



Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh 2022 grantees



Advancing the Field Support

1. **Vania Evangelique Arthur (Zeal Eva), \$25,000 over 1 year (She/Her/Hers)**
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zealeva@gmail.com
<https://zealeva.wixsite.com/visuelles>
Instagram: [@zeal_eva](https://www.instagram.com/zeal_eva)

Zeal Eva's (she/her/hers) artwork explores the intersections of the natural world and the built environment to highlight shared Black experiences and document the present. Zeal Eva will use the \$25,000 grant to organize the three-day "Afro Art Fest" in September 2023. The festival will take place in the Garfield, Larimer and Homewood neighborhoods of Pittsburgh. The goal of the event is to uplift the Black community, provide resources, create space for underground talent to be put in the forefront and to showcase the progress already made by individuals within the African diaspora of Pittsburgh.

"Through photography, painting, illustration, and sculpture, my personal artist practice explores the intersections of the natural world and the built environment to highlight shared Black experiences and document the present," says Zeal. "My practice is one that connects closely to home--whether that be of my past, current, or future spaces, and draws inspiration from moments within my personal life, roots and culture. I am a visual storyteller who celebrates the Black experience through artworks that bring to life the feeling of nostalgia and a vision for what a healthier future for black people will look like."

Through the platforming of multidisciplinary Black arts in the region, Zeal says she looks forward to providing learning opportunities in various forms of Black creativity, which will serve as starting points for deeper investigation for attendees. Lastly, by creating a space in which spoken word poets, instrumentalists, musicians, dancers, thespians, black filmmakers and educators can gather and showcase their talents, the festival will be injecting back into Pittsburgh a celebration of Black arts and culture that is needed now more than ever.

2. **Bunker Projects, Inc., \$4,109 over 1 year**

(412) 527-8844

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<https://www.bunkerprojects.org/hand-off.html>

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This grant to the Bunker Projects is for Harrison Kinnane Smith (he/him/his) and the “Hands-Off” series he created as part of The Bunker Review, an online publication covering contemporary art in Pittsburgh under the arts nonprofit. The series has been running since 2020 and has since featured poetry, critical writing, manifestos, artist panels and creative essays. “Hands-Off” was designed to enhance a traditional essay series by allowing participating artists to gain visibility and polish their public speaking skills. Smith will use the \$4,109 grant to fund the continuation of the series.

3. **Equity Impact Center, \$25,000 over 1 year**

(412) 573-1870

connect@equityimpactcenter.org

WEB: <https://equityimpactcenter.org/>

INSTAGRAM: [@equity_impact](https://www.instagram.com/equity_impact)

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TWITTER: [@equity_impact](https://twitter.com/equity_impact)

The grant to the Equity Impact Center will go toward the work of musician Leigh Solomon Pugliano. She created the SCALE Fellowship in 2019 with the intention of providing individualized artist development, entrepreneurial skill-building curriculum, and intentional opportunities for Black women in music to connect, share, learn, grow and collaborate. The \$25,000 grant will go toward expanding the SCALE Fellowship for Black Women in Music, which provides the opportunity for fellows to design, develop and produce a live and recorded project. The SCALE Fellowship program directly addresses the inequities that exist for Black women in the music sector as well as the need for a music ecosystem that centers and advances musicians and music makers.

The program provides resources (knowledge, network, financial) as well as the support needed to develop a sustainable career and overcome the challenges that exist for Black artists in Pittsburgh. The SCALE Fellowship program ends with an artist showcase.

Culturally Relevant Residency Support

4. **ALMA LEWIS, \$20,000 over 1 year**

Ambrose Murray (They/Them/She/Her)

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www.almalewis.org

www.ambroserhapsodymurray.com

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INSTAGRAM: [@alma_lewis_pgh](https://www.instagram.com/alma_lewis_pgh)

FACEBOOK: [@alma_lewis_pgh](https://www.facebook.com/alma_lewis_pgh)

ALMA LEWIS centers the work, energy, and views of Black people of African descent, showing that they are unencumbered and free to experiment and explore new modes of learning, engaging and creating. This grant will go toward creating a supportive residency that encourages rigorous experimentation of new material and work. Recipient Ambrose Murray, a self-taught painter and seamstress, is an emerging artist from North Carolina with roots in Florida. Their experience in liberation movement and social justice spaces across the South continues to inform their praxis as a Black, queer, southern artist who strives to create work that heals, transforms and makes

tangible impact. The \$20,000 grant will go toward a three-month residency that includes an artist's honorarium, and funding for materials and administrative costs.

5. DEMASKUS Theater Collective, \$20,000 over 1 year

Brittney M. Caldwell (She/Her/Hers)

941-544-9719

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(412) 608-9482

mercedes@demaskus.com

WEB: <https://www.demaskus.com/>

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TWITTER: [@demaskustheater](https://twitter.com/demaskustheater)

DEMASKUS theater collective was founded in 2005 with the aim of marrying historic and vivid storytelling with soulful and unapologetically Black and faith-filled work. [Brittney M. Caldwell](#) is the co-creator of "From Colored to Black," an educational and entertaining play about health and wellness in the Black community. The purpose of the play is to engage audience members in broad discussions about how systemic racism has led to disparities in the fields of health, housing and education. During the residency, the play will be reworked to include more historical elements that are local to the Pittsburgh region. The \$20,000 grant will go toward production and other costs associated with the residency.

6. Protohaven, \$20,000 over 1 year

Executive Director Amber Epps (She/Her/Hers)

(412) 731-4400

amber@protohaven.org

<https://www.protohaven.org>

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Amber Epps, executive director of Protohaven, aims to address the lack of diversity in the Pittsburgh makerspace community while also providing new skills and creative pathways for emerging or experienced Black artists. The \$20,000 grant will be used to fund a residency program for five Black artists at Protohaven. The residency will focus on giving the artists the ability to learn, expand or improve upon their design and fabrication skills. The grant funds will be spent on fees associated with using workshop spaces, material stipends and other costs associated with the residency.

Individual Artist Support

7. Lyndon Barrois Jr., \$10,100 over 1 year (He/Him/His)

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WEB: <https://www.lbarroisjr.com/>

INSTAGRAM: [@eljaybitu](https://www.instagram.com/eljaybitu)

Lyndon Barrois Jr. is an Allegheny County-based artist whose practice is informed by constructed realities, material economy, and nuanced representations of marginal experiences. His work often uses found, altered or replicated print and cinematic media. He has an interest in how self-determinacy of identity has been shaped by a community's history of visually representing its own people. He will use the \$10,100 grant to fund an artist residency at LATITUDE in Chicago and two exhibitions, one in Seattle and the other in Portland, Oregon.

8. Christine McCray-Bethea (C.M.C. Bethea), \$15,000 over 1 year (She/Her/Hers)

(412) 596-6521

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<http://artofreuse.blogspot.com/>

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INSTAGRAM: [@christineclaystudio_and_stuff](#)

C.M.C. Bethea has been a quilter and mixed media artist for over 30 years. Her works often include some aspect of history and reuse as well as pops of color, unlikely fabric pairings and found items. This style of creation allows each of her works to be unique. Bethea will use the \$15,000 grant to work on her project "African-American Quilting Conceptualized as American Kuba Cloth," a series of uniquely African American quilts inspired by Kuba textile abstraction. By expanding and exploring the incorporation of both abstract patterning and physical properties of African Kuba cloth into her quilt practice, she aims to reimagine the geometric nature of Kuba design and also highlight texture that is not normally found in contemporary American quilting which depends on mostly flat cotton fabrics.

"In my quilting and artistic practice in general, it is common for me to utilize whatever comes from life itself, much like the people of the Congo use raffia palms and what is easily at hand in their country," says Bethea. "My fabrics come from multiple sources: throw-ways, thrift stores, or flea markets. Another percentage come from estate sales or are given to me by family."

She says it will be her challenge and joy to expand on the conversation of what defines African-American quilting, how African culture purposefully or instinctually contributes to the artform and how quilts created by African Americans continue to be a major part of the American quilt and fiber art history.

9. Hugo Cruz Machado (Hugo Cruz), \$15,000 over 1 year (He/Him/His)

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FACEBOOK: [Hugo Cruz](#)

Hugo Cruz is a composer, drummer, percussionist and musician who is trained in multiple genres of music including Afro Cuban, jazz, rock, fusion and traditional Cuban, among many other styles. He uses music to communicate his experience as an immigrant and someone who grew up in Afro Cuban and Caribbean cultures. Cruz will use the \$15,000 grant to fund the teaching of five workshops about Afro Cuban music and traditions at the Afro American Music Institute in Pittsburgh.

"I have always been surrounded by music and those who love music - especially Cuban music," says Cruz. "My background and identity as 'moro' or 'indio' in Cuba, meaning someone of African, European, and Taino descent, gives me a unique place in this topic - my ancestry is mixed as are many Cubans. Culturally, I have been exposed to multiple genres and styles of music that influence my work."

The workshop series aims to advance Black art among Black people in Pittsburgh, offering a unique lens from Cruz's personal and professional experiences. The content of these workshops is related to all African descended cultures and peoples, and the workshops will offer a space to connect on a creative and spiritual level with the practices and artistry of our African ancestors.

10. Deavron Dailey (Deavron "The Urban Explorer" Dailey), \$15,000 over 1 year (He/Him/His)

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FACEBOOK: [deavron](#)

"The Urban Explorer" Deavron Dailey is a self-taught mixed media artist who works in fine art design, production and curation. He has produced works in the silk screen printing, ceramics and photography mediums, among others. With this \$15,000 grant, he will create a new body of work as part of a project called CounterpART. The grant funds will go towards website upgrades, material costs and other fees associated with the project. The project will address the inclusion of more Black voices in the arts, the distribution of art resources and finding leverage points within complex social systems using creative problem-solving skills.

11. Justin Dumas, \$15,000 over 1 year (he/him/his)

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justinemmanuel.content@gmail.com

<https://www.justinemmanueldumas.com/>

Instagram: [@justinemmanueldumas](https://www.instagram.com/justinemmanueldumas)

Justin Dumas will explore Pittsburgh's history of faith, industry and infrastructure through his "What Remains" project. During a six-month span, the artist will produce a minimum of five new works, culminating in a permanent installation at 5009 Penn Ave. in Garfield to be completed by the end of January 2023. The notion of "most livable city" is foreign for many Pittsburgh natives, including Justin. In the city's pursuit of new economic opportunities and identities, its citizens are often left with memories attached to demolished buildings, and little say about the new shapes and forms home will take. The final installation represents the alignment of Justin and an architect's vision to create dialogue, challenge the systems that render buildings obsolete and that displace residents.

12. Addoley Dzegede, \$11,020 over 1 year (She/Her/Hers)

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www.addoley.com

Instagram: [@dzegede](https://www.instagram.com/dzegede)

Addoley Dzegede is a fiber and textile artist whose work aims to bring light and attention to African cultural traditions, examine histories of decorative objects with links to the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and create room for new narratives and symbols. Her work often contemplates the forces of history, experience and location, as well as how they work together to tell a story, essentially, of longing as a state of being. She will use the \$11,020 grant to fund a nine-month research project exploring collections in Dutch institutions to add to her growing knowledge of the history of wax print. The research will culminate in the production of a limited edition, handbound book that will feature fabric samples in batik, natural dye, screen printing and other textile techniques relevant to the project. The grant will help her to pay for the necessary ground transportation, artist fees and other costs of production.

"The artist books will include fabric samples in batik, natural dye, screen printing, and other textile techniques relevant to the project that I will be creating during my research period," says Dzegede.

This project advances Black arts because it delves deep into an important part of identity in the African diaspora: the wax print we often wear to show our pride and heritage. Addoley says she believes it is important to deepen knowledge, to know where traditions come from, and to make room for new traditions to emerge.

13. Petra Floyd, \$15,000 over 1 year (She/They)

(267) 574-6133

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Petrafloyd.com

Instagram: [@wzly_pete](https://www.instagram.com/wzly_pete)

Petra Floyd is a sonic and experimental artist whose work – which focuses on sound and interactivity - has been inspired by Black femme and queer people during the pandemic. They will use the \$15,000 grant to continue developing their work titled "Before the DJ Was Sound, and She Played It." The goal of the project is to produce a group of sound sculptures, with the grant supporting the purchase of audio equipment, production materials, research and other costs associated with the project.

"I have multiple goals for this project," says Floyd. "I will create a series of sound sculptures and instruments that synthesize two archives: Pittsburgh's highly visible public sculptures and its hidden archive of indigenous global instruments at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History."

The ongoing crises of anti-black violence, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the nationwide absence of affordable housing are destabilizing and weakening communal bonds. Music and dance contain dense ancestral expressions and facilitate social connections even when we can't share physical space or time together. Floyd says their hope is that through pursuing this archivally grounded work, they will build a bridge from the present to the past, connecting with local institutions and storytellers along the way.

14. *atiya jones, \$15,000 over 1 year (She/Her/Hers)*

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<https://atiyajones.com>

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atiya jones is an artist whose professional work has consisted primarily of design-based commission projects. She hopes to create a body of work born solely of her own desire and without the outside pressure of creating for a client. She will use the \$15,000 grant to fund a solo exhibition titled "The Wanderer" at 707 Gallery, her first solo gallery show in Pittsburgh. The grant will support material and installation costs and other expenses related to the production of the exhibition. Her work supports the narrative that Black people are not a monolith, and neither is our artwork. She wants to tell the story of a queer, Black wandering woman in search of a connection- a sense of home, while acknowledging a lifetime of experiencing isolation by being othered and tokenized.

"My work honors the labor of those of us on mental health journeys," says atiya, "those of us breaking ancestral trauma cycles; those of us wanting to create another pathway for ourselves. My work is about a search for respite and rest."

Through her anticipated show at 707 Gallery (tentatively titled, "The Wanderer"), atiya says she hopes to expand the narrative of Black life in Pittsburgh. The body of work she is creating is informed by the isolation she experienced as a single person without a pod during the pandemic; her relationship with anxiety & depression (caused by cPTSD) and self-examination. atiya says that this will be a show for those of us (particularly and especially QT/BIPOC people) learning about and looking into our pasts, so that we may proceed forward with more ease.

15. *Michael Moorman Goode, \$5,610 over 1 year (He/Him/His)*

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Twitter: [@Cheetasa1](#)

Michael Moorman Goode is an artist whose art is inspired by environmentalism and his work as an educator. He intends to use the \$5,610 grant to create and distribute a children's coloring book that includes seeds. The intention is to promote community gardening in urban environments. The grant will cover the costs of creating and distributing his book to students. "Cheetasa" is for elementary-age children everywhere. It's a coloring book that Goode hopes to get into the hands of children all over Pittsburgh, particularly in urban environments where community gardening efforts are underfoot, limited green spaces exist or where community gardens could exist.

"I hope to raise awareness of environmental issues in the hearts of elementary school-age children," says Goode. "I hope to see children at their schools, in their community, and at home, planting pollinator gardens and gaining experience working in the dirt. I believe the best way to plant the seed, is to expose children to major environmental issues at a young age while simultaneously gaining experience working in the dirt."

Cheetasa models action today, tomorrow, and in the future for young people.

16. Xan Phillips, \$15,000 over 1 year (They/Them/Theirs)

(330) 357-1052

xan.writer@gmail.com

xanphillips.com

Instagram: @ [xanphillips](https://www.instagram.com/xanphillips)

Xan Phillips is a poet and literary artist whose creative process involves long periods of solitude and reflection followed by moments of emergence and engagement with the world around them. They will use the \$15,000 grant to produce a book of poetry titled "Spectacle." The book will address anti-Blackness portrayed on television and analyze its effect on the viewer. The grant will cover supply costs, travel expenses, professional development costs and artist wages.

"Like poets, filmmakers invite their audiences inside of their imaginations for the purposes of their craft," says Phillips. "Because we as viewers predominantly inhabit the imaginations of cis, white, male storytellers, one of the goals of 'Spectacle' is to examine these fabricated worlds critically. I am fascinated by shows like Watchmen, WestWorld and True Blood which feature pivotal black character arcs, but feel immensely driven by white desire, and anti-blackness."

Phillips says that their hope is that this book creates a deeper awareness of filmmaking as a collaborative process that is led predominantly by white men. Everything we consume as viewers is filtered and translated, so I use the ekphrastic mode to bring black consciousness out of the peripheral and into a duel(ing) lens that pulls the viewer's relation into the scene.

17. Ricardo Robinson (Ricardo iamuuri Robinson), \$15,000 over 1 year (He/Him/His/They/Them/Theirs)

(724) 312-7882

www.ricardoiamuuri@gmail.com

Sonarheology.com

Instagram: @lavenderfreddy

Facebook: @ricardo.iamuuri

Ricardo iamuuri Robinson is a sound artist whose work invites listeners to cultivate a deeper understanding of the ways in which we inform our sense of place and awareness, while exposing the listener to the socio-political dimensions of sound, in turn encouraging a heightened engagement with systems of power. They will use the \$15,000 grant to produce a catalog of publicly accessible recordings titled "The Sunscreen Conspiracy." The project employs research, field recordings, archiving, media archeology, filmmaking, performance art and creative listening engagements. The grant will help to fund marketing efforts, graphic and audio design, artist fees and other associated costs.

"What we are labelling here as 'Black art' is yet another attempt at capturing a long legacy of various formations, unique expressions and multiple manifestations," says Robinson. "This work not only contributes to Black art, as such, but is subsequently born out from and shaped by Black artistic movements. Therefore, the audience for this project are Black people and all of the people who support the struggle against anti-Blackness, dehumanization and de-spiritualization."

Robinson says that they would like to see this collection of curated audiovisual media files continue to gain growing support on Instagram and other social media platforms; eventually leading to the development of its own official website that will gain the attention and utilization from researchers, artists, academics, scientists, politicians, media personalities and all curious minds.

18. Nat Sampson (higu rose), \$14,915 over 1 year (Pronouns: none)

(215) 834-4494

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www.swamp-monster.net

twitter: @higoons

Instagram: @higoons

Nat Sampson, known as higu rose, is a graphic novelist and comic book artist whose work focuses on the experience of queer, transgender people of color in the Pittsburgh region. While the artist's work is largely

autobiographical, high rose aims to expand to community focused storytelling. The \$14,915 grant will be used to produce the second volume of the comic series YINZ CITY. The grant will cover the cost of artist supplies as well as printing and promotional costs.

"YINZ CITY is a graphic novel series I've been drawing since 2019," says rose. "It tells the story of queer and trans people of color (QTPOC) in predominately white queer diy punk-ish communities on Osage and Shawnee land (aka Pittsburgh, PA). My goal is to give voice to a demographic that is largely ignored and at times fetishized in those local communities."

rose's long term goal is to complete 5 volumes of YINZ CITY, a total of 20 chapters. The first four chapters, which make up Volume 1, have been finished. This grant will be used to complete the second volume with "focus, clarity, and support."

19. Marquita Sams, \$15,000 over 1 year (She/Her/Hers)

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<https://www.muchjoyhealingstudio.com/dance>

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INSTAGRAM: [@muchjoyhealingstudio](https://www.instagram.com/muchjoyhealingstudio)

FACEBOOK: [Much Joy Healing Studio](https://www.facebook.com/MuchJoyHealingStudio)

Marquita Sams is a dancer and choreographer whose work is grounded in the upliftment of Black women and girls and the creation of safe spaces for them through the art of dance. The \$15,000 grant will be used to produce a dance film titled "The Four World Ages" which will use innovative lighting techniques and camera equipment to produce a divine visual aesthetic. The grant will fund wages for cast and crew, costuming, set, lighting and other costs of production for the film.

20. Harrison Kinnane Smith, \$15,000 over 1 year (He/Him/His)

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Instagram: [@kinnanesmith](https://www.instagram.com/kinnanesmith)

Harrison Kinnane Smith's praxis is across the mediums of photography, sculpture and assemblage, synthesizing, sculptural and social practice to create art that both tells the narrative of navigating housing discrimination and motivates action to solve those inequities. Harrison will use the \$15,000 grant to continue his "Sed Valorem" project, and to explore new ways of artistically exposing, intervening within and reversing local systems of racial discrimination around the site of the home and beyond. The grant will fund materials, artist wages and other expenses associated with the cost of producing the work.

21. Steffan Triplett, \$15,000 over 1 year (He/Him/His)

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Twitter: [@steffantriplett](https://twitter.com/steffantriplett)

Steffan Triplett is a literary artist specializing in essays, poetry, and prose who is presently working on two non-fiction manuscripts, "GOOD GOD" and "THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANT." The themes of the manuscripts look at the writer's own queer identity, climate change, race relations and survival. The \$15,000 grant will be used to complete the two manuscripts, promote the books and cover other costs associated with their publication and finishing.

22. Tahirah Walker, \$15,000 over 1 year (She/Her/Hers)

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www.blackbooklady.com

Instagram: [@tahirahwalkerphd](#)

Facebook: [Black Book Lady](#)

Tahirah Walker is a writer whose praxis focusses on the experience of Black women in the Pittsburgh area. She uses poetry and critique to share these experiences to an international audience through online publication. The \$15,000 grant will allow her to write a book composed of letters, short stories and poems about the experience of being a Black woman in Pittsburgh. The grant will fund equipment costs, furthering education, editor fees and publication fees, speaking engagements and other expenses related to the completion of her book.

23. ChaRon White (ChaRon Don), \$10,000 over 1 year (He/Him/His)

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ChaRon Don is a performing and recording hip-hop emcee who has been releasing music since 1998. He often collaborates with other local creatives to create multifaceted work that celebrates the mediums of music, film, fashion and culture. The \$10,000 grant will be used to complete his audio-visual album and experience titled "Watching You Watching Me." The grant will help to fund the wages of a creative team, the production of promotional materials and DVD copies of his work.

Planning Grants

24. Tyesha Clarke (Tye Clarke), \$5,000 over 1 year (She/Her/Hers)

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Notyelikethepresent.com

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Instagram: [@gooxjy](#)

Tye Clarke is an experiential artist whose work is devoted to centering experience, interaction, transcendence, as well as Black joy and liberation. The \$5,000 grant will be used to identify resources and learning opportunities for aspiring experiential designers and immersive artists and to locate and engage Black collaborators and professionals within the discipline. The grant will fund stipends for researchers, travel and other necessary items for the project.

"As I have stepped into this work, and perhaps why it's taking me so long to not only pursue it, is figuring out how," says Clarke. "This funding would assist in the creation of throughways for myself and others like me. This is not a field that is heavily saturated or popularized making it difficult to find resources for education, mentorship or collaboration. Those I have identified are limited and inaccessible due to cost, location and in-person only offerings. These barriers have held me back significantly in the pursuit of fulfilling my artistic passions."

Clarke says she calls herself an immersive artist and an experiential designer because the work that she creates SMELLS like the diaspora when you enter Jamils, TASTES like fresh pancakes from Grandma B's, captivates your EYESIGHT like ARThouse, FEELS as cozy as August Wilson Center's Theater and you FEEL the SOUND pulsing through your body like a night at UNION. Or, she says, that's the intention: to design with experience, interaction, transcendence, and, unequivocally, Black Joy and liberation in mind.

25. Michele P. Ellison, \$5,000 over 1 year (She/Her/Hers)

(412) 431-1640

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Michele P. Ellison is an author who aims to produce a memoir detailing her and her family's involvement in the civil rights movement. The \$5,000 grant will be used to fund the production of her memoir through consultation and

interviews with experts, the printing and procurement of research materials and travel expenses related to the project. This project lays the foundation for the telling of the story through narrative and poetic prose concerning the African American experience in the United States and subsequently adds to the literary arts about Pittsburgh and the United States.

"As an artist, the project gives me the opportunity to develop my voice and answers the questions: Who is this woman? and Who are we?" Says Ellison. "On my trajectory as an artist, it lays the foundation for future narrative and poetic works."

26. Eliyah Roberts (She/Her/Hers)

(412) 944-0628

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INSTAGRAM: [@eliyah_roberts](https://www.instagram.com/eliyah_roberts)

Eliyah Roberts is a composer, lyricist and librettist who wants to see a world where little Black girls and boys can see themselves represented on stage. The \$5,000 grant will be used to begin writing a musical that tells the story of a little Black girl wanting to follow her dreams and the obstacles that she overcame to achieve them. The grant will fund travel and tickets to Broadway musicals for research purposes, artist stipend and lessons with a professional composer.

"A few years ago, there was a sign that hung above a building in East Liberty that read, There Are Black People In The Future," recalls Roberts. "When I first noticed the sign, I thought "duh!", but quickly remembered that we live in a society that doesn't value Black life. Yes, there will be Black people in the future, in books, magazines, movies, TV and I as a Black, young woman who is an artist, my goal is to create works that are rooted in the Black experience."

Roberts adds that the musical she is creating is important because throughout history, Blacks are fed a limiting narrative that portrayed Black people as negative, one-dimensional stereotypes on television, on theatre stages, and on social media platforms. Black people are not monolithic. As a people we are so vastly unique, diverse and influential with plenty of untold stories to tell and share.

This creates opportunities for Black girls to see themselves on stage and encourages them to dream and imagine beyond their wildest dreams!

Project Support

27. Barrel & Flow Festival, \$20,000 over 1 year

Lamar Bracey (He/Him/His)

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The Barrel & Flow Festival aims to support Black artists by providing them with professional connections in the craft brewing industry, employment opportunities and audiences to consume and purchase their work. The \$20,000 grant will be used to pay for Black speakers, performers and of artists to present at the 2023 Barrel & Flow Festival.

28. DEMASKUS Theater Collective, \$20,000 over 1 year

Monteze Freeland (He/Him/His)

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FACEBOOK: [demaskus](#)

TWITTER: [@demaskustheater](#)

City Theatre Company, in collaboration with DEMASKUS Theater Collective and the August Wilson African American Cultural Center, is co-presenting “Fannie: The Music and Life of Fannie Lou Hamer” by Cheryl West. The \$20,000 grant will be used to support the costs of production of the musical, including artistic team fees, payroll, transportation, housing, physical production resources and marketing.

29. Eshu DLC, \$20,000 over 1 year

Ahmed Bey (He/Him/His)

(570) 994-8605

Eshudlc@gmail.com

Eshudlc.org

<https://www.facebook.com/EshuDLC>

Eshu DLC creates narrative games that foster mental health, leadership, and creativity, and imagine new places, histories and societies. They aim to inspire a renaissance of Black game designers and storytellers in the Pittsburgh area. The \$20,000 grant will be used to fund the production of a new tabletop role-playing game called “Crimson Codex.” This is the first ever game of its kind to be set in the Homewood neighborhood of Pittsburgh. The grant will fund wages and other materials necessary for game production.

The game we create will feature black and brown teens and young adults in futuristic Pittsburgh, occupied and governed by predominately black people. Crimson Codex the game will be designed to introduce black and brown youth and young adults into the world of Tabletop Roleplaying Gaming or TTRPGs.

30. Sabira Cole Film Festival \$20,000 over 2 years.

Ogechi Chieke (sher/her/hers)

(412) 551-6707

ogechi7@gmail.com

<https://www.sabirafilmfest.org/>

INSTAGRAM: [@sabirafilmfest](#)

FACEBOOK: [sabirafilmfest](#)

TWITTER: [@sabirafimfest](#)

Ogechi Chieke will use this \$20,000 grant for the 2022 Sabira Cole Film Festival (SCFF), which screens a curated selection of new and old films from the African Diaspora. Many of the films submitted at the '21 SCFF festival were submitted from developing countries, with the twenty films screened covering topics including Black LGBTQIA+ community, workers' rights, justice issues affecting African immigrants, domestic violence, children's rights and crime in Allegheny County. SCFF helps build the careers and support the lives of individual filmmakers by providing screening opportunities and marketing via newsletters and virtual events.

31. Pittsburgh Glass Center, \$20,000 over 1 year

Rachel Niederberger (She/Her/Hers)

(412) 365-2145

rachel@pittsburghglasscenter.org

www.pittsburghglasscenter.org

INSTAGRAM: [@pghglasscenter](#)

FACEBOOK: [@pghglasscenter](#)

TWITTER: [@pghglasscenter](#)

The Pittsburgh Glass Center will produce a collaborative project featuring Marques Redd's background in traditional African cosmology and multi-media art as well as the multi-media art and engineering background of Mikael Owunna. The project will bring Owunna's “Infinite Essence” series to life in an exhibition opening in March 2024. “Infinite Essence” strives to rebut media imagery that reduces the Black body to death and state violence by

creating life-size glass sculptures of Black figures glowing with stars within their bodies, embodying eternal life. The \$20,000 grant will be used to fund direct artist costs, program expenses, promotional costs and other affiliated expenses.

32. *The BlackTeaBrownSuga Network, \$20,000 over 1 year*

Aaleah Oliver (She/Her/Hers)

(501) 242-1983

blackteabrownsuga@gmail.com

www.btbsn.org

INSTAGRAM: [@aaleaholi](#)

FACEBOOK: [BlackTeaBrownSuga Network](#)

The first-time ABAP grantee serves youth, families, cultural workers and community members in western Pa. by promoting mental wellness through music and media-based programs. The grant will be used for an after-school program aimed at reducing gun violence among youth by providing media skills training that students can use to transition into a career and providing a safe space for community members of all ages to learn and grow. By equipping Black communities with a safe place to learn, grow and create, and the resources they need to address barriers to academic and professional success, this project invests in Black art by providing a foundation of safety and wellness for Black artists.

33. *YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh, YMCA Lighthouse Project, \$20,000 over 1 year.*

James Brown (he/him/his)

(412) 330-8785

jbrown@ymcapgh.org

<https://www.pittsburghymca.org/lighthouse>

INSTAGRAM: [@ymcalighthouse](#)

FACEBOOK: [YMCA Lighthouse Project](#)

TWITTER: [@ymcalighthouse](#)

YMCA's Lighthouse Project will focus this grant on the development of the Future Roots Sample Library, a sample pack repository featuring and in collaboration with Black Pittsburgh musicians. The digital, royalty-free sample library that will be accessible to the music production community in Pittsburgh and all over the world, featuring collaborations with at least 20 Black musical contributors including bands, session musicians and vocalists. The Future Roots Sample Library will support the local arts economy by providing musicians with a unique way to monetize their craft while providing a platform for the "Pittsburgh sound" to be celebrated and present within the larger industry of popular music. James Brown is the project manager.

34. *Artist Image Resource, \$20,000 over 1 year.*

Robert Beckman (he/him/his)

(412) 551-2953

rbeckman@artistsimageresource.org

www.artistsimageresource.org

INSTAGRAM: [@airpgh](#)

FACEBOOK: [@airpgh](#)

TWITTER: [@airpgh](#)

Artist Image Resource's grant will support the creation of new print-related work with artists Mary Martin and Gavin Benjamin, fostering the current projects of both while engaging them in the development of new work in the AIR studios. AIR provides artists with behind-the-scenes support for projects while facilitating the creation of new work and encouraging exploration of broader dynamics that can expand their practices.

General Operating Support

35. 1Hood Media Academy, \$100,000 over 2 years.

Jasiri X (he/him/his)

412-867-9582

info@1hood.org

<https://www.1hood.org/1hood-media-academy>

INSTAGRAM: [@1hoodmedia](#)

FACEBOOK: [1Hood Media](#)

TWITTER: [@1hood](#)

In 2022 and 2023, 1Hood will reorganize operations and enhance programming to advance its mission, vision and values and build capacity for long-term sustainability. This work will be led by a collective of diversely skilled creative professionals rooted in Black Pittsburgh through lived experience, critical inquiry and an unyielding commitment to Black liberation. New consultants and staff in the planning, development, marketing, administration and digital media sectors will help accomplish this reorganization and expansion, furthering 1Hood's overarching goal of providing multiple platforms to amplify the authentic representation of Black experiences and desires.

36. Afro-American Music Institute, \$100,000 over 2 years.

Dr. James T. Johnson Jr. (he/him/his)

Ms. Patricia Pugh Mitchell (she/her/hers)

412-241-6675

patriciapughmitchell@gmail.com

www.afroamericanmusic.org

INSTAGRAM: [@aaminstitute](#)

FACEBOOK: [aamipgh](#)

With this grant, the Afro-American Music Institute continues to market AAMI's image and solidify its brand on social media and within Pittsburgh communities and will restore and increase student enrollment. In addition to recruiting 15 new students for each of the next two years, AAMI will engage in recruiting and auditioning young men for its Boys Choir, which has been a key source of modest earned income for the organization. The funding will also assist AAMI in expanding its audience through ELearning Opportunities and live streaming events.

37. Hill Dance Academy Theater, \$100,000 over 2 years.

Ayisha Amata Morgan-Lee (she/her/hers)

412-925-3681

amorganlee@5678hdat.org

dance@5678hdat.org

www.5678hdat.org

INSTAGRAM: [5678hdat](#)

FACEBOOK: [5678hdat](#)

TWITTER: [@5678hdat](#)

The Hill Dance Academy Theater aims to Advance Black dance with youth 10 to 18 years of age in the Pittsburgh region. We know that there are Black and Brown students who want to dance and they want to pursue a career in dance. Over the next two years, HDAT will engage in a marketing campaign with the message that "Black Dance starts here at HDAT," create a city-wide audition process and, starting in November 2022, actively identify and recruit students with a passion to dance. Representation Matters and students must see themselves through the stories, experiences and career trajectories of Black dance master artists, faculty and other professionals in Dance.

38. Kente Arts Alliance, \$100,000 over 2 years.

Gail Austin (she/her/hers)

412-322-0292

gail@kentearts.org

INSTAGRAM: [@kentearts](#)

FACEBOOK: [Kente Arts](#)

TWITTER: [@KenteArts](#)

Kente Arts Alliance plans to present 12 ticketed concerts over the next two years and complete a pilot program of the Racial Justice Fund for youth programming. Kente will partner with other arts organizations in identifying and admitting Black youth into a summer arts program/camp designed to introduce small children to music of various genres in hopes of heightening their awareness of and interest in new sounds. The organization will also continue the “Kente at Home” series offered during the spring and summer to provide safe virtual/hybrid alternatives to programming, offering both live and streamed programming at City of Asylum.

39. *The Legacy Arts Project, Inc., \$100,000 over 2 years.*

Erin Perry (she/her/hers)

412-452-3847

info@legacyartsproject.org

<https://legacyartsproject.org/>

INSTAGRAM: [@thelegacyartsproject](#)

FACEBOOK: [Legacyartsproject](#)

TWITTER: [@LegacyArtsPGH](#)

The Legacy Arts Project brings together an intergenerational community of artists for programming that celebrates, honors and explores cultures of the African diaspora. The organization plans to begin implementing its three-year strategic plan which includes outreach to the community to determine audience needs and eventually increasing attendance for programs and events by 50%. The organization will also work to secure temporary space while a long-term home base is found.

40. *New Horizon Theater, Inc., \$100,000 over 2 years.*

Joyce A. Meggerson-Moore (she/her/hers)

412-431-0773

newhorizontheater@yahoo.com

WEB: [Newhorizontheater.org](#)

FACEBOOK: [New Horizons Theater PGH](#)

The mission of New Horizon Theater is to bring to the greater Pittsburgh area consistent, high-quality cultural events reflecting African American points of view and to provide an ongoing venue for ethnic writers and performers to further their professional development. The impacts of COVID-19 made it difficult for the organization to secure reliable and consistent performance spaces. New Horizon Theater, Inc. will work with its board and the community to identify a rehearsal and performance space. This grant will go toward funding a paid position that will handle operational functions including marketing, maintaining contact with artists and playwrights, and audience outreach.

41. *PearlArts Movement + Sound, \$100,000 over 2 years.*

Staycee Pearl (she/her/hers)

412-512-5088

info@pearlartsstudios.com

<https://www.pearlartsstudios.com/>

INSTAGRAM: [@pearlartsstudios](#)

FACEBOOK: [PearlArts](#)

The grant will go toward general operations of PearlArts, a Pittsburgh-based dance-focused arts organization that provides music and media arts programming. Founded by choreographer Staycee Pearl and sound engineer Herman Pearl, PearlArts offers artistic experiences through residencies, collaborations, a broad range of dance and sound education and outreach opportunities. In 2021, PearlArts entered into a two-year Mutual Aid Residency with Kelly Strayhorn Theater, and the two black-led arts organizations have shared resources and worked together to make East Liberty a hub for the Pittsburgh arts community. Plans are underway for PearlArts to be the anchor tenant of the Braddock Arts and Media building starting in late 2023. This space will be the main base of operations and include Tuff Sound Recording, a sound incubator supporting and nurturing emerging musicians and sound engineers.

42. Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company, \$100,000 over 2 years.

Mark Clayton Southers (he/him/his)

Elizabeth Reiss (she/her/hers)

412-687-4686

msouthers@pghplaywrights.org

elizabethfardel@gmail.com

WEB: <https://www.pghplaywrights.org>

FACEBOOK: [@PGHplaywrights](#)

INSTAGRAM: [@markclaytonsouthers](#)

The Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company is poised for a big future in the Hill District. In the next year, the organization will move into a new, dedicated space with offices, teaching and rehearsal space, storage and a 99-seat theater. But, theatre leadership says the move is about more than square feet, it's about a commitment to the Hill District. The Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company, which says the move solidifies their commitment to the Hill District, supports artists by giving them space for artistic exploration and expression while also fostering cultural understanding. Future plans include the Ground Up Theatre Training Program, an enhanced continuation of their efforts to train behind-the-scenes crew professionals.

Special Opportunity Grant

43. Chantal Braziel (she/her/hers) \$10,000

(412) 613-3002

chantal.braziel@gmail.com

WEB: www.chantalbrazielsoprano.com

FACEBOOK: [@Chantal.Braziel](#)

Chantal Braziel is an opera singer pursuing an international career and was accepted into the Berlin International Summer Opera Academy in Germany. The special opportunity grant helped cover travel to Europe, tuition and other expenses so that Chantal could focus solely on the program and her goal of enhancing her vocal technique. She said that the summer 2022 program helped further her dream of becoming an international singer, singing on any and every local, national and international opera stage.

44. Tina Williams Brewer (she/her/hers) \$10,000

WEB: <https://tinawilliamsbrewer.wordpress.com>

INSTAGRAM: [@tinabrewerdesigns](#)

Tina Williams Brewer is developing a series of work for a one person show scheduled for March 2023 at DeBuck Gallery, New York, New York. The exhibition will reimagine the mysterious children of Benin Africa and the children of Homewood, the Pittsburgh neighborhood she calls home. The overall goal of the show is to highlight that there is a path forward in the midst of chaos.

45. Paradise Gray (\$10,000)

Claude Gray (he/him/his)

(412) 657-7965

peaceandunityinthecommunity@gmail.com

INSTAGRAM: [@ParadiseGray](#)

TWITTER: [@ParadiseGray](#)

This grant will be used for The Peace and Unity Community Stage at the DeSchtown Music Festival. The stage provides a range of Black-led art, music and wellness programming with a focus on local outreach and creative youth workforce development infused throughout all components. The Peace and Unity Community Stage aims to foster peace, health, love, unity, and opportunity in the community - as inspired by the "Hip Hop Declaration of Peace," which will be recited on the stage during the festival, while having fun.

46. Pittsburgh Youth Chorus, \$7,000

Primary contact: Lee Saville-Iksic (he/him/his)

(724) 766-1935

lee@pittsburghyouthchorus.org

www.pittsburghyouthchorus.org

This grant was used for the first-ever youth performance of CROSSINGS, a choral ballet by two Black artists. This was also the first recreation of the entire work since it was commissioned in 1992. CROSSINGS is a coming-of-age story told through dance, vocal music and spoken word of a young Black woman growing up “Uptown” and confronting racism in her community.

Core Programming Support

47. Afrika Yetu, \$100,000 over 2 years.

Mr. Elie Lunkeba Kihonia (he/him/his)

kihonia@yahoo.com

412-540-0003

<https://www.afrikayetu.org/>

FACEBOOK: [@AfrikaYetuInc](#)

INSTAGRAM: [@afrikayetuinc](#)

Afrika Yetu promotes and fosters the rich, diverse cultural perspective of people of African heritage through high quality education, vibrant performances and visual art exhibitions, and immigration assistance. The funding will enable Afrika Yetu to continue hosting online and in-school workshops, resume outreach and live performances. Included in those live performances will be a new show that focuses on creating an interconnected arts eco-system that promotes economies of scale in the arts community, to amplifying the impact of Afrika Yetu’s programming within and beyond the Pittsburgh arts community.

48. REED DANCE | \$100,000 over 2 years.

Michele Lee Betts (she/her/hers)

[\(412\) 452-3847](tel:4124523847)

<https://www.pghschools.org/CAPA>

Facebook: FriendsOfCAPA

Instagram: [@friendsofcapa](#)

Twitter: [@friendsofcapa](#)

Facebook: PointParkU

Twitter: PointParkU

Instagram: PointParkU

REED DANCE and CAPA have cultivated a relationship with Point Park University and Civic Light Opera that gives CAPA students an opportunity to participate in activities at Point Park University and CLO rehearsal spaces, helping ensure the advancement and success of students, young adult dancers and teachers. With this grant, REED DANCE is able to provide Black-centered, world class teaching for students with an emphasis on Black children and is able to underwrite small scholarships to students that include travel compensation, Summer intensive programming, Zoom Links, Master Classes, and per diems.

Discretionary grant support

49. Pittsburgh Positive Young People’s Association

Anita Drummond (she/her/hers)

412-654-6115

anitadrummond18@gmail.com

To support the 3rd Annual East Liberty Merchants' Black Arts and Wellness Harambee festival and 2nd Line Parade in East Liberty. Harambe is from the Swahili word meaning "let's all pull together," which is part of the goal of the festival, held in Aug. 2022. PPYPA partners with other community organizations hosting similar events throughout the city. The festivals serve as opportunities for youth, parents, local business owners, artists, community leaders, organizations and others to come together and celebrate, but also to share education and job opportunities, health and wellness information and to have a space for multi-generation families to gather and enjoy.

