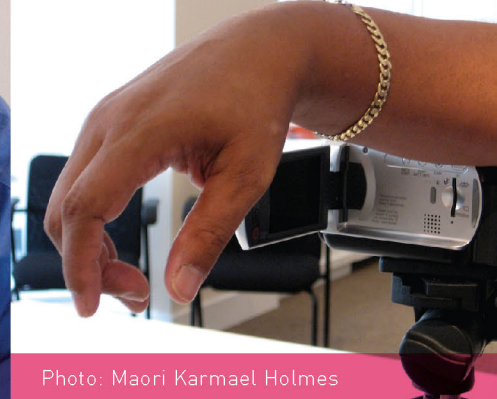


Photo: Maori Karmael Holmes

MM Harvey

MM began developing a one-hour autobiographical video journal chronicling the first nine months of his experience as an HIV-positive female-to-male (FTM) transgender person initiating testosterone therapy. The video will include photos, interviews, conversations and documentary footage. MM's goal is for the video to help fill in the vacuum of positive images of black trans culture and imagery, and become a platform for change, challenging assumptions and raising consciousness about how we think about gender identity.

Neighborhood:

West Philadelphia

Change Partner:

Sue Collins and
Mazzoni Center

Discipline:

Film and Video

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



Photo: Emilio Buitrago



Natalie O'Hara

Natalie implemented a series of dance workshops for youth in traditional Venezuelan dance. The students performed in public events throughout the greater Philadelphia region during Hispanic Heritage Month, such as Venezuelan Expressions, organized by Casa de Venezuela at International House in October 2007.

Neighborhood:
Voorhees

Change Partner:
Casa de Venezuela

Discipline:
Dance

Grant Amount:
\$1,900



Photo: Patience Roland

Ninah Harris

Ninah's project, "What Philly Needs: A Youth Perspective," is two-fold, starting with the creation of a short documentary film that provided teenagers from across Philadelphia with a medium to share their vision for the city and what they see as necessary actions to create positive changes. The film consists of interviews, performances and artistic pieces created by youth that speak to the political and social needs of the city. The second part of the project built upon this work by having the youth create a website that provided an ongoing forum for political education, discussion and an organizing tool for local action. This project was designed to coincide with the 2007 mayoral election to share with the voting public and the contending political parties young people's ideas for the city, and to have young people's voices recognized and given serious consideration in the electoral process.

Neighborhood:
West Philadelphia

Change Partner:
GeoClan, Inc.

Discipline:
Film and Video,
Media Arts

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Nita Jalivay

Nita began work on a novel, *The Poisoned Apple of Paris*, which examines the dehumanization of French citizens of color residing within and around Paris. This novel will explore the racial alienation experienced by blacks and Arabs in a country traditionally romanticized as a haven for exiles.

Neighborhood:
Germantown

Change Partner:
Dianne McCloud

Discipline:
Writing

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Putery A. Long

Putery taught classes on Cambodian (Khmer) court dancing in North Philadelphia to students ages 6 to 21. Putery hopes that her students gained a greater appreciation for Khmer culture, and that through teaching she can combat the prejudice in her community against female dancers by providing a positive example.

Neighborhood:	Change Partner:	Discipline:	Grant Amount:
South Philadelphia	Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Associations Coalition and Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia	Dance	\$2,500



Photo: Rachelle Lee Smith

Rachel Goffe

Rachel created an oral narrative of the stories of long-term residents of neighborhoods impacted by Philadelphia’s changing real-estate market and land-use policies. She partnered with community youth and organizers to create narratives of Brewerytown and West Kensington. Through stories collected from residents, she highlights the impact of rising property values, controversial property tax policies and eminent domain abuse on their lives. These narratives will be shared at community gatherings, on community blogs and radio, and in sound installations in community gardens that are being threatened by eminent domain. The sound installations invite the city at large to witness the beauty of places created by current residents alongside the story of how the community’s very existence is being threatened. This project challenges mainstream media’s telling of what is happening in these neighborhoods, in which low-income residents’ stories are often framed without their consent or participation.

Neighborhood:

Center City

Change Partner:

Community
Preservation Network

Discipline:

Oral History

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



Reva McEachern

Reva upgraded her website, rebelcitymusic.com, which allows artists to sell their music, post information on events and receive airplay on its Internet radio station. Reva added a forum and enhanced listener profiles so that fans and artists can exchange views and discuss important issues affecting both the urban alternative and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning communities while encouraging the sale of progressive urban music.

Neighborhood:

Pennsauken

Change Partner:

Peace and Love, Inc.

Discipline:

Media Arts

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



Sarah Drury

Sarah produced a production of her collaborative project, eVokability: the Walking Project, in November 2007 as part of the Philadelphia Arts & Disabilities Festival. Sarah's project works with physical sensors that read body gestures and transpose physical movement into media movement for people with atypical and/or constricted movements due to physical disability. Sarah's aim is to engage performers' stories through the body by amplifying, or mic-ing, the body to speak to images of disabilities, mobility and cultural participation, exclusion and invisibility.

Neighborhood:
Germantown

Change Partner:
Carol Marfisi

Discipline:
Multimedia
Performance

Grant Amount:
\$2,400



Photo: Rachelle Lee Smith

Sasa Ynoa

Sasa produced *Dar a Luz*, a film and website focused on increasing awareness and acceptance of midwifery and natural birthing choices for women of color, economically disadvantaged women and LGBT women. Her project's aim is to explore the history of birthing practices from around the world, raise consciousness about the medicalizing of birth in the United States, and provide information on available resources and alternatives, empowering people to make informed choices.

Neighborhood:

Eastwick

Change Partner:

Michael Maiorini

Discipline:Film and Video,
Media Arts**Grant Amount:**

\$2,500



Photo: Hannan Saleh

Susan DiPronio & Linda Dubin Garfield

This collaboration combines Susan's "screams" and Linda's "Invisible/Invincible" projects into an interactive art installation. The installation has two rooms. In the first, Linda worked with women and young people from Endow-a-Home, a long-term commitment program helping people work to change their lives, to create self-portraits. In the second room, the "screams" performance was set up, consisting of monologue, performance and visuals that come from stories of the participants. The installation went up in May 2007 at the Ardmore Initiative. Those viewing the exhibited portraits hanging in the gallery carried a CD player and listened to the recorded stories of other women. This project's aim was to break down walls that make art exclusionary and to create sensitivity toward those who feel discriminated against because they are old, poor, abused, of color, homeless, etc., by giving people a chance to express themselves without being judged. All of the work created was shared in subsequent showings, on display for others to learn and grow from, showing the potential we all have to share stories and heal through art. Those who might never have met each other before were engaged in sharing their art and their stories.

Neighborhood:

Center City and
Wynnewood

Change Partner:

Endow-a-Home

Discipline:

Visual Art,
Performance Art

Grant Amount:

\$1,910



Photo: Hannan Saleh

Sylvia Coleman

Sylvia is an award-winning journalist who recently released her first book, *Creating a New Normal: Cleaning Up a Dysfunctional Life*. The memoir chronicles her extraordinary journey from abuse, homelessness and depression to healing from what she describes as a “victim mentality.” Sylvia produced an interactive one-stop website that serves as an online resource and forum for African American adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse, where they can remain anonymous while seeking help. The site features a discussion board, an online version of Sylvia’s “From Victim to Victor” course, educational downloads, surveys and links to support services (e.g., lists of support groups and therapists).

Neighborhood: Change Partner:

Center City Yumy Odom and Pan-African Studies Community Education Program

Discipline:

Writing, Media Arts

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



tiona.m.

tiona.m. finished her feature-length documentary film, *black./womyn.:conversations...*, about lesbians of African descent living in the United States. Through over 50 interviews with black lesbians of all ages, classes, nationalities and geographical locations, tiona.m. shared people's stories and thoughts on coming out, sexuality and religion, love and relationships, patriarchy, and visibility in the media. These issues were illustrated through short vignettes. This film will encourage progressive dialogue between people dealing with the media images of black lesbians and the stereotypes that often come with these portrayals. Within the black lesbian community, tiona.m. hopes to use the film to start more conversations around class and age and their impact on the community. The film features interviews with Cheryl Clarke, Aishah Shahidah Simmons, Staceyann Chin and Michelle Parkerson. tiona.m.'s aim is for the film to facilitate social change by impacting black lesbian women nationally and internationally — especially in remote areas where visibility is minimal as well as in non-LGBTQ communities — by deconstructing monolithic understandings of black lesbians in society as a whole.

Neighborhood:

North Philadelphia

Change Partner:

Larry Steele

Discipline:

Film and Video

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



Photo: Rachelle Lee Smith



Toni Kersey

Toni created a quilt project to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Althea Gibson winning the U.S. Open. This project included the participation of the students at the Althea Gibson Community Education and Tennis Center after-school program. The students were taught basic sewing skills and participated in creating fabric rubbings that are incorporated into the border of the quilt. Using their sewing skills they made tote bags that they offered as gifts or carried to school. As a young girl Toni was taught to sew by her mother. Using fabric in her art has become her passion. She wanted to share this skill with young people in hopes that it would become a useful and creative outlet for them. She also wanted to reconnect with the youth of North Philadelphia and foster a sense of community.

Neighborhood:

North Central
Philadelphia

Change Partner:

Althea Gibson
Community Education
and Tennis Center

Discipline:

Fiber Arts

Grant Amount:

\$2,255



Portrait : Barbara Kigozi



Valerie Harris

Valerie produced a community-based oral history project with longtime African American residents of Darby Township and former residents of the adjacent neighborhood of Eastwick in Southwest Philadelphia, focusing on the historical presence of blacks in both communities, the displacement of the Eastwick residents in the 1960s, and the current political marginalization of blacks in Darby Township. The project culminated in a multimedia presentation, including video documentation, photo exhibition of archival and new prints, and an accompanying book that included memoir writing by participants.

Neighborhood:

West Philadelphia

Change Partner:

Good Neighbor
Senior Center

Discipline:

Film and Video,
Oral History

Grant Amount:

\$2,500



Photo: Rachelle Lee Smith

Vena Jefferson

Vena traveled to Senegal to study the healing dance and music of various groups, such as the Maninka and Djola peoples. She was inspired to return to Senegal, due to requests by dance therapists and others for specific programs that utilize African dance as a healing tool for young African American women and teenage mothers who have been abused. Having traveled to Senegal before, Vena was familiar with the language, customs and art forms, enabling her to study with medicine women and spiritual leaders to better understand the relationship between healing and these art forms. Back in Philadelphia, she created a dance-therapy-centered program for young African American women. The goal of this project is to offer an alternative concept of healing through dance that is based in African traditions.

Neighborhood:
South Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Carol Simmons

Discipline:
Dance

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Photo: Ruth Naomi Floyd

Wadzanai Mhute

Wadzanai traveled to her native country of Zimbabwe to document attitudes on the circumstances of women and how they have changed over the last 27 years since the country achieved its independence. She wrote a series of articles for *Mimi Magazine*, an online publication targeted toward young African women. These articles will serve as the basis for a forthcoming fictional novel.

Neighborhood:
West Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Mimi Magazine

Discipline:
Writing

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Williena J. Owes

Williena's project, the Survivor's Afghan, is comprised of patches decorated individually by members of homeless families and pieced together to form a large crocheted afghan. Williena employed several families to work on the piece as a collective, hoping to instill community. The piece itself is meant to heighten the awareness of the struggle and needs of the homeless, as well as preserving a dying art.

Neighborhood:

North Philadelphia

Change Partner:

Susan Brotherton

Discipline:

Fiber Arts

Grant Amount:

\$1,075

ACG PANEL BIOS

BERNADINE MELLIS

Bernadine Mellis' father's role as lead attorney in Earth First! activist Judi Bari's civil case prompted her to make *The Forest for the Trees*, her first documentary, which can be seen on the Sundance Channel's Green series. Bernadine also recently directed *The Odyssey*, a collaborative adaptation of Homer's 24-chapter epic, made up of 24 shorts by 24 different mostly queer/trans/lady filmmakers. Her short experimental films include *Born* and *Farm-in-the-City*, a collaboration with sound artist E.E. Miller. Bernadine lives in Massachusetts, where she is an adjunct professor of film at Amherst College. She is also a member of the board of directors of the Philadelphia-based Black Lily Film and Music Festival — showcasing work from an international, multi-racial, multi-cultural pool of women directors and producers — and is chair of its programming committee.

BAHIYA CABRAL-JOHNSON

Bahiya Cabral-Johnson's commitment to work for justice dates back to 1984, after the U.S. invasion of Grenada motivated her to get involved in the anti-intervention movement. Bahiya has opposed U.S. military intervention in Central America, worked for peace in the Middle East, and actively participated in movements for peace and justice in the U.S. She currently serves as the interim executive director for the Community Leadership Institute that works to stop gentrification in Philadelphia.

Bahiya is also co-founder of Creative Community Solutions, a consulting group that provides support to organizations in the areas of meeting facilitation, strategic planning, and program development and evaluation. Creative Community Solutions also gives workshops and trainings on community organization, organizational management and building inclusive organizational environments.

EVELYNE LAURENT-PERRAULT

Evelyne Laurent-Perrault was born in Venezuela to Haitian immigrant parents and has lived in Philadelphia since 1993. She has studied, visited and worked in Europe, West Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. During the last 12 years, she has been involved with human rights activism. While working on issues of race, women's rights, and social justice through culture, arts and education, she has explored art forms such as pottery and photography. She has worked at nonprofits and educational institutions, including Taller Puertorriqueño, and more recently at Haverford College as the coordinator of multicultural programs. While at Taller, Evelyne created the Annual Arturo Schomburg Symposium, the only forum in the Philadelphia region that explores the African heritage in Latin American history and cultures.

RILEY SNORTON

Riley Snorton identifies as an artist, activist and intellectual. After working with organizations around the country as a media activism trainer, Riley is now a graduate student in communications and culture at the University of Pennsylvania. He has worked with the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, National Center for Transgender Equality and Audre Lorde Project, among others. He is also a drag king, singer and painter.

2007

Transformation Award



"Hope, Walking in the Valley of Death,"
collage mixed media by Ife Nii-Owo



TRANSFORMATION AWARD



Photo: Rachelle Lee Smith



Anula Shetty

Anula is a filmmaker who finds herself constantly drawn to stories of migration, ethnic heritage and what it means to be “native” and “alien” in a foreign land. She is committed to documenting the immigrant experience on film and issues related to fear and race. Her most recent project, *Not Fair*, interweaves personal stories of immigrants with reports on racial profiling, the war on terror and the effects of the USA Patriot Act on South Asian immigrant communities. Her video work combines writing and performance and explores innovative visual ways of presenting themes and images that hold personal and political significance. Anula has been a producer and member of the experimental and activist video group Termite TV Collective for over 13 years. As a teaching artist, she has co-created videos with youth and community groups, including the Asian Arts Initiative, Community Leadership Institute, Reichhold Art Center, Grupo Motivos and Scribe Video Center.

Neighborhood:

South Philadelphia

Discipline:

Film and Video



Photo: Hannan Saleh



Barbara L. Gregson

Barbara is a theater artist and director with a performing arts background in mime, masks, storytelling and street theater. She has spent 35 years working with people of all ages and abilities in hospitals, prisons, city and rural schools, and community centers. She has always loved working with these diverse groups of “forgotten voices,” finding new artistic and creative ways for them to be seen and heard through original collaborative theater productions and exhibitions. In 2007 she started Independence Arts Studio (IAS) with Liberty Resources, Inc. IAS is the only completely accessible arts studio in Philadelphia for new and established artists with disabilities. The artists of IAS study and show their work at exhibitions and on “The Art Cart.” IAS also offers access to arts resources and entrepreneurship opportunities. Currently Barbara is experimenting with movement, writing and visual arts as one creative experience called “Create!,” which premiered in September 2008.

Neighborhood:
South Philadelphia

Discipline:
Theater



Photo: Hannan Saleh

Christina E. Johnson

Christina is a fiber artist who uses the time-honored tradition of quilting to express herself and to give voice to those who are viewed as invisible or undervalued. Her art challenges stereotypical edicts, encourages individual empowerment, and assists women to use their voices and art for social change. She focuses on relaying traditional techniques and cultural values, as well as building a sense of self-worth while creating work that speaks to establishing and maintaining ties to legacies of old. In addition to creating art, she was a founder of Quilters of the Round Table, a local quilting guild, whose mantra is to promote African American quilting. She also co-founded and co-directed the Southeastern Pennsylvania African American Documentation Quilt Project, which was created to empower African American quilters and recognize their contributions to the craft. She has curated and participated in several exhibits. Christina has traveled to Ghana and Morant Bay, Jamaica, where she worked with apprenticing students, addressing the issues of women's educational opportunities and their ability to become self-sufficient within patriarchal societies. While in Ghana she studied with masters involved in indigenous surface design techniques. Upon returning to the U.S., she had a solo exhibit at the Philadelphia Independence Visitor's Center. Christina has used her art for social change and healing by facilitating workshops at the Wellness Center of Philadelphia and collaborating with Hahnemann Hospital working with HIV-infected women to produce quilts for World Aids Day in 2005. As a teaching artist in the schools and senior centers, she stresses stories of how African American oral history is intricately entwined with quilting. Using symbolism, she has wedded the Underground Railroad stories into quilt designs. She does not want this history to be ignored or minimized.

Neighborhood:

West Philadelphia

Discipline:

Fiber Arts



Photo: Hannan Saleh

Dorothy Gordon Wilkie

As artistic director of the Kulu Mele African American Dance Ensemble (the oldest African dance troupe still practicing in the Philadelphia area) for more than two decades, Dorothy has been learning, teaching, re-staging/choreographing and performing a range of West African and African diasporic (African Cuban, African Brazilian, etc.) dances, touching the lives of people and communities in this region and beyond. The forms of dance in which she works have rich histories and cultural contexts, and these inform her approach to both her art and social change. Through the teaching of youth (mainly African American) and the development of a youth ensemble, she's created a place for respect for tradition that reflects aspects of their heritage, while also encouraging creativity and the growth of leadership skills. As they participate in the classes, rehearsals and performances, these young dancers — mostly from poverty-stricken families, with few positive role models in their midst — begin to imagine that they, too, have the ability to continue to learn (as they see Dorothy and other Kulu Mele performers do), and to place themselves and their choices in a wider world deserving of critical reflection. Her art and social change work also has a sacred element to it. She dances as a member of the Yoruba spiritual community in Philadelphia, performing as a way of healing and asking for guidance through the chaos and violence that is so much a part of contemporary urban lives.

Neighborhood:

Oak Lane

Discipline:

Dance



Portrait: Rachelle Lee Smith



Elaine Hoffman Watts

Way back in the 1970s, people were excited about what they called the revival of klezmer (Eastern European Jewish folk music) in the U.S. But for Elaine's family, there was no need for a revival. Since her grandfather immigrated to the U.S. in the early 20th century, the Hoffman Watts family has been playing the unique klezmer repertoire he brought with him from his tiny village in the Ukraine. They never stopped. Her grandfather taught her father; her father taught her. Elaine's daughter and grandson play klezmer as well. Keeping a distinct tradition with important cultural and historical meaning for their community alive has been part of her musical and social justice mission for more than 70 years. And keeping it alive as a woman in a historically all-male ensemble tradition — plus as a woman drummer, which is rare in most traditions — also makes her a kind of pioneer and, she hopes, a model for possibilities for all girls and women. Elaine has played in symphony orchestras and played musical accompaniment for professional ice-skating performances in stadiums. She was also a percussionist with the Count Basie Orchestra. But her heart is with klezmer, a music whose melodies recall specific life-cycle and celebratory events for Jewish families and communities. She performs with many famous klezmer musicians, including her daughter, Susan, on trumpet and vocals, and also teaches, hoping to open doors for younger women, doors that were so hard for her to push through.

Neighborhood:

Havertown

Discipline:

Music



Photo: Positive Minds Collective

Jeannine Cook

Jeannine is a documentary filmmaker and educator who works with African American and Hispanic youth between the ages of 3 and 17 teaching film and video technology, which they use to create alternative techniques for conflict resolution. She encourages her students to think critically about hip-hop music and television and familiarizes them with writing business proposals and conducting Internet research. Jeannine is the co-founder of the arts outreach programs Positive Minds and Education Through the Arts. In the future, she hopes to build a community-accessible media literacy center that will help bridge the digital divide by engaging undergraduate students from local colleges to give back to their communities by teaching media arts.

Neighborhood:
South Philadelphia

Discipline:
Film and Video



Photo: Rachelle Lee Smith

Judith Trustone

Judith is a writer whose work focuses largely on advocating and inspiring others to creative expression. She has worked with diverse groups of imprisoned and free writers, artists, and musicians through Sagewriters, a national nonprofit group she founded that so far has published eight books of literary and social merit by prisoners. *Celling America's Soul: Torture & Transformation in Our Prisons and Why We Should Care* has been called "the best book in print about prison from most every perspective." Sagewriters senior editor and lifer Patrick Middleton, Ph.D., is the first prisoner in America to earn his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. behind bars. His *Healing Our Imprisoned Minds: A People's Guide to Hope and Freedom* is being used in prison programs around the country. Judith served as chairperson of Justice Month 2007 and Locked Up: Keys to Prison Change, a conference on alternatives highlighting the art, music and poetry of the incarcerated community. Her goal is to educate the public about prisons by weaving together artistic productions, educational initiatives and ongoing advocacy for prisoners, victims, families and those working in the system. She hosts a weekly Internet radio show, *Healing Justice*, every Saturday at noon on gtownradio.com. With prisoners she is creating the Global Kindness Initiative as an antidote to violence. She was honored in 2006 as Peacekeeper of the Year by the Delaware County Peace Center and an Author Who Makes A Difference by Infinity Publishing.

Neighborhood:

Swarthmore

Discipline:

Writing



Photo: Rachelle Lee Smith

Laureen Griffin

Laureen is a visual artist who works primarily in digital media, photography and printmaking. Her work provides opportunities for people to explore issues of identity and representation through art making and exhibition. Her goals are to provide visibility for women and gender-variant people with the hopes of creating a belief system open to new possibilities of identity. She doesn't want to change people but hopes to make and exhibit art that authenticates self. Her newest work, "Gender Portraiture Project," brings together photographic portraits with personal narrative. She asks each participant to think about how they identity within the male-female spectrum. Laureen is a founder of "trans-gression," a multidisciplinary artists' collective of people exploring gender identity and stereotyping in their work. She is also a member of the art gallery committee at William Way Community Center for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

Neighborhood:

Nicetown

Discipline:

Mixed Media



Photo: Ruth Naomi Floyd

María Teresa Rodríguez

María is an independent filmmaker and producer whose work often centers on untold stories of Latinos in the U.S. and abroad. She feels strongly about creating work whose content can present community and audience members with new ways of looking at an issue or a subject, and with new ways of looking at themselves. Many of her films focus on personal stories that reflect a larger sociopolitical reality, such as *Mirror Dance*, the story of Cuban twin dancers torn apart for 40 years by love and politics; *Under New Management*, the story of the Philadelphia bilingual public school Luis Muñoz Marin and its first year under the for-profit management company, Edison Schools; and *Becoming American*, a 30-minute exploration of Mexican immigrant health and part of the four-hour PBS series *Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?* Currently she is working on *¿Dónde Están?* (working title), a documentary that explores Salvadoran society 16 years after the peace accords as well as the country's relationship to the United States, as told through three personal stories. In addition to creating work, María has also facilitated videos with seniors, high-school youth and Mexican migrant workers through Scribe Video Center. The daughter of a Colombian father and an Irish mother, she is drawn to stories of migration, struggle and change.

Neighborhood:

South Philadelphia

Discipline:

Film and Video



Photo: Ruth Naomi Floyd

Michelle Posadas

Michelle is a multidisciplinary artist whose work includes puppetry, performance, sculpture, photography, illustration, video, web design and installation. She creates art that directly responds to issues she is deeply moved by on topics ranging from the war in Iraq to the gentrification of her neighborhood. Her previous work has focused on her identity, and she is moving toward making work that engages directly with organizations and becomes part of activist campaigns about the Philippines, queerness, being biracial, politics in Philadelphia and the 2008 U.S. presidential election. Michelle is a teaching artist and has worked with Bread and Puppet Theater, Spiral Q Puppet Theater and Dream Community in Taiwan.

Neighborhood:

Southwest Philadelphia

Discipline:

Performance Art,
Mixed Media



Photo: PhillipsPhoto

Nana Korantemaa Ayebofo

Nana is a master drummer and shaman. She uses the drum as a sacred tool for healing and teaching. Her goals are to reconnect people to African values and rhythms and also to empower women. In 1972 she formed the first female percussion ensemble in Philadelphia and has been a powerful role model for transgressing gender/sex-role boundaries in traditional drumming. She served as the female lead drummer for the Arthur Hall Afro-American Dance Ensemble, played congas in the 1996 film *Watermelon Woman*, and in 2003 became the first female in the United States and Ghana to play the atumpan drums. Nana is on a mission to share the healing power of indigenous African cultural expression with communities of African descent all over the world and in the process help to erase stereotypes about women's roles.

Neighborhood:

North Central
Philadelphia

Discipline:

Music



Photo: Irene Young



Sara Felder

Sara is a juggler, through which she has found her theatrical voice, using circus techniques and edgy wit to create radical performance. She discovered that while she was juggling people would listen to her. So for 27 years she has been juggling and using humor, which she believes is a revolutionary force, in order to deepen our understanding of shared humanity, often satirizing wrongful policies and bringing laughter to diverse audiences. She tries to tell the less-heard stories in our culture. The issues she has dealt with have been varied, but much of her work has been rooted in her own identities, giving full voice to the often subordinate narratives of queer Jewish women. Her present focus is on the Israeli-Palestinian crisis, gender and transgender (in)visibility, and outing of issues around mental health. In 1987 Sara co-founded the Women's Circus and has taught juggling for over 20 years.

Neighborhood:

Mount Airy

Discipline:

Theater



Photo: Monette Sudler

Trapeta B. Mayson

Trapeta is a poet whose biggest goals as an artist are to tell the truth in her work and to honor the experiences of others by providing an artistic platform for self-expression. She is committed to making art that is progressive, and her poetry covers many themes: the nuances of being an immigrant living in the United States, being a woman of color, young people living in urban communities who feel silenced, and the impact of mental illness on families. Trapeta is currently a resident artist with Art Sanctuary's North Stars after-school program and leads the Painted Bride Art Center's "Rock the Pen" monthly poetry workshop for high school students.

Neighborhood:

Germantown

Discipline:

Poetry



Photo: Rachelle Lee Smith



Vena Jefferson

Vena is the director and founder of Urban Africa Cultural Arts. She is a dancer, storyteller and teacher, drawing primarily from African and African American traditions. She aims to make the connections between hip-hop culture and West African movement and rhythmic patterns, and also seeks to work against homophobia and sexism, which prevents boys from participating in dance and girls from participating in drumming. Vena's work is often directed toward helping women heal from abuse, but she ultimately creates it to empower the entire African American community with love, self-esteem, history, culture and knowledge of oneself.

Neighborhood:
South Philadelphia

Discipline:
Dance, Theater

LTA PANEL BIOS

BAHIYA CABRAL-JOHNSON (Facilitator)

Bahiya Cabral-Johnson's commitment to work for justice dates back to 1984, after the U.S. invasion of Grenada motivated her to get involved in the anti-intervention movement. Bahiya has opposed U.S. military intervention in Central America, worked for peace in the Middle East, and actively participated in movements for peace and justice in the U.S. She currently serves as the interim executive director for the Community Leadership Institute that works to stop gentrification in Philadelphia.

Bahiya is also co-founder of Creative Community Solutions, a consulting group that provides support to organizations in the areas of meeting facilitation, strategic planning, and program development and evaluation. Creative Community Solutions also gives workshops and trainings on community organization, organizational management and building inclusive organizational environments.

HIROKO KIKUCHI

Hiroko Kikuchi (born in Tokyo, Japan) has performed and exhibited her work in numerous venues. Her recent solo performances are included in festivals and shows such as Intervene! Interrupt! Rethinking Art as Social Practice (Santa Cruz, Calif.), Contaminate (Boston), Corporal Heat: International Performance Festival (Boston), Castle of Imagination (Poland), Tremor (Colombia) and others. Her recent collaborative social performance art and research projects include ChinatownTM (Philadelphia and Honolulu), Skinshipu (Boston), The National Bitter Melon Council (Boston), Sifting the Inner Belt (Boston), Treasure Hill Garden Portrait Studio Project (Taiwan) and others. Kikuchi holds an MFA in interdisciplinary studies from Tufts University, in affiliation with the School of the Museum of Fine Arts (SMFA), with a special focus on performance art and installation. Kikuchi was a visiting faculty at the SMFA, teaching "Public Art Public Action," designed for students who wish to develop a conceptual framework for creating meaningful public and community-based art as a form of public, social or political action. She has been the program director of Youth Art In Action, a Coming Up Taller Award-winning youth art program that advocates civic engagement through art. She currently manages the Teen Arts Council, a youth leadership program at SMFA.

JOYCE ZONANA

Joyce Zonana is an associate professor of writing and literature at Borough of Manhattan Community College. Her memoir, *Dream Homes: From Cairo to Katrina, An Exile's Journey*, is forthcoming from the Feminist Press. She has published scholarly and personal essays in such journals as *Signs*, *The Hudson Review*, *Meridians* and *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*. Born in Cairo to a Jewish family, she grew up in New York City and has lived in Philadelphia, New Orleans, San Francisco, and Norman, Oklahoma.

MANJU RAJENDRAN

Manju Rajendran has been doing movement work for 14 years. As communications director for the South Carolina Equality Coalition, she was part of a unique people-of-color-led lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender (LGBT) campaign to stop an unjust amendment and build a stronger LGBT political base. She is co-founder and on the media/communications team of Ubuntu, a women-of-color, survivor-led organization fighting sexual assault. She is also on the advisory board of Not Your Soldier Project, which gives youth tools needed to stop the military invasion of our schools and communities. She worked the last several months with the League of Young (Pissed Off) Voters building a massive online directory of youth organizations around the country called Future 5000. Manju also worked with Youth Voice Radio, helped form Hip Hop Against Racist War, and at the University of North Carolina formed a Desi Conversation Circle for South Asian diasporic kids to rap politics and personal stories.

TINA MORTON

Tina Morton is a media activist deeply committed to facilitating members of community groups in telling their own stories. Her work aurally and visually shares the perspectives of marginalized people, enabling them to be seen and heard in their own image and voice. Her own work started when she took classes at Scribe Video Center over a decade ago. In 2001 she completed a community history documentary titled *Severed Souls*, a 13-year personal journey to chronicle community memory of the execution of Corrine Sykes, a 20-year-old North Philadelphia resident wrongly executed for murder and the first African American woman to be legally executed in Pennsylvania. In 2005 Tina facilitated a South Philadelphia community group to help create *The Taking of South Central ... Philadelphia*, a documentary focusing on problems of gentrification affecting so many communities. She is currently working on *Belly of the Basin*, chronicling the people of New Orleans' voices, voices not drowned out by Katrina but by political red tape. This documentary features people's stories of survival and struggle, and will serve as a movement-building tool by inspiring people to do, not just view, by getting involved in the rebuilding of New Orleans and other Gulf Coast regional cities affected by Katrina. Tina's work is that of a video oral historian, documenting community struggles. She is an assistant professor of radio, television and film at Howard University and a 2006 recipient of the Leeway Transformation Award.

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Patience Rage
Virginia P. Sikes, Esq.
Aishah Shahidah Simmons*

* Term ended March 2007

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Amadee L. Braxton, Program Consultant
Maori Karmael Holmes, Communications Consultant
Walidah Imarisha *, Program Associate
Gabriel Foster, Program Associate
Shantay M. Page, Office Assistant
Kavita Rajanna *, Program Director

Vanessa Adams, Bookkeeper
Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP, Counsel
Beard Miller Company LLP, Auditors
TUMIS, Design

* Through April 2007

2007 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Attic Youth Center

255 S. 16th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
[215] 545-4331 Phone
[215] 545-5774 Fax
www.atticyouthcenter.org

The Attic Youth Center creates opportunities for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (l/g/b/t/q) youth to develop into healthy, independent, civic-minded adults within a safe and supportive community, and promotes the acceptance of l/g/b/t/q youth in society.

Philadelphia Folklore Project

735 S. 50th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19143
[215] 726-1106 Phone
[215] 726-6250 Fax
www.folkloreproject.org

The Philadelphia Folklore Project is committed to paying attention to the experiences and traditions of “ordinary” people. Its focus is to build critical folk cultural knowledge, sustain vital and diverse living cultural heritage in communities in the Philadelphia region, and create equitable processes and practices for nurturing local grassroots arts and humanities.

Robin's Bookstore

108 S. 13th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
[215] 735-9600 Phone
[215] 735-2670 Fax
www.robinsbookstore.com

Robin's Bookstore is the oldest independent bookstore operating in Philadelphia since 1936. Robin's believes that books are precious commodities to be shared. It hosts individual author and group events, poetry and politics, and has wide-ranging African American, poetry, literature and children's sections, lots of psychology and new age titles, as well as some of everything else. It also has a second floor full of used books and magazines.

Taller Puertorriqueño

2721 North 5th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19133
(215) 426-3311 Phone
(215) 426-5682 Fax
www.tallerpr.org

Latino artists and activists in the North Kensington area of Philadelphia founded Taller Puertorriqueño in 1974. Discouraged by the absence of outlets for barrio youth desperate to channel their artistic talents, Taller's founders created a community-based graphic arts workshop to provide cultural training alternatives to local youth. For more than three decades, Taller has continued to be a vital resource for progress in the barrio and the region. It is now nationally recognized as a model organization that uses the arts as a vehicle for social change.

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

2006

Adjua Sims-Copeland
Angela "Sadio" Watson
Beverly Dale
Blanche Epps
Chelsa L. Clofer
Clarissa T. Sligh
Colette Copeland
Crystal L. Frazier
Debra A. Powell-Wright
Diane Critchlow
Ethel Paris
Felicia Webster
Gwynne B. Sigel
Irit Reinheimer
J. El
Joy Esther Butts
Juanita Beverly
Keisha Hutchins
Khadija Shariff
Linda Goss
Linus Graybill
Lovella Calica
Maia Rosser
Maori Karmael Holmes
Marta Sanchez
Maudeline Swaray
Melissa Talley-Palmer
Misia Denéa
Misty Sol
Na Tanyá Daviná Stewart
Nana Baakan Agyrirwah
Nana Korentemaa Ayebofo
Niama Leslie JoAnn Williams
Pallabi Chakravorty

Patricia McLean
Priyank Jindal
Qaadira Allen
Rachelle Lee Smith
Ruth Naomi Floyd
Samantha Barrow
Sannii Crespina-Flores
Sara Stefana Smith
Sheena Johnson
Shoba Sharma
Siyade Gemechisa
Soledad Chavez-Plumley
Stefani Threet
Stephanie "Amma" Young
Tania Isaac
Thelma Shelton Robinson
Thembi Langa (Sista Fayah)
Tina Morton
Tulie Reddick
Uva C. Coles
Valerie Gilbert
Vashti Dubois
Zilan Munas

2005

Aishah Shahidah Simmons
Anyta Thomas
Brandi Jeter
Carmen Rojas
Carol Finkle
Cassandre Xavier
Chanté Brown
Christine Duffield
Crystal Jacqueline Torres
Dante Toza
Dao-yuan Chou
Deb Shoval
Denise King
Gwynne B. Sigel
Ham'Diya Mu

Ione Nash
Iris Brown
Jamese Wells
Jaye Allison
Judith Trustone
Julia Elaine Galetti
Kormassa Bobo
Laureen Griffin
Magda Martínez
Maori Karmael Holmes
Maribel Lozada-Arzuaga
Marissa Johnson-Valenzuela
Mary Roth
Michele Tayoun
Michelle Ortiz
Misia Denea Cole
Na Tanyá Daviná Stewart
Nana Korentemaa
Nancy Bea Miller
Nicole Cousino
Nitza W. Rosario
Pat McLean-RaShine
Patience Rage
Sandra Andino
Serena Reed
Shivaani Selvaraj
Sonia Sanchez
Suzanne Povse
Taína Asili
Tamika A. Jones-Nwalipenja
Tina Morton
Toni Barber
Valerie Harris
Valerie Linhart
Vanessa Julye
Violeta Rivera
Wendy Brown

2004

Adelaide S. Paul
 Adele Aron Greenspun
 Ann Tegnell
 Anna Rubio
 Anula Shetty
 Arlene Love
 Aryani Manring
 Astrid Bowlby
 Beverly A. Gross-Spencer
 Candy Depew
 Charletta Brown
 Dawn R. Falato
 Deborah Caiola
 Deborah Fries
 Deborah Shoval
 Denise Valentine
 Donna Bostock
 Dorothy Gordon Wilkie
 Elba Hevia y Vaca
 Elizabeth Doering
 Elizabeth R. New
 Ellie Brown
 Elysa Voshell
 Emily Hubler
 Emily Selvin
 Erica Zoë Loustau
 Gail Bracegirdle
 Heather Raikes
 Hee Sook Kim
 Heidi Barr
 Heidi Cruz
 Jackie Hoving
 Janet Goldwater
 Jennifer Blazina
 Jessica Smith
 Ju-Yeon Ryu
 Julie York
 Juliette Stango
 Justyna Badach
 Kate Doody

Katherine Hyejin Yoon
 Kathryn Pannepacker
 Kathryn Tebordo
 Katie Baldwin
 Leticia Roa-Nixon
 Lisa Murch
 Lois Bliss Herbine
 Lynn Riley
 Lynne Levin
 Madi Distefano
 Megan Bridge
 Mei-Ling Hom
 Melissa Putz
 Michele E. Tantoco
 Michelle Oosterbaan
 Nancy M. Sophy
 Nancy W. Wright
 Nathalie F. Anderson
 Neila Kun
 Onomola Iyabunmi
 Pamela Jean Cole
 Patricia J. Goodrich
 Patti Dougherty
 Penelope Fleming
 Rain Harris
 Raquel Montilla Higgins
 Roko Kawai
 Ruth Wolf
 Sandra Weber
 Sharyn O'Mara
 Shinjoo Cho
 Smita Rao
 Sondra Blanchard
 Sumi Maeshima
 Susan Oh
 Tally Brennan
 Theresa "Indigene" Gaskin
 Veleta Vancza
 Vivian Appler
 Vivian Green
 Yu Wei
 Yvonne Latty

2003

Amanda Miller
 Amanda Tinker
 Andrew Clearfield
 Anne Seidman
 Anne-Marie Mulgrew
 Ava Blitz
 Barbara Gregson
 Carol Towarnicky
 Cathleen Cohen
 Cheryl Hess
 Clarity Haynes
 Daniele Strawmyer
 Deidre Murphy
 Elizabeth Fiend
 Gloria Klaiman
 Ilana Stanger-Ross
 Ione Nash
 Iris N. Brown
 J.C. Todd
 Jamie Merwin
 Jennifer Levonian
 Jennifer Macdonald
 Jessica Dellacave
 Jodi Netzer
 Josie Smith
 Joy Feasley
 Julia Granacki
 Keiko Miyamori
 Laura Watson
 Libby Saylor
 Liz Goldberg
 Lorene Cary
 Lynne Allen
 Maria T. Rodriguez
 Marianne Bernstein
 Martha McDonald
 Martina Johnson-Allen
 Mary DeWitt
 Michelle Keita
 Molly Layton

Myra Bazell
Nadia Hironaka
Nichole Canuso
Nicole Cousineau
Patricia Goodrich
Patricia Traub
Paula Winokur
Rachel Cantor
Rain Harris
Robin Black
Ruth Naomi Floyd
Sara Steele
Sarah McEaneaney
Sarah Zwerling
Sharon Katz
Sharon Mullally
Sharon White
Susan Abulhawa
Susan Fenton
Susan Magee
Teresa Leo
Toni Shapiro-Phim
Wendy Univer
Won Jung Choi
Yvonne Chism-Peace

2002

Adelaide Paul
Adrienne Stalek
Astrid Bowlby
Barbara Botting
Barbara Bullock
Catzie Vilayphonh
Celeste Starita
Christine Meck
Colleen Quinn
Deborah Stein
Dorothy Wilkie
Ellen M. Rosenholtz
Emily Brown

Gabrielle Mahler
Genevieve Coutroubis
Gina Kazanicka
Heather Raikes
Helen Cahng
Janette Hough
Joan Klatchko
Karen Fogarty
Kristin G. Goddard
Leah Stein
Lee Ann Etzold
Lise Funderberg
Lois Herbine
Lynette Mager
Malkia Kokuyamba Lydia
Marta Sanchez
Martha Kearns
Megan Bridge
Melina Hammer
Michelle Lipson
Na Tanyá Daviná Stewart
Nadine M. Patterson
Rachel Stecker
Rebekah Wostrel
Roko Kawai
Samantha Barrow
Samantha Simpson
Sondra Blanchard
Susan Bank
Tamar Klausner
Tania Isaac Hyman
Tara Goings
Teresa Jaynes
Tina Bracciale
Tina Davidson
Valentine Aprile
Yukie Kobayashi
Zoe Strauss

2001

Amy S.F. Lutz
Andrea Clearfield
Angela Watson
Anne-Marie Mulgrew
Arden Kass
Celia Reisman
Daisy Fried
Deborah Caiola
Deidra Greenleaf Allan
Eurhi Jones
Feral Willcox
J.C. Todd
Jeanne Obbard
Jennifer Macdonald
Jody Sweitzer
Joy A. Feasley
Julia Lopez
Julie Cooper-Fratrik
Julie Stratton
Karen Stone
Lee Ann Etzold
Lenny Daniels
Lisa Sewell
Lisbeth A. Pelsue
Lynda G. Black
Magda Martinez
Marilyn Holsing
Mary Legato Brownell
Melisa Cahnmann
Michelle Oosterbaan
Mytili Jagannathan
Nadia Hironaka
Nancy Lewis
Nicole Greaves
Nzinga O. Metzger
Pamela Sutton
Patricia Graham
Rachel Cantor
Romi Sloboda
Shannon Bowser

Shuyuan Li
Theresa Gaskin
Toni Brown
Toni Vandergrift

2000

Alice Austin
Alice Oh
Amy Novak
Anda Dubinskis
Andrea Lyons
Ann Hopkins Wilson
Anndee Hochman
Arden Kass
Carolyn Healy
Carrie Patterson
Charlotte A. Schatz
Dana Sunshine
Diane Burko
Dona Dalton
Elizabeth Doering
Elizabeth Leister
Elizabeth McCue
Emma Varley
Jan Yager
Judith Jacobson
Julia Sokol
Kala Lynn Moses
Kate Moran
Kimi Takesue
Laura Jackson
Linda Stojak
Lisa Sylvester
Lynn Denton
Marina Borker
Mary DeWitt
Mary Salvante
Mary Veronica Sweeney
Meg Richter
Meg Saligman

Megan Wall
Melissa Husted-Sherman
Merrilee Challiss
Michele Belluomini
Michelle Oosterbaan
Molly Christie
Nancy Agati
Rachel Fuld
Romi Sloboda
Sarah Biemiller
Susan Hagen
Teresa Jaynes
Tremain Smith

1999

Andrea Cooper
Anna Louise Boothe
Astrid Bowlby
Ava Blitz
Barbara Attie
Barbara Bjerring
Betty Leacraft
Brigid O'Hanrahan
Candy Depew
Carol Leotta-Moore
Celeste Starita
Charmaine Caire
Chris Larson
Christine Stoughton
Debora Muhl
E. Alice Oh
Elizabeth Meyer
Elsa Tarantal
Geri Harkin-Tuckett
Janice Wilke
Jeanne Jaffe
Jennie Shanker
Jill Bonovitz
Judith Schaechter
Judith Westley

Judy Gelles
Kukuli Valarde
Leah Stein
Leslie Kaufman
Lily Yeh
Linda Brenner
Lisa Baird
Liz Goldberg
Lucartha Kohler
Magan Stevens
Mei-Ling Hom
Myra Bazell
Nancy Lewis
Nannette Acker Clark
Rain Harris
Roko Kawai
Sally Grizzell Larson
Sarah Biemiller
Susan Jo Klein
Susie Brandt
Syd Carpenter
Timi Sullivan
Virginia Maksymowicz
Won Jung Choi

1998

Beth Kephart
Carolyn Healy
Eiko Fan Takahira
Frances McElroy
Jonita Gass
Karen Rile
Lynette Hazelton
Margaret Holley
Patricia Traub
Ruth Deming
Susan Viguers
Tara Goings

1997

Bette Uscott-Woolsey
Bhakti Ziek
Deborah Warner
Emily Richardson
Michelle Marcuse
Pang Xiong Sikoun Sirirathasuk
Sandra Brownlee
Yvonne Bobrowicz

1996

Danielle Picard-Sheehan
Eileen Neff
Ellen Spierer
Judith Taylor
Kate Moran
Martha Madigan
Michèle Frentrop
Paula Chamlee
Rita Bernstein
Ruth Naomi Floyd
Ruth Thorne-Thomsen
Sally Grizzell

1995

Alice Schell
Anndee Hochmann
Beth Kephart Sulit
Debra Leigh Scott
Donna Jo Napoli
Gloria Klaiman
Karen Rile
Lisa Borders
Rachel Carpenter
Susan Magee

