



OREGON ARTS
COMMISSION

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**Ana-Maurine Lara honored with Joan Shipley Award;
2015 Individual Artist Fellowships Announced**

Literary artist Ana-Maurine Lara, an award-winning novelist and poet from Eugene, is the 2015 recipient of the Oregon Arts Commission's honorary Joan Shipley Award. Lara leads a group of 13 Oregon artists selected for the Arts Commission's 2015 Individual Artist Fellowships. The 2015 fellowships, awarded to artists from Ashland, Bend, Corvallis, Eugene and Portland support artists working in literature and performance and include small financial stipends.

The Joan Shipley Award is named for Oregon arts leader Joan Shipley, who passed away in 2011. Shipley was a collector, philanthropist and supporter of many arts and humanities organizations. In 2005, she and her husband John received an Oregon Governor's Arts Award. Many in the arts community also counted her as a mentor and friend.

The Arts Commission fellowship program supports the more than 20,000 artists who call Oregon home. Fellows are selected by a review panel of Oregon arts professionals who consider artists of outstanding talent, demonstrated ability and commitment to the creation of new work(s); their recommendations are submitted to the Arts Commission.

The following artists were awarded 2015 fellowships (names link to artist profiles):

Literature

[Jeff Fearnside](#), Corvallis

[Ana-Maurine Lara](#), Eugene – Joan Shipley Award

[Victor Lodato](#), Ashland

[Mary Heather Noble](#), Bend

[Alexis Smith](#), Portland

Performance

[Kate Braidwood](#), Portland

[David Crumb](#), Eugene

[Katherine Longstreth](#), Portland

[Carla Mann](#), Portland

[Michael Mendelson](#), Portland

[Rebecca Oswald](#), Eugene

[Jayanthi Raman](#), Portland

[Carol Triffle](#), Portland

All artist photos are available on request.

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 the 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 grant-making, arts and cultural information and community cultural development.

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