



leeway foundation

GRANTS & AWARDS

2008







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IMAGINE THIS... PEEP THIS... FEEL THIS...

In 2008 Leeway Foundation provided \$344,585 in grants and awards to 74 women and transgender artists in the Philadelphia region. Thirteen artists and cultural workers received the \$15,000 Leeway Transformation Award and another 61 received up to \$2,500 in project-based support in the form of the Art and Change Grant.

On page 3, Jacquie Jones, a 2008 Leeway Transformation Award panelist, writes lovingly about the artist-activists on the following pages. She uses as her framework the historic 2008 presidential campaign, telling us how she feels slightly less cynical, excited by the prospect of a world where the unimaginable became the new reality. Jacquie reminds us that there has been so much talk of hope lately that it's often challenging to claim it for our communities, our struggles, or our lives. But as she says, "Nothing breeds optimism like a challenge."

This past May, I went to Washington, D.C., with 70 colleagues from around the country working in art, community, social justice, and cultural recovery. We had been invited to be briefed by the new administration. We heard from Kareem Dale, special assistant to the president, Christina Tchen, of the newly re-named Office of Public Engagement, and representatives from the Office of the First Lady, the social secretary, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Even as some of us dug for the kernels of substance contained within the presentations, what was clear is that we were greeted by a new kind of national leadership — *community* organizers with finely honed skills who cautioned us to "trust in the process and not the man." Because however it seems on the surface, they understand real organizing is not about the cult of personality. At its best it is about sharing power and developing cadres of leaders who, by transforming their communities, transform our collective reality.

There has been a lot of talk about the crash of 2008, and the ways artists can be engaged in the economic and cultural recovery of the nation. We talk about how best to engage our communities in the movement for social, economic, and cultural rights and the need to create a new paradigm for leadership. But what about this new leadership... *What does it look like? Where will it come from? Who gets to claim it? How will we build on it?*

Through my work at Leeway I am constantly reminded of the inspiration and leadership artists and cultural workers offer our communities. Please consider all the myriad and varied forms leadership takes; be expansive in your thinking. As you look through these pages, see this community of artists for the leaders they are. Acknowledge how these artists set an intention and use their creative practices — their

labor, their gifts, and their power — to leave us a world refreshed, renewed, and re-imagined through their effort.

I am grateful to the Leeway staff and board for their hard work and commitment to fulfilling the mission, vision, and values of the Foundation, and to our applicants, grantees, community partners, colleagues, and allies in the field and on the ground who provide support and inspiration.

A very special shout-out goes to departing board chair Julia López, who helped lead a foundation in transition to a place of shared understanding. We will miss your warmth, honesty, sense of humor, and that uncanny ability you had of connecting to the spirit of a moment and crafting a brilliant and heartfelt poem that spoke with our voice. We look forward to watching where your new path will take you, how different choices will renew all you practice with such grace — as community leader, artist, organizer, and parent. To you we say, *Ashe!*

Yo quise ser como los hombres quisieron
que yo fuese:
un intento de vida;
un juego al escondite con mi ser.
Pero yo estaba hecha de presentes,
y mis pies planos sobre la tierra promissora
no resistían caminar hacia atrás,
y seguían adelante, adelante,
burlando las cenizas para alcanzar el beso
de los senderos nuevos.

— “Yo Misma Fui Mi Ruta,” **Julia de Burgos**

I wanted to be like men wanted me to be:
an attempt at life;
a game of hide and seek with my being.
But I was made of nows,
and my feet level on the promissory earth
would not accept walking backwards
and went forward, forward,
mocking the ashes to reach the kiss
of new paths.

— “I Was My Own Route,” **Julia de Burgos**



Denise M. Brown
Executive Director

Philadelphia, 2009

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only Light can do that.
-- Martin Luther King, Jr.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Over the last year, we've been hearing a lot about change. At first, it was about the power of the solitary voice speaking clearly and loudly, excitingly even, over the tedious din of racism, sexism, entrenched self-interest, and greed — a voice that seemed to extend out into the farthest reaches of our consciousness and our nation, to speak about the inevitability of what is right, even in the face of what is wrong but powerful. Politicians, grassroots organizers, and pop stars alike encouraged us to believe that nothing could stand in the way of millions of us if we were united in a true desire for transformation. And the more we were told by those who would resist our beloved change that it would never happen, the more sure we were that it would. After all, nothing breeds optimism like a challenge.

What happened next was as if 50 million of us here and hundreds of millions more around the world all clicked our red Mary Janes together at exactly the same moment, chanting, "There's no place like home, there's no place like home, there's no place like home," and willed into existence what had been, just a few short months earlier, unimaginable. And on the day the whole thing came together — the freezing cold, sunny day — we made this dream real, this manifestation of the success of our old melting-pot mantras, our pull-yourself-up immigrant dreams, our deepest longings as abandoned children who learned to love again. When we brought this reality into our history books forever, we were asked to believe that this could mean that we, as Americans, could lift ourselves up to a mythical place of democratic aspiration that is the best of who we are or can be. And even though, deep in our hearts, we secretly feared this place exists only there, deep in our hearts, we believed. We still do.

But believe in what? What is the change we hope to see? The change we hope to be? Where does it begin? Is it lower executive pay for millionaires we are after? Or universal health care? Or gay marriage? Is it a reframing of the way we understand our adversaries and our neighbors, our environment, those who have inspired and disappointed us,

ourselves? Is it winning? Is it beginning our relationships anew to each other, to those who come after, to materialism, to happiness, to power, to glory? Is it all of these things and more?

As you will see from exploring the pages of this beautiful book, Leeway artists pick the latter. It is all of these things and more. They show us that it is only by embracing the power of the present and the lyricism of the possible that the unlikely — and even impossible — and the truly transformative are born.

Imagine this: A Japanese American woman appears with tracing paper and charcoal in a remote village in Iraq. She begins to rub the charcoal over her paper on ancient trees, and the world is changed. Peep this: Another woman from the West Side of Philly takes over a community center one night and breaks down the business of hip-hop for a next generation of prophets, and the world is changed. Feel this: On the other side of town, a muralist works long into the night, etching Girl Scouts in the sky forever, as the guys from the neighborhood look on in wonder and admiration and maybe a little confusion. The world is changed. The world is changed. The world is changed.

And just as Martin Luther King, Jr.'s quote reminds us, we do not learn by beating a book against our empty heads, and we do not change by complaining about what needs to change. We change by bringing beauty and justice and light to everything we do and driving out the darkness, together. By being all we are and more.

And discovering, looking over the shoulders of these amazing artists, there's no place like home.



Jacquie Jones *is a tireless crusader for irony in all aspects of public life, a mother, a registered voter, a veteran funding panelist, and, yes, an artist too.*

OUR WORK

Support for individual artists is at the core of Leeway's mission. The Foundation serves as an important resource for women and transgender artists who often struggle to find funding for their work, and it hopes to grow the way its resources can support social change through supporting art and culture.

Leeway is...

- committed to examining and illuminating the relationship between art and social change.
- invested in art that has extraordinary vision, as well as art that expands the notion of art and the artist's place and connection to communities.
- committed to expanding the notion of art beyond the traditional canons.
- dedicated to exploring the role of the artist and how their participation and investment in community advances the kind of world we want to see.
- devoted to building strong relationships with an international community of artists, curators, presenters, and producers who are working at the nexus of art, culture, and social change.

Purpose of Grant Programs

- Use the Foundation's resources to invest in artists who are committed to using their artistic practice to illuminate pressing social issues affecting their communities.
- Build community by expanding the community of artists interested in working at the intersection of art and social change and mentoring new and emerging practitioners.
- Help artists gain access and entrée by leveraging their affiliation with Leeway to increase the range and variety of resources available (i.e., space, additional funding, mentors, collaborators, and other kinds of support).
- Elevate the context within which the artists and their practices are profiled and how the work is presented.
- Help shape the field of art and social justice philanthropy.

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 non-traditional 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, leeway.org, or call 215.545.4078.



"Merry Go Round" by Meredith McDonald



ART AND CHANGE GRANT

The Art and Change Grant provides project-based grants of up to \$2,500 to women and transgender artists in the Delaware Valley region to fund art for social change projects.

This grant is distributed three times per year.



Photos by Lauren Griffin

ALLISON HARRIS

Allison spearheaded *A Dolphin Tavern*, a multimedia collaborative work of fiction, illustration, photography, and painting, compiled into a new style of literature. The project's narrative follows the life of three young women in Philadelphia as they confront issues of sexuality, race, violence, mental health, identity, and friendship before the backdrop of a city in the midst of gentrification. The narrative style of the project is emotional and nonlinear, supported by visual art meant to evoke the essence of the city. *A Dolphin Tavern* features writing by Julia Gaylord, Allison Harris, and Amy Hirsch, and visual art by Stephanie Beck, Alana Bograd, Amy Hirsch, Pat Oloughlin, Chanae Owens, Jennifer Rothfuss, Danika Smith, Laura Gaylord, Constantina Zavitsanos, and Melissa Kramer.

Neighborhood:
South Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Constantina Zavitsanos

Discipline:
Literary Arts

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

AMA SCHLEY & PAYIN SCHLEY

Ama and Payin traveled to Guinea with members of the Kùlú Mèlé African Dance & Drum Ensemble to study traditional dances and rhythms of this West African nation. They learned movement for *Mali Sajo: the Legend of the Hippopotamus*, a new piece based on Guinean dance traditions that has become a part of Kùlú Mèlé's repertoire. This process helped Ama and Payin to become stronger artists, teachers, and community leaders. Once they returned home, they used their learnings to train other members of the ensemble and neighborhood youth.



Neighborhood:
Logan

Change Partner:
Dr. Chuck Davis

Discipline:
Folk Dance

Grant Amount:
\$2,400



Photos by Ruth Naomi Floyd



AMMA YOUNG

Amma traveled to Guinea to study traditional costume, dance, and music for a production of *Mali Sadjo: the Legend of the Hippopotamus*, a theatrical ballet that was choreographed by master artists of the Les Ballets Africains and Les Merveilles D'Guinea. Amma's change partner was Dorothy Wilkie, artistic director of the Kùlú Mèlé African Dance & Drum Ensemble. Dorothy took 16 drummers, dancers, journalists, and photographers to Guinea in the summer of 2008 to learn the ballet, which has been performed by Les Merveilles D'Guinea in the past. Amma's project had three phases: folktale research, dance and music workshops, and apprenticing with master costume designers. She also created a series of paintings to document the events of the trip.

Neighborhood:
Logan

Change Partner:
Dorothy Wilkie

Discipline:
Costume &
Apparel Design

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

AVA BLITZ

Ava partnered with the Urban Tree Connection and community members in West Philadelphia neighborhoods to develop four sculptural installation concepts that transformed vacant urban lots into beautiful, uplifting places. Ava worked with the community on fundraising and the eventual creation and installation of these projects, encouraging engagement and pride in the community. The designs were inspired by the natural world, and the artistic concepts used color and light, relief units, large-scale sculpture, plants, and photography. The projects were site-specific, speaking to the needs of the site, neighbors, and neighborhood.

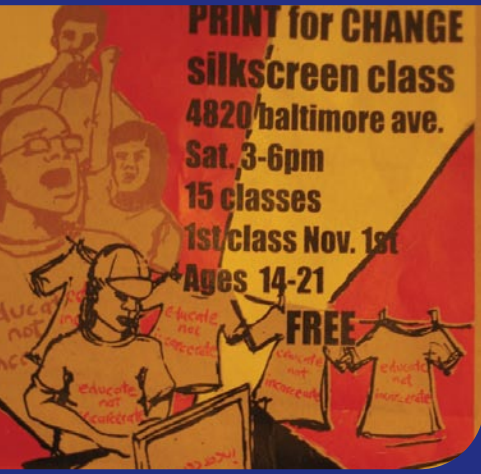


Neighborhood:
Penn Wynne

Change Partner:
Urban Tree Connection

Discipline:
Sculpture, Gardening,
Community Arts

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Photos (top and middle) by Mariel Waloff

BETH PULCINELLA

Beth and Quan Blanche co-facilitated a 15-week curriculum that was grounded in the premise that screen-printing and print shops have been, and continue to be, used in movements for social change. The class began in November 2008 and was housed in the storefront space where Quan started his silk screen shop in 2005. This course was free and suggested for individuals ages 13 to 25, but there were exceptions made for eager 10-year-olds and even a passionate 50-year-old. The course has provided hands-on skill sharing about the nuts and bolts of creating screen-printed posters and T-shirts. It has been impressive to watch people grow as they create moving and powerful posters and T-shirts.

Neighborhood:
Mantua

Change Partner:
Quan Blanche

Discipline:
Printmaking

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

BEVERLY DALE

Beverly created educational literature that promoted a broader sexuality ministry using feedback she received from her one-woman show, *An Irreverent Journey from Eggbeaters to Vibrators*. PassionWorks, the name she uses for this ministry, seeks to stimulate social change on specific topics related to sexuality through a variety of performances, workshops, and interactive media. The development of materials to promote this broader sexuality ministry allowed her to further address sexual misinformation and sexual wounding.



Neighborhood:
Mt. Airy

Change Partner:
The Christian Association

Discipline:
Community Arts

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Photos by Harvey Finkle



CAROL FINKLE

Carol created the first of a series of half-hour documentary films depicting the talent of Deaf entertainers, perceived by her as long undervalued. She hopes to change the picture of invisibility described throughout by helping us, as a nation, begin to acknowledge two Americas — Hearing America (an auditory culture with spoken English as its linguistic reflection) and Deaf America (a visual culture with American Sign Language as its linguistic reflection) — and once and for all acknowledge America's Deaf community as a true minority, with its own rich (if painful) history, collective experience, and magnificent American Sign Language, the third most used language in the nation.

Neighborhood:
Art Museum

Change Partner:
Painted Bride
Art Center

Discipline:
Documentary

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

CHARING A. BALL

Charing created audio documentaries to air on her weekly show, *People, Places & Things*, which sought to highlight the grassroots community. She worked to detail the experiences of organizers from a deeply personal perspective, giving a platform to topics and subjects rarely covered in traditional media outlets, which then can be preserved through the archiving of shows for re-broadcasting and downloading.



Neighborhood:
East Mt. Airy

Change Partner:
Gtown Radio

Discipline:
Radio, Documentary

Grant Amount:
\$2,240



Photos by Geoff Sobelle



CHARLOTTE FORD

Charlotte furthered her study of the theatrical genre of “clown” in Boulder, Colo., with the world-renowned clown teacher Giovanni Fusetti. Clown is a theatrical style that exaggerates a performer’s own physicality and personality to create a character who makes direct contact with the audience. Charlotte has experience in clown now, but in order to teach it she felt she first must take an advanced course. She then returned to Philadelphia and worked with Emmanuelle Delpech-Ramey, a gifted clown teacher, by observing her classes on clown at Temple University, and worked with her to create a curriculum appropriate for junior- and high-school students at Girard College. Finally, Charlotte taught clown to the students at Girard College, coaching each student on a road of self-awareness and acceptance through performing her/his clown.

Neighborhood:
South Philadelphia

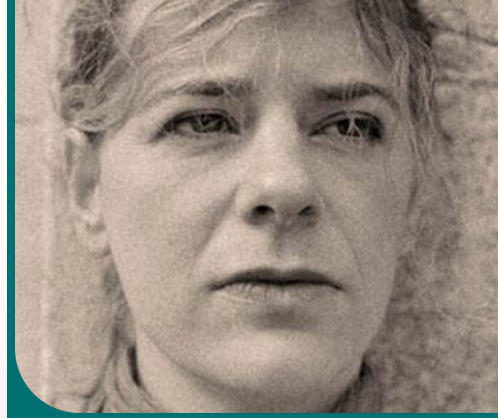
Change Partner:
Emmanuelle Delpech-Ramey

Discipline:
Theater

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

DEBORAH CAIOLA

Deborah created a project titled “A Conversation with Women of God” that examined women and spirituality in the context of several different faiths. The participants were feminist women who have devoted their lives to God. Deborah conducted brief individual interviews during which she sketched and photographed each subject. Based on the interviews, Deborah developed portraits that incorporated symbolic imagery to represent each woman’s belief system and spiritual path. The paintings together with video created by Columbian filmmaker David Sarasti were used to make an installation piece that tied the paintings of the women and their religions together. The project will be exhibited in Philadelphia next year.



Neighborhood:
South Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Sally Collier

Discipline:
Performance Art

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Photos: (top) by Philip DiJoseph;
(middle and bottom) by Deborah DiJoseph



DENISE DIJOSEPH

Denise coordinated “The Doll Project: Empowering Body Image,” a hands-on workshop for teen girls who reside at a detention and shelter center awaiting incarceration, placement with foster families, or the safe return to their homes. Participants learned about female standards found in historical art by viewing examples of contemporary figurative images and abstract sculptures. Each participant was given a Barbie doll to transform into a personal artistic statement of empowerment through the use of sculpture, assemblage, and written word.

Neighborhood:
West Chester

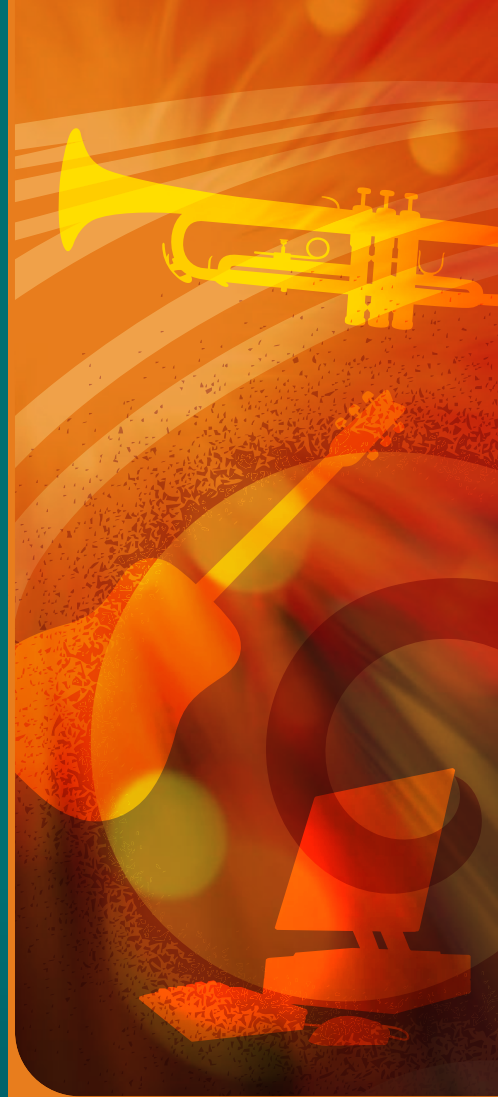
Change Partner:
Regional Center for
Women in the Arts

Discipline:
Sculpture, Mixed Media

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

DESI BURNETTE

Desi produced three radio segments focusing on the topics of education, affordable housing, and labor struggles. The segments made connections between the Latino immigrant struggle and the struggles of other poor and working-class Philadelphians. By making the pieces in both English and Spanish, the project became a meaningful tool for communicating experiences across cultural and language barriers. The segments were aired on Radio Tlacuache, the only Spanish-language radio program on West Philadelphia's community radio station, WPEB 88.1 FM. In addition, the pieces were broadcast on the internet as podcasts and shared with other radio stations in Philadelphia and across the country.



Neighborhood:
Yeadon

Change Partner:
Luis Alberto De Jesus

Discipline:
Radio

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Photos by Anna Thiessen



DOROTHY GOINS

Dorothy taught creative writing to survivors of domestic abuse at Sojourner's House through workshops structured and based on her novel, *A Day Without Beauty*. The workshops taught participants to use writing as a therapeutic tool. The women wrote short stories and poems and learned to develop their writing voices. Dorothy's goal was to help the women build self-confidence as they used writing to dig up what was buried deep within them. She aimed to empower the women to use creative writing for self-expression and healing.

Neighborhood:
Northeast Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Women Against Abuse

Discipline:
Creative Writing

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

ELBA HEVIA Y VACA

Elba, artistic/executive director of *Pasión y Arte*, a feminist flamenco company, choreographed and presented as a work-in-progress *Geografía Intima* at the 2008 Philly Fringe Festival, a site-specific performance in the Fleisher Art Memorial Sanctuary. *Geografía Intima* explored stereotypical representations of three different Latino historical-religious female archetypes in Latino culture: the witch, the virgin, and the dreamer. A deconstructed fairy tale, the piece's chapters concern the dreamer's loneliness; the witch's struggle to remain sexual, liberated, and healing; and the virgin's need to be infallible and cut off from the world. In this work, movement deeply embedded in traditional Old World flamenco fuses with New World flamenco and Afro-Cuban music and song, spoken word, and projected landscapes to depict the experience of womanhood in revolutionary ways. The choreography invites the audience to explore the dancers' intimate spaces as they journey through a profoundly feminized spirit world.



Neighborhood:
Overbrook

Change Partner:
Samuel S. Fleisher
Art Memorial

Discipline:
Dance

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



EMIKO SUGIYAMA

Emiko organized Hip Hop Island, an admission-free, all-elements hip-hop youth summer camp in South Philadelphia presented with the Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Associations Coalition. The participants of the camp were mainly Southeast Asian immigrant youth, ages 10 to 21. The camp provided creative outlets and a safe atmosphere for youth to express themselves, connect with others, learn about social issues, and sustain good mental health through four art forms of hip-hop culture. There was also a block party at the end of the camp to celebrate the participants' achievements.

Neighborhood:
West Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Southeast Asian Mutual
Assistance Associations
Coalition

Discipline:
Performance Art

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

ERIKA ALMIRON

Erika created a multimedia documentary about the devastating effects of the spread of soy plantations in Paraguay. She traveled to a number of communities in Paraguay to record audio interviews, photograph the living conditions, and blog about her experiences. Upon her return, she produced a multimedia exhibit about displacement, poverty, globalization, and immigration. In order to create a dialogue about poverty and build solidarity, Erika showcased the exhibit in Paraguayan communities in New York and Philadelphia.



Neighborhood:
Yeadon

Change Partner:
Rosa Suárez

Discipline:
Film & Video, Document-
tary, Digital Video

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Photos courtesy of Erika Mijlin and Julie Goldstein



ERIKA MIJLIN & JULIE GOLDSTEIN

Erika and Julie created “When I Was 10,” an empowering series of animated webcasts aimed at girls and the adults who work with them. They interviewed and recorded the audio of 10-year-old girls about their thoughts on life, growing up, creativity, and family issues. They then created a comprehensive story combining animation with the girls’ own words. The finished webcasts captured the essence of 10-year-old girls on the brink of entering adolescence — a time when the “rules” often change and girls’ sense of self-esteem can flounder. This project engages girls to tell their stories freely and let their imaginations soar.

Neighborhood:
Port Richmond

Change Partner:
Media Education Lab

Discipline:
Media Arts

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

Photos: (top and middle) by Laureen Griffin;
(bottom) by Pablo Virgo

ERIN HOWLEY

Erin created a series of batik portraits of community members from Fishtown and East Kensington. She interviewed people about their experiences living in these neighborhoods and created their portraits using metaphors and story lines from their interviews. Erin created all-natural dye for the batik using leaves, nuts, and roots harvested from vacant lots and roadsides in the neighborhoods. She exhibited the portraits and audio interviews in an effort to increase dialogue on the experience of living in these neighborhoods. She invited the interviewees and other community members to come together to discuss the themes and meanings that emerged from the stories. Her goal was to build relationships and increase communication about the experiences, narratives, and identities that exist side by side in these neighborhoods.



Neighborhood:
East Kensington

Change Partner:
Coral Street Arts House

Discipline:
Textile, Audio,
Community Arts

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Animation by Hugo Marmugi
from *Chow Down*

GAGE JOHNSTON

Chow Down is a video documentary about the struggles three people face after being diagnosed with life-altering chronic diseases. For the past two years, Gage has been following John's, Charles', and Garnet's journeys to try to regain their health after they each decide that surgery or a lifetime of medication is not what they want for their future. All three people have the tenacity to seek expert advice beyond their traditional doctors' offerings and attempt to get rid of their diseases for good by changing their diet. Gage's interviews with experts explain how the food industry, the medical industry, and the federal government often make matters worse for the sick by placing concerns of profit and reputations above concerns about health.

Neighborhood:
Fairmount

Change Partner:
Luise Light

Discipline:
Documentary

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

GWYNNE B. SIGEL

Gwynne conducted interviews with members of the Sholom Aleichem Club, one of the last surviving organizations within Philadelphia's Jewish left community, for a multi-disciplinary and multi-year project. Using oral histories, Gwynne created an oral-history-based solo theater performance. She interwove the club members' personal stories with dramatizations of historical events that influenced the political context of these stories. The interviews and performances provided the basis for a writing course she created for youth, which taught participants how to use oral history to document and perform stories of community and social change. Finally, Gwynne wrote a book that documents the club's oral history, the solo performance work, and the youth project.



Neighborhood:
Mt. Airy

Change Partner:
Philadelphia Dramatists
Center

Discipline:
Theater, Writing

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



IYA SANGOLADE

Iya created a community of women who undertook monthly projects in ritual beadwork. The project intended to introduce this African tradition to women of African American heritage. The beading gave the women an opportunity to tap into their creative spirits, realign themselves with an ancestral tradition, and become a part of a creative community. The group became a nurturing environment for sharing and healing through the power of art.

Neighborhood:
East Mt. Airy

Change Partner:
First Circle Collective

Discipline:
Jewelry Making,
Community Arts

Grant Amount:
\$1,925

JODI NETZER

Jodi facilitated “The Tipping Point,” a multidisciplinary performance, workshop series, and discussion that demystifies the process of how to create successful social, political, and spiritual movements. Combining dance, theater, and video, the workshop series, performance, and discussion aimed to inspire and nurture participants’ ideas to aid the formation of a critical mass with a rippling effect towards positive change. Jodi worked with The Conscious Collective on this project, which took place May 31 - June 1 at the Community Education Center (CEC) in West Philadelphia.



Neighborhood:
West Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Dr. Craig Eisendrath

Discipline:
Theater

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Photos by Ruth Naomi Floyd

JULIA KATZ TERRY

Julia coordinated “The Art of Growing Up,” a multicultural rites-of-passage arts program. The curriculum included lessons in mask-making and dance, inspired by West African coming-of-age traditions, and poetry and collage, inspired by the Apache sunrise ceremony. The program connected these ethnically, culturally, and geographically disparate traditions with some of the contemporary rites of passage that girls may be more familiar with, such as bar/bat mitzvah, quinceañera, or sweet sixteen festivities. As the girls moved through the program they worked together to create their own unique coming-of-age ceremony, which became the program’s culminating event.

Neighborhood:
West Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Arts and
Spirituality Center

Discipline:
Mixed Media,
Community Arts

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

JULIANNE (BERNSTEIN) THEODOROPULOS

Julianne went to Greece to research the history of the Greek Jewish community of Salonika in order to write a play based on the events that occurred during the Nazi invasion. She has spoken to Greek Jews in the States and overseas as well as to theater artists, educators, folklorists, and historians. Julianne will continue to interview Greek Jews and other Greeks about their own experiences and those of people they knew who were victims of the Holocaust. She will also interview them about those righteous Greeks who made noble efforts to protect the Jews from deportation to the German camps. Ultimately, her research will lead to a full-length dramatic work that will be developed and workshopped by Theatre Ariel, Philadelphia's oldest Jewish theater company. The play is targeted for Jewish, non-Jewish, and Greek audiences, and will be designed to be performed in Greek churches, synagogues, and social centers where both cultural groups will gather, uniting the two, and educating the youth of these two cultural groups.



Neighborhood:
Overbrook Farms

Change Partner:
Deborah Bael Moses

Discipline:
Theater

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Photos courtesy of Kara LaFleur



KARA LAFLEUR

Kara documented the community youth program Work to Ride during the summer of 2008 using a Holga camera and culminating in an exhibition at the University City Arts League in winter 2009. Work to Ride is a program for youth located in the Belmont Plateau section of Philadelphia's Fairmount Park. Founded in 1994 by Lezlie Hiner, Work to Ride started as a refuge for kids who were willing to put in a little work to get off the streets of West Philly.

Neighborhood:
Chinatown

Change Partner:
Work to Ride

Discipline:
Photography,
Community Arts

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

KAREN LEFEBVRE-CHRISTOU

Karen facilitated workshops with children in the outpatient oncology department at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Each workshop was a two-step, two-visit process. The first step involved interacting with children while they drew pictures of something or someone they wanted to have as a "buddy" to keep them company. The second step entailed using the drawings and information gathered about the child in the initial visit to recreate their art in fabric as an "artling," a custom plush soft sculpture. The workshop gave children who are special for reasons other than their diagnoses a chance to be artists. That feeling brought joy and healing for the children, their family and loved ones, and for Karen.



Neighborhood:
Melrose Park/Elkins Park

Change Partner:
Michelle Noble

Discipline:
Crafting

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



KATHY PADILLA

Kathy completed pre-production and the trailer for a documentary on the historic transgender sit-in that took place in 1965 at Dewey's lunch counter in Philadelphia. The documentary provided a jumping-off point to explore transgender people of the time period, including employment, housing, neighborhoods, social supports, and the often difficult relationships between health care providers and transgender people. The project used interviews with participants and contemporaries, archival records, and video news archives to preserve the fast-disappearing history of the transgender/gender-variant people from this time period and reinforce their relevance to the movement for LGBT equality.

Neighborhood:
Mt. Airy

Change Partner:
Nurit Shein

Discipline:
Documentary

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

KAY HEALY

Kay conducted interviews of refugee seniors from Laos and Vietnam who currently live in Philadelphia and participate in programs with Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Associations Coalition. Inspired by ancient Sumerian cuneiforms, Kay built unfired clay sculptures representing each senior and carved the text of their story into the structures. The installation was exhibited outdoors and then left to disintegrate in the elements. The remaining clay was then reshaped and new text was carved into the sculptures to emphasize the metaphor of destruction and rebirth that is central to our lives. To accompany the exhibition, Kay produced an edition of screen-printed books, titled *Four Stories*, with illustrations and interviews.



Neighborhood:
South Philadelphia/Old City

Change Partner:
Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Associations Coalition

Discipline:
Literary Arts

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



KIMBERLY E. ROLLINS

Kimberly offered African hair care workshops to assist foster, adoptive, biological, and trans-race families. Her classes demonstrated how important cultural awareness and self-esteem is within intercultural families using the techniques of hands-on approach through personal group sessions or DVD. Families, including parents and children, participated in learning about styling products and techniques as well as understanding how to maintain their hair in its truest form, free of chemicals. From simply combing and brushing to understanding simple day-to-day hair care and styling tips, the demonstration worked to build self-esteem and cultural awareness.

Neighborhood:
South Philadelphia

Change Partner:
African Diaspora
Arts Collective

Discipline:
Community Arts

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

LEO T. WATTS

Leo wrote a fictional novel about a black female-to-male transgender who finds himself recovering from chest reconstruction surgery in his hometown. Plagued with visions of his brother's gruesome death, we see the character embark on a journey of self-discovery, encountering obstacles in dating, employment, and his overall adjustment as a black man in a new city. Through his search, the main character quickly realizes the cost of being out in a community that once embraced him.



Neighborhood:
Northeast Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Lonnie Grant

Discipline:
Fiction

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Photos by Maggie Von Vogt

MAGGIE VON VOGT

Maggie developed an audio documentary about building global justice from the perspectives of people in Central and South America. The audio documentary was based on interviews, oral histories, and recordings from the Social Forum of the Americas in Guatemala and six months working in El Salvador alongside the Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad. It was also edited into short radio programs with English translation and made accessible via the Media Mobilizing Project website and West Philadelphia's WPEB radio station. Maggie also distributed the project through Spanish language news sources.

Neighborhood:
West Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Media Mobilizing Project

Discipline:
Documentary, Audio

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

MAIA ROSSER

Maia developed the “Sixth of the Month Project,” a photography and audio installation exhibiting the experiences of women (ages 14 to 25) and their birthing stories. This project sought to highlight the art of the birthing process. Participants in the project received free doula services, participated in a photo shoot, and told their stories of labor and delivery while being audio-recorded. Childbirth in the eyes of many cultures is a rite of passage, a sacred act, or a holy art form that houses the strength of the feminine spirit. Sadly, most modern Western practices for childbirth treat it as an illness or surgical procedure rather than as a celebrated natural experience for a woman. Maia sought to tell stories of mothers, inform others, challenge the way we view natural labor, and restore the idea that there is an art to giving birth.



Neighborhood:
West Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Natasha Johnson

Discipline:
Community Arts,
Audio, Photography

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Photos by Rana Sindhikara

MARIE-MONIQUE MARTHOL

Marie attended the 9th Global Conference on Ageing, sponsored by Ageing Design Montreal and the International Federation on Ageing. The focus of the conference was the impact of design on the health, participation, and security of older people. Information gleaned from this conference inspired the creation of a multimedia art project involving members of Center in the Park, a senior center in Philadelphia. Marie engaged the center's older adults in utilizing their expertise and wisdom to define and explore the key cultural, social, and structural design components necessary to create livable communities for all ages.

Neighborhood:
Germantown

Change Partner:
Center in the Park

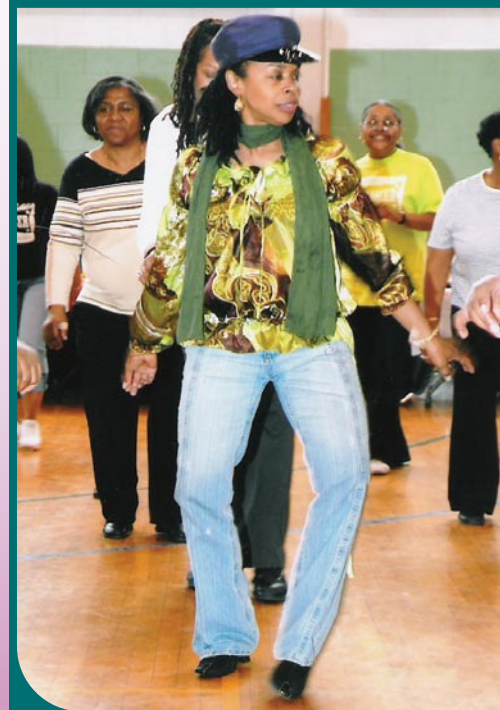
Discipline:
Mixed Media

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

MARTINA

G.J. MARTINAS

Martina instructed a form of line dancing called “linedancer-size,” which is line dancing and exercising combined. Martina’s project consisted of instructing a 10-week all-male soul line dance workshop offered free of charge at Hawthorne Recreation Center. This project was an opportunity to recruit males who were interested in learning line dance routines to various genres of music, ultimately interacting with the line dance community. The purpose of this workshop was to engage and encourage men to become a part of a newfound venture that women are currently involved with in order to overcome social gender barriers.



Neighborhood:
West Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Gayle Malaika Davis

Discipline:
Movement

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Photos by Rana Sindhikara



MEGHANN WILLIAMS & GIGI NAGLAK

Sexy. Funny. Irreverent. Fun. That is the method behind the madness of *Chlamydia dell'Arte: a Sex-Ed Burlesque*. Meghann and Gigi sought to make sex education fun and accessible using striptease, comedy, song, and dance — all the parts of a traditional burlesque show — to explore safe sex, STDs, sexual orientation, menstruation, and much, much more. As the writers and performers, Meghann and Gigi sought to educate while they entertained. *Chlamydia dell'Arte* incited the audience to evaluate their own attitudes about sex, consider other ideas, and make smarter sexual decisions ... and to participate in a sexy dance party!

Neighborhood:
South Philadelphia/
Pennsport

Change Partner:
Lana Savadove

Discipline:
Theater

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

MEHRET MANDEFRO

Mehret's project, *Disparities: People and Place*, was her directorial debut after being in front of the camera for the last three years. Mehret's film followed the work of a Philadelphia-based HIV prevention project called the Prevention of AIDS Through Live Movement Sound (PALMS) that uses live drama to teach youth about HIV. The film met and followed a group of adolescent boys and girls as they participated in PALMS' educational interventions. The film aimed to change the way people think about risk and HIV. It also focused on creating a new communication and teaching strategy for advancing the understanding of the societal determinants of health.



Neighborhood:
West Philadelphia

Change Partner:
E3 Center West

Discipline:
Film & Video

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Photos by Ruth Naomi Floyd

MEREDITH McDONALD

Meredith facilitated the creation of peer hero portraits made by students at Furness High School. The students chose peer “heroes.” They each photographed the selected students with a digital camera and then worked from a computer to manipulate the photo and break down the image into planes of black and white values. Students worked from the altered photograph to paint and enlarge a fragment of the photo to create a large-scale portrait of their “peer hero” using the grid method.

Neighborhood:
Swedeland

Change Partner:
Furness High School

Discipline:
Photography, Painting

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

MICHELE BYRD-McPHEE

Michele is the co-producer of the Ladies of Hip-Hop Festival, an annual celebratory and educational festival of women in hip-hop culture. The goal of the festival is to increase and sustain a positive presence of women in the hip-hop community. An elite group of female instructors, artists, and businesswomen serve as positive role models and lead workshops in dance and business. The festival aims to remove barriers and build bridges for women in hip-hop. The festival creates a space for women to share, discuss, and pursue their interpretations of hip-hop dance, music, and art.



Neighborhood:
Center City

Change Partner:
Montazh Performing
Arts Company

Discipline:
Dance

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Photos by Robin Clark

MJ HASTY

MJ produced a full-length documentary on the experiences of young men and women who have served as interpreters for U.S. military and civilian organizations in wartime Iraq. Her interviews and interactions with friends and family revealed what inspired them to work as interpreters and the contradictory cultural and political situations they found themselves in while working for Americans.

Neighborhood:
Queen Village

Change Partner:
Nationalities
Service Center

Discipline:
Documentary

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

NEHAD KHADER

Nehad photographed and interviewed local Palestinian women artists about their traditional art making. She exhibited their work and facilitated a community gathering where they shared their art and stories and taught *tatreez*, a traditional cross-stitch embroidery, to younger Palestinian women. While the main art in this project was *tatreez*, other traditional art forms were recorded, like ululation, storytelling, and song. This phase of the project culminated with an informal community exhibit of the artwork and photos of the process.



Neighborhood:
Northeast Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Al Bustan Seeds of Culture

Discipline:
Fiber Art

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Photos courtesy of Qaadira Allen

QAADIRA ALLEN

Qaadira further organized “The Sankofa Circle,” a transformative art-based workshop series for adult women living with, and healing from, the after-effects of childhood sexual trauma. Each workshop session invites dialogue around the topics of trust, body image, honoring the feminine, boundary setting, self-awareness, and standing more fully in your power. Qaadira’s project entered its second phase, which involved coordinating and facilitating a six-month national training to teach other individuals how to organize and lead a basic five-part Sankofa Circle in their own communities.

Neighborhood:
Fairmount

Change Partner:
Kathy Morris

Discipline:
Writing, Crafting

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

Photos: (top) by Johanna Austin;
(middle and bottom) by Lauren Griffin

REBECCA DAVIS

Rebecca coordinated *1994 in Philadelphia*, a creative dance piece in which Philadelphia teens portray the stories of victims who survived the 1994 Rwandan genocide and the reconstruction efforts that follow such atrocities. Rebecca spent four weeks in Kigali, Rwanda, working with local NGOs and local people to gather information about the genocide and especially about how survivors are recovering and building their lives in the aftermath. Following her time in Kigali, she selected some of these stories to be transformed into creative movement pieces with music and spoken word. In September 2008, Rebecca worked with 10 Philadelphia teenagers to formulate a full narrative dance piece that shared these stories with the public.



Neighborhood:
Center City

Change Partner:
Global Youth Connect

Discipline:
Dance

Grant Amount:
\$2,450



Photos by Lauren Griffin

RENEE “OYIN” HARRIS-HARDY

Oyin, priestess of Yemonja, dance instructor, and artistic director of Troupe Da-Da African Dance and Drum Ensemble, created a series of three-day Afro-Cuban dance workshops for women of all ages and dance abilities. She encouraged participants to identify with goddess mythology from West Africa and Cuba. Oyin shared the stories of full-hipped African goddesses worshipped in ancient African societies. She aimed to pass on this knowledge and help women of color identify with their ancestral heritage. Through dance and folklore, the workshops provided an alternative to Western interpretations of femininity and promoted self-esteem.

Neighborhood:
North Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Alia Bey

Discipline:
Afro-Cuban Dance

Grant Amount:
\$2,225

RIKA HAWES

Rika used video and photography to document personal stories about places, events, activities, and people with a connection to the name “Strawberry Mansion.” She explored a variety of places and communities of people with this name, including the historic home and museum, the high school, the health care center, the hip-hop dance club, the seniors’ social club, and the neighborhood. Through the exhibition of these stories and portraits of the storytellers, Rika aimed to create an opportunity for members of the community to explore an expansive and diversified perspective on the power of a particular name: Strawberry Mansion.



Neighborhood:
Strawberry Mansion

Change Partner:
Beth Kowalchick, Historic
Strawberry Mansion

Discipline:
Photography, Film &
Video, Documentary

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Photos by Ruth Naomi Floyd



SARAH LOWRY

Sarah adapted William Shakespeare's *King Lear* by collaborating with a community of six other theater and/or dance companies. The events were held at a secret location, so the audience was instructed to convene on a street corner in West Philadelphia, wearing a red carnation to identify themselves. They were then led through the five acts, each performed in a different space, by a different company, accompanied by a different dessert, receiving refreshments and entertainment throughout each transition.

Neighborhood:
West Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Morgan Fitz-Patrick
Andrews

Discipline:
Theater, Dance

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

Photo (top) by Gail Williams

SARAH MCCARRON

Sarah wrote, developed, produced, and performed in *Owning Up to the Corn*, a new play about rural Appalachia at the turn of the last century. The play featured ancient Irish ballads, preserving and celebrating the folk tradition of a cappella singing. In particular, Sarah's work explored the relationship of the human voice to grief and loss. The play considered how we are all implicated in the story of industrial development, and how we relate to our natural environment. With sold-out audiences, including young audiences from ArtsReach, the play fostered dialogue about our current position in American history, as we face the challenges of a weakening economy and dwindling natural resources.



Neighborhood:
South Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Nora Berger-Greene

Discipline:
Theater

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Photos: (top) by Davida Loca;
(bottom) by Rana Sindhikara



SHAYNA

SHENESS ISRAEL

Shayna's "Saturday Cipher" program was a seven-month series of poetry, rap, and performance classes aimed at cultivating teenage youth of color in an apprenticeship-like fashion. The program aimed to teach youth to use art to question, problem-solve, and express their voices in the public sphere. The classes taught youth to chronicle their socio-historic lives and cultural past with the intent of fostering agency, authorship, and a perspective through which they can make sense of their current experiences. The series culminated in the creation of a pro-peace music video featuring the participants. The students also created a compilation of their work in audio and book form.

Neighborhood:
Swarthmore

Change Partner:
Mark Gould

Discipline:
Performance,
Writing, Poetry

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

SHIVAANI SELVARAJ

Shivaani produced *Dear Mandela*, a feature documentary that has evolved into a broad media project affiliated with the shack dwellers' movement in South Africa. The film explored the transition to democracy in post-apartheid South Africa, where a decade later, the number of people living on less than a dollar a day has doubled, average life expectancy has fallen by 13 years, and the country has become one of the most violent places in the world. New, accessible internet-based media tools allowed her to expand this project to encourage public commitment to prevent unlawful evictions and shack fires in communities especially vulnerable with the upcoming World Cup in 2010. The film ultimately examined what has gone wrong with the dream of a New South Africa and gave voice to a new resistance that is emerging in the face of appalling living standards and utter disregard by the government.



Neighborhood:
Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Dara Kell and Chris Nizza

Discipline:
Documentary

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



SHUYUAN LI

Shuyuan promoted women's empowerment in contemporary Chinese history by asserting the importance of female artists in traditional Chinese opera. In the past, women were excluded from many social activities and careers, including opera. As a female Chinese opera artist, Shuyuan benefited from her mother's sharing of her professional experiences obtained through social changes. In North America, many do not know about Chinese opera's early gender exclusion. Her goal was to acknowledge this historical fact and engage more female artists and audiences in enhancing her art.

Neighborhood:
Center City and
Northeast Philadelphia

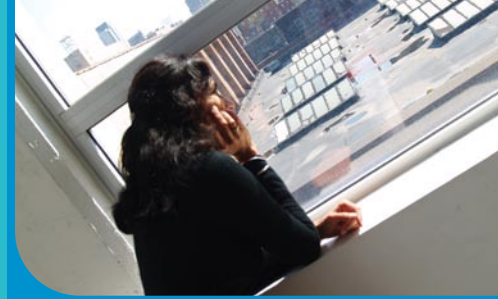
Change Partner:
Philadelphia Chinese
Opera Society, Inc.

Discipline:
Theater, Singing

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

SONIA ARORA

Using first-person narrative and oral history interviews, Sonia created a short film about youth who have decided to pursue home schooling. The film featured Philadelphia youth, their families, and mentors, and explored their lives and education. By telling these stories, Sonia hoped to change the lives of other youth for whom the traditional classroom does not work: some who are intimidated by violence because of their race or sexual orientation, others who have special needs, and yet others who dislike regimentation. Sonia wanted to show how discovery, investigation, and creativity are possible outside the confines of school. She also offered a workshop to engage young people in storytelling, oral history, and filmmaking.

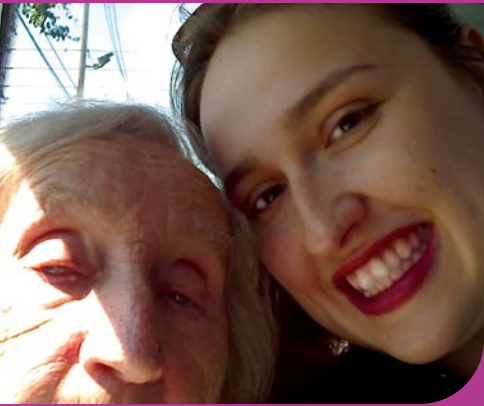


Neighborhood:
Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Project 360

Discipline:
Storytelling, Film &
Video, Documentary

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Photos: (top) by Bill Schmidt; (middle) by Rana Sindhikara; (bottom) by Stephanie Yuhas

STEPHANIE YUHAS

“American Goulash” is an online blog featuring stories, videos, and animations about Stephanie’s colorful Transylvanian family. She expanded the series by producing four videos per year and 48 written stories. Her mission was to preserve stories, tales, and idiosyncrasies from her own past and to encourage others to speak to their elders and learn from their family histories. Stephanie hoped to reach people all over the world to show that, despite cultural differences, all people have something in common — the love of family.

Neighborhood:
Bucks

Change Partner:
Matt Conant

Discipline:
Creative Non-Fiction,
Film & Video

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

Photos: (middle) by Rana Sindhikara;
(bottom) by Gabriel Bienczycki

TAMARA THOMAS

Tamara traveled to Guinea with Kùlú Mèlé African Dance & Drum Ensemble and studied with master drummers, traditional dancers, and a Guinea-based hip-hop group. During the two-week stay, she apprenticed with master Yaa Musa Suma, Mariama Toure, and M'bemba Bangoura as she learned the tale of Mali Sadjo. This intensive dance and music study took place primarily in Conakry, with a weekend trip to Kindia. She also spent time with the acclaimed hip-hop group Methodik. Upon returning to Philadelphia, Tamara taught a workshop hosted by the children's component of Kùlú Mèlé. This workshop was open to the general public.



Neighborhood:
Manayunk

Change Partner:
Kùlú Mèlé African Dance
& Drum Ensemble

Discipline:
Dance

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Photos by Lars A. Brooten



TANI L. KHABBAZ

Tani created a healing/meditation CD that served as a centerpiece and resource for empowerment workshops in her local community. The CD, *Healing Ourselves and Mother Earth: Empowering Our Transformation*, blended original music, spoken word, and personal narrative. It was given free to workshop participants and to specifically identified groups who have expressed a desire to use these resources. Tani's goal was to empower people to be their best. She helped people heal emotional damage and live a purposeful, joyful, and fulfilling life. She enabled self-trust and spiritual, mental, and emotional awareness. In order to do this among a large group, she created and distributed supporting materials individuals can use on their own.

Neighborhood:
Upper Bucks

Change Partner:
Unity Center for
Spiritual Living

Discipline:
Spoken Word, Oral
Narrative, Music

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

Photos: (top and middle) by Lorene Cary;
(bottom) by Sarah Stefana Smith

TINA SMITH-BROWN

Tina facilitated “Letter to My Father,” a series of literary workshops that invited women to explore their relationships with their fathers through the unique art of letter writing. The goal was to introduce participants to the artistic expression of letter writing and reveal how it relates to, and complements, the remembrance of life-changing moments. Tina envisioned the participants of this project using it as a pathway for emotional healing, awareness, and acceptance. The workshops were held at different community centers across the city and included adults and teens. Some of these letters were converted into a written anthology. Tina is working on a Letter to My Father blog associated with Art Sanctuary, where women can continue to share the art of letter writing electronically.



Neighborhood:
Northern Liberties

Change Partner:
Art Sanctuary

Discipline:
Creative Writing,
Creative Non-Fiction,
Community Arts

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Photos by Clarence Williams

URSULA RUCKER

Ursula created an epic poem about New Orleans' history, culture, uniqueness, diversity, people, and post-Katrina identity. Ursula partnered with friend and photojournalist Clarence Williams to create a book of the poem that included his photography of the city. The book served to celebrate, honor, and mourn what once was, while promoting humanity over government bureaucracy.

Neighborhood:
Germantown

Change Partner:
Clarence Williams

Discipline:
Photography, Poetry

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

VALERIE GILBERT

Valerie organized an art workshop series for women in New Directions, a halfway house for women who have been incarcerated. The program centered around survivors of homelessness, abuse, addiction, and/or depression. Valerie taught participants how to create masks, collages, and dolls that express inner strengths such as courage, compassion, and resilience. The creation process included taking field trips to the Free Library of Philadelphia, Moore College of Art & Design, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Doll Museum, the National Museum of American Jewish History, the African American Museum in Philadelphia, and other notable Philadelphia learning centers to expose the participants to empowerment through art. The workshop culminated with an exhibit of the women's pieces.



Neighborhood:
Southwest Philadelphia

Change Partner:
Greater Philadelphia
Federation of Settlements

Discipline:
Mixed Media, Doll-making

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Photos by Sarah Stefana Smith

VANIA GULSTON

Vania coordinated an on-site radio station at Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School and the Youth Health Empowerment Project. Through spoken word, music, audio documentary, radio drama, news, commentary, and other formats, students broadcasted live and recorded to their on-site communities and shared select programming with WPEB 88.1 FM for broadcast to a larger Philadelphia audience. Vania hoped that radio station listeners would gain a better understanding of the world of the youth, breaking down the stereotypes that they once had about them, and as a result, treating them and others with more sensitivity, dignity, and respect.

Neighborhood:
Chinatown/Center City

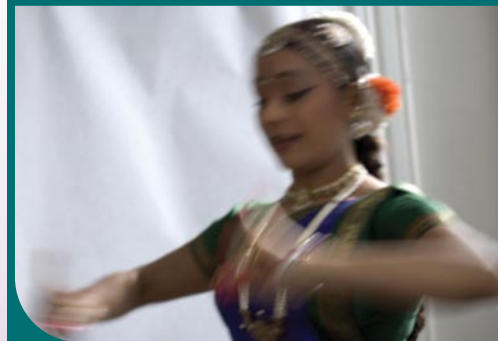
Change Partner:
Deborah Wei (FACTS) &
Robin Brennan (Y-HEP)

Discipline:
Spoken Word, Media Arts

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

VIJI RAO

Viji produced a dance performance that explored issues of domestic abuse of Indian women related to dowry practices both in India and among Indian immigrant communities. Viji's decade of experience as a choreographer and dancer in productions by Indian, American, Canadian, and British dance and theater companies has enabled her to develop this project. To best convey the cultural meaning of the piece, the project was performed using *bharatanatyam*, an Indian classical dance form.



Neighborhood:
Philadelphia County

Change Partner:
Chitra Srinivas

Discipline:
Dance

Grant Amount:
\$2,500



Photos by Rana Sindhikara



WINIFRED COLLIER BOLKUS

Winifred's project was a children's book titled *Winnie Is Able to Leap to Success*, the first in a series illustrating that children with physical and mental disabilities can reach their goals in education, independent living, or recreational activities. Winifred used a frog that has one hand encouraging readers to "leap" to success and never stop trying and also encouraging able-bodied persons to think positively about people with disabilities.

Neighborhood:
West Oak Lane

Change Partner:
Widener Memorial
School

Discipline:
Creative Writing

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

YOLANDA WISHER

Yolanda guided approximately 15 young poets from various Philadelphia public and private high schools in the production of *Live Wire 215*, a professional-quality audio CD of spoken word poetry that students performed at the 2008 Germantown Poetry Festival. Through a collaboration with the Philadelphia Recording Service, the students recorded the CD over the course of a week. The CD was debuted at a release party for family, friends, and the Germantown community. Proceeds from the CD went to benefit the Germantown Poetry Festival's Youngblood Workshops, an annual April event.



Neighborhood:
Germantown

Change Partner:
Philadelphia
Recording Service

Discipline:
Poetry

Grant Amount:
\$845



Photos by Lauren Griffin

YVONNE LUNG

Yvonne created a video documenting the experiences of immigrants in Philadelphia's Chinese community. The interviewees shared their stories, hopes, and journeys to America. Yvonne translated the immigrants' stories to English without rehearsal, simulating her experience as a court interpreter and revealing her emotional reactions. The storytellers did not appear in the video but were represented visually by an item of personal value that not only protected their identities, but also suggested the facelessness of the issues of immigration. Yvonne's goal was to provide a human element to the so-called "immigration issue." She gave the interviewees a voice, a sense of pride, and a moment to reflect upon their struggles.

Neighborhood:
Fishtown/Kensington

Change Partner:
Asian Arts Initiative

Discipline:
Film & Video, Documentary

Grant Amount:
\$2,500

ACG PANELIST BIOS

Helen Haynes

Helen has spent over 30 years as an artist, arts administrator, advocate, and educator. She received her BFA and MFA in drawing and painting from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. She also attended the Harvard Institute for Arts Administration and is a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship. Her previous positions include director of community arts at the Cleveland Area Arts Council; assistant professor at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, in studio art; positions at the National Museum of African Art and Council on Foundations; and consultancies with the D.C. Commission on the Arts, Department of Labor CETA and the Arts program, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. In Philadelphia since 1988, Helen previously directed the Coalition of African American and Latino Cultural Organizations and directed the Philadelphia Clef Club of Jazz and Performing Arts. Prior to her current position, she was the managing director for Full Circle Theatre. Since 2002, she has been the director of cultural affairs at Montgomery County Community College. She has served on a number of boards including the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance and numerous funding panels for the Pennsylvania Council for the Arts, Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour, the Association of Performing Arts Presenters, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Lai Har Cheung

Lai Har is a holistic health counselor who specializes in working with community leaders, Asian American women, and teens. Lai Har is a graduate of the Institute of Integrative Nutrition, which is affiliated with Columbia University. She has over 14 years of experience as a community-based professional working in the areas of leadership development, community building, and access to higher education. She believes that the healing of individuals greatly contributes to the healing of our society and that it is within our power to transform our life and our communities. Lai Har was formerly a member of the Asian Arts Initiative's Something to Say, a performance group that wrote and performed their own pieces. Lai Har is currently working on writings that explore her observations in the realm of personal and societal wellness. You can read more about her work at newvibrance.com.

Deborah Block

Currently serving as artistic director of Theatre Exile, Deborah has been a consistent figure in the Philadelphia arts community for almost 20 years as a director, dramaturg, producer, and educator. She has been involved in the creation of over 50 professional productions with an emphasis on new plays and movement-based theater. She has received much recognition for her professional and educational work, including being a recipient of the Independence Fellowship in the Arts. She is one of the founders of the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival and Philly Fringe and was the program director for nine years. She is currently teaching at Temple University, where she received her MFA.



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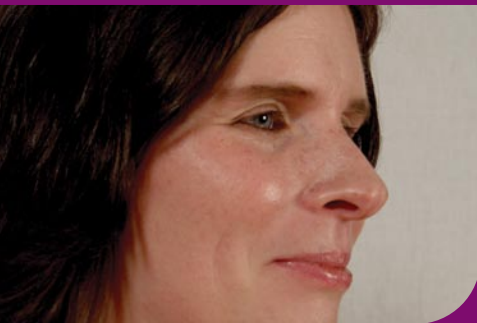


LEEWAY TRANSFORMATION AWARD

The annual Transformation Award provides unrestricted awards of \$15,000 to women and transgender artists living in the Delaware Valley region who create art for social change and have done so for the past five years or more, demonstrating a commitment to social change work.



Photos by Lauren Griffin



AMANDA WHITTENBERGER

Amanda is a video maker who strongly believes in using media as a vehicle of expression to share with others and inspire social change. She finds enjoyment in working with others: sharing skills, histories, and identities to develop and shape her projects. Many of her influences have stemmed from her time living in diverse communities here and abroad, and from never feeling a true sense of home. Amanda's early films reflected and explored her own identity as a woman and as an outsider. She is interested in working with communities who struggle with similar issues and strive to preserve their history and culture and defy existing stereotypes. In addition to producing her own work, Amanda teaches video-making workshops that help others develop skills to tell their own stories creatively through the use of video. She also began a media project with Inglis House, a skilled nursing care facility for 297 adults with physical disabilities, assisting people with mobility impairments in creating media projects to express themselves and their dreams. Some past video projects include *The Secret Campaign* and *Glance Into the Life*. Committed to continue working with these communities, Amanda is helping develop their capacity for self-expression and sharing their stories with the world.

Neighborhood:
Southwest Philadelphia

Discipline:
Film & Video

Photos: (top and middle) by Laureen Griffin;
(bottom) by Ann Marie Kirk & Charles Lawson

ANN MARIE KIRK

Ann Marie's artistic journey — as a dancer, poet, and photographer — began as a struggle to persevere and heal in the face of many family tragedies, including her father's schizophrenia. Her poems tell the tales of that struggle and the survival of spirit. Through her poetry she strives to inspire others to find the transformative potential in even the most difficult circumstances. Her poetry also calls out to the larger social order for adherence to human rights while combating the social injustices of our time. Ann Marie is the co-founder and director of Art for Justice, a not-for-profit organization that supports and exhibits inmate art to promote dialogue in order to find effective, humane ways to prevent crime, reduce levels of incarceration, and improve the criminal justice and correctional systems. Ann Marie's work with Art for Justice involves collaborating with inmate artists, photographing, writing, and organizing exhibits to bring public awareness to the humanity locked within our prisons. Many of her photographs have been rendered into paintings. She curates exhibits that bring together diverse communities to reexamine attitudes and beliefs about incarceration. Ann Marie copyrighted the Road Map for Life Workshops, which use the art and statements of inmate artists to stimulate a dialogue with youth, inspiring them to revise their life path and break the cycle of poverty and crime that leads to incarceration. The Art for Justice works have been displayed in 38 exhibits in the Philadelphia area. Ann Marie will continue her participation in area conferences and workshops as an advocate for human dignity throughout all communities and institutions of our society.



Neighborhood:
The Woods

Discipline:
Photography, Poetry



Artwork (bottom): "Paloma Negra" by Betsy Z. Casañas



Neighborhood:
North Philadelphia

Discipline:
Painting

BETSY Z. CASAÑAS

Betsy is a mixed-media artist who focuses primarily on portraiture. She believes that sharing and listening to stories, because of the basic human experience, have the power to inspire others to look at their own experiences and reflect without feeling judged. She explores themes of abuse, abandonment, fatherless children, vulnerability, love, sex, family, and the impact that the interlacing of those experiences has in the transformation and reflection of people. Her work demonstrates that one's life is nothing more than a combination of other lives braiding their stories, their ideas, their experiences, and serving as vessels to transform and influence the ideals of activism. As a community artist, Betsy is enriched and stimulated by the struggles and triumphs of her community. Betsy was born and raised in the barrios of North Philadelphia. She is a single parent of two beautiful children, Kristianni (8) and Archangel (13). She studied art at Moore College of Art and Design, where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts. Betsy has assisted and designed over 35 public murals and mosaics nationally and internationally (Larne, Ireland; Havana, Cuba; Morelia, Mexico; Quito and Santo Domingo, Ecuador). Presently she is a muralist for the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program and a teacher at the Charter High School for Architecture and Design. She is a founding member of Semilla Arts Initiative, a revolutionary collective of artists whose mission is to act as anchors for the development of community values and the preservation of cultural roots.

DESI P. SHELTON-SECK

Growing up in Camden, N.J., Desi experienced life as an inner-city female, not knowing how it would impact her until she moved away. Through her education she realized that the voice of the inner-city female was almost nonexistent and largely ignored. This knowledge became the inspiration for her work as a playwright, actress, and director, feeling a responsibility to tell that story, rather than denying who she was and where she came from. Desi uses theater to preach, educate, and uplift, finding inspirations in normal, day-to-day activity. She has been the artistic director of the Walt Whitman Arts Center and written and produced numerous projects, including the "Spirit of Camden Resurrection Through Dance," involving artists living in or from Camden. She strongly believes in the power of playwrighting as a medium of expression. Desi is devoted to telling the story of her city and her people and giving local artists a place to be heard and a forum to create and produce new work.



Neighborhood:
South Camden

Discipline:
Theater



Photos by Jim Wasserman



Neighborhood:
Francisville

Discipline:
Dance

GERMAINE INGRAM

Germaine is a jazz tap dancer, a direct artistic descendant of men and women — principally African American — who learned, developed, and shared “hoofing” (jazz-inflected rhythm tap) by means of an Africanist oral tradition practiced on street corners, at house parties, social clubs, and in the jook joints and night-clubs of Philadelphia. For a quarter century she was protégé and dance partner of the late master hooper LaVaughn Robinson (1927-2008). Germaine strives to make dances that have something to say and are not just a showcase of tap technique. In 2007 she presented a suite of original choreography, jazz music, and spoken word, the result of a yearlong collaboration with renowned bassist/composer Tyrone Brown, interpreting the work of African American literary icon John A. Williams. Germaine is also well known for her past work as a public interest lawyer and her ongoing advocacy on issues related to education reform, child welfare, and the arts. Currently, she is pursuing a multidisciplinary collaboration with saxophonist/composer Bobby Zankel and visual artist John Dowell reflecting on the practice of slavery in the President’s House during George Washington’s presidency, located in downtown Philadelphia.

KEIKO MIYAMORI

Keiko is a Japanese American artist who creates visual art installations and facilitates project-based workshops. Her work encompasses natural materials such as charcoal, mineral pigments, and *washi* paper, which is handmade from tree fiber. One of her techniques is to create charcoal rubbings of tree bark on *washi* paper and use them to wrap man-made objects. Keiko aims to engage communities with limited access to education and travel. She has worked with nontraditional audiences, including chronically ill children in hospitals and residents of the Kurdistan region in Iraq. Her aim is to encourage people to erase the boundaries of gender, age, race, religion, and country, and restore connections to nature and to each other. Keiko's social change goal is to make her audience feel and respect the connection between individuals and "elsewhere." In "Imagina," Keiko rescued a tree root from a construction site in North Philadelphia. A number of neighborhood residents and construction workers helped her with the project and later came to the gallery opening, which was their first visit to an art gallery. For "Images of Nature," she hung rubbings outside a gallery in Harlem, attracting neighborhood children to visit the exhibition and inspiring them to make their own art using her materials. In "Koko-To-Soko," she used internet broadcasting to create a live jam session between Philadelphia and Ryugasaki, Japan, with the objective of creating connection between two distant places and inspiring people to make a subtle change in their perspective.



Neighborhood:
Art Museum

Discipline:
Visual Arts



Neighborhood:
West Philadelphia

Discipline:
Community Arts

Photos by Lauren Griffin

KINYOZI-YVETTE SMALLS

Kinyozi-Yvette teaches the traditional art form of African and African American hair braiding to help her community members feel good about themselves and others. A sister, daughter, mother, teacher, friend, and hair sculptor, she grew up in West Philadelphia, where she learned the craft of corn rowing and braiding from the elders in her neighborhood. In addition to teaching her the different hairstyles, they taught her life lessons such as how to manage a home business, the importance of going to school, how to act around boys, and more importantly, how to appreciate and take pride in her African beauty, by adorning and styling her hair. Kinyozi began her work in her home, transforming it into an informal business, meeting place, cultural center, history lesson, and self-healing and -esteem parlor. Over the years, she has used hair braiding not only to financially support herself, but also as an art to explore identity, history, and boost the self-esteem of those she touches. Currently, Kinyozi teaches African and African American hair braiding for community arts programs, libraries, museums, schools, and the young girls in her neighborhood. These forums, along with her nationally and internationally award-winning video documentary *Hair Stories*, give her a platform to share ideas and empower people and her community with skills, self-love, and knowledge to change self.

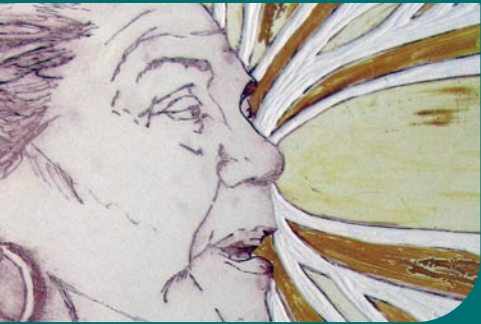
MICHELE BYRD-McPHEE

Michele is a hip-hop dancer first and foremost. She creates hip-hop dance for women. Michele's roles have evolved into director, organizer, and activist, but ultimately it all comes back to her art. As a dancer she began to miss a sense of sisterhood and female representation in the male-dominated hip-hop culture. She responded by organizing a group of female "street dancers" and invited them to join her company of women dedicated to creating hip-hop dance works, called Montäzh. Michele is a pioneer for women in hip-hop and is reshaping the field. Montäzh events and full-length shows are known around the country. Michele created The Ladies of Hip-Hop Festival, which focuses on women and their relationship to hip-hop culture. She is dedicated to giving women the tools and the support to change the economy and workplace of hip-hop dance culture, so that women can have powerful, influential, well-paid roles as directors, choreographers, and leaders in the field.



Neighborhood:
Washington Square

Discipline:
Dance



Neighborhood:
Bella Vista

Discipline:
Painting

MICHELLE ANGELA ORTIZ

Michelle, a graduate of Moore College of Art, is a visual artist who combines elements of painting, printmaking, and drawing in her work. She has painted murals throughout Philadelphia as well as in South America and Fiji. Raised in South Philadelphia, Michelle is a first-generation, bicultural child of a Colombian woman and a Puerto Rican man who did not graduate from high school. As a child, Michelle often felt like an outsider. She believes that “outsider status” has informed her work and helped her to understand the experiences of children and people in the U.S. and in South America. This has shaped her experience and practice as an artist, change maker, and teacher. Michelle sees social change as part of her creative process as well as the final product. An example would be her work “Where Girls Grow Strong.” At 45’ x 60’ it is Michelle’s tallest mural and one of the first murals in Center City created by a Latina muralist. This project is particularly transformative due to Michelle’s use of all-female assistants, including 450 Girl Scouts, to paint the mural.

Photos: (top) by Laureen Griffin; (middle) by Eiichiro Iwasa; (bottom) by T. Moriki

ROKO KAWAI

Roko is a dancer/choreographer who often works in collaboration with other artists. A Japanese American immigrant, she has lived in Philadelphia for over 20 years. Roko is a classical dance trainee, a contemporary artist, and a survivor whose work explores her personal body politics and specific life history. Her life and work have been touched by domestic violence and loss. By working through this complex lens, she hopes her experience and her art will give courage and clarity to others. She has created, performed, and toured many works, both independently and in collaboration with local and international artists. Her work has been presented in a range of venues, including an adult literacy center and a women's prison. *Daughter Tongue*, her solo show that premiered in 1994, is about growing up as an immigrant child, struggling to learn both Japanese and English in the face of racism during the 1970s, and the pressure she received from her well-meaning but demeaning parents. Since 2000 Roko has been training primarily in Japanese classical dance as a way to understand more deeply why Japan continues to be such a compelling trigger for her dance work. Through organizing educational and performance workshops, Roko seeks to help her audiences understand her experimental work as it relates to Japanese classical dance. In addition, she has worked as a teaching artist in a diverse range of schools and organizations. Roko especially strives to provide mentorship and support to immigrant and Asian American artists who may not have received recognition for their work within their families. With her Transformation Award, Roko was able to travel to Cambodia and dialogue with dancers whose families were murdered by the Khmer Rouge during the 1970s, with the humble hope of exploring the impact of violence on the dancing body.



Neighborhood:
Mount Airy

Discipline:
Dance



Photos: (top) by Kass Mencher; (middle) by Lauren Griffin; (bottom) by Toni Nash



SUZI NASH

As a biracial, left-handed, feminine lesbian, Suzi has found it only natural to act as an intermediary between different communities. Her recent work as a musician is an excellent example. *Rainbow Sprinkles*, a compilation of songs written to empower children of LGBT families, was produced by Suzi after observing the large influence of music on children and the lack of music that includes LGBT families. Suzi is a judge and programmer for the Philadelphia International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival and a filmmaker in her own right. She began her video work as an associate producer and co-host for *The Bozo the Clown Show* on UPN Philadelphia TV57. There she profiled the book *Heather Has Two Mommies* in her segment to an audience of children and their lesbian moms. This was one of the few television programs to broach the subject of LGBT families. Suzi is proud of the impact that *Rainbow Sprinkles* has had in the community. She received a call from the executive director of Rainbow Families in Great Lakes, Mich., who told her that when she played the CD while driving with her normally chatty daughter, the child grew quiet before saying, "Mom, do you hear that song? It's talking about having two moms. It's talking about us! It's about our families!"

Neighborhood:
Brewerytown

Discipline:
Music, Film & Video

URSULA RUCKER

Ursula is an internationally acclaimed poet, mother of four boys, mentor, and role model. In her 16-year career she has released four solo albums and worked on over 30 collaborations with music producers from across the globe. She is committed to using her poetry as a vehicle of protest and activism. Ursula's mission and calling is to heal herself, the planet, and its people through her art. Her poetry tells the stories of struggle, love, womanhood, peace, anger, injustice, and spirituality. As an artist who has performed in many continents, countries, classrooms, and community centers, Ursula sees herself as an ambassador of culture, socio-political issues, truth, and love. Based on her personal experience and the response of countless fans and audiences, Ursula believes that art and poetry are catalysts for change. While she sees the world as her community, she pays particular attention to the world of women, indigenous/diasporic people, and sufferers of injustice.



Neighborhood:
Germantown

Discipline:
Poetry



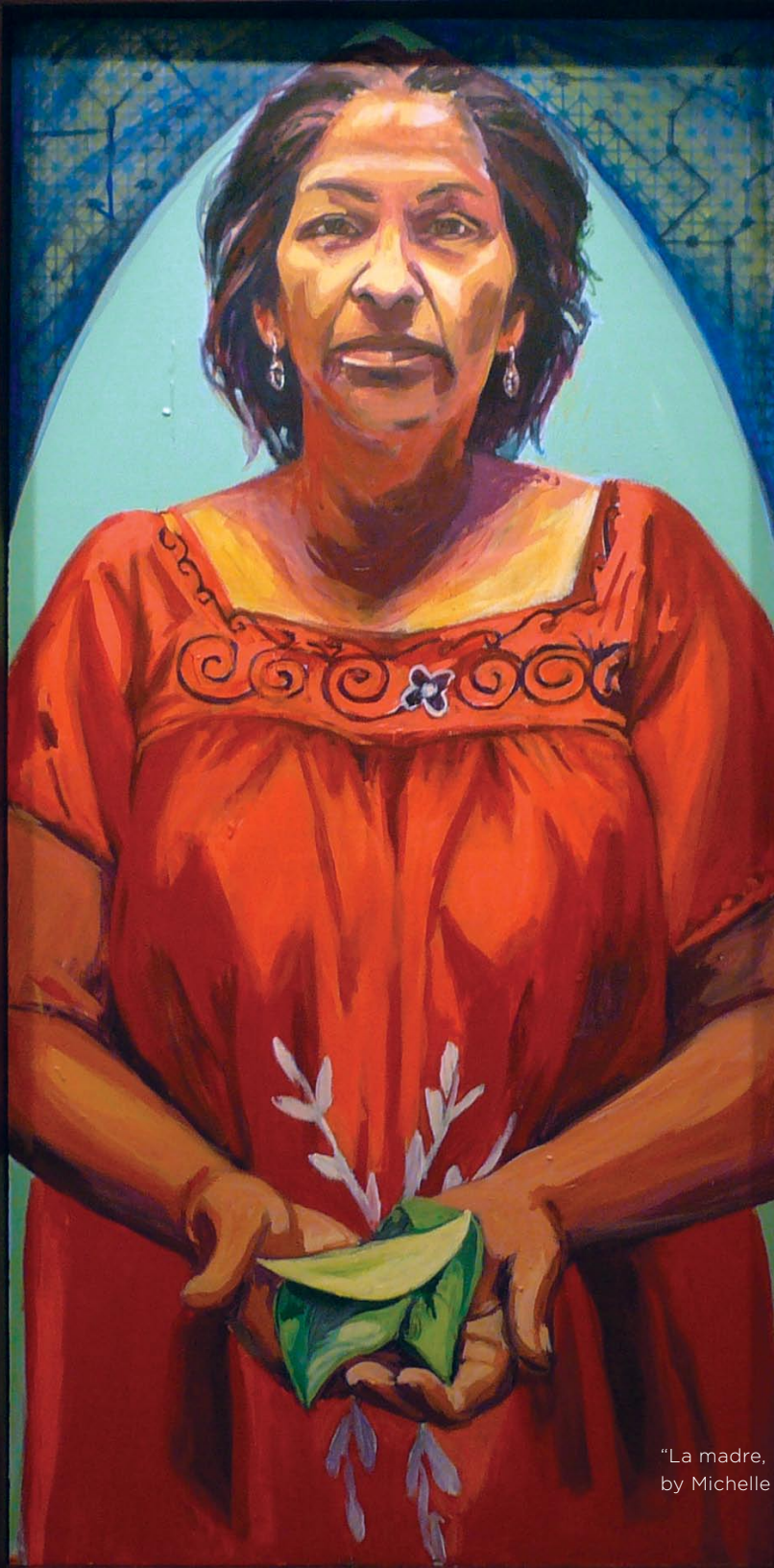
Neighborhood:
West Philadelphia

Discipline:
Writing

Photos: (top) by Boone Nguyen;
(middle and bottom) by Sarah Stefana Smith

VALERIE HARRIS

Valerie is a writer, teacher, publisher, and filmmaker. The nature of her art and social change work has been collaborative — representing the sharing of a variety of voices, experiences, and perspectives. Valerie began writing plays in the 1970s and saw her works performed nationally. Over the years she has worked on a number of writing and publishing projects related to art, women, and the African American community. As a teaching artist Valerie strives to assist individuals in appreciating the cultural landscape of their communities — the history, traditions, conflicts, and creative expressions — and seeing themselves as active participants in it. From 2004 through 2008 Valerie taught creative writing at Paul Robeson House in West Philadelphia to teens and community residents through her Teen Writers Academy and Writers Academy programs. In 2007 she published *Identity: Poems and Writing from Teen Writers Academy*, an anthology featuring the work of 30 of the more than 70 young writers who participated in the program. The anthology continues to be acquired by libraries nationwide. Valerie is currently working on the Darby Township Community History Project, which began as a memoir writing workshop with African American seniors and has since evolved into a documentary on the history of African Americans in the tiny Delaware County community over the past 200 years. She plans to hold public screenings of the film and publish an accompanying book.



"La madre, la hija espíritu, buscando"
by Michelle Angela Ortiz

LTA PANELIST BIOS

Ilana “Invincible” Weaver

It is truly rare to find an artist like Invincible. Her spitfire wordplay has gotten her acclaim from hip-hop fans all across the world, while her youth organizing with Detroit Summer’s Live Arts Media Project, the U.S. Palestine Youth Solidarity Network, and other active involvement has taken her music beyond entertainment, and towards actualizing the change she wishes to see. Repping Detroit, Mich., many are already familiar with her work with Waajeed and the Platinum Pied Pipers, Finale, the all-female Anomolies crew, Black Star, and many others. Dubbed by *XXL Magazine* as “every A&Rs worst nightmare” for rejecting major label deals and general industry politrix, Invincible started her own record label, Emergence, self-releasing her long-awaited full length LP, *ShapeShifters* in June 2008. Check out emergencemusic.net, myspace.com/invincible-na, and detroitsummer.org for more info.

Jacque Jones

Jacque is an award-winning writer, director, and producer of documentary films. Her credits include producer/director of “Brotherly Love” an episode of the PBS series *Africans in America: America’s Journey through Slavery*. *Africans in America* has received numerous awards including a Peabody Award in 1999. Jones’ credits also include a feature-length documentary *From Behind Close Doors: Sex in 20th Century America*, which aired on Showtime in 1999 and a series of interstitials for the History Channel titled *The World Before Us*, a series of 15 shorts looking at arresting moments in international history relying primarily on eyewitnesses filmed on location in nine countries. Her other films include *Switched at Birth* and the award-winning short *Freestyle*, a portrait of female rap artists in the San Francisco area. In addition to her filmmaking, she is a widely published critic of popular culture and was formerly the editor of the internationally respected journal *Black Film Review*. She holds a BA in English from Howard University and an MA in documentary filmmaking from Stanford University. Jacque is the executive director of the National Black Programming Consortium.

Jenifer K. Wofford

Jenifer’s creative practice encompasses installation, painting, drawing, photo, video, performance, teaching, and curating. She received her BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute, and her MFA from UC Berkeley. She has exhibited in the Bay Area at the Berkeley Art Museum, SF Arts Commission Gallery, Southern Exposure, and Kearny Street Workshop; nationally at New Image Art (Los Angeles), Nora Eccles Harrison Museum (Salt Lake City), thirtyninehotel (Honolulu); and internationally at Future Prospects (Philippines), Osage Kwun Tong (Hong Kong) and Galerie Blanche (France). Wofford is 1/3 of the artist trio Mail Order Brides/M.O.B. Honors include awards from the Fleishhacker Foundation, Art Matters, UCIRA, and the Pacific Rim Research Program, and artist residencies at The Living Room, Philippines; Soelyst, Denmark; and Chateau de la Napoule, France.

Martha Diaz

An educator and filmmaker, Martha is a visionary with a decade of media production experience. Her intuition for success can be traced back to her early days as assistant to the late Ted Demme. After working many years as a freelancer, Martha formed Akasha Entertainment, a production and consulting company, providing an alternative approach for advertising, marketing, and filmmaking. Some of her clients have

included HakuHodo, GTM, Soul Underground, and Americans For The Arts. In her quest to merge hip-hop culture and education, Martha began shooting *H2O*, an “edutainment” digital video series, chronicling the history and multiple elements of hip-hop culture and its global impact. Realizing that there was a need to encourage intelligent and creative hip-hop films and a demand to provide a platform for the filmmakers, Martha created The H2O Film Festival and serves as the executive director of the Hip Hop Association, which produces the festival and related educational initiatives. Martha has a BA from Fairleigh Dickinson University in communications with a minor in television and film production. She is currently a Reynolds Scholar at NYU Gallatin School of Individualized Study, concentrating in hip-hop and social change. Martha’s latest project is “The Womanhood Learning Project,” a study guide and toolkit.

Sara Felder

Sara Felder is a solo theater artist, playwright, and juggler. She began performing in 1984 with San Francisco’s Pickle Family Circus. She has toured with Jugglers for Peace in Cuba, the Women’s Circus in Nicaragua, Joel Grey’s Borscht Capades, and at festivals of Jewish/Yiddish culture in Berlin, London, Amsterdam, New York, Los Angeles, and Toronto. Sara’s body of work—including radical solo circus theater and witty multi-actor plays—explores political and social frictions. Her newest solo play, *Out of Sight*, uses the relationship between a blind mother and her adult daughter to examine invisibility, family loyalties, and the Israel/Palestine conflict. She continues to tour her highly acclaimed *June Bride*, which tells the story of a traditional Jewish lesbian wedding. Sara has received fellowships from the California Arts Council, Pennsylvania Council for the Arts and the Independence Foundation. She was also awarded the Philadelphia Theatre Initiative grant and Leeway Transformation Award in 2007. She has been an artist-in-residence at Intersection for the Arts, the Headlands Center for the Arts, and the California Arts Council (the latter for teaching juggling and performance in California’s prisons). The San Francisco Art Commission, National Performance Network, and Irvine Foundation for New Plays have commissioned her. Her work has received nominations from the Bay Area Critics Circle and the Cable Car Awards. She was part of the Animating Democracy Initiative in Anchorage and is on the roster of Pennsylvania Performing Artists on Tour.

Rha Goddess (facilitator)

Goddess is a world-renowned performance artist, activist, and social entrepreneur. Her work has been featured in numerous international compilations, forums, and festivals. She has received rave industry reviews from *Time Magazine*, *Ms. Magazine*, *XXL*, *Essence*, and *The Source*, among others. As CEO of Divine Dime Entertainment, Ltd., she was the first woman in hip-hop to independently market and commercially distribute her music worldwide. Her debut theatrical project, *LOW: Meditations Trilogy Pt. I* world-premiered for sold-out audiences at the prestigious Humana Festival for New American Plays in 2006 and at the Under The Radar Festival at the Public Theater in 2008. In her 30-plus years’ tenure as an organizer she has worked on issues of racial justice and equality, electoral politics, youth empowerment, offender aid and restoration, mental health, and young women’s empowerment. She is the creator and executive producer of the Young Woman’s performance movement We Got Issues! and The Hip Hop Mental Health Project. Goddess’ honors and awards include: Meet the Composer, National Performance Network Creative Award, Lambent Fellow Nominee, Leadership for a Changing World semi-finalist (2002, 2005), Brick Award semi-finalist (2001), and *Essence*’s Top 30 Women to Watch. She is also a 2008 recipient of the National Museum of Voting Rights Freedom Flame Award for her outstanding work in the field of arts and civic engagement. As an organizational development consultant her clients have included: Fidelity Trust, Center for Court Innovation, NY Cares, New York Foundation for the Arts, Project Renewal, Animating Democracy Initiative, The League, Coro New York Leadership Center, and Ford Foundation among others.

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*term ended May 2008

**term ended February 2008

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Rebecca Sherman

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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.

Samuel S. Fleisher Art Memorial

719 Catharine Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147
(215) 922-3456
www.fleisher.org

The Fleisher Art Memorial was born from a tradition of social and cultural activism dating back to 1898. The Memorial strives towards the goal that art be accessible to all, and offers tuition-free art instruction to children and adults of diverse cultural and economic backgrounds. Through its mission, the Memorial promotes the presence of different creative and cultural experiences that take place in one common city.

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. Their 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.

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

2007

A. Q. Quintero
Alexandria Brinae Ali Bradley
Anula Shetty
Barbara L. Gregson
Beverly Collins-Roberts
Camae Dennis
Cherina N. Broker
Christina E. Jonson
Dorothy Gordon Wilkie
Earth -fx
Elaine Hoffman Watts
Emiko Sugiyama
Emily Nepon
Ife Nii Owoo
Isabel C. F. DeBeary
Isyss Adams
J. Mason
Jamese Wells
Jaye Allison
Jeannine Cook
Jenée Alicia Chizick
Jeri Lynne Johnson
Jessica Rodriguez and Pascal Emmer
Jovida J. Hill
Joy Keys
Joy Rose
Joy Esther Phillips Butts
Judith Trustone
Julia Galetti
Kameelah Waheed
Karl Surkan
Katrina Clark

Laureen Griffin
Leah Keturah Caesar
Lili Bitá
Lonnie Grant
Lovella Calica
María R. Texidor
María Teresa Rodríguez
Marsi Maxwell
Melissa Ezelle
Michelle Posadas
Missy Risser
Misty Sol
MM Harvey
Nana Korantemaa Ayebofo
Natalie O'Hara
Ninah Harris
Nita Jalivay
Putery A. Long
Rachel Goffe
Reva McEachern
Sara Felder
Sarah Drury
Sasa Ynoa
Susan DiPronio and
Linda Dubin Garfield
Sylvia Coleman
tiona. m.
Toni Kersey
Trapeta B. Mayson
Valerie Harris
Vena Jefferson
Wadzanai Mhute
Williena J. Owes

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 R. Smith
Jessica Smith
Ju-Yeon Ryu
Julie York
Juliette Stango
Justyna Badach
Kate Doody
Katherine Hyoejin 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. Rodriquez
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 Tanya 'Davina' 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
Daisy Fried
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
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



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