

LEEWAY
FOUNDATION



2011

Grants
& AWARDS



FUNDING WOMEN AND
TRANS ARTISTS

» CREATING ART FOR SOCIAL CHANGE «

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Detail, One Year Project by the MamaCITA Collective

The Best Way to Learn

"When artists make art for art's sake, or to tell their personal story, that is already important. But it is even more powerful when combined with creating change in their lives and the lives of their communities."

— Ilana "Invincible" Weaver

Some people think about fantasy sports teams or dinner parties; at Leeway we fantasize about peer review panels. You might think that strange, but we think of our work in the context of building community and have an ever-expanding list of artists, cultural producers, and organizers we would like to join in our process and become part of our extended community. Though the cultural, geographic, and political context may vary for each potential panelist, we always ask ourselves: Is this an artist/cultural producer whose practice is borne out of a clear intention? Are they prepared to articulate their analysis and infuse what (we hope) is a lively and inspiring conversation about art, culture, social change, and transformation with their point of view? Do they have the capacity to remain open to other experiences and new learning? And not least to consider: Who do we want to hang out with?

One name we carry on that list is author, philosopher, community organizer, and activist Grace Lee Boggs, even as we realize that the possibility becomes more remote since travel has become more challenging for her at age 97. In spite of that, she holds a very prominent place on our fantasy panel. By every measure, Grace is someone whose life is an exemplar of the kind of experience, intention, and perspective we want in the room. Through her lifelong commitment to community building, from the early days of the civil rights movement to her participation in the 20-year-old intergenerational, multiracial community movement and organizing project Detroit Summer, she continues to plant seeds and inspire issue-based community and cultural organizing. Of the project she has said: "We wanted to engage young people in community-building activities: planting community gardens, recycling waste, organizing neighborhood arts and health festivals, rehabbing houses, painting public murals. Encouraging them to exercise their Soul Power would get their cognitive juices flowing. Learning would come from practice, which has always been the best way to learn."

This year's guest essayist and 2008 Leeway Transformation Award panelist, Ilana "Invincible" Weaver, has participated in Detroit Summer for over a decade. In her piece "I Refuse to Choose" on page 6, she speaks about the dichotomy that often faces artist/organizers. As she puts it, "... almost everywhere I turn I am being asked, more like forced, to choose between my creative practice and my community work." Her work with Detroit Summer appears to have provided a "third" way by embracing and encouraging her practices, creative and activist, resulting in an exciting body of work that expresses all that she is.

Like Invincible, at Leeway we believe these are false dichotomies; one doesn't have to choose between advocating and educating, or healing and energizing, or transforming and metamorphosing. Utilizing all the parts of ourselves — our fierceness... our kindness... our creativity — is essential to our well-being and the expression of our humanity, so it follows that engaging with all parts of our community is essential to its health and evolution.

In 2011, Leeway gave \$267,500 to artists and cultural producers working for their communities. Eleven artists received the Leeway Transformation Award in recognition of their commitment to a practice engaged with the creation of art and culture for social change. Another 53 received the project-based Art and Change Grant. The disciplines practiced by these change agents crossed all mediums and media, from puppets and stop-motion animation to the pre-Columbian symbols of Mesoamerican culture, from a reclaiming of spiritual practices through performance and song to the use of memoir as an act of consciousness raising. Projects took as their focus matters real and present in the daily lives of the artists and their communities, like displacement and community accountability, consumerism, immigration and the impact of nativism, homelessness, identity and belonging, documenting queer and/or trans histories, or speaking for murder victims by connecting a spirit to a statistic.

Many thanks to Leeway's board and staff for all the energy and goodwill they bring to the work of the foundation. To our allies, colleagues, and partners in the field and on the ground, we look forward to deepening our connections and creating an ever-expanding community of those interested in the synergies between creativity and community, and art and change.

I do believe we learn through practice, particularly when the desire to learn is borne out of equal measures of passion and curiosity. The artists who participate in Leeway's programs are engaged in an iterative process that begins with them claiming their practice and taking action to create change. They do this in distinctive ways, on different scales, but one thing is common in all cases - they have found and forged relationships with others and are building communities anew to achieve a shared vision. Or as Grace puts it: "We can begin by doing small things at the local level, like planting community gardens or looking out for our neighbors. That is how change takes place in living systems, not from above but from within, from many local actions occurring simultaneously."

It begins from the seed of a clear intention and gets articulated through the practice. Practice, as we know, being the best way to learn - first repetition, then mastery, then innovation. And again.

Denise K. Brown
Philadelphia, 2012



Illustration by Elisha Lim

Refusing to Choose

"Creativity is the key to unlock human liberation." – Grace Lee Boggs

The quote above is the value that guides my life's work, and most likely yours too if you are reading this book.

Yet somehow almost everywhere I turn I am being asked, more like forced, to choose between my creative practice and my community work.

How do we navigate this torrential downpour of false dichotomies and somehow avoid sliding further down the slippery slope of compartmentalizing our lives into disconnected fragments? How do we bring our whole interconnected selves to the journey without sacrificing a major part of who we are at every turn?

I refuse to choose.

At first it was an endless battle between the two, an attempt to balance them as if they were separate entities. But then they started blurring and blending in ways I couldn't have imagined until I experienced it. I've collaborated with artists and communities who weave social justice movement building and creativity into a seamless fabric. Here are a few ways I've learned to articulate the spaces in my life where I no longer feel forced to decide between them:

1. Advocate/Educate

Storytelling is the most powerful method of shaping perception and therefore reality. Too often the voices of those who are most impacted by an issue, the experts of that experience, are the ones whose stories disappear. As artists we not only communicate our own story, but more importantly we amplify the stories of those around us. Our storytelling is a way to raise awareness and educate people about the overlooked nuances and to advocate for a self-determined solution by those who are most impacted. English is my second language, and I not only learned English from listening to hip-hop and writing down the lyrics, I also was immersed in frames of reference and collections of stories that weren't being taught in school. This understanding of the power of music to advocate and educate is the most basic way any artist can refuse to choose.

I utilized this method when Finale and I co-wrote the song "Locusts" about gentrification and unsustainable development practices in Detroit. The song process involved interviewing dozens of community members and including their stories in our verses. We then went back and interviewed them again on camera to highlight their voices in a docu-music-video. This piece of art has been central in our efforts to educate people in our community and beyond about the issues of gentrification and speculation plaguing Detroit and to call for community-led development in the city.

2. Heal/Energize

Physical and emotional fatigue is an epidemic for organizers and independent artists. We internalize the trauma that is prevalent in the communities we live and work in. Art that is deeply tuned in to that dynamic is poised to become a salve, a healing force. It recharges our batteries so that we can continue to do this important yet seemingly endless work.

"Keep Going," off my album *Shapeshifters*, is a song that writes itself every time I perform it. By asking people what keeps them going when they are on the verge of giving up, I build up a word bank to freestyle from. Performing the song reciprocally feeds my spirit and the audience's. We build a force field of strength and protection through the call-and-response exchange and mantra of the chorus chant "I keep going."

And it's not just our own creations that comfort us; we are part of a field of healing art. "Don't You Worry 'Bout a Thing" by Stevie Wonder is one of my first thoughts when I seek safety in the midst of horror and tragedy. What is a song or work of art that gets you through crisis? How as artists can we create art that is both healing for us while we make it and for those who engage with it? How can we facilitate the process of others creating that healing for them?

3. Transform/Metamorphose

A flock of starlings is called a murmuration. Murmurations don't have one clear leader, but instead are constantly rotating their leadership so no one bird has to take the brunt of the wind and burn out. The patterns they create emerge into unexpected pointillism paintings in the sky. Similarly, our movements through art and activism have the potential to co-create new realities. To value everyone as an artist, to be creative at facing challenges. To blur the line between creative expression and creating change in our lives and communities, beyond who is traditionally thought of as an artist.

When I was 20 years old I began working with Detroit Summer. Founded by Grace Lee and Jimmy Boggs, Shea Howell, and many others, Detroit Summer is a youth-led intergenerational and multiracial collective dedicated to creative and sustainable solutions. In response to the 76% dropout rate in our city (which we viewed as students walking out against a system that is failing them), we germinated the Live Arts Media Project. In LAMP we begin with questions, developed by the youth facilitators, who then ask these questions of each other and their community using media to document their voices. The stories collected inform and inspire our creative process, collaborating and co-creating media, music, art, and new narratives, workshops, and campaigns to apply this to creative action. Whether the outcome is a multimedia mural tour, an audio-hip-hop-documentary, or a T-shirt campaign, the process itself is the focus. We are all transformed by the co-facilitated murmuration of liberatory education. We were no longer just naming the injustices of the school system, but more importantly envisioning and practicing the possibilities. As an old friend once told me, the ultimate critique is embodying the solution.

"The splitting of the atom changed everything but the human mind, and thus we drift towards catastrophe."

"Imagination is more important than education."

Grace introduced me to these two Einstein quotes, which illuminate for me how we as artists and cultural workers help share the gift of making the impossible possible. Every time we create, we are shifting the paradigm that the world is inevitable and determined to be unjust, we are keeping the human spirit of resistance and resilience alive.

When I was a Leeway panelist I had never applied for an arts grant before. I was intimidated and thought that my work as a hip-hop artist and activist wouldn't be highbrow enough to receive any awards outside of a pound after a show or respect in the hip-hop community, and maybe a couple good reviews. I thought grants and fellowships were only for artists who had MPAs and training and obscure art history references to drop. And then I was asked to sit on a panel, reading through hundreds of heartfelt applications that were nearly impossible to choose between. That gave me the courage to afterward apply for my first fellowship, and then another, and now several grants. I could have never imagined taking that route prior to sitting on the Leeway Transformation Award panel. I witnessed the ecology of the Philly/Camden/Delaware Valley artists working to transform their communities. In this book, you will see the beautiful spectrum of artists and activists using their work not as propaganda for social movements but as an ongoing mutual transformational process. Leeway nurtures an interconnected path where you no longer have to choose.



ILANA "INVINCIBLE" WEAVER

Ilana "Invincible" Weaver is a Detroit-based emcee, filmmaker, and community activist who has been rapping and organizing for well over a decade. She served as a panelist for the Leeway Transformation Award in 2006. Talib Kweli has called her one of the most talented emcees he's ever heard. Invincible moved to the U.S. from Israel when she was 7 and learned English partly through writing down lyrics to her favorite hip-hop songs. She released her first solo project, *Shapeshifters*, in May 2006 through her own cooperative economics-based record label, Emergence Music. Invincible also works with youth through Detroit Summer's Live Arts Media Project to develop youth leadership through hip-hop and media campaigns as a way to address the city's dropout crisis. She and other Detroit Summer collective members co-facilitated a Live Arts Media Project with youth in the West Bank in 2007 as part of the U.S. Palestine Youth Solidarity Network.

Illustration by Elisha Lim

OUR MISSION

Leeway Foundation supports women and trans* artists and cultural producers working in communities at the intersection of art, culture, and social change. Through our grantmaking and other programs, we promote artistic expression that amplifies the voices of those on the margins, cultivates sustainable and healthy communities, and works in the service of movements for economic and social justice.

**We use the term "trans" in its most inclusive sense, as an umbrella term encompassing transsexual, transgender, genderqueer, Two-Spirit people, and more generally, anyone whose gender identity or gender expression is nonconforming and/or different from their birth-assigned gender.*

OUR VISION

We at Leeway believe that art is a vital tool for community building, self-expression, and individual and collective transformation. Art can bridge difference, center those who have been on the margins, and challenge and connect communities and individuals to live in peaceful coexistence.

We envision a world in which art flourishes in many forms as the cultural lifeblood of communities, where all have access to creative expression regardless of who they are, and where art and art making is considered an essential element of our collective efforts to create a more just, peaceful world where all can live in dignity.

Our values

Community We recognize that artists and cultural producers play a central role in building a healthy and vibrant community.

Diversity We believe that multiple and divergent perspectives stimulate a culture of vitality and hope. We therefore have an emphasis on supporting women and trans artists since their work is not yet equitably represented in mainstream culture.

Continuity We believe that supporting the current generation of underrepresented artists will stimulate the production of exceptional and inspiring work that will in turn kindle the next generation of artists and cultural producers.

Integrity We are committed to operating all of our programs with a high standard of accuracy, responsiveness, effectiveness, and clarity of both purpose and process.

Opportunity We believe it is important to elevate and make more visible the work of artists and cultural producers who are creating work at the nexus of art and social change and commit to using resources to provide a wide variety of opportunities for artists to show work and share their expertise, including exhibitions, peer-to-peer networking, and workshops.

Originality We are committed to helping expand the notion of art beyond the traditional canons, as well as challenging mainstream ideas about what art is, the artists' place, and their connection to communities, by supporting artists and cultural producers whose work explores new territories, challenges traditions, and offers unique and thought-provoking perspectives.

Social impact

We are committed to supporting work that intends a social impact, work that:

- » can alter how we think about ourselves, our society, or our culture by challenging or questioning societal norms, including prevailing attitudes about race, class, gender, sexuality, identity, age, and ability;
- » inspires action when used as a tool or strategy for organizing and movement building;
- » helps to preserve or reclaim traditional cultural practices or is using an artistic practice as a form of resistance or empowerment;
- » creates space for expression and building a sense of community; or can shift or transform perceptions of power, privilege, and the dynamics associated with justice, equality, and/or accountability.

OUR history

Leeway's commitment to funding women and trans artists creating social change is the result of years of diligent work of the foundation to find new ways to more fully and authentically live out its mission. Funded by an initial gift from Philadelphia-based artist Linda Lee Alter, Leeway began in 1993 as a foundation devoted to supporting individual women artists in the five-county Philadelphia area.

In the late 1990s, Leeway's leadership saw a chance for the foundation to contribute to larger movements for social justice and was inspired by the powerful potential of the links between art and social change. After a decade of grantmaking, in 2004 Leeway furthered its commitment to explore the intersection of art and social change with a focus on individual and community transformation at its core.

Over the years, through the diligent work of Leeway's donor family, board of directors, advisory council, staff, artists, activists, and community supporters, Leeway has evolved in some key and intentional directions. Historically a woman-focused foundation grounded in feminist principles, in 2006 Leeway transformed to: (a) engage people of color in positions of influence and commit to a process of examining the dynamics of racism in organizational relationships, practices, policies, and programs; (b) move decision-making power from a single-family-member structure to a board comprising people from the community committed to an active framework of personal and political transformation; and (c) expand its eligibility criteria to include trans artists as an extension of the foundation's ongoing efforts to support artists underrepresented because of their gender.

Today, Leeway continues to push itself to refine its vision and find new ways to more fully and deeply live out its mission.



Collage of photos by Iabs A. Bray (MCF '10) and Noelle Théard from "Autohistoria"

ART & CHANGE GRANT

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

This grant is distributed two times per year.

In 2011, over \$117,500 was granted to 53 women and trans artists out of 165 applicants.



ADELAIDE WINDSOME

Adelaide produced a short film that utilizes puppetry, performance art, and stop-motion animation to create awareness about mental health struggles. Using themes of fantasy and magical realism, the short film subverts triggering language and imagery around depression, self-harm, and suicide to showcase the hardships, beauty, and magic of survival. The short film and puppets were exhibited in Philadelphia and submitted to the Sent(a)Mental Project, and a shorter film and process video are displayed online.

Photo credit: Adelaide Windsome

NEIGHBORHOOD

West Philadelphia

CHANGE PARTNER

Dylan Scholinski
Sent(a)Mental Studios

DISCIPLINE

Media Arts
Crafts & Textiles

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500

AMANDA BENTON

Amanda created three mall displays in the Gallery at Market East in addition to a website. All of the pieces reference the way that women are portrayed in the media and describe the absurdity of a culture that we allow and ignore. As opposed to traditional advertising efforts, her work provokes the viewer to pause and think, rather than blindly accept and consume. All Amanda's designs can also be viewed at bazaarworld.net.

Photo credit: Amanda Benton



NEIGHBORHOOD

North Philadelphia/
Fairmount

CHANGE PARTNER

Amanda D'Amico

DISCIPLINE

Visual Arts
Media Arts

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500



ANA GUISSEL

Ana taught 12 weekly sessions to Mexican community members and others interested in Mesoamerican culture on the visual language of ancient pre-Columbian symbolism as a source of inspiration for them to create their own designs. Ana then helped participants transfer these symbols to elements of our modern world, everyday items such as clothing, curtains, and banners.

- By learning how to embroider or paint designs on textiles, her students were able to implement their own concepts on objects of their choice. This Ana believes to be vital to cultural survival and maintaining and passing on traditions.

Photo credit: Ana Guissel, Michele Prentop

NEIGHBORHOOD
Northern Liberties

CHANGE PARTNER
Casa Monarca

DISCIPLINE
Crafts & Textiles
Folk Arts

GRANT AMOUNT
\$2,500

ANGELA SADIO WATSON

Angela taught a private class for a selected group of Muslim women, specifically mothers and their children. This project provided access to those who normally cannot participate in dance classes due to religious restrictions; no men were allowed (they are usually the drummers). This dance project promotes reclaiming the heritage of African American women and the empowerment of Muslim women in a space where they otherwise cannot participate – dance classes – providing them an outlet of expression for both emotional and physical release and building a sense of community. Children participated and were exposed to African healing dance, song, and rhythm, promoting a positive affirmation of their own cultural connection. A healing occurred when the women and children came together to learn about and reclaim their own lost African cultural heritage. The repertoire included healing women's dances such as *triba*, *lamban*, *guinea fare*, and *sorsorbe*.

Photo credit: Che'nel Wilson



NEIGHBORHOOD

Nicetown

CHANGE PARTNER

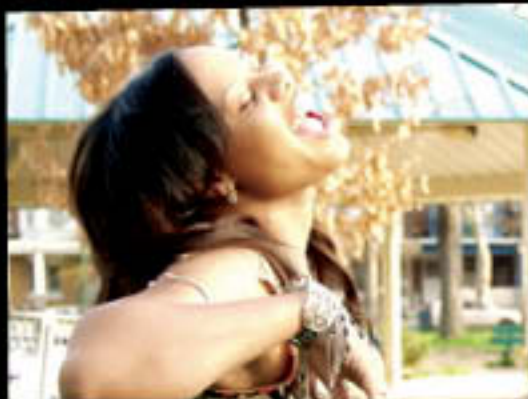
Aishia Muhammad
Masjid Al Quran

DISCIPLINE

Folk Arts

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500



ANOMALI

ANOMali executed A Voice 4 All People (AV4AP), a Philadelphia-based radically inclusive gospel choir/movement that welcomes and celebrates all people and their inherent right to sing, embrace spirituality, and enjoy the fruits of corporate fellowship in a genuinely love-filled community regardless of race, nationality, gender, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, class, social status, or system of belief. This movement was set up to create a bridge between all communities based on the principles of love, acceptance, and the fostering of individual spiritual growth for all people. AV4AP focused on bridging the gaps within the queer/LGBTQ communities and connecting the queer/LGBTQ community with communities of faith to foster a greater understanding and a broader and more holistic atmosphere.

NEIGHBORHOOD

Point Breeze/Lower
Graduate Hospital

CHANGE PARTNER

Carrie Jacobs, Ph.D.

DISCIPLINE

Music
Performance

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500

BEVERLY DALE

Beverly wrote songs and musical accompaniment for the dramatic vignettes of several characters from her one-woman show, *An Irreverent Journey from Eggbeaters to Vibrators*. Since these characters are all struggling with sexuality and religion in a variety of forms, Beverly saw the additional songs as providing a more nuanced way to portray the themes of sexuality, liberation, and repression in order to deepen the audience's understanding of the issues. She hopes that these songs will be especially useful in shorter workshop settings.

Photo credit: Jane Spickett



NEIGHBORHOOD

Mount Airy

CHANGE PARTNER

David Lynn

DISCIPLINE

Music
Multi-Disciplinary

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500



CHASKA SOFIA



Chaska facilitated a DJ skills course for queer youth and teens of color. The class taught young people the technical skills of deejaying infused with the transformative cultural, social, historical, and political aspects of deejaying, music, and community space building. The goal of the project was to allow the students to re-imagine the role of the DJ beyond playing music, such as their involvement in building community and sparking creative, critical dialogue through movement and sound.

Photo credit: KellyAnne Kifflin, Grace Chu

NEIGHBORHOOD

West Philadelphia

CHANGE PARTNER

Anissa Weinraub

DISCIPLINE

Media Arts
Music

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500

CHE GOSSETT

Che expanded on and further displayed how intricate and rich black trans history, cultural production, and performance have been in Philadelphia. They used multimedia techniques and research methodology to create a dynamic website where black trans oral history, cultural production, and performance can be made accessible to a larger audience. The intention was to make black trans Philadelphia visible – to show how these communities have engaged in activism, fostered resilience, and forged kinship and families.

NEIGHBORHOOD

West Philadelphia

CHANGE PARTNER

Ben Singer

DISCIPLINE

Multi-
Disciplinary

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,000



DALIA O'GORMAN

Dalia developed a theater project, *Mexico, Nuestra Historia de Libertad (Mexico, Our History of Freedom)*, as a tool to foster social and cultural identity for young Mexican immigrants through theater workshops that explore the typical scenarios of the history of Mexico. A public performance at Jackson Elementary School featured the children who participated in the program. Through this project, Mexican students in the audience were able to develop a sense of cultural identity, while teachers and students both Latino and non-Latino were able to acquire knowledge about the Battle of Cinco de Mayo and Mexican independence.

Photo credit: Edgar Ramirez

NEIGHBORHOOD

Fishtown

CHANGE PARTNER

Philadelphia's Magic Gardens

DISCIPLINE

Visual Arts
Performance

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500

DEBRA WRIGHT

Debra published a collection of short stories and poems that address issues of relationships, racism, and sexuality, as well as concepts of beauty as told from the perspective of American, African, Caribbean, and British women-of-color contributors who live around the world. The collection, *For Women—In Tribute to Nina Simone*, was inspired by Debra's essay, "Four Women—For Women: Black Women All Grown Up," which examines the lyrics of Nina Simone's classic "Four Women" and Talib Kweli's hip-hop tribute "For Women." An accomplished spoken word artist and poetry writing workshop facilitator, Debra wanted this collection to offer an opportunity for publication to authors outside of the academic arena, similar to the opportunity offered to her by publication of her essay in the anthology *Examining the Black Female Body*. Debra facilitated readings at community-based venues for the purpose of bringing together diverse groups and engaged in stimulating dialogue about the issues addressed in the collection.

Photo credit: Amanda Jaffe



NEIGHBORHOOD

Clifton Heights

CHANGE PARTNER

Dr. Dulivanette Onema

DISCIPLINE

Literary Arts

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500



ELISABETH NICKLES

Elisabeth created a traditional flower and herb garden with teenage girls from the Mastery Charter Garden Club while teaching the folklore traditions and medicinal properties of certain plants. The students in the club kept journals of drawings, creative writing, and scientific notes. They learned the history of women in gardening, botany, and science, integrated with the observational and patience-building skills of drawing and tending to young plants. The teens documented this process with drawing. As they worked during the summer, Elisabeth brought in different materials to work with, such as clay and wood, and introduced the students to these different materials and methods to make sculpture and objects for their garden. The project culminated with the group designing and painting a large diagrammatic botanical mural at the garden.

Photo credit: Karen Kirchhoff, Kristen Kostrusker

NEIGHBORHOOD

Germantown

CHANGE PARTNER

Mastery Charter
Pickett Campus
Garden Club

DISCIPLINE

Multi-
Disciplinary

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500

ERICA CHO

Erica created *Pickpocket*, a short experimental film about Seana Lee, an offbeat Korean American teenager in suburban '90s Philadelphia with a passion for customizing secondhand men's clothes. With the Korean War a forgotten part of history and the AIDS movement as a backdrop, Seana tackles a new telemarketing job with a community of transgender women.

Photo credit: Karen Kirchhoff



NEIGHBORHOOD

Mount Airy

CHANGE PARTNER

Nguyen Tan Hoang

DISCIPLINE

Media Arts

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500



ESTERLINA ONALISA FERNANDEZ

Esterlina organized a series of workshops twice a month over the course of a year for a group of six homeless women at the Sheila Dennis House, where she used to live. She taught the women how to make costumes for public demonstrations and appearances addressing homelessness. Her aim was to use this art to showcase the women for who they are and to challenge the stigma surrounding homelessness. The goal was to feature a group of women who can create costumes and props for demonstrations that can change people's outlooks and display that they are no different than anyone else.

Photo credit: Amanda Jaffe

NEIGHBORHOOD

North Philadelphia

CHANGE PARTNER

Dr. Cynthia Shannon

DISCIPLINE

Visual Arts

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500

GENNE MURPHY

Genne produced Queer Memoir, a storytelling and memoir salon, including 6 to 10 free workshops at the Attic Youth Center, that allowed participants to explore memoir-based work in various genres, including written, spoken word, and visual arts. The project aimed to increase the visibility of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth voices and stories within the greater community and worked toward the completion of a storytelling podcast and performance salon by participants.

Photo credit: Kolly Bennett



NEIGHBORHOOD

West Philadelphia

CHANGE PARTNER

The Attic Youth Center

DISCIPLINE

Multi-Disciplinary

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500



INDAH NURITASARI

Indah facilitated a memoir-writing workshop for Indonesian immigrant students aged 10 to 18 (middle and high school students) about "Growing Up Indonesian-American." The participants were 15 students in Philadelphia who are first-half-generation Indonesian-Americans (born in Indonesia but arriving in the U.S. between ages 5 and 12). The writings were published as a book, the first in a series of Indonesian-American books that Indah is working on.

Photo credit: Noelle Théard

NEIGHBORHOOD

South Philadelphia

CHANGE PARTNER

Indonesian
Community of Greater
Philadelphia

DISCIPLINE

Literary Arts

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500

IRESHA PICOT

Iresha showcased the everyday lives of black mothers by documenting black motherhood through photographs and displaying them in public outdoor installations titled *Kamas*. The exhibit was presented in a public space for underrepresented audiences who can appreciate and see the different representations of black motherhood. Iresha challenged images of black mothers by displaying her artwork in areas that reveal a more intimate and supportive side to being a black mother.

Photo credit: Iresha Picot



NEIGHBORHOOD

West Philadelphia

CHANGE PARTNER

Natasha Butler

DISCIPLINE

Visual Arts

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500



JAFANG LU



JaFang utilized realistic portrait painting to complete a series of life-sized portraits in black and white (using oil paint and/or charcoal) of Philadelphia residents from different ethnic backgrounds. The portraits were done from life. After the portraits were completed, they were framed and exhibited together publicly. The participants, their friends, families, and the general public were invited to attend. By presenting these portraits, the residents in the community interacted with people outside of their own ethnic group and saw the physical differences that exist between themselves and others as a cause for acceptance and celebration, not alienation and antagonism. Once the project was completed, the participants were able to keep the portraits of themselves as a reminder of their experience with the project.

Photo credit: Noelle Théard

NEIGHBORHOOD

South Philadelphia

CHANGE PARTNER

Kun Yang Lin
CHI Movement

DISCIPLINE

Visual Arts

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500

THE MAMACITA COOPERATIVE

JANICE HAYS-CHA
BRENDA HOWELL
KAREN HUNTER MCLAUGHLIN
JULIE MANN
KIMBERLY MEHLER

The MamaCita Cooperative – Janice, Brenda, Karen, Julie, and Kimberly – created hundreds of steel wire vessels, each housing a natural found object such as a feather, seedpod, or stone. One piece was sculpted for each murder victim in Philadelphia in 2012. The artwork was created over the year in collaboration with Mothers in Charge, an organization started by and for women who have endured the murder of a child. The vessels will be installed as a group in public places in 2013 to testify to those who have succumbed to violence and the mothers who grieve their loss. The installation will include information about the violence prevention work accomplished by Mothers in Charge. By viewing the loss of life through the eyes of a mother and learning how this group has transformed grief into positive action, the MamaCita artists hoped to change the hearts, minds, and actions of those who experience art.

Photo credit: Yowei Shaw, Michelle Ciarlo-Hayes



NEIGHBORHOOD

Elkins Park

CHANGE PARTNER

Mothers in Charge

DISCIPLINE

Visual Arts
Crafts & Textiles

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500

JARDYN LAKE

Jardyn created *Paraíso*, an exhibition of photos and videos shot in Salvador, Bahia. This exhibition engaged themes around race, religion, and the class and sexual politics of Afro-Brazilian people. Jardyn hopes that the exhibition offers a means to build resources and safe space for LGBTQ African Americans around African-based religious practice as they learn about LGBTQ people involved in Candomblé as priests, priestesses, and initiates. The exhibit aims to engage communities by invoking a sense of responsibility in sharing the legacies of Afro-Brazilians, cultivating a sense of solidarity between African Americans in Philadelphia and the history and culture of Afro-Brazilians, re-imagining the face of Brazil as black people, raising consciousness around issues such as race relations and economic hardship, and introducing spiritually isolated LGBTQ people of African descent to the Candomblé spiritual practice.

Photo credit: Jardyn Lake



NEIGHBORHOOD
West Philadelphia

CHANGE PARTNER
tiona.m.

DISCIPLINE
Visual Arts

GRANT AMOUNT
\$2,500

JOE IPPOLITO

Joe looked at the issue of aging in the transgender and gender-nonconforming community through film. The goal of the film was to raise awareness regarding the multiple issues faced by aging transgender people and the resources and education that are available. Additionally, Joe hoped to shed light on the important but overlooked issues associated with the intersectionality of transphobia and ageism. Joe worked with his co-director, Kandis Hutcherson.

Photo credit: Kandis Hutcherson



NEIGHBORHOOD

Mount Airy

CHANGE PARTNER

Jayden H.C. Sampson

DISCIPLINE

Media Arts
Visual Arts

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500



JOJO

Jojo produced a three-day stand-up comedy performance festival called Sistas Rock the Mic. The platform provided a space for creative expression and empowered women to speak their minds on various issues such as domestic violence, addiction, incarceration, and single parenting using a comedic-artistic dialogue. The aim of the event was to use stand-up comedy to get people to laugh at some of the absurdities of challenging conditions while simultaneously becoming a catalyst that motivates the audience to think critically about social, economic, and political concerns.

Photo credit: Karen Kirchoff



NEIGHBORHOOD

West Oak Lane

CHANGE PARTNER

Nancy James

DISCIPLINE

Performance

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500

JOS DUNCAN

Jos created a documentary film about black storytelling. Her film focused on recording conversations with young poets and elders within the poet/storyteller community. The film featured and centered on the young poets' and elders' individual works and their fusion of bridging the gap between generations. Her goal was to tell her personal story of being a storyteller, creating digital visual media that is accessible to audiences that may not have considered the strength in storytelling. The documentary will be distributed to schools and churches as a tool for community organizing.

Photo credit: Noelle Théard



NEIGHBORHOOD

South Philadelphia

CHANGE PARTNER

tions.m.

DISCIPLINE

Media Arts

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500

KETCH WEHR

Ketch explored the importance of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer (LGBTIQ) icons and queer visibility for youth in the LGBTIQ community and recorded the lost or forgotten histories of young queer survival. He interviewed members of local Philadelphia LGBTIQ communities about the icon or person who helped them survive their youth – that beacon of otherness that got them through what can be the hardest time in an LGBTIQ person's life. The visual work resulted in a series of diptych (dual) portraits of his interviewees when they were young and the accompanying person or icon that bolstered them. To involve the community and increase visibility, Ketch screenprinted a book/zine containing these interviews and portraits that was distributed in queer and not explicitly queer spaces. In addition, a website was created and a downloadable PDF file of the book/zine is available. Ketch's project aimed to show the strength and beauty of queer identity, which he feels cannot be stressed enough.

NEIGHBORHOOD	CHANGE PARTNER	DISCIPLINE	GRANT AMOUNT
West Philadelphia	Shannon Dunham	Visual Arts Media Arts	\$2,500

KIMBERLY MURRAY

Kimberly photographed and recorded stories of long-time residents of Brewerytown, North Philadelphia, as a way of keeping alive the tradition of oral history while preserving the voices of a community threatened with displacement. The stories and photographs are available to people in the community as a mechanism of community accountability and as a means of opening up space to dialogue and strategize about gentrification. Kimberly framed this project in the larger context of Black Americans being continuously displaced, starting with chattel slavery, through the Great Migration, and currently through gentrification and other forms of urban revitalization.

Photo credit: Irit Reinheimer



NEIGHBORHOOD

Cedar Park

CHANGE PARTNER

Dafina Williams

DISCIPLINE

Performance Arts
Media Arts

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500



LEE ANN IRIZARRY

Lee Ann, along with her company Artspllosion Media, presented a four-part mini-documentary series entitled *Latinos Speak*. The mini-documentaries cover social issues not discussed in the Latin community. The topics captured for communication are color (internal family racism), naturalization, political affiliation, and sexual orientation. The intent of the series was to spark discussions inside and outside the Latin community. Lee Ann hopes that these short documentaries will be used as teaching devices in high schools and colleges to teach the art of communication and listening.

Photo credit: DaRazz Photo, Art Thru The Eye Ov Ra, Dikk Dasterdly

NEIGHBORHOOD

Pennsauken

CHANGE PARTNER

Raymond Tyler

DISCIPLINE

Media Arts

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500

LEONOR

Leonor presented a project involving 10 Latin American children of indigenous Mexican, Guatemalan, Ecuadorian, and Venezuelan descent between 8 and 14 years old living in South Philadelphia who participated in the Casa Monarca's ceramic course entitled Ky Mother Earth. Ky Mother Earth is a project in which indigenous symbols and figures coming from where their families migrated from were to be reproduced. The children learned the interpretation that was given to these figures and symbols so they are able to recognize them as an important part of the Maya, Chavin, and Inca cultures and identities. The children learned that their personal history has roots in indigenous peoples who have left their mark on world history and that of Latin America.

Photo credit: Amanda Jaffe



NEIGHBORHOOD

Wyoming Beach

CHANGE PARTNER

Casa Monarca

DISCIPLINE

Multi-Disciplinary

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500



MARIA MÖLLER

Maria collaborated with Arab American youth in a site-specific exploration of the history and impact of nativism in America. Over the course of a six-week workshop, Maria and the youth used techniques of devised theater to create reenactments of the events that led to the anti-immigrant Kensington Riots of 1844. The reenactments were staged in locations where the riots took place and were documented by the youth through photography, video, and social media. These documentations, along with set pieces, props, and signage created for the reenactments, were installed at the Crane Arts Old School, which is located on one of the sites of the riots. An open house was held, and the youth presented their work and invited the Arab American community and the general public to dialogue on questions of American identity and belonging.

Photo credit: Noelle Théard

NEIGHBORHOOD

South Philadelphia

CHANGE PARTNER

The Arab American
Community Development
Corporation

DISCIPLINE

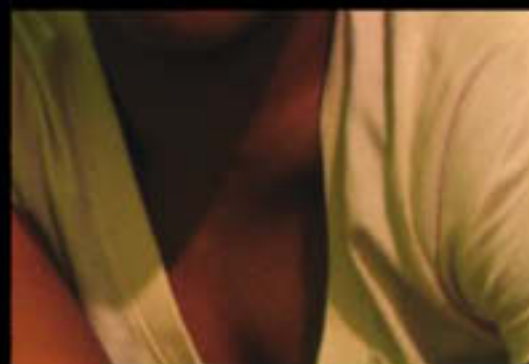
Performance

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500

MIA MCKENZIE

Mia created a video documentary about the particular challenges faced in the schools and communities by mentally gifted African American girls, focusing on middle school-aged girls in West Philadelphia. Through telling her own story as well as helping the girls to tell theirs, Mia wanted to make visible the gifted, young black girls whose stories are rarely told. Through this project, Mia believes that young women can be empowered to think of themselves as transcendentally special, with abilities and possibilities they might not always be able to see or imagine within the confines of their everyday lives.



NEIGHBORHOOD

West Philadelphia

CHANGE PARTNER

Jasmine Hamilton

DISCIPLINE

Media Arts

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500

MICHELLE MYERS

Michelle created the Write the World project, an artistic outreach endeavor, to provide an outlet for artistic expression and a creative community for underserved children in communities around the world. Beginning in Nicaragua, Michelle and her change partner, Kao, offered visual art, storytelling, and poetry workshops for children at the Barrio Planta Project school in San Juan del Sur and helped them compile their work into a chapbook and begin to connect the children in Nicaragua to children in St. Paul, Minn., through a pen pal/art exchange. The three main goals of the project were to help staff at Barrio Planta Project create a local space for cathartic artistic expression, empowerment, and community building among the children; to raise awareness first in the Philadelphia area and then around the United States about the children's experiences with the intense intersection of poverty, culture, and the tourist industry in San Juan del Sur, including their struggles and triumphs; and for Michelle and Kao to engage in a reciprocal process of teaching and learning with the children as they navigate language, culture, and experience in sharing and documenting their artwork.

Photo credit: Noelle Théard

NEIGHBORHOOD

Camden Riverfront

CHANGE PARTNER

Kao Nhia Kue

DISCIPLINE

Multi-Disciplinary

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500

MIRANDA THOMPSON

Miranda wrote and produced *A Room for Waiting*, a play based on a woman named Shereta Jones who is determining whether she should continue or terminate her pregnancy. The play opens with Shereta as an adolescent girl and imagining what a perfect family would be when she becomes an adult. As she grows up, Shereta finds herself unhappy because her fantasy of starting a family does not match her reality. Miranda hopes to show the complexities and struggles that young women growing up in urban communities are faced with and how society plays a major role in the choices women make. The play was initially staged at the Community Education Center in August 2012.

Photo credit: Karen Kirchhoff



NEIGHBORHOOD

West Philadelphia

CHANGE PARTNER

Lora McKenna

DISCIPLINE

Performance

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500



MISTY SOL

Misty facilitated a six-week, 12-session journaling workshop for students of Traveler's Aid, the city's largest family shelter. The workshops included activities in freestyle writing techniques, book making, improv, and freestyle poetry compositions. The journaling and other creative activities served as an emotional outlet for the students and provided a safe space for them to vent, process, and channel their negative experiences into something creative. The students also had the opportunity to be published in the local newspaper *One Step Away*, which is for and by the homeless.

Photo credit: Linka Behn

NEIGHBORHOOD

Sharon Hill

CHANGE PARTNER

Traveler's Aid

DISCIPLINE

Literary Arts

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500

NATALIE HELEN HOFFMAN

Natalie invited homeless women living in the Philadelphia shelter system who have experienced domestic violence to make a collaborative visual art sculpture about their lived experiences of that violence. First the women had the opportunity to make individual artwork on fabric and to share this artwork and their experiences with the group. These textile pieces were then collaged onto a life-sized sculpture of a woman, and the finished sculpture will be displayed at the Women's Solo Project's annual gala. Natalie hoped that this 3-D representation of the experience of domestic violence will serve as a reminder of the physicality and lasting effects this violence has on women's bodies and emotions and will spark thought and further conversation on this topic.



NEIGHBORHOOD

Fern Rock

CHANGE PARTNER

The Women's
Solo Project

DISCIPLINE

Visual Arts

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500



NORA HIRIART LITZ

Nora created *El Viaje de los Niños* (The Journey of the Children), a project that tells the stories of Mexican immigrant children who have crossed the border to come to Philadelphia. The project involved the participation of Mexican immigrant children residing in South Philadelphia. Through visual art sessions, the children created artwork that identified the emotional distress and effects of immigration on their lives and identities. The children created large-scale (10" x 9" x 42") dioramas that illustrate their journeys to Philadelphia. The dioramas include images of their communities in Mexico and the perils of their crossing. Their voices were recorded as each one chronicled their journey. These narrations can be heard in English and Spanish while one is viewing the diorama, thus making our experience of the work all the more profound. Nora's main goal was, and continues to be, to help these children find their voice through art so that they can begin to express where it hurts and find a way to heal their wounds. We can help if, and only if, these children articulate the abstraction of their silent feelings. All children need to be loved, protected, fed, educated, and allowed to play children's games. An immigrant child, like any other child, deserves to be heard, to keep his innocence intact and his dreams alive.

Photo credit: Nora Litz, María Teresa Gámez



NEIGHBORHOOD

Bella Vista

CHANGE PARTNER

Puentes de Salud

DISCIPLINE

Visual Arts
Folk Arts

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500

NUALA CABRAL

Nuala facilitated a 10-week workshop series where young women (ages 15 to 19) learned to deconstruct media, create a short film about a social issue that is important to them, and use social media, public broadcast, and screenings to amplify their message and engage their communities. Participants in this program developed a critical eye and technical skills and found their voice so that they can become agents for change.

Photo credit: Karen Kirchhoff



NEIGHBORHOOD

West Philadelphia

CHANGE PARTNER

PhillyCAM

DISCIPLINE

Media Arts

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500



ONDARTZA

Ondartza created a mixed-media bilingual (Spanish/English) piece of musical theater. The piece describes the healing journey of a woman who is a survivor of rape. Her play included characters from folk stories and mythology and used narration, poetry, music, dance, acting, and minimal staging. Ondartza's goal with the play was to raise awareness regarding the aftermath of rape concretely for women as well as opening up space for survivors to be empowered.

Photo credit: Kichele Prentop

NEIGHBORHOOD

Queen Village

CHANGE PARTNER

Ross Mann

DISCIPLINE

Multi-Disciplinary

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500

PAT MCLEAN

Pat conducted a series of workshops called Girls to Griots, which was designed to explore the issues and development of a participant's voice through the creative process of writing, the visual arts, and the performing arts. This project focused on how one chooses to act, learn, and transmit ethics and values. Girls to Griots invited participants to "talk back" – share with one another their own stories, experiences, and reflections – and help build a collective picture. The participants were from local community shelters and senior centers, and the project culminated in a performance.

Photo credit: Amanda Jaffe



NEIGHBORHOOD

Olney/West Oak
Lane

CHANGE PARTNER

Charles S. Younger
Shared Experiences

DISCIPLINE

Multi-
Disciplinary

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500



RACHEL GUCWA & KATHRYN PANNEPACKER

Working directly with female clients at Prevention Point Philadelphia, Rachel and Kathryn implemented a multi-disciplinary arts program. Through a series of weekly workshops, they worked with the women to create a woven piece that transformed the waiting area at the clinic as well as support the women as they designed individual safety pouches to carry supplies that make them feel safe and powerful, such as condoms, clean needles, bible verses, and photographs. Through open discussions, Rachel and Kathryn hoped to foster increased feelings of positivity, creativity, community, and gratitude among the participants. The program helped the clients learn new skills, form a supportive community, and gain the opportunity for creative self-expression and self-empowerment.

NEIGHBORHOOD

Fishtown

CHANGE PARTNER

Prevention Point Philadelphia

DISCIPLINE

Multi-Disciplinary

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500

ROBIN TURNAGE

Robin facilitated a silk-screen and ceramic arts program for co-victims of domestic homicide in the Philadelphia area. Her program goals were to foster support toward people who have suffered from any form of domestic violence by allowing them access to a program that seeks to support them directly and in a creative way. Robin helped each individual participant to recognize how their art processes and continued contribution to society are important to their personal healing and to the healing of those around them. Each participant had the opportunity to choose between silk-screening on fabric or ceramics. Participants produced handmade art objects that would later be exhibited to show their talents in their personal redemptive processes.

Photo credit: Michele Prentop



NEIGHBORHOOD

Germantown

CHANGE PARTNER

Mary Beth Hays

DISCIPLINE

Multi-Disciplinary

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500

ROWEN HAIGH

Rowen conceived and facilitated the creation of *Our Weddings*, an ensemble-devised interdisciplinary performance piece that was produced in several locations across Philadelphia. Created by a group of women in West Philly who identify as queer or active queer allies, *Our Weddings* used theater, dance, and music to interrogate the current pop culture image of weddings and marriage, to identify ways in which that image is unsatisfactory, and to propose new images that better represent the ensemble's beliefs and values as women and queer individuals. After *Our Weddings* was created, the ensemble facilitated a free community workshop at Studio 34 in West Philly to lead a larger group of community members in an exploration of weddings, marriage, and identity. This two-day workshop culminated in a public performance created by and starring the workshop participants and the original ensemble. This process allowed all involved to occupy both performing and witnessing roles as they celebrated existing wedding traditions, shared and enacted personal stories, and created new images of marriage and partnerships to take out into the world.

Photo credit: Rowen Haigh

NEIGHBORHOOD

West Philadelphia

CHANGE PARTNER

Lee Fogel

DISCIPLINE

Multi-Disciplinary

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500

SHARI TOBIAS

In light of a recent FBI-led investigation into Philadelphia's police department, Shari created a series of multicultural, intergenerational community portraits based on civil rights violations. These portraits consisted of multiple personal accounts collected through open-dialogue gatherings and transformed into screen-printed imagery that were posted publicly throughout the city of Philadelphia.

Photo credit: Karen Kirchhoff



NEIGHBORHOOD

West Philadelphia

CHANGE PARTNER

Quan Blanche

DISCIPLINE

Visual Arts
Literary Arts

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500

SHAWN TA SMITH-TAYLOR

Shawnta facilitated a rite of passage program for young girls, called Daughters of Kush: Sacred Circle to Womanhood, which aimed to educate girls ages 12 to 13 years in African and African American traditions using art and cultural practices including folkloric and liturgical dance, poetry, meditation, journal writing, music, beadwork, quilting, and culinary skills. Through Daughters of Kush, Shawnta introduced and reinforced concepts of beauty and self-care, citizenship, and the importance of reclaiming and continuing cultural traditions to counteract peer pressure and negative self-image.

NEIGHBORHOOD	CHANGE PARTNER	DISCIPLINE	GRANT AMOUNT
Pennsauken	Arthur Leo Taylor	Multi-Disciplinary	\$2,500

SINEMA WHITE

Sinema created a collection of music that will directly influence and benefit youth, who are often targets of music that is saturated with violence and sex. The music created featured the voices of the youth involved in the project, further encouraging their dedication to challenging what they see and hear from society and in the media. This album is a celebration of life, without violence as a voice or sex as an escape.

NEIGHBORHOOD	CHANGE PARTNER	DISCIPLINE	GRANT AMOUNT
North Philadelphia East Oak Lane	Sanni Crespina-Flores	Media Arts	\$2,491



TAMARA ANDERSON

Tamara created a short play/skit that served as a platform for dropout prevention and shined a light on the dire need for sustainable programs for individuals who self-select to leave or are pushed out of school. Narratives were collected through a series of interviews and writing workshops with students who are high school dropouts and adjudicated youth from E3 Centers and St. Gabe. The collected material was used to develop a script and was performed live for middle school, high school, and adult audiences, giving an honest portrayal of this population and allowing their stories to be heard.

Photo credit: Paul Sirochman

NEIGHBORHOOD

Mount Airy

CHANGE PARTNER

Lorelei Shingledecker

DISCIPLINE

Performance

GRANT AMOUNT

\$1,844

THOMASIN PARNES

Thomasin created a series of four interactive mixed-media art/design pieces that functioned as teaching tools for adult sex education, focusing on the inclusion and normalization of marginalized bodies, genders, and sexual practices. The pieces were hand-drawn, hand-crafted, and designed with the goal of educating people to become more empowered decision makers and self-advocates around sex, relationships, and sexual health. The work reached an audience through a one-night art event and subsequent series of workshops facilitated by ScrewSmart – a Philadelphia-based feminist, queer/trans-positive, sex-positive sex education collaborative.

Photo credit: Karen Kirchhoff



NEIGHBORHOOD

West Philadelphia

CHANGE PARTNER

ScrewSmart

DISCIPLINE

Visual Arts

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500

TILI AYALA

Tili facilitated Love and Healing Through the Art of Bringing People Together, which used art to bring together parents who have been involved with the Department of Human Services. The program engaged participants through art to tell their stories, end their isolation, and bring emotional healing, and helped them to find their voice so they can advocate for change.

NEIGHBORHOOD	CHANGE PARTNER	DISCIPLINE	GRANT AMOUNT
West Philadelphia	Connie Schuster	Visual Arts	\$2,500

TONI KERSEY & CHRISTINA JOHNSON

Toni and Christina facilitated a workshop that was part of a larger initiative to create a viable presence for women as part of the programming featured during Fiber Philadelphia 2012. The students created a contemporary mini wall hanging of geometric shapes inspired by the fiber art seen in the exhibit. Text was added using one to three descriptive words of their choosing. The centerpiece of the project was an exhibition of six artists of color at Art Sanctuary. The workshops sought to educate underserved children about the fiber arts, provide access to artistic excellence, and broaden their cultural awareness.

Photo credit: Amanda Jaffe, Karen Kirchhoff



NEIGHBORHOOD

Springfield

CHANGE PARTNER

Art Sanctuary

DISCIPLINE

Crafts & Textiles

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500



YOWEI SHAW

Yowei worked with minority youth to produce audio stories that examined their individual lives, schools, and communities. Through intensive radio production workshops, youth radio apprentices learned the basics of pitching stories, interviewing, field recording, script writing, editing, and voicing. The stories seek to promote intercultural and intergenerational dialogue, as well as better understanding about young people's lives and their contributions.

Photo credit: Amanda Jaffe

NEIGHBORHOOD

West Philadelphia

CHANGE PARTNER

Asian Arts Initiative

DISCIPLINE

Media Arts

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500



Hayley by Lorelei Shinglecocker (ADG '10) from Paoli Center show

* 2011 Art and Change Grant Panelists *

RUCYL MILLS

Rucyl is an audiovisual artist, music producer, and singer who experiments with sound and visual stimulus. In 2006 she built the Chakakhanroller, a wearable MIDI controller, and continues to experiment with new formats of musical and electronic expression. An original member of the Goats, an alternative hip-hop group in the 1990s, Rucyl continued a rogue musical lifestyle in New York, making beats, experimental soul, and jazz mash-up tracks until returning to her hometown of Philadelphia in 2009. She is co-founder, performer, and blogger of futuretronic label and audiovisual electronic group Saturn Never Sleeps. She has performed internationally as well as produced the interactive exhibit *Watch What You Are* for Eyebeam Art & Technology Center (New York) and co-curated *Atypical: Noise Makers*, a showcase for innovative artists at Painted Bride Art Center (Philadelphia). She has a B.S. in new media from the New School and an M.S. in interactive telecommunications from New York University. She is also a certified audio engineer.

TARANA BURKE

Tarana has traveled around the world representing the causes of young people of color in the U.S. at conferences including the World Youth Festival & Conference (Havana), Educating the Afrikan Child - Global Education Conference (Dakar), and the World Summit on Information Systems (Tunis). In Selma, Ala., Tarana worked with rural schools and at the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute, where she coordinated the national celebration of the right to vote and commemoration of the Selma-to-Montgomery march. She also served as executive director of Black Belt Arts and Cultural Center and co-founder of Just Be, Inc., an organization geared towards young women of color. Before joining Art Sanctuary as managing director, Tarana served as site director with Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia, which provides academic enrichment for low-income middle school students.

WOLFIE E. RAWK (AOG '09)

Wolfie was born in Teaneck, N.J., to two German immigrants. They obtained a B.A. in studio arts at Hampshire College where they organized a queer artists' caucus. Wolfie moved to Philadelphia in 2008 and worked for the Kural Arts Program as an art educator. In 2010 they worked with their students, Department of Human Services, and other Philadelphia artists to create a by-youth, for-youth resource guide, street art, and student videos revolving around the topic of safe space for youth. From 2009 to 2010 Wolfie also facilitated a series of collaborative quilting bees with fellow queer, transgender, and allied folks in West Philadelphia with the help of a Leeway Foundation Art and Change Grant (2009). They use fabric and embroidery to discuss the body, transgender identity, trauma, and healing in their work.



Taina Asili y La Banda Rebelde (LTA '05) from "Autohistoria"

*
LEEWAY
TRANSFORMATION
AWARD
*

The Leeway Transformation Award provides unrestricted awards of \$15,000 to women and trans 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.

This award is distributed once per year.

In 2011, \$150,000 was awarded to 11 women and trans artists out of 36 finalists and 83 first-stage applicants.

BETTY LEACRAFT

Betty is a mixed-media fiber artist, educator, lecturer, and curator who attempts to create opportunities for underserved, under-resourced ethnic communities and individuals through interactive, hands-on fiber art projects in which participants share untold stories, acquire new artistic skills, and develop respect for cultural diversity in our communities. Her signature workshop series, *African Inspired Design*, uses art as a tool of communication to provide a framework for dialogue about cultural awareness and shared cultural connections.

Since the early 1990s, Betty has taught and lectured numerous students and individuals in residencies and workshops in the tri-state area with a focus on textile arts in diverse communities, schools, correctional facilities, shelters, re-entry and recovery programs, senior residences and centers, libraries, colleges, and museums.

Betty is a shape shifter of textiles, informed by artistic and cultural traditions of Africa and the African diaspora, is inspired by cultural contributions of African Americans, and addresses themes of identity, heritage, nature, cultural symbolism, and ritual. She blends multiple techniques and processes, including hand and machine stitching, quilting, wet felt making, and surface design.

She was taught to sew as a child by her maternal grandmother. Her maternal Guyanese grandfather ignited her interest in world cultures. Through independent research and study with indigenous African and other textile masters, she acquired additional textile-related skills. She co-curated *Speaking In our Own Tongues: Latino and African American Artists, A New Beginning at Taller Puertorriqueño (1988)*. She was guest curator of *Warm Spirits: Contemporary African American Quilters* at the African American Museum of Philadelphia (2008).

Betty has received numerous grants, awards, and honors. Her artwork and projects have appeared in various media, including independent and documentary films, and have been published in several books. She has exhibited regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Photo credit: James Kocley, Cassandra Green



NEIGHBORHOOD

West Philadelphia

DISCIPLINE

Crafts & Textiles

JANET & BARBARA GOLDWATER ATTIE

Janet and Barbara have been a creative team for over 20 years, making hard-hitting documentaries that advocate around important issues concerning women and girls. Together they have made six award-winning films for national and international broadcast, as well as a half dozen videos for educational and advocacy use. They are deeply committed to reaching the widest possible audience to create social change through the documentary medium. From the start, Janet and Barbara's work focused on women and girls and the complex health and social justice issues that face them. Their first film, *Notherless: A Legacy of Loss from Illegal Abortion*, highlighted the dangers of pre-Roe v. Wade abortions and has become a fixture of many law, medical, and nursing schools' curricula. In the past five years, their work has focused on violence against women, resulting in a series of short documentaries, *What Harm Is It to Be a Woman?*, that explored the aspects of violence against women in Judaism, Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam. In 2011, *Mrs. Goundo's Daughter*, an hour-long documentary about the complex issues of female genital cutting/mutilation and political asylum, was broadcast nationally on PBS. Currently, Janet and Barbara are working on a documentary about the iconic African American poet and activist Sonia Sanchez (LTA '05).

Photo credit: Michelle Prentop



NEIGHBORHOOD

Fairmount/
Bala Cynwyd

DISCIPLINE

Media Arts

KATHRYN PANNEPAKER



Kathryn is a textile artist and painter creating visual art pieces and projects with the mission of "art for all and peace for all." Whether she is working directly with individuals or groups or creating projects for the larger community, her work stems from the common desire to celebrate diversity and to resource self-expression and empowerment. Kathryn has worked with a large variety of communities – people with and without physical disabilities, middle-class and poor, homeless and with a home, in addiction and recovery, in prison and re-entry programs, seniors and young people. In 2010, with the support of the Mural Arts Program, Kathryn led weaving workshops at homeless shelters and public sites throughout Philadelphia and created a woven canvas for a mural entitled *Finding Home*. The project's aim was to break down the issues and stigma around homelessness and bring people with and without a home together. After the mural was completed, participants decided to continue weaving as Arts Street Textile Studio (ASTS), a studio, gallery, and boutique that showcased the works of individuals who identify as artists and artisans, many of whom are stigmatized because of being homeless or in transition. When without a storefront/home-base studio, ASTS continues to remain active in various shelter, street, and community projects with the teamwork of colleagues. Kathryn's recent art-for-all textile work can be seen on chain-link fences on abandoned lots.

Photo credit: Diane O. Dunning

NEIGHBORHOOD

North Philadelphia

DISCIPLINE

Crafts & Textiles
Visual Arts

KUKULI VELARDE

Kukuli is a painter and ceramicist whose work seeks to find a space within the international cultural arena for her Peruvian heritage to continue evolving as a contemporary cultural form. Her ceramic series/installation *Plunder Me, Baby* borrows from pre-Columbian ceramic traditions to create fantastical clay figures that confront contemporary topics such as gender and identity issues and socio-political concerns. In her paintings, Kukuli uses the female body – her own body – as a point of departure, exploring what ownership of the female body means in the arts. *Cadavers*, a life-sized portrait series, comments on how the Catholic religion was an effective tool of colonization and exposes how many of us will never fit into Western standards and hierarchies of beauty. Her work candidly intends to expose the hypocrisy of a society where women struggle to be respected.

Photo credit: Doug Herren



NEIGHBORHOOD

West Kensington

DISCIPLINE

Visual Arts

LYNN BLACKWELL DENTON



Lynn's art started from a personal exploration of her identity as a female artist and evolved into 25 years of artistic collaboration with communities. Her collaborations with communities often speak specifically to those in a particular neighborhood or situation. Lynn has collaborated with recovering addicts, women formerly receiving welfare subsidies, adolescents, and inner-city school children in over 15 large-scale, permanent installations in Philadelphia. These projects were meant to empower the communities Lynn worked in to express who they were through their art while inviting participants to experience their own creativity. In her personal work, she has continued to create installations, paintings, and performances that address female identity. She is also increasingly drawn to fiction, specifically stories about women. Her screenplay/feature film project *Pearl*, currently in development, follows the journey of a young Southern woman who breaks with her past, finds her voice as an artist, and marches with suffragists to win the vote for Georgia women. Her screenplay for *Pearl* is an expression of 40 years of exploration of themes around female identity and women standing for social change.

Photo credit: Noelle Théard

NEIGHBORHOOD

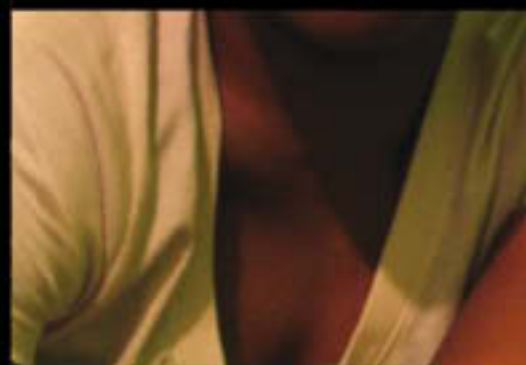
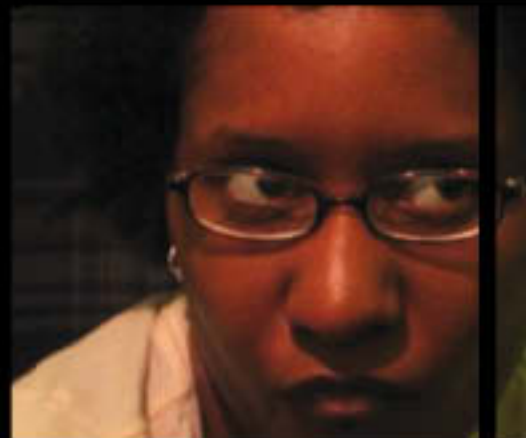
Bella Vista

DISCIPLINE

Media Arts
Visual Arts

MIA MCKENZIE

Mia is a writer, photographer, visual artist, and filmmaker. She writes literary fiction in the form of short stories, novels, and novellas. She creates photography projects with the aim of pushing visual boundaries and challenging the expected. All of her work is heavily grounded in queer issues, women's issues, and the issues of the poor, often all at once. Her short story "Earth, Circa 1969" tackles themes of feminism, bullying, queerness, and sexual assault through the point of view of a poor, 13-year-old queer black girl - a character whose voice is rarely heard in the mainstream. Her novel, *The Summer We Got Free*, is about a poor family in West Philadelphia in the 1950s to 1970s. The story takes on social justice issues including poverty, racism, homophobia, sexism, and inner-city violence. The novel is inspired by the lives of her grandparents, poor black people from the Deep South, who moved to Philadelphia in the 1950s. She has also produced two documentaries, one about queer people of color creating community with each other in Denver, Colo., and another on her grandmother, who in her own words tells the tale of her life as a girl in the Deep South, growing up in extreme poverty. Mia also created the West Philly Writers Workshop in order to make writing workshops more accessible to established and would-be writers who are poor, particularly women, queer folks, and folks of color.



NEIGHBORHOOD

West Philadelphia

DISCIPLINE

Literary Arts
Visual Arts

MONNETTE SUDLER

Konnette is a jazz guitarist, composer, producer, and vocalist. She has maintained a continued presence as a band leader, performer, and recording artist in Philadelphia and internationally. Konnette has produced her own CDs and recordings for educational, emotional, spiritual, and moral development. Her art for social change is reflected in her music, both lyrically and stylistically, and expressed in compositions, performances, collaborations, and through the instruction of youth and seniors. Konnette's music targets issues of prominence for young people on social and emotional levels – such as the need for a father; running away from love that goes awry; surviving the social stigmas of living among poverty, drugs, murder, and incest; African American struggles and triumphs; as well as women's issues. More importantly, Konnette gives positive reinforcement and encouragement throughout her students' creative and learning process. Her writing also reflects what she hears from young people, so that they understand that their feelings, ideas, and thoughts matter. Konnette developed the program "Mend the Kind, Free the Soul" in order to incorporate music and music education into the CARE (Children Achieving through Re-Education) model for therapeutic classrooms. She was also one of four composers chosen by the Philadelphia Opera Company to compose music based on poems written by students at Art Sanctuary with final performances by students, opera singers, and a string quartet. This collaborative project highlighted the creative link between hip-hop literature and classical vocal music. Konnette is also the founder/producer of the Philadelphia Guitar Summit, going into its fourth year. The 2012 workshops so far will be "String and Roots Folklore" and "Women Behind the Guitar."

Photo credit: Michelle Prentop

NEIGHBORHOOD

Montgomery County

DISCIPLINE

Music
Performance

VERA NAKONECHNY

Vera has been driven to learn about Ukrainian folk art since the first stitches she placed on fabric as a young girl. Over time, Vera grew to understand that mastering her art was not only her obligation as a craftsperson, but more importantly, she understood the responsibility she had to protect the ancient cultural heritage of her ancestors. Due to many foreign campaigns of political and cultural destructions, countless true forms of Ukrainian folk arts have been lost or manipulated beyond recognition. Vera sees herself as an artist-advocate, with a calling to find, protect, and advance these cultural treasures not only within her own Ukrainian American community, but outside of it as well – thus ensuring that these treasures will never be lost or forgotten.

Photo credit: George Nakonechny



NEIGHBORHOOD

Oxford Circle

DISCIPLINE

Folk Arts



VJI RAO

Viji has been studying *bharatanatyam*, a classical Indian dance form, since she was 3 years old. In addition to being a dancer, Viji works as a historian and teacher, with the goal of preserving and presenting this ancient dance form. She promotes cross-cultural awareness through teaching, workshops, and demonstrations in local schools, community centers, as well as colleges and universities. Through Viji's original work, which she creates with her company Three Aksha, and collaborations with other local artists, she incorporates contemporary, socially relevant themes, from dowry practices to war veterans. Viji's role as practitioner is to educate the diverse community she is a part of in Pennsylvania about the need and necessity for an art form that is a component of exploring and sharing personal identity, emotions, and cultural awareness. Her work as choreographer is one way second-generation Indians and others will be able to connect to their roots in a new place and time.

Photo credit: Satish, Yatin Patel, EGK and Sons, Praveen D. Rao

NEIGHBORHOOD

Northeast
Philadelphia

DISCIPLINE

Folk Arts
Performance

VIVIAN GREEN

Vivian is a playwright whose work has always revolved around social issues such as injustice, prejudice, and human transgressions. Over time, Vivian realized that older people had concerns that were specific to their own age group, and those issues have become the subject of her work – e.g., loss of a mate, the loss of identity, isolation due to loss of family and friends, diminished sexual powers, deteriorating health, loss of jobs and income, as well as issues related to dealing with a new partner and new family. In touring plays about older people to senior organizations, she hopes to raise awareness of the challenges particular to this generation – problems that will eventually concern anyone who lives long enough. Vivian believes that theater presents a uniquely powerful medium to raise consciousness because it moves people to become emotionally involved. Her plays, *Dancing in the Dark*, *Single Again/Female*, and *Single Again/Male*, dramatize the difficulties faced by older single people as they take the first awkward steps toward starting over. She is currently collaborating with a director on a mash-up of *Single Again/Female* and *Single Again/Male*.

Photo credit: Michelle Prentop



NEIGHBORHOOD

Cheltenham

DISCIPLINE

Literary Arts

* 2011 Transformation Award Panelists *

ANANYA CHATTERJEA, PH.D. (Stage 2 only)

Ananya is a dancer, choreographer, scholar, and educator who envisions her dance work as a call to action, with a particular focus on women artists of color. She is the artistic director of Ananya Dance Theatre and is an associate professor and director of dance in the Department of Theater Arts and Dance at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Initially trained in Indian classical and folk dance traditions, she is a well-known exponent of *odissi*, which she learned under the tutelage of internationally acclaimed teacher Sanjukta Panigrahi. Ananya is the author of *Butting Out: Reading Resistive Choreographies Through Works by Jawole Willa Jo Zollar and Chandralekha*. In addition, her work has been supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, Asian Arts Initiative, the Minnesota State Arts Board, and the McKnight, Jerome, and Bush foundations.

BASSEY IKPI

Bassey is a Nigerian-born poet/writer who was a featured cast member of the national touring company of the Tony award-winning *Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry Jam*. Not a stranger to the stage, Bassey has also opened shows by Grammy award-winning artists, appeared on the *NAACP Image Awards* as part of a tribute to Venus and Serena Williams, and performed in Johannesburg's annual festival, Joburg Arts Alive. Most recently, Bassey headlined the Three Rivers Arts Festival. She has also graced the pages of such notable publications as *Nylon*, *Marie Claire*, *Glamour*, and *Bust*. With social commentary being a focus of her work, Bassey recorded an original poem for the Kaiser Foundation's HIV/AIDS campaign, *Knowing Is Beautiful*. She works as a freelance writer for several social media outlets on the topic of mental health and is currently an artist-in-residence at several Philadelphia-area schools. As a mental health advocate, Bassey is currently working on a memoir documenting her life living with bipolar II disorder.

ELISHA LIM (Stage 2 only)

Elisha is the author of *100 Butches*, which is a gender-bending comic with a cult following. It is introduced by Alison Bechdel and praised by luminaries Shary Boyle, Ivan E. Coyote, and Michelle Tea. Elisha's work was voted Best Lesbian Art on the authoritative queer site AfterEllen.com, and she has comics published in *Bitch Magazine*, *Diva U.K.*, *Curve U.S.*, *LOTL Australia*, *Xtra Canada*, and *nomorepotlucks*. *100 Butches* was the recipient of two major Canadian grants in 2010 and toured with the legendary Sister Spit caravan through 28 North American cities. In 2011 Elisha lectured at the University of Toronto, Ryerson University, Brock University, and Concordia University and debuted as the first solo show of Allyson Mitchell's Feminist Art Gallery. Elisha will be collaborating with Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha on the upcoming *100 Femmes*.

EMILY P. LAWSIN (Facilitator)

Emily is a second-generation Pinay originally from "She-attle." She teaches in the Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies Program, Program in American Culture, and the Women's Studies Department at the University of Michigan. She received an M.A. in Asian American Studies at UCLA. She serves on the board of trustees of the Filipino American National Historical Society, is a co-founder of the Detroit Asian Youth Project, and started the Filipino Youth Initiative classes at the Paaralang Filipino Language and Cultural School. She is the co-author, with Joseph Galura, of *Filipino Women in Detroit, 1945-1965: Oral Histories From the Filipino American Oral History Project of Michigan*. Their second book, *Tapestry: Filipinos in Michigan, 1900-1950*, is forthcoming next year. She is also co-editor, with Joan Kay T. Cordova, of *In Our Aunties' Words: The Filipino Spirit of Hampton Roads (Virginia)*. Her poetry and essays have been published in numerous journals, newspapers, and anthologies, including *Flippin': Filipinos on America*, *Teaching Asian America*, *Words Matter*, *International Examiner*, *disOrient 9 journalzine*, *INVASIAN: Growing up Asian and Female in America*, *Going Home to a Landscape: Writings By Filipinas*, *Teaching About Asian Pacific Americans*, and *Walang Hiya: Literature Taking Risks Toward Liberatory Practice*.

MARLÈNE RAMÍREZ-CANCIO

Marlène is an interdisciplinary artist from Puerto Rico who co-founded and co-directs Pulana, a Latina video collective based in New York. Using parody and satire as a critical tool, Pulana's mock television commercials, music videos, and print pieces respond to the ways ideologies and identities are marketed through the mass media. She is currently assistant director of arts and media at the Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics. As a member of the advisory committee for the Lark Theater's Word Exchange/El Trueque de Palabras, she is involved in shaping an annual exchange program in which playwrights from Mexico collaborate with their U.S. counterparts to translate and stage each other's work. Marlène previously studied with Cherríe Moraga, performed with the San Francisco Mime Troupe and the Red Rocket Theater, and was a member of the Latina Theatre Lab, a collective of writers, performers, and directors. She earned a B.A. in literature at Harvard University and earned an M.A. and completed Ph.D. coursework in comparative literature at Stanford University, focusing on 20th century Caribbean literature and Latin American women performers. In 2010, she received an MFA in creative writing in Spanish at New York University.

tiona.m. (ITA '09, ACG '07)

tiona is a multimedia artist whose mission is to make the invisible visible and humanize her subjects. She believes that her work as a filmmaker and visual artist can inspire various communities by affirming their existence in contemporary society. She considers her work "black social realism" and aims to fight the hyper-realistic imagery that can lead to the silencing of marginalized communities. tiona began her career apprenticing on music video sets and as a freelancer working with various production companies and nonprofit organizations. Her last film, *black./womyn.: conversations with lesbians of African descent*, provides a platform for black lesbians to speak for themselves and to confront the hyper-sexualized image of the black lesbian. *black./womyn.* was awarded the Audience Award for Best Documentary by the Philadelphia International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (now QWest) in 2008. tiona continues to develop and create films on progressive topics with the hope of directing a narrative feature-length project in the near future. She is currently in production with her next feature-length documentary, *The Untitled Black Lesbian Elder Project*, and an experimental short series called *Be Alarmed: The Black Americana Epic*, which focuses on the black American experience.



Multi Head by Jerrell McGill from "Fertile Ground"

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* 2011 Community Partners *

Leeway partners with organizations in the Delaware Valley region to help extend our connections to diverse communities; create a wide range of programming, including exhibits, panels, workshops, and screenings; and help raise awareness of our grant programs and the powerful intersections of art and social change.

Art Sanctuary

628 S. 16th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19146
215.232.4485
www.artsanctuary.org

Art Sanctuary, founded in North Philadelphia, uses the power of black art to transform individuals, unite groups of people, and enrich and draw inspiration from the inner city. They invite established and aspiring artists to help create excellent lectures, performances, and educational programs.

The Attic Youth Center

255 S. 16th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215.545.4331
215.545.5774 fax
www.atticyouthcenter.org

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

Asian Americans United

1023 Callowhill Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123
215.925.1536
www.aaunited.org

Founded in 1965, Asian Americans United's mission is to build leadership in Asian American communities to build our neighborhoods and unite against oppression. AAU has worked in Philadelphia's Asian American communities and in broader multiracial coalitions around quality education, youth leadership, anti-Asian violence, immigrant rights, and folk arts and cultural maintenance.

Bread & Roses Community Fund

1315 Walnut Street, Suite 1300
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215.731.1107
215.731.0453 fax
www.breadrosesfund.org

Bread & Roses is a unique gathering of activists and donors committed to supporting social justice by raising and distributing funds. A public foundation, Bread & Roses has distributed over \$10 million to groups working for access to health care; economic justice; a clean, safe environment; civil and human rights; peace; and other social justice issues. In addition, Bread & Roses provides services such as technical assistance and leadership development to grantees and donors.

The Laundromat Project NYC

275 Macdonough Street
Brooklyn, NY 11233
718.574.0796
www.laundromatproject.org

The LP is a community-based public art nonprofit that brings arts programming to laundromats in the greater New York area and, for the first time, Philadelphia. The program seeks to raise the quality of life for people whose incomes do not guarantee broad access to mainstream arts and cultural facilities.

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 toward 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 Community Access Media (PhillyCAM)

699 Ranstead Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
267.639.5481
www.phillycam.org

The mission of PhillyCAM is to provide Philadelphia residents and organizations with the opportunity to communicate with each other through the creation and distribution of non-commercial media. PhillyCAM provides residents and community organizations access to media-making tools, training, and opportunities for interaction between diverse communities.

Philadelphia Folklore Project

735 S. 50th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19143
215.726.1106
215.726.6250 fax
www.folkloreproject.org

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

Taller Puertorriqueño

2721 N. 5th Street

Philadelphia, PA 19133

215.426.3311

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.

* 2011 Events *

All events took place at Leeway Foundation unless otherwise noted.

Artist Talks

November 2, November 9 & November 16

Tongue in Cheek

Featuring Judy Gelles and Nannette Acker Clark (November 2); Anula Shetty, Elizabeth Piend, and Michelle Myers (November 9); and Beth Nixon and Candy Depew (November 16).

Exhibits

February 12 - April 30

Community Exhibit

Featuring Laureen Griffin (LTA '07, ACG '05), Lorelei Shingledecker (ACG '10), and Ruth Naomi Floyd (LTA '06, WOO '03).
(Steel City Coffee House)

July 6 - August 19

A Fertile Ground: Works on Paper from the Oasis Art Center

In partnership with the Oasis Art Center, an exhibit featuring 24 artists who participate or facilitate programming at the Oasis Art Center, including Leeway grantees Melissa Ezelle (ACG '07) and Stacey Robinson (ACG '09).

September 9 - October 31

Community Exhibit

Featuring Barbara Bullock (BBA '02) and Ife Nii Owoo (ACG '07).
(Geechee Girl Rice Café)

September 12 - October 16

Community Exhibit

Featuring Christina E. Johnson (LTA '07), Genevieve Coutroubis (WOO '02), Lorelei Shingledecker (ACG '10), and Toni Kersey (ACG '07).
(Paoli Cancer Center)

October 14 - December 16

Tongue In Cheek

Featuring Anula Shetty (LTA '07, WOO '04, HG '02), Beth Nixon (LTA '10), bex* (LTA '09), Candy Depew (WOO '04), Elizabeth Piend (WOO '03), Emmy Bean, Judy Gelles (WOO '99), Michelle Myers (ACG '11), Naima Lowe, and Nannette Acker Clark (BBA '09). Presented in partnership with Philadelphia Open Studio Tours (POST).

Outreach Events

February 8

Applicant Support Session
(Philadelphia Folklore Project)

February 18

Grant Information Sessions
(Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission)

April 5

Applicant Support Session
(William Way Community Center)

April 22

Applicant Support Session
(Attic Youth Center)

May 3

Applicant Support Session
(Taller Puertorriqueño)

June 28

Annual Community Partner Meet-up

July 25

Info Session en Español
(Casa Konarka)

August 16

Applicant Support Session
(Vleisher Art Memorial)

Performances

February 3

Reverberations

A concert featuring hip-hop, Western classical, and neo-punk musicians, including earth-fx (ACG '07), Ethel Cee (ACG '10), Girls.Dressed.As.Girls. - featuring Camae Dennis (ACG '07) and Selina Carrera (ACG '09) - and Qian Li (ACG '10). Hosted by Shayna Sherness Israel (ACG '08). (The Rotunda, University of Pennsylvania)

February 28

Leeway Live

An annual reading co-presented by Kelly Writers House at the University of Pennsylvania, this installment featured 2010 grantees and awardees Benita Cooper (ACG '10), Catzie Vilayphonh (LTA '10, ACG '10), Lorelei Shingledecker (ACG '10), Monique E. Hankerson (ACG '10), and Tanji Gilliam (ACG '10). (Kelly Writers House, University of Pennsylvania)

October 22

Autohistoria (opening reception)

In partnership with Taller Puertorriqueño, the exhibition opening of painting and photography by Karta Sanchez (LTA '10, ACG '06, WOO '02) and Yaba Amgborale Blay (ACG '10) with guest artist Noelle Théard featured a live performance by Taina Asili (LTA '05) y La Banda Rebelde. (Taller Puertorriqueño)

November 1

Grantee Showcase

Multi-disciplinary showcase featuring photography by Sandra Andino (ACG '09, '05), film by Deborah Rudman (ACG '09), and poetry by Gavin Outlaw (ACG '09). (Moonstone Arts Center)

November 29

Leeway Live

An annual reading co-presented by Kelly Writers House at the University of Pennsylvania, this installment featured 2011 grantees and awardees Beverly Dale (ACG '11, '08), Debra Wright (ACG '11, '06), Genne Murphy (ACG '11), Ondartza Polita (ACG '11), and Shari Tobias (ACG '11). (Kelly Writers House, University of Pennsylvania)

Workshops & Master Classes

January 20

Understanding Taxes for Artists

Walter Moyer of The Bottom Line Financial Services explained the impact of grants and awards on taxable income to recipients of Leeway grants and awards.

January 22

Documenting and Archiving the Artist

In partnership with the Philadelphia Folklife Project, media artist Tiona McClodden (LTA '09, ACG '07) led this workshop in best practices for documenting work on film or video.

February 17

Changing the World With Social Networking

In partnership with Bread & Roses Community Fund and The Philadelphia Foundation, writer, artist, and media technology expert Deanna Zandt led this workshop covering the culture of social networking, tactical strategies for current tools, and skills implementing metrics of success.

March 16

Using Film as a Tool for Social Change

In partnership with ITVS Community Cinema, WHYY, Arts Engine, and Nationalities Service Center, producer and director Beth Davenport led this workshop exploring the power of film.

March 24

Re:formance – The Body as a Social Change Medium

A discussion with three artists subverting classical performances along lines of ableism, race, and gender: Kimi Kenny Smith (Amaryllis Theatre Group), Nadine Patterson (WOO '02), and Miknaz Tavakolian (Transgressions Theater Group, multimedia artist).

March 31

Individual Artist Marketing Workshop

A panel of experts in the fields of public relations, marketing, curating, and programming, including Elizabeth Jane Cole and Scott Beibin (Evil Twin Booking), Kate Watson-Wallace (anonymous bodies, Artists U), Megan Wendell (Canary Promotion), Rakia Reynolds (Skai Blue Media), and Shelley Spector (Spector Projects).

April 8

A Guide to National Resources and Grants for Artists

A workshop led by Eleanor Whitney, program officer for external affairs and fiscal sponsorship from Artspire, a program of the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA).

April 16

Community Transformation and the Video Documentary

A peer-to-peer workshop led by writer and filmmaker Valerie Harris (LTA '06, ACG '07, '08).

May 29 & June 11

Working With Wordpress

A two-part workshop led by Laureen Griffin (LTA '07, ACG '05) on the nuts and bolts of setting up your artist website using Wordpress.

June 9 & September 19

Social Change Writers Networking Group

A networking opportunity facilitated by Marissa Johnson-Valenzuela (LTA '05).

September 17

Teach and Reach: Participatory Drama Techniques for Transforming Conflict Into Opportunity

Theater of the Oppressed workshop led by Lisa Jo Epstein (ACG '09).

October 7

Fundraising for Artists

This workshop presented United States Artists, a new online ecosystem for funding artists.

December 4

Design Your Own Zine

In partnership with the William Way Community Center, GALAEL, and hotpot!, this workshop in zine-making was led by Canadian graphic artists Elisha Lim and Coco Riot.

Previous Recipients

2010

Aja Beech
Allie Vidich
Amai Myrna C. Kunchus
Amanda Johnson
Andrea Okorley
Angie Arahood
Ayoka Wiles Quinones
Ben Singer
Benita Cooper
Beth Nixon
Carina Romano
Catherine C. Quillman
Catzie Vilayphonh
Che Gossett
Cindy L. Burstein
Deborah Caiola
E. Kairo Miles
Ethel Oee
Fatimah Lorén
Frances McElroy
Jenna S. Peters-Golden
Jennifer Baker
Keila Cordova
Laura Deutch
Lorelei (MarvaJa) Shingledecker
Madhusmita Bora
Marta Sanchez
Mary DeWitt
Mendal Polish
Milena Velis
Monique E. Hankerson
Najee
Nanci Hersh

Miv Acosta and Iela Paloumpis
Nsenga A. Knight
Pallabi Chakravorty
Qian Li
Ra'sheeda Bey
Saïda Agostini
Sara Yassky
Serena Reed
Shannon Murphy
Stephanie "Amma" Young
Takeya Trayer
Tanji Gilliam
Trish Metzner-Lynch
Tristan
Vena Jefferson
Wren Warner
Yaba Amgborale Blay
Yinka Orafidiya
Yowei Shaw
Zaye Tete

2009

A.M. Weaver
Abby Longo
Adrienne Kenton
Ahdanah
Aisha Goss
Amatus
Angela V. Harvey
Bahamadia
Barbara Ann Grant
Beth
Betty Leacraft
Beverly Collins-Roberts

bex*
Brenda Dixon Gottschild
Celestine Wilson Hughes
Charlene Arcila
Charlotte Ford
Deborah Rudman
Dina Dashiell
Dina Khouri
Elizabeth Castiglione
Erica Vanstone
Eva Agbada
Gavin Outlaw
Gerl Allen
Heidi Saman
Indah Muritasari
Irma Gardner-Hammond
Janet Goldwater
and Barbara Attie
Janice "Jawara" Bishop
Jax Peters Lowell
Jaye Allison
Jennifer Turnbull
Jeri Lynne Johnson
Jesse White
Joan May T. Cordova
and Kathy Shimizu
Joann Frasier Dasant
Julia Galetti
Leo T. Watts
Lisa Jo Epstein
Lisa Kraus
Lois Fernandez
Lovella Calica
Lynn Levin
Madhusmita Bora
Marie Alarcón

Marilyn Kai Jewett
Mary DeWitt
Molik Michal Harvey
Morgan Rich
Najee
Kara Hiriart Litz
Phelena Jean
Rebecca Davis
Rhashidah Perry-Jones
Rick Peely
River Huston
Sandra Andino
Sara Zia Ebrahimi
Sarah Lowry
Sekai
Selina Carrera
Shawn Hunter
Sky
Stacey Robinson
Susan Collins
Suzanne Povse
Tatiana Bacchus
and Cymande Lewis
Tessa Kicaela
Tina Smith-Brown
tiona.m.
Victorious and Krazy K
Wolfie E. Rawk
Yowei Shaw

2008

Allison Harris
Ama Schley and Payin Schley
Amanda Whittenberger
Amma Young
Ann Marie Kirk
Ava Blitz

Beth Pulcinella
Betsy Z. Casañas
Beverly Dale
Carol Finkle
Charing A. Ball
Charlotte Ford
Deborah Caiola
Denise DiJoseph
Desi Burnette
Desi P. Shelton-Seck
Dorothy Goins
Elba Hevia y Vaca
Emiko Sugiyama
Erika Almiron
Erika Kijlin
and Julie Goldstein
Erin Howley
Gage Johnston
Germaine Ingram
Gwynne B. Sigel
Iya Sangolade
Jodi Netzer
Julia Katz
Julianne Bernstein
Theodoropoulos
Kara LaFleur
Karen Lefebvre-Christou
Kathy Padilla
Kay Healy
Keiko Miyamori
Kimberly E. Rollins
Kinyozi-Yvette Smalls
Leo T. Watts
Maggie Von Vogt
Maia Rosser
Marie-Monique Karthol
Martina G.J. Martinas
Meghan Williams
and Gigi Naglak

Mehret Mandefro
Meredith McDonald
Michele Byrd-McPhee
Michelle Angela Ortiz
MJ Hasty
Mehad Khader
Qandira Allen
Rebecca Davis
Renee "Oyin" Harris-Hardy
Rika Hawes
Roko Kawai
Sarah Lowry
Sarah McCarron
Shayna Sheness Israel
Shivaani Selvaraj
Shuyuan Li
Sonia Arora
Stephanie Yuhes
Suzi Nash
Tamara Thomas
Tani L. Khabbaz
Tina Smith-Brown
Ursula Rucker
Valerie Gilbert
Valerie Harris
Vania Gulston
Viji Rao
Winifred Collier Bolkus
Yolanda Wisher
Yvonne Lung

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. V. DeBeary
Isyss Adams
J. Mason
James Wells
Jaye Allison
Jeannine Cook
Jenée Alicia Chizick
Jeri Lynne Johnson
Jessica Rodriguez
and Pascal Emmer
Jovida J. Hill
Joy Esther Phillips Butts
Joy Keys
Joy Rose
Judith Trustone
Julia Galetti
Kameelah Waheed
Karl Surkan
Katrina Clark
Laureen Griffin
Leah Meturah Caesar
Lili Bitá
Lounie Grant
Lovella Calica
Maria R. Texidor
Maria Teresa Rodriguez
Marci Maxwell
Melissa Ezelle
Michelle Fosadas
Missy Risser

Misty Sol
Molik Harvey
Nana Korantemaa Ayebofo
Natalie O'Hara
Minah 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. Kayson
Valerie Harris
Vena Jefferson
Wadzanai Khute
Williana J. Ows

2006

Aijua Sims-Copeland
Angela "Sadie" Watson
Beverly Dale
Blanche Epps
Chelsea L. Clofer
Clarissa T. Sligh
Colette Copeland
Crystal L. Prazier
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
Misla Denée
Misty Sol
Na Tanyá Daviná Stewart
Nana Baakan Agyrirwah
Nana Korantemaa Ayebofo
Niama Leslie JoAnn Williams
Fallabi Chakravorty
Patricia McLean
Priyank Jindal
Qandira Allen
Rachelle Lee Smith
Ruth Naomi Floyd
Samantha Barrow
Sanni Crespina-Flores
Sarah Stefana Smith
Sheena Johnson
Shoba Sharma
Siyade Gemechisa
Soledad Chavez-Plumley
Stefani Threet
Stephanie "Anma" Young
Tania Isaac
Thelma Shelton Robinson
Thambi Langa (Sista Fayah)
Tina Norton

Tulie Reddick
Uva C. Coles
Valerie Gilbert
Vashti Dubois
Zilan Kunas

2005

Aishah Shahidah Simmons
Anyta Thomas
Brandi Jeter
Carmen Rojas
Carol Pinkle
Cassandre Xavier
Chanté Brown
Christine Duffield
Crystal Jacqueline Torres
Dante Toza
Dao-yuan Chou
Deb Shoval
Denise King
Gwynne B. Sigel
Ham'Diya Ku
Ione Nash
Iris Brown
James Wells
Jaye Allison
Judith Trustone
Julia Elaine Galetti
Kormassa Bobo
Laureen Griffin
Magda Martinez
Maori Karmael Holmes
Maribel Lozada-Arzuaga
Marissa Johnson-Valenzuela
Mary Roth
Michele Tayoun
Michelle Ortiz

Misia Denea Cole
Ma 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 Fovse
Taina Asili
Tamika A. Jones-Nwalipenja
Tina Morton
Toni Barber
Valerie Harris
Valerie Linhart
Vanessa Julie
Violeta Rivera
Wendy Brown

2004

Adelaide S. Paul
Adele Aron Greenspun
Ann Tegnell
Anna Rubio
Anula Shetty
Arlene Love
Aryani Manning
Astrid Bowlby
Beverly A. Gross-Spencer
Candy Depew
Charletta Brown
Dawn R. Palato
Deborah Caiola

Deborah Pries
Deborah Shoval
Denise Valentine
Donna Bostock
Dorothy Gordon Wilkie
Elba Hevia y Vaca
Elizabeth Doering
Elizabeth R. New
Ellie Brown
Elysa Voshell
Emily Hubler
Emily Selvin
Erica Zoë Loustau
Gail Bracegirdle
Heather Raikes
Hee Sook Kim
Heidi Barr
Heidi Cruz
Jackie Hoving
Janet Goldwater
Jennifer Blazina
Jessica Smith
Ju-Yeon Ryu
Julie York
Juliette Stango
Justyna Badach
Kate Doody
Katherine Hyeojin Yoon
Kathryn Pannepacker
Kathryn Tebordio
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
Kathalie F. Anderson
Mella 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'Kara
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-Karie Kulgrew

Ava Blitz
Barbara Gregson
Carol Towarnicky
Cathleen Cohen
Cheryl Hess
Clarity Haynes
Daniele Strawmyer
Deidre Murphy
Elizabeth Piend
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 Peasley
Julia Granacki
Keiko Miyamori
Laura Watson
Libby Saylor
Liz Goldberg
Lorene Cary
Lynne Allen
Maria T. Rodriguez
Marianne Bernstein
Martha McDonald
Martina Johnson-Allen
Mary DeWitt
Michelle Keita
Molly Layton
Myra Bazell
Nadia Hironaka
Nichole Canuso
Nicole Cousineau

Patricia Goodrich
Patricia Traub
Paula Winokur
Rachel Cantor
Rain Harris
Robin Black
Ruth Naomi Floyd
Sara Steele
Sarah McEaneaney
Sarah Zwerling
Sharon Katz
Sharon Mullally
Sharon White
Susan Abulhawa
Susan Denton
Susan Magee
Teresa Leo
Toni Shapiro-Phim
Wendy Univer
Won Jung Choi
Yvonne Chism-Fence

2002

Adelaide Paul
Adrienne Stalek
Astrid Bowlby
Barbara Botting
Barbara Bullock
Catzie Vilayphonh
Celeste Starita
Christine Keck
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 Punderberg
Lois Herbine
Lynette Mager
Malkia Kokuyamba Lydia
Marta Sanchez
Martha Kearns
Megan Bridge
Melina Hammer
Michelle Lipson
Na Tanyá Daviná Stewart
Madine 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.K. Lutz
Andrea Clearfield
Angela Watson
Anne-Karis Kulgrew
Arden Kass
Celia Reisman
Daisy Fried (3 grants)
Deborah Caiola
Deidra Greenleaf Allan
Eurhi Jones
Feral Willcox
J.C. Todd
Jeanne Obbard
Jennifer Macdonald
Jody Sweitzer
Joy A. Yensley
Julia Lopez
Julie Cooper-Vratrik
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
Kizinga 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
Karina Borker
Mary DeWitt
Mary Salvante
Mary Veronica Sweeney
Keg Richter
Keg Saligman
Kegan Wall
Melissa Husted-Sherman
Kerrilee Challiss
Michele Belluomini
Michelle Coesterbaan
Kolly Christie
Nancy Agati (2 grants)
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 Kuhl

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 Van 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
Fang Xiong Sikoun
Sirirathasuk
Sandra Brownlee
Yvonne Bobrowicz

1996

Danielle Picard-Sheehan
Eileen Neff
Ellen Spirer
Judith Taylor
Kate Koran
Martha Madigan
Michèle Vrentrop

Paula Chamlee
Rita Bernstein
Ruth Naomi Ployd
Ruth Thorne-Thomsen
Sally Grizzell

1995

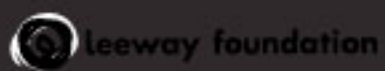
Alice Schell
Anndee Hochmann
Beth Kephart Sulit
Debra Leigh Scott
Donna Jo Napoli
Gloria Klaiman
Karen Rile
Lisa Borders
Rachel Carpenter
Susan Kagee



Blackened Sea by Candy Depew (MOO '04) from "Tongue-in-Cheek"



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