



Creative Development Awards fund colorful slate of projects for 15 Pittsburgh-based artists

Pittsburgh artists spotlighting those living with accessibility challenges, exposing the effects of the war in Ukraine on Russian children, or helping youth learn to produce music by arranging and performing orchestral versions of hip-hop and pop songs are among the 15 new recipients of The Heinz Endowments' Creative Development Awards.

The artists and organizations receiving grants, totaling \$296,450, represent a diverse range of artistic disciplines, including filmmaking, photography, theater, and 3D-printed sculpture. The grantees were selected from nearly 90 applicants by a group of 11 regional and national artists and educators.

The Endowments launched the annual Creative Development Awards in 2022 to celebrate the region's professional artists, with a special focus on those whose artistic achievements show great promise. The Creative Development Awards aim to help advance grantees' careers through increased visibility, professional partnership opportunities and financial assistance.

Grant amounts in the program's latest cohort range from \$8,000 for individual artists to \$35,000 for artist residency collaborations with regional venues.

The 2023 Investing in Creative Development Awards recipients are:

- [Melissa Catanese](#) (\$20,000) to support production of a book, image prints and an installation of "The Lottery."
- [Natalie Condrac](#) (\$9,285) to fund the creation of a 3D house, furnished inside and out, allowing viewers to look through the windows and view the interior.
- [Karina Dandashi](#) (\$18,000) to support two film projects: "Out of Water" and "Cousins." Ms. Dandashi's films explore nuances in identity through the intersection of family, religion and culture in Southwest Asian and North African countries, and Muslim communities in America.

- [Film Pittsburgh](#) (\$35,000) to support an artist residency with filmmaker [Gregory Williams](#) for post-production work on his documentary film, "Warriors."
- [Petra Floyd](#) (\$20,000) to support the development of "Audio.belisk," a sonification of the sculpture "Five Factors" in Pittsburgh's Mellon Park by artist Peter Calaboyias.
- [Guardians of Sound](#) (\$35,000) to support [Idasa Tariq](#)'s creative, performance and teaching artist role with Hip Hop Orchestra for one year.
- [Owen Lowery](#) (\$11,715) for development of artwork prioritizing people living with accessibility situations.
- [Bryan Martello](#) (\$20,000) to support completion of "The Front Yard," a series of ephemeral black-and-white photographs that meditate on themes of pride, political rhetoric, and flexibility of history.
- [Darrin Milliner](#) (\$8,000) to support professional studio space at Pittsburgh's Redfishbowl Studios and an immersive solo art exhibit.
- [New Hazlett Center for the Performing Arts](#) (\$35,000) to support a residency with [Dr. Jason Méndez](#) to write and produce the play "Sons of the Boogie."
- [Emily Newman](#) (\$16,500) for support of a film about Russian children affected by the war in Ukraine.
- [Felicity Palma](#) (\$20,000) to support research, production, studio materials and equipment to create an experimental film that examines the effects of cancer treatment on a young working-class woman's body.
- [Mathew Rosenblum](#) (\$12,350) to support an audio recording of a new contemporary classical music work, "We Lived Happily During the War."
- [Sharrell Rushin](#) (\$15,600) to hire models to stage custom reference photos for use in prepping upcoming paintings, allowing her to lessen dependence on found images and stock photos and create art that highlights a wider variety of skin tones, textures and color palettes.
- [Marvin Touré](#) (\$20,000) to secure a two-year, fixed lease of a customized studio with industrial ventilation to facilitate safe creation of his sculptures, which often include thermoplastic adhesives, silicone and resins.

Key factors considered in determining grant recipients included quality of the artists' current body of work, potential of future work, and clear articulation of artistic and career development goals. Professional artists who had a significant body of original works of art, were at least 21 years of age or older, and were a resident of an eligible southwestern Pennsylvania county were allowed to apply.

To learn more, including full project descriptions and a list of panelists, read the [press release](#).