



OREGON ARTS  
COMMISSION

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### **18 Oregon artists receive Career Opportunity Grants from the Oregon Arts Commission and The Ford Family Foundation**

In the first of three rounds of 2016 Career Opportunity Grants, the Oregon Arts Commission and The Ford Family Foundation have awarded \$54,649 to 18 artists for career development projects. The awards include \$25,649 from the Oregon Arts Commission and \$29,000 in supplemental funding for six artists through a partnership with The Ford Family Foundation. Individual grants range from \$641 to \$7,500.

Oregon Arts Commission Career Opportunity Grants fund opportunities for artists to further their careers in areas that include artistic, business or professional development. The Ford Family Foundation Opportunity grants are available only to Oregon mid-career visual artists, who are over 30 years of age and actively producing new work in the fields of fine art and contemporary craft.

Most of the grants support the artists' participation in residencies, exhibitions or performance opportunities that advance their careers.

"This grant program invests in the career growth of talented Oregon artists," said Anne Taylor, the arts commissioner who chaired the review panel. "We also are proud to support artists in representing Oregon outside of the region and internationally."

"We are pleased to be able to invest in these artists at such pivotal moments in their careers," said Anne C. Kubisch, president of The Ford Family Foundation. "We expect these artists to make significant progress on regional, national and international stages."

This fiscal year a total of \$150,000 is available for three rounds of funding, \$75,000 each from the Oregon Arts Commission and The Ford Family Foundation.

FY16 Career Opportunity Grants were awarded to:

**Mike Bray (Eugene), Visual Arts, OAC \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$6,000**

To support Bray's residency at the UW-Milwaukee's Digital Craft Research Lab and exhibition at its Institute of Visual Art (INOVA).

**Grace Carter (Portland), Theater, OAC \$1,500**

To support the rental of video equipment needed by Carter to facilitate an original theatrical adaptation of the classic literary work, "The Yellow Wallpaper," with CoHo Theatre during the 2015-16 season.

**Samantha Cohen (Portland), Visual Arts, OAC \$1,500**

To support Cohen's participation in a month-long visual arts residency at The Wassaic Project in New York, where she will create miniature sets and film a stop-motion animation.

**Fernanda D'Agostino (Portland), Visual Arts, OAC \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$3,000**

To support transport, consulting, shipping and crew honorarium for D'Agostino's sculpture installation at Suyama Space in Seattle.

**Kaila Farrell-Smith (Portland), Visual Arts, OAC \$1,500**

To support Farrell-Smith's 12-month Rainmaker residency, during which she will create new work for three 2016 shows at Portland City Hall (January), the Contemporary Native Arts gallery at the Portland Art Museum (March-August) and a group exhibit titled 'Woven: Contemporary Native Basketry at the Archer Gallery (April).

**Joel Fisher (Portland), Photography, OAC \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$6,000**

To support Fisher's participation in the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Workspace nine-month residency program to prepare for a solo exhibition at the Hoffman Gallery at Lewis & Clark College in January, 2017.

**Laura Heit (Portland), Interdisciplinary, OAC \$1,227**

To support Heit's participation in the Houston Cinema Arts Festival in November 2015 for the presentation of a new animated installation piece commissioned by Richard Herskowitz, as well as Traveling Light, an experimental animation program including three of her new films.

**Michael Kaster (McMinnville), Photography, OAC \$641**

To support Kaster's participation in The Land Mark Show at the Center for Contemporary Arts in Sante Fe, New Mexico in October 2015.

**Dana Louis (Portland), Visual Arts, OAC \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$6,000**

To support Louis' participation as one of seven artists selected for the NW Artist Awards exhibition at the Portland Art Museum in 2016. Louis will prepare two installations, one indoor and one outdoor, incorporating a suspended mobile of blown glass.

**Jana Meszaros (Eugene), Dance, OAC \$1,500**

To support Meszaros' design of a mixed-abilities dance piece, including a mentorship with choreographer Alito Alessi in the fall of 2015. The new work will be presented at a DanceAbility International open house on Nov. 11.

**Seth Nehil (Portland), Media Arts, OAC \$1,315**

To support Nehil's travel for a two-week video/live performance residency at MoKs in rural Estonia and a performance in Berlin.

**Vanessa Renwick (Portland), Media Arts, OAC \$1,500**

To support Renwick's participation in a 33-stop, 8,600-mile fall 2015 tour of her films in the Midwest and on the East Coast beginning with a solo show at The University Art Gallery at University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee.

**Ethan Rose (Portland), Visual Arts, OAC \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$6,000**

To support Rose's sound installation opening at Regards Gallery in Chicago in January 2016. He will create a multichannel speaker installation that uses over 1000 speakers suspended from the ceiling of the gallery.

**Morgan Roskopf (Portland), Visual Arts, OAC \$1,500**

To support Roskopf's first solo exhibition, scheduled at One Grand Gallery in Portland, Oregon, in May 2016. The show will be comprised of six large-scale framed collage/drawings, five pressed flower pieces, three text pieces and two large floral/projection installations.

**Kaia Sand (Portland), Visual Arts, OAC \$1,500**

To support Sand's framing and shipping for a solo exhibition at the Cascade Art Gallery of Portland Community College from Jan. 14 to Feb. 18, 2016. Titled "A Moth to the Flame," the show explores the allure of corporeal burning as a way to approach fossil fuel consumption.

**Sivagami Vanka (Portland), Dance, OAC \$1,500**

To support intensive education in Abhinaya (story telling) from a master Indian artist and dancer. Vanka will train with master Indian dance artist Mrs. Jayanthi Subramaniam in Chennai, India, where she will undergo intensive study for abhinaya, the story telling aspect of Indian classical dance, in February of 2016.

**Terri Warpinski (Eugene), Visual Arts, OAC \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$2,000**

To support Warpinski's fees related to book development, a touring exhibition and a residency in Berlin. The book project represents Berlin as a memorial to the 136 people killed during escape attempts over the Berlin Wall (1961-1989) by photographing the sites on the anniversary of their deaths.