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**OREGON ARTS**  
COMMISSION

For Immediate Release

Feb. 27, 2017

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**44 Oregon artists receive Career Opportunity Grants  
from the Oregon Arts Commission, The Ford Family Foundation  
and The Oregon Community Foundation**

Salem, Oregon – In the first two of three rounds of FY2017 Career Opportunity Grants, the Oregon Arts Commission, The Ford Family Foundation and The Oregon Community Foundation have collectively awarded \$111,146 to 44 artists for career development projects. The awards include \$52,496 from the Oregon Arts Commission; \$40,300 in supplemental funding for seven artists through a partnership with The Ford Family Foundation; and \$18,350 from The Oregon Community Foundation. Individual grants range from \$535 to \$9,000.

Career Opportunity Grants support individual Oregon artists by enabling them to take advantage of timely opportunities to enhance their artistic careers. The Ford Family Foundation and The Oregon Community Foundation funds are available only to established Oregon artists who are over 30 years of age and actively producing new work. The Ford Family Foundation grants are awarded to artists in the fields of contemporary fine art and craft; The Oregon Community Foundation grants are awarded only to established Oregon artists in the literary and performing arts fields. Most of the grants from both foundations support the artists' participation in residencies, exhibitions or performance opportunities.

“This grant program invests in the career growth of talented Oregon artists,” said Julie Vigeland, the arts commissioner who chaired the review panel. “We also are so 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.”

“These artists make our communities so much richer. It’s an honor to be able to support them in their work as they continue their creative journeys,” said Max Williams, president and CEO of The Oregon Community Foundation.

This fiscal year a total of \$200,000 is available for three rounds of funding.

FY17 Round One Career Opportunity Grants were awarded to:

**Christine Carpenter (Ashland), Fiber, Arts Commission \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$1,300**

To support a residency in the studios of Joanna Kinnersly-Taylor in Glasgow, Scotland, to increase Carpenter's knowledge and capacity to prepare silk screens and the use of MX fiber reactive dyes, as well as skills related to supporting her practice.

**Nicholas Chase (Eugene), Music, Arts Commission \$1,500**

To support travel expenses for the West Coast World Premiere Tour of Chase's work "Bhajan." Chase and violinist Robin Lorentz will premiere "Bhajan" on Feb. 21 at Monk Space in Los Angeles with an encore at San Francisco's Center for New Music on Feb. 23.

**Taiga Christie (Portland), Theater, Arts Commission \$1,300**

To support Christie's two-month internship to develop creative outreach and education strategies for marginalized communities at Rwenzori Rural Health Services in Kasese, Uganda.

**Ethan Gans-Morse (Phoenix), Opera/Musical Theatre, Arts Commission \$1,500**

To support Gans-Morse's travel expenses for the composition and production of an original, full-length opera with a focus on self-development by Cascadia Concert Opera in Eugene.

**Damien Geter (Portland), Opera/Musical Theatre, Arts Commission \$1,500, The Oregon Community Foundation \$700**

To support Geter's travel expenses to play the role of Colline in Tacoma Opera's production of "La Boheme."

**Alex Hirsch (Portland), Visual Arts, Arts Commission \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$3,000**

To support the cost of fabricated glass materials, presentation hardware, framing works on paper and photography for Hirsch's first solo exhibition at the Laura Russo Gallery in Portland.

**Tahni Holt (Portland), Dance, Arts Commission \$1,425**

To support Holt's one-week dance residency at The Lucky Penny's Work Room program in Atlanta, Georgia, where she will increase her artistic exchange with Atlanta's diverse art community and further deepen her research/practice.

**Laura Hughes (Portland), Visual Arts, Arts Commission \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$1,500**

To support Hughes' development of "Almost Perfect," a site-specific mixed-media installation that investigates how individual perceptions of light, form and space interact, for a solo exhibition at Linfield Gallery in February.

**Linda K. Johnson (Portland), Dance: Modern, Arts Commission, \$700**

To support Johnson's collaborative presentation at the 2016 Congress on Research in Dance/Society of Dance History Scholars' annual convening at Pomona College (California) titled 'Beyond Authenticity and Appropriation: Bodies, Authorship and Choreographies of Transmission.'

**Ann Kresge (Salem), Visual Arts, Arts Commission \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$1,500**

To support Kresge's one-month visual art residency at Vermont Studio Center to complete the prototype of a handmade, limited edition, sculptural artist book, "Sacred Sites."

**Isaac Lamb (Portland), Theater, Arts Commission \$1,500**

To support Lamb's co-presentation of the world premiere of renowned playwright Tommy Smith's "db" at Coho Productions at the Fertile Ground Festival. The production will include a developmental workshop and rehearsal with the playwright.

**Jessica Mehta (Hillsboro), Literature, Arts Commission \$1,500**

To support Mehta's travel to New York City to read her poetry and lead her first workshop at Berl's Poetry Shop in Brooklyn. She also will meet with the publisher of her upcoming, third collection of poetry, "The Operating System."

**Tabitha Nikolai (Portland), Visual Arts: Experimental, Arts Commission \$625**

To support Nikolai's participation in a group exhibition at Vox Populi in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, exploring how queer and transgender bodies move through worlds, real and imagined, and how fashion can augment this movement.

**Jack Ryan (Eugene), Visual Arts: Sculpture, Arts Commission \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$7,500**

To support Ryan's solo exhibition of new sculptural works at the Marylhurst University Art Gym in April.

**Lisa Ward (Portland), Visual Arts, Arts Commission \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$2,500**

To support Ward's first permanent public art installation as part of the Our Town project in Green River, Utah. The project aims to pull visitors away from highway rest-stops and into the heart of Green River's commercial core as an economic development strategy for the community.

**Gary Wiseman (Portland), Interdisciplinary, Arts Commission \$1,000, The Ford Family Foundation \$1,900**

To support Wiseman's five-month residency in the Digital Design Department at Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand, where he will create a new media experience that will blend experimental animation and sound with sight specific installation and virtual reality for an exhibition at Pah Homestead in Auckland in May.

**Ryan Woodring (Portland), Visual Arts, Arts Commission \$715**

To support Woodring's travel to speak at the International Sculpture Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as part of a panel discussion with artists who create work based on recent political events.

FY17 Round Two Career Opportunity Grants were awarded to:

**Anthony Arnista (Portland), Theater, Arts Commission \$1,500**

To support Arnista's travel to serve as a theatrical technician for the 2017 Adeliade Fringe Festival at The Tuxedo Cat in Australia Feb. 17-March 19.

**Amy Bernstein (Portland), Visual Arts: Painting, Arts Commission \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$1,500**

To support Bernstein's two-month residency as part of the Silence Awareness Existence Program from February to March at Arteles Creative Residency Program in Hameenkyro, Finland.

**Julia Calabrese (Portland), Multidisciplinary, Arts Commission \$1,400**

To support the creation of an online archive for Calabrese's video, movement, performance and installation pieces.

**Kelly Campbell (Portland), Theater: Puppet, Arts Commission \$1,000**

To support Campbell's travel for a two-week National Puppetry Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center in Waterford, Connecticut, June 7-18.

**Laura Dunn (Portland), Literature: Poetry, Arts Commission \$1,210**

To support Dunn's expenses for the week-long Port Townsend Writer's Workshop with mentorship by poet Mark Doty at Centrum in Port Townsend, Washington.

**Wynde Dyer (Portland), Visual Arts, The Ford Family Foundation \$2,000**

To support Dyer's completion of the #CampHereTonight tarp quilt tents for direct action, fundraising and site-specific installations focused on the housing justice issues in Portland in the first three months of 2017.

**Ken Eklund (Corvallis), Multidisciplinary, Arts Commission \$1,015**

To support Eklund's one-month arts and science residency at Djerassi Resident Artists Program in Woodside, California, to collaboratively work on a game to make climate change and The Anthropocene visible and touchable.

**Joe Futschik (Portland), Design Arts: Graphic, Arts Commission \$1,500**

To support Futschik's exhibition at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair May 21-24 at the Javits Center in New York City.

**Brian Haimbach (Eugene), Theater, The Oregon Community Foundation \$4,000**

To support the presentation of Haimbach's one-man show "How to be a Sissy with Percy Q. Shun" Aug. 4-28 at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

**Sam Hamilton (Portland), Visual Arts, Arts Commission \$1,487**

To support travel for a West Coast screening tour of Hamilton's feature film "Apple Pie."

**Stephen Hayes (Portland), Visual Arts: Painting, Arts Commission \$1,500**

To support the production of 50 paintings, prints and drawings for Hayes' exhibition at the Artists Congress Converge 45 in Portland from August through September.

**Elisabeth Horan (Portland), Visual Arts, Arts Commission \$1,120**

To support Horan's site-specific, interactive, collage installation "Un/conscious Un/coupling" at the Spring/Break 2017 Art Show at the Armory in New York City Feb. 28 - March 6.

**Eien Hunter-Ishikawa (Portland), Music, Arts Commission \$1,425**

To support Hunter-Ishikawa's travel for a one-week intensive at the Kaoru Watanabe Taiko Center in Brooklyn, New York, to study advanced playing of the shinobue (a horizontal Japanese bamboo flute) with Kaoru Watanabe, North America's foremost practitioner.

**Ellen Lesperance (Portland), Interdisciplinary, Arts Commission \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$1,600**

To support Lesperance's interdisciplinary exhibition of visual art and written narratives based on her research in Manchester, England, from August through October at the Portland Art Museum's Crumpacker Family Library, in conjunction with Converge 45.

**Charlene Liu (Eugene), Visual Arts, Arts Commission \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$3,000**

To support Liu's multimedia installation, composed of projected animation, prints, sculptures and augmented reality, during a three-week artist residency at Carrizozo Colony AIR Program in New Mexico.

**Kayla Mattes (Portland), Visual Arts, Arts Commission \$535**

To support Mattes' opening exhibition of "Interpersonal Circumplex" with collaborative partner Justin Seibert at Front/Space in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Lamiae Naki (Portland), Music: Ethnic, Arts Commission \$1,481, The Oregon Community Foundation \$2,150**

To support Naki's travel to the Babel Med world music booking conference March 16-18 in Marseille, France, to promote her group's new CD "De Fez a Jerez."

**Blair Saxon-Hill (Portland), Visual Arts, The Ford Family Foundation \$4,000**

To support Saxon-Hill's three-week visual art residency at the Sagehen Creek Field Station in California as well as research at the Center for Art + Environment in Reno, Nevada. She will create and exhibit a new body of work that responds to the environment of the Tahoe Basin at Sierra Nevada College's Tahoe Gallery.

**Justin Seibert (Portland), Media Arts: Technology/Experimental, Arts Commission \$823**

To support Seibert's participation in an interactive exhibition with collaborative partner Kayla Mattes at Front/Space Gallery in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Rick Silva (Eugene), Visual Arts, Arts Commission \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$3,000**

To support Silva's travel to the Resonate 2017 Festival in Belgrade, Serbia, April 19-22 for a three-week exhibition of new work at Raiffeisen Art Museum.

**Kaj-anne Pepper (Portland), Multidisciplinary, Arts Commission \$1,500, The Oregon Community Foundation \$4,300**

To support a residency tour for Pepper's "D.I.V.A. PRACTICE" at The Lucky Penny (Atlanta, Georgia), Center for Contemporary Art (Santa Fe, New Mexico), Pelican Bomb (New Orleans, Louisiana) and Reed College (Portland).

**Katherine Spinella (Portland), Visual Arts, Arts Commission \$1,500**

To support Spinella's four-week residency at Vermont Studio Center where she will create work for a two-person exhibition at Umpqua Valley Community College in the spring of 2019.

**Terry Thompson (Portland), Photography, Arts Commission \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$3,000**

To support Thompson's catalogue and retrospective exhibition of 45 years of photography at Augen Gallery and Lightbox Photographic Gallery in 2017.

**Sharita Towne (Portland), Interdisciplinary, Arts Commission \$1,500, The Oregon Community Foundation \$7,200**

To support Towne's exhibition and public programming of "United Re:Public of the African Diaspora Television" in New York City and Cleveland, Ohio.

**Lou Watson (Portland), Visual Arts: Experimental, Arts Commission \$1,200**

To support Watson as an Artist-in-Residence at the O2F Fest, celebrating International Women's Day 2017 on March 8 at the Arcata Playhouse in Humboldt, California.

**Ezra Weiss (Portland), Music: Jazz, Arts Commission \$1,035**

To support travel expenses for the presentation of Weiss' new composition "We Limit Not the Truth of God/Fanfare for a Newborn" at the 2017 International Jazz Composers Symposium in Tampa, Florida, May 18-20.

**Vicki Wilson (Portland), Crafts: Clay, The Ford Family Foundation \$3,000**

To support Wilson's three-month ceramics residency at Cub Creek Foundation in Appomattox, Virginia, where she will explore working with its highly unusual vein of clay and learn new firing techniques.

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