



For Immediate Release

The Heinz Endowments and The Pittsburgh Foundation Announce

Sixteen Grants to Artists and Organizations

Awards Totaling \$216,206 Will Support Projects Throughout Region

Pittsburgh, PA, May 25, 2012 – The Heinz Endowments and The Pittsburgh Foundation have awarded grants to sixteen artists and organizations during the first funding cycle of *Investing in Professional Artists*, a program jointly sponsored by the foundations.

Applications to the new program were received from 137 individuals and organizations from twenty-three cities and towns throughout the region. A peer panel comprising regional and national experts from a variety of artistic disciplines reviewed applications and made awards to thirteen artists and three organizations based on the quality of the artist's work and the potential of the proposed project to advance the artist's career. Grantees include established and emerging artists working in visual arts, multimedia, dance, music, theater and literature. A complete list of grants appears below.

Investing in Professional Artists is a multi-year program whose goals are to support creative development of professional artists in the region; create career advancement and recognition opportunities for artists; encourage creative partnerships between artists and local organizations, and increase the visibility of working artists in the region's cultural life.

National Panelists included Lee Gutkind (Founding Editor of *Creative Nonfiction* Journal), Bill Horrigan (Curator-at-Large at the Wexner Center), Valerie Cassel Oliver (Senior Curator at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston), Steven Stucky (Pulitzer Prize-winning composer), Laurie Uprichard (former Executive Director of Danspace Project and the Dublin Dance Festival), Meiyin Wang (Associate Producer of Under The Radar Festival and Symposium in New York).

Regional Panelists included Wendy Arons (Associate Professor of Dramatic Literature at Carnegie Mellon University), Vicky A. Clark (Independent visual arts curator), Ben Harrison (Associate Curator for Performance at The Andy Warhol Museum), Ayanah Moor (Associate Professor of Art at Carnegie Mellon University), Peter Oresick (Associate Director of Chatham University's MFA Program in Creative Writing), Natalie Ozeas (Associate Head of Carnegie Mellon University's School of Music), Greer Reed (Artistic Director for Dance Initiatives at The August Wilson Center for African American Culture).

“Our region benefits enormously from having one of the most vibrant and diverse arts communities in the country, enhancing the quality of life in innumerable ways,” said Grant Oliphant, The Pittsburgh Foundation’s President and CEO. “We are delighted to partner with the Heinz Endowments in this very significant program to support the work and career development of our local artists, furthering Pittsburgh’s vitality and growth as a cultural destination.”

New applications for grants to be awarded in 2013 will be accepted later this year. For more information, visit The Heinz Endowments’ website at www.heinz.org or The Pittsburgh Foundation’s website at www.pittsburghfoundation.org.

Creative Development Grants awarded:

Lenka Clayton – \$10,000 - To support a conceptual artist residency called “Residency in Motherhood.”

Beth Corning – \$10,000 - To work with director Dominique Serrand to develop a new choreographic direction and voice for the next phase of her career.

Zach Dorn - \$10,000 – To support research, writing and production related to two new works.

Vanessa German - \$ 5,750 – To support the development and creation of a series of site-specific works.

Yona Harvey - \$ 5,492 – To support residencies and the completion of a collection of essays.

Akiko Kotani - \$10,000 – To support preparation of new work for Pittsburgh Center for the Arts’ Artist of the Year exhibition in 2013.

Anthony Mitchell - \$10,000 – To support travel to Guinea and training with Les Ballet Africains

David Montano - \$10,000 – To support professional development and studio and material upgrades.

Michael Royce – \$10,000 - To support the creation of a new body of drawings and crocheted items as the basis for an exhibition.

Jim Rugg – \$ 9,964 – To support a solo exhibition of drawings and development of a graphic novel.

Julie Sokolow - \$10,000 – To support the production of a feature-length documentary about a writer/artist with Asperger’s syndrome.

David Stock - \$10,000 – To support the recording of concerti with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project.

Amy Williams - \$10,000 – To support completion, recording, and release of a series of chamber works.

Grants to Organizations for Artist Residencies:

Kelly-Strayhorn Theater (Community Theater Project Corporation) - \$30,000 – To support a residency with choreographer and performer Kate Watson-Wallace to develop and premiere a new work.

The Mattress Factory - \$35,000 –To support a residency with conceptual artist Betsy Damon to produce work for the exhibition “Feminist And...”

Tonsor Lab for Plant Evolutionary Genetics at the University of Pittsburgh - \$35,000 – To support a residency with artist Natalie Settles to develop a series of exhibitions, public lectures, and essays focusing on the process of evolution.

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