



OREGON ARTS
COMMISSION

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Oregon Arts Commission Announces Career Opportunity Grants to 11 Artists

The Oregon Arts Commission announces 11 Career Opportunity awards totaling \$14,450 to Oregon artists in the first round of funding this year. The competitive grant program enables artists to advance their careers through the development of artistic, business or professional skills. The next deadline for applications is November 12, 2009. Applications are available at http://www.oregonartscommission.org/grants/commission_grant_programs.php.

Career Opportunity Grants are an important component of the Arts Commission's portfolio of services to and opportunities for individual artists. The range of activities supported by this round of grants includes support for artists to create new work in residency settings outside Oregon, attendance at international art fairs to market and promote Oregon artwork and the development and documentation of new work. Christine D'Arcy, executive director of the Arts Commission, said, "This investment in Oregon's artists promotes and stimulates creative activity throughout the state and many of the projects funded in this round will promote the work of Oregon artists around the world. This program is important to artists who are working to establish or maintain their creative small businesses."

Career Opportunity grant recipients are:

Obo Addy, Portland, \$1,500

To support Addy's participation as a teacher and performer at the "Africa Meets North America Symposium and Festival", hosted by the *Dialogues in Music Project* at UCLA. This event will enable Addy to network with a large group of ethnomusicologists, providing contacts for workshops and other performance opportunities. Grant funds will pay for travel and lodging expenses.

Ethan Jackson, Portland, \$1,500

To support Jackson's participation in two artists' residency opportunities, which he will use for producing site-specific optical installations. Grant funds will pay for travel and shipping of artwork to and from residencies.

Agnieszka Laska, Portland, \$1,500

To support the rehearsal and directing of Laska's new work, *Lamentatio*, which will premier at the Performing Arts Center in Querétaro México, opening in October 2009. The Agnieska Dancers will also perform the piece in Portland in November 2009. Grant funds will offset the travel to Mexico and lodging for the company members.

Suzanne Lee, Portland, \$1,500

To support the Lee's work with arts glass professionals in Europe, enabling her to advance her glasswork skills, thus making her more competitive in the public art market. Grant funds will support transportation Munich, Germany and some shipping costs to return her completed work to Portland. .

Kelly Leah Lenox, Portland, \$733

To support attendance at the American Literary Translations Association conference in Pasadena, California allowing Lenox to market two new Slovenian poetry translations. Grant funds will support registration and travel to the conference.

Jenene Nagy, Portland, \$1,500

To support development of *Tidal*, a site-specific visual arts installation at Disjecta in Portland. This exhibit will build on Nagy's prior successful exhibit at the Portland Art Museum, and the documentation of *Tidal* will help secure more exhibit opportunities. Grant funds will cover materials for the installation and documentary photography.

Darren Orange, Astoria, \$900

To support his development of a month long exhibit illustrating the significance of the Columbia River to its surrounding communities. The exhibit will be installed in a historic fishing net shed, providing a venue for reflection by the exhibit audience. Grant funds will support space rental, marketing materials and other exhibit expenses.

Jayanthi Raman, Portland, \$1,500

To support research on the choreographic technique of traditional classical Indian dance to further develop Raman's award winning contemporary choreography. Grant funds will offset travel to Chennai, India, recordings and master artist fees.

Andrea Stolowitz, Portland, \$1,027

To support participation in the 8th Triennial International Women's Playwrights conference in Mumbai, India during which Stolowitz's play, *Knowing Cairo* will be presented. Stolowitz will also lead a playwriting workshop at the event. Grant funds will support travel, hotel and conference fee.

Robert Weller, Portland, \$1,290

To support the artists's attendance at the *13th China International Photographic Art Exhibition*, as well as the opportunity to work with a photographic mentor. Weller will travel to Lishui, China and throughout the Zhejiang Province with the mentor, creating a body of landscape photography for exhibition. Grant funds will support his travel.

Alseny Yansane, Eugene, \$1,500

Classically trained dancer Yansane will perform at the Arts Northwest/NW Booking Conference presenters showcase to market his West African music and dance performances to a regional audience. The conference also offers professional development and networking opportunities to further develop his career. Grant funds will pay for travel, conference registration and lodging in Boise, Idaho.

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The Oregon Arts Commission provides leadership, funding and arts programs through its grants, special initiatives and services. Nine commissioners, appointed by the Governor, determine arts needs and establish policies for public support of the arts. The Arts Commission became part of Business Oregon (Oregon Business Development Department) in 1993, in recognition of the expanding role the arts play in the broader social, economic and educational arenas of Oregon communities. In 2003, the Oregon legislature moved the operations of the Oregon Cultural Trust to the Arts Commission, streamlining operations and making use of the Commission's expertise in grantmaking, arts and cultural information and community cultural development.

The Arts Commission is supported with general funds appropriated by the Oregon legislature and with federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts as well as funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust.

More information about the Oregon Arts Commission is available online at:
www.oregonartscommission.org

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