



OREGON ARTS
COMMISSION

For Immediate Release

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Oregon Arts Commission Awards Opportunity Grants to Oregon Artists: Includes Funding from Partnership with The Ford Family Foundation

The Oregon Arts Commission announces 12 awards totaling \$28,777 in the competitive Career Opportunity grant program. This is the first of potentially four quarterly deadlines in FY12, and these awards provide support to individual artists who seek to take advantage of important opportunities to advance their careers through the development of artistic, business or professional skills. This round includes support to artists for visual arts exhibits in national and international venues, participation in conferences or workshops to expand their knowledge base and an opportunity to perform in a national competition.

Christine D'Arcy, the Arts Commission's executive director, observes "It has become clear that an investment in Oregon's artists helps promote creative business activity throughout the state, which is important to maintaining artists' small businesses. This program has helped promote the work of Oregon artists around the world."

Three artists, Ethan Jackson, Alex Hirsch and Geraldine Ondrizek are receiving additional support from The Ford Family Foundation program which supports significant opportunities of mid-career visual artists which will accelerate their work in a meaningful manner.

These additional funds provide additional support ranging from \$1,500 to \$7,500 and are applied for in conjunction with the quarterly deadlines for the Career Opportunity Grants. The next deadline for on-line applications is November 15, 2011. Guidelines and access to the on-line grant application are available at

<http://oregon.culturegrants.org/navigation/links/page/grants-to-individuals>.

FY12 Career Opportunity Grants were awarded to:

Obo Addy, musician, \$1,500

To support Addy's participation at the 50th anniversary of "The Percussive Arts Society International Convention" in Indianapolis, Indiana. Addy, an internationally renowned instructor and performer of Ghanaian percussion will present a workshop session on his work. <http://www.oboaddy.com/>

Susan Chan, pianist, \$1,500

To support Chan's collaboration with two internationally renowned composers, Chen Yi and Zhan Long. Chan, a pianist will premiere the compositions at the Music Nova concert in April 2012.

<http://www.susanchanpiano.com/>

Jacob Coleman, actor/director, \$1,207

To support Coleman's participation at Tectronic Theatre's "Moment Work" workshop, giving Coleman the opportunity to hone his devised theatre skills. <http://www.jacobcoleman.net/>

Carl Diehl, media artist, \$652

To support Diehl's participation in the &Now Conference, a festival which brings together artists in a variety of disciplines to see how the artists can work together and develop new work. Diehl has been invited to present his performance work to the participants in this festival. www.carldiehl.com

Alex Hirsch, visual artist, \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$2,000

To support Hirsch's participation in a symposium in Northern Scotland,, "Location and Perception: A North Land's International Symposium". Hirsch, a visual artist, primarily works in glass, and will use the symposium to increase her commission opportunities. http://www.alexhirschart.com/about_pop.html

Laura Hughes, visual artist, \$1,455

To support Hughes' solo exhibition at the University of Oregon White Box Gallery in Portland, providing broader exposure to the arts community. Hughes is preparing an architecturally-oriented installation, which will highlight her skill incorporating light and space into a dynamic vision.

<http://www.laurahughesstudio.com/index.html>

Ethan Jackson, visual artist, \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$5,000

To support Jackson's site specific installation at Duke University in North Carolina. Jackson will also produce a catalog documenting the installation, which is a unique collaboration with several Duke programs. Jackson has gained a national reputation for his work in optical installation, photographic media, and interactive video. <http://ethanjackson.net/>

Geraldine Ondrizek, visual artist, \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$3,500

To support Ondrizek's solo exhibition at the Kirkland Arts Center in Washington. Ondrizek's current work is created from a two year collaboration with the department of medical genetics.

<http://academic.reed.edu/art/faculty/ondrizek/>

Robin Shelton aka Robbie Laws, musician, \$1,500

To support Laws' participation in the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, Tennessee in February 2012. Shelton earned this place in the contest through a variety of regional competitions.

<http://robbielawsmusic.com/splashpage/>

Cheryl Strayed, writer, non-fiction, \$1,463

To support Strayed's participation at the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) conference as a presenter on two panels. Strayed will use this opportunity to help promote her nonfiction memoir WILD, which will be published two weeks after the conference. <http://www.cherylstrayed.com/>

Dao Strom, interdisciplinary, \$1,500

To support Strom's creation and publication of a mixed media chapbook, "Origin Tales", based on an exhibit of Viet American artists. <http://www.daostrom.com/>

Avery Thatcher, visual artist/crafts, \$1,500

To support Thatcher's participation in the International Contemporary Furniture fair in New York City during Design Week. Thatcher, a visual artist, has created a series of wallpaper designs, and is ready to more fully promote the sales through her recently launched website. <http://www.daostrom.com/>

Claire Willett, playwright, \$1,500

To support Willett's participation in Fertile Ground, the Portland based event which features new works in a variety of locations. Willett's play, "Dear Galileo" has been selected by Artists Repertory Theatre as its project for a fully developed theatre performance in January 2012.

About The Ford Family Foundation Visual Arts Program

The Opportunity Grants are one of seven program facets launched in 2010 as part of The Ford Family Foundation's \$3.5 million, five-year visual arts program established in the memory of Mrs. Hallie Ford to assist Oregon's most promising visual artists. Knowledgeable Pacific Northwest arts leaders helped frame the overall program.

In addition to the Opportunity Grants, other resources are being dedicated to the following:

Fellowships: three annual Hallie Ford Fellows are provided unrestricted grants to support the conceptualization and the development of new work.

Artists-in-Residences: bi-annual awards to three "Golden Spot" residency programs in Oregon that provide opportunities for artists to explore and conceptualize new work.

Exhibition & Documentation: funding for the curation, preparation, materials and traveling of exhibitions

Capital Projects: resources to improve and/or expand studio and exhibition space at key Oregon visual arts institutions

Curator/Critic Tour: visitations by national curators to consult with Oregon's visual artists and interact with the arts community

Acquisition Funding: special resource fund dedicated to acquiring seminal works by Oregon artists to preserve public access

About The Ford Family Foundation

The Ford Family Foundation is the sole funder of this Visual Arts Program. It partners with Oregon's leading visual arts educators, gallerists, museum and arts professionals to help implement program elements and leverages funding with other state and national resources.

The Foundation was established in 1957 by Kenneth W. and Hallie E. Ford. Its Mission is “successful citizens and vital rural communities” in Oregon and Siskiyou County, California. The Foundation is located in Roseburg, Oregon, with a Scholarship office in Eugene. For more information about the Foundation, please visit the website at www.tfff.org.

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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 (formerly Oregon Economic and Community 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