

## Artist Relief Program Recipient Notes

(Alpha by artist last name)

January 2021

*The award I received from the Oregon Coronavirus Release Fund and their partners will help me be able to stay in my profession as a photographer, being able to contribute to an important part of our community. I am truly grateful to this fund for supporting small businesses in the arts. -- Juan Acevedo*

*During the past year, with my child home from school, my working hours have dropped significantly and physical exhibition opportunities have come to a complete halt. The Artist Relief Program will help me pay my bills. Thank you! -- Jackie Avery*

*Thank you so much for granting me one of the artist relief awards! As many will probably say, the award is incredibly helpful, and will help me ensure that I can stay afloat until touring becomes a viable option again. I will put the award money towards paying for a couple of months of expenses/utilities/groceries/etc, and I will also use a portion of the award to put into my band's fund for recording. Because we/I haven't been able to tour, the band has not been able to make any money that normally we would put toward recording a new album. Thanks to this grant, we will be able to put some toward a small and affordable recording project, which will ensure our continued presence an active musical group. Thank you so much - I am very grateful and, literally, relieved! -- Olivia Awbrey*

*This award is generously helpful and pertinent to my survival during this pandemic, especially during the winter months when socially distanced outdoor performances are not possible given the weather and colder temperatures. I am using this time to prepare myself and my ensembles for when we can perform in front of live audiences again; and I'm very much looking forward to when I can teach percussion classes in the local schools. Thank you for this generous grant! -- Reed Bentley*

*I feel deep gratitude receiving this arts grant. Though the amount is small, it will help a lot. Moreover, the acknowledgment for long-working Oregon artists feels validating. Thank you. -- Jen Bernard, The House of Cards Music*

*In normal circumstances, with tangible effect, live audiences provide encouragement toward greater music. This includes the audience of my immediate peers as we collaborate. In the absence of all that, the panelists have now given me a vote of confidence, an encouragement toward greater focus and conviction, a nudge toward creating something worthy of such confidence. I am humbled, and intend to honor the gesture, to reach deeper, to produce something beautiful: A gift of the soul that might help inspire us to a higher level of understanding and compassion. All of the directions currently in my heart rely on an iron, disciplined focus, so I am grateful. -- Gavin Bondy*

*It's been a tough year, regarding financial consistency, in that both of my fields of profession (the performing arts and public school education) have been greatly curtailed by the pandemic. The available work and paid hours have been very few and far between. This type of assistance reminds me that I've not been alone during this struggle and that my work/well-*

*being is important to my fellow human beings. It truly means so much. Thanks, thanks and ever thanks! --Orion Bradshaw*

*I intend to use this relief program to pay my foundries to cast bronze I have sculptures ready for casting, I pay the foundries upfront and have not been able to get my work cast unless I sell a precast sculpture which I usually do at my art shows which have all been canceled. I appreciate this money very much. -- Kim Chavez*

*This will help pay living expenses and supplies for my weaving business. Thank you so much! - Stephanie Craig*

*With the funds, I am planning to either invest in camera equipment or hire a videographer and develop a series of online art classes. My students are already very excited. Thank you so much! – Susan Curington*

*This award is giving me the opportunity to continue working with music and young children for a longer period of time without having to find other work for the time being. THANK YOU!!!! – Keri Davis*

*Before I even opened the email, I exhaled a sigh of relief. When you are weighed down, and every step is a struggle, anything that lightens the burden is an immeasurable gift. I've never struggled to create more than when I'm stressed trying to figure out how to balance bills, find clever ways of making each dollar go further, and this grant is really going to give me some room to breathe - fuller, deeper, and stronger.*

*It's sobering to think about how much many of us have lost this past year, and likely will never truly regain. It's a setback that's effect remain to be seen over the long term, but knowing there are opportunities such as this grant to restore a portion of those losses and provide some support is so important.*

*I am highly grateful for this grant. It will allow me to maintain my studio space, buy important materials, rent critical tools, and most importantly allow me to focus more of my creative energies towards the art I'm creating, and sleep easier at night.*

*Thank you. -- Eryk Donovan*

*The money I've received will pay 100% of my expenses for the single I'm working on.*

*So grateful. Thank you, thank you! -- Ian George*

*This relief award is truly amazing. I am so grateful to be able use this money to help me stay creative and focus on using my talents. Thank you! – Adia Gibbs*

*This award means so much to me. Since in this time I am not able to perform, I have tried to stay active in the arts through playwriting as well as online workshops offering opportunities to network with other artist as well as continue to grow my craft. Through this grant I will be able to continue this work, while also having the comfort of knowing that this pandemic will not be as detrimental to me financially. The arts are an important part of creating culture, and once we are able to meet again in person the arts will be even more valuable and needed. This grant*

*program will ensure that artists are still creating through this difficult time. I appreciate this opportunity and hope you can continue to fund struggling artists. – Molly Gilbert*

*Art has become an even more essential way to increase our emotional intelligence and further our social evolution. To find that there is real support for this type of thinking and growth, is a vision we must continue to foster and care for. This Grant will directly positively impact the wellbeing of both the creative practice and family health I am woven into... as a Partner Father and Artist. Big gratitude to the folks who see Art as a crucial practice and civil right. – Jason Graham*

*First I'd like to give you all a very huge thanks from me and all of my young future artist and creatives here in Hood River! This award has helped in such a big way, it will be put to great use by helping with equipment and supplies and also being put towards bills at a local space for us to continue to teach, support and learn. Words can't express the excitement I feel knowing that I got a new start to give back and make a difference in the community again. This is a real testament to how we all are in this together, I am truly grateful. – Jason Grimes*

*Besides giving me help and hope in a time of great need, this grant will also help me push forward and finish my current musical projects! Since August of 2020 I recorded many solo guitar pieces (35!) at a local recording studio here in Bend called Central Oregon Recording, and recently got them all mixed down. Now the tracks are ready for professional mastering at another studio specializing in such things. This mastering had a heavy price tag for me even though they are giving me a good deal in the end. With the funds I have been awarded through this grant I can not only pay for the mastering all in one go, I can also afford to get my new album(s) out to the public via digital streaming platforms. I plan to use whatever is left over to upgrade my studio. This could take many forms such as: a new computer with updated audio/video/composition editing software; and supplies like tuners, strings, etc, or maybe even a new instrument. I also need to update and remake my outdated website for future clients to find and use easily when live performance becomes viable once again. Thanks again, this could not have come at a better time for me and my family. Hope it helped some other Oregon artists in the same way. – Matthew Gwinup*

*I am able to pay some bills as well as get some new equipment for my photography. I am very appreciative. – Deontray Henderson*

*Getting this grant is shifting my perspective on what life could be like after COVID. After spending 18 years pursuing music, I am skeptical that I will be able to pursue it after this. Receiving this grant and being able to pay my bills makes the possibility of me getting back on my feet significantly higher. In addition to the financial help, it is a huge morale boost. After receiving a fraction of the work I am usually called for, it feels great to be seen. Thank you. – Micah Hummel*

*This award has allowed me to build my virtual capacity as a teaching artist by investing in business coaching. It is allowing me to instruct more artists online and to build my capacity to weather future shocks to the industry and future financial security. – Jessica John*

*Oh JOY! I am incredibly thankful to be receiving this grant. Having lived in Oregon for 27 years, I have used art to color walls, entice OHSU doctors to lend their services in Ethiopia,*

*instill confidence in at-risk youth and make children appreciate what they have while reading my book about a girl's life in Madagascar. I have also taken side jobs to help support myself and my three children and have paid into and donated to many funds to help others. When the pandemic hit and all of my Travel Oregon assignments were cancelled, I got my substitute teacher's permit only to have schools close. These funds give me hope. I promise to utilize them for the benefit of community in some way. I am trying to find an old abandoned building near my home in the Fossil/Spray area to open an art studio and if I can get this to happen in this rural area, I will make sure I use the funds in some way that brings art to residents who live in remote areas. Thank you from the bottom of my heart and the tips of my toes. -- Joni Kabana*

*It's helped me start over again on music career. Helped pay for music promotion and studio time. Thank you much appreciated! – Scott Kalama*

*The Artist Relief program has helped me to pay my bills during this time of crisis. As someone who's primary income comes from performing live music, ALL of my regular income basically went away when Oregon went into lockdown. I understand that this is how things have to be at this point in time, but this doesn't change the fact that I still have to pay rent, utilities and buy groceries every month. I am so grateful for the Artist Relief program. Big thanks to everyone who made this happen. – Steve Kerin*

*It would definitely help me to cover expenses related to keep my website yearly fees, instrument maintenance and other personal expenses. Thank you for your kind support. ¡Gracias! -- Alex Llumiuinga*

*This will go toward website design and tools that will help streamline my business. Thank you! – Dustin Lyons*

*The Artist Relief program helped pay two months worth of back rent for my two children and myself during the COVID-19 emergency. I am ridiculously grateful that they were able to help so many displaced artists through this time, and cannot thank them enough for having the ability and desire to send aid. Without performing art and events, my entire career as an event coordinator/promoter has completely evaporated, and the help the program has granted us is amazing, generous and much needed. Thank you!!! – Jane Malone*

*This fund will help me pay my past due utility bills which I have been unable to keep up with due to the virus. I am extremely grateful for this because I was going to have to consider giving up my studio space and print at home. THANK YOU. – Scott McHale*

*This award will allow me to be ahead of paying my rent, electricity, internet, gas and general living expenses. Furthermore, adding a breath of financial fresh air for me during this extremely difficult time. Where I've completely transitioned from being a professional musician to new avenues of income. – Cary Miga*

*These funds are going to help me maintain my deeply fractured existence. I have been fighting with social unrest as an African American thriving in a largely Caucasian demographic. I have been forced to relive trauma and explain myself countless times. These funds give me hope, that someone somewhere can see my struggle without seeing me. I pray fervently that the*

*cycle of systemic oppression is broken and this is a step toward that achievable goal. This gesture gives me the faith to keep up my struggle. – Gerrin Mitchell*

*Thank you so much for this award. It will help me meet my basic economic needs during this extremely challenging time. In addition to the concrete ways that the award will help me make ends meet, it also contributes to a sense that my work as an artist is valued by our society and this is a gift that is at least equal in impact to the actual funds. Thank you again. – Daniela Molnar*

*2020 was a very difficult year; this artist relief award gives me air to breath after months without an income and days of struggle. I wish they were more of these programs to help artist continue to create, teach, sing or dance. Without funding art is in a very difficult position, so thank you for this awards. I wish and hope that you continue to create more ways to help the artists, ART IS LIFE. – Tumelo Moloi*

*I was able to pay my rent and bills (\$802) for a month and pay 2 creators for inclusion in my COVID daily digest zine Good Night People of Earth #2: the Month of May. I am negotiating with Demian Dinéyahzi to publish one of their poems for \$100 and Haya Bashir contributed an introduction for \$50. I was also able to pay for a massage with Sea Change massage, which makes it more possible for me to use my hands in typing and making art and I was able to buy some art supplies and food. It also provided great relief and peace of mind to know I would have February paid for, and that I could continuing amassing money for March, as I am living month to month. Thank you so much. More art is in the world. It's very hard to create when I am managing anxiety due to resource scarcity. This was a great blessing. Thank you all so much. – Lara Mulvaney*

*Thank you so much for the Artist Relief award, I am very grateful to the Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Community Foundation, and the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation. My award will mainly be used for my living expenses (food, rent, utilities, insurance, etc.), but also to enhance my artistic career. The psychological impact surpasses the financial impact, as I feel honored to receive this award, recognized and valued as an artist in this community. This financial and moral support further motivates me to pursue my art, and places merit and purpose to what I have been creating. In these difficult times, art and culture is exactly what we need to heal us all. And gratitude; so thank you again. – Yoshi Nakagawa*

*This award is certainly welcome and much appreciated. It will be utilized to recompense me for out-of-pocket rent and utilities expenses while I was shut down and had no income. Thank you. It's nice to know that there are organizations like this to help artists like myself who suffered financial hardships due to COVID-19 through no fault of our own. – Marianne Nielsen*

*This grant is helping me to pivot from my hands on henna work with clients to producing my documentary about henna. I had intended to use my own earnings to entirely fund the post-production of the film, but in losing the majority of my work in 2020, I was stymied. So through crowd sourced funding and this grant, we are able to bring my film to completion and release. – Melanie Ooi*

*Since COVID, I've had to completely reset my music teaching studio to online. During this transition, I lost 25% of my students. I also lost wedding gigs, musical theatre gigs and*

*freelance recording gigs as well as clinics and camps events that I taught at on a regular basis. These funds, help me enhance my studio so I can continue to teach, help with regular bills, food and expenses of everyday life. I appreciate the support that this grant shows artists, performers and teachers affected by this pandemic. Thank you. – Rene' Ormae-Jarmer*

*This grant will give me access to purchase fabrics and materials to allow me to expand my productivity. To continue paying for the rent in my boutique as it serves as a great storefront for small and emerging entrepreneurs, that due to COVID has not been able to display their items in expos and trade shows. It will allow me to hire a marketing manager to help me bring my designs to the web, nationally and internationally. – Alejandra Oyervides "*

*This grant has given us peace. These funds have helped to lift some of the stress that the pandemic has brought to our lives. With everything that is going on in the world, we know we can keep on with our work. We feel seen and appreciated for our contribution to the literary community, and the young readers we serve. Thank you! – Brian Parker*

*It has helped in more ways than one, financially helped pay my rent to keep shelter over the heads of my family and mentally. It helped to know that there are others on my side that believe in the work I do as an artist, see value in it, and that I am not alone in the struggle we are all facing. Thank you for this blessing. – Joseph Perez*

*First of all, I would like to thank you very much!!! I am so appreciative for this grant! This grant will help me in paying my shop rent and utilities. I could not afford to move to another shop and this will allow me to stay in my shop for a while. It will also help me in purchasing materials that I really need to keep going. Although all of my shows have been canceled, which is my main source of income, I will still be able to keep my shop, buy materials and focus on getting commissions and hopefully into more galleries (I know it's been super tough for them as well to remain open). Thank you very much!! I am so grateful. – Kelly Phipps*

*Hello and thanks for awarding me this grant! It has been helpful by keeping me in business with capital to operate. I really appreciate it :) – Michael Pilgrim*

*First of all thank you so much for selecting me! This has been a really trying time for me personally. I will be using this \$1,000 to help towards my February rent. This truly is a blessing thank you. – Mathew Randol*

*This last year has been tough. I've been a working artist for over 15 years, and I can't remember a tougher year. I'm very lucky to have a loyal audience who enjoys and supports my work, but a lot of that support disappeared as my patrons, readers and fans struggled with the pandemic and lost their own jobs. This grant came just when I needed it most. Just as I was facing losing my studio space to paying my rent. I can buy new equipment and art supplies I've been putting off all year. I can buy a winter coat so I can walk to my studio without getting soaked or freezing. Thanks to this grant I can invest in my art, continue to create and relax knowing that I have at least a small safety net going in to the new year, and hopefully the final months of this pandemic. I couldn't be more grateful. Thank you very much. – Kenneth Richmond*

*I've fallen very far behind on rent, even though our property manager has failed to renew mine and my landlord's lease agreement since June, 2020. The grant will help make up that difference. – Gordon Romei*

*At a time of great change and despair, this award program helped me to sustain my practice and focus on collective healing, creation and action. – Catherine Ross*

*The Artist Relief program award has helped me immensely as a small business owner, as well as an individual. I want to say thank you for choosing me as a recipient. This money will help me purchase replacement materials to continue with my community paint classes, as well as supplement a loss of income from being unable to hold public classes. 2020 was a year that almost broke a lot of people. With every month that passed where I could not hold a paint class, I felt myself growing more and more anxious at what the future of my small business would look like or if it would even exist much longer. I contemplated selling my small business materials and ceasing any future classes; however, with this award, my anxiousness has been lifted, and I know now that the future for my small business is bright (pun intended!) More so than financial assistance, I am beyond grateful that I will be able to continue to share my love of painting with my community-- a small, rural community that yearns for activities such as the one I offer. Art is alive and well here-- and you all are a part of that. That is worth more than any amount of money. Thank you. – Kacie Shaffer*

*The Artist Relief program will be helping me immensely! As a ballet dancer, our return to stage date is still so unknown. This money being awarded to me is such a relief and will be a huge help in covering my general expenses for the rest of winter. I am so grateful to be a recipient, thank you so much for considering my application. – Bailey Shaw*

*I am thankful to receive support through the Artist Relief Program because it will offset a financial loss I have experienced due to Covid-19 and the cancelation of teaching an arts course at the college level. This income will allow me to purchase provisions for my family and art supplies to continue my professional artist work. Thank you! – Kate Simmons*

*The award I received allowed me to fully pay rent on my studio, utilities and insurance for one month, in the midst of a second mandated closure during which I made no income. Retaining my studio space means that the youth aerial dance programming I provide in the Rogue Valley can begin as soon as it is safe for us to hold classes again. Encouraging creative agency in youth is necessary now more than ever. – Sonya Smith*

*This award has come at the most important time! Our studios have been closed for 8 months. The dance academy is a staple in our community and so critical to our young dancers. It means so much, to so many, for a myriad of reasons, (not even always dance related!). The students actually call it their "second home." Not letting it close permanently is my mission!! Since I am the sole proprietor, it falls on me to ensure that the building overhead is paid during this closure. While the building continues to generate bills, taxes and mortgages, the building income has gone to almost nothing. I have been keeping it afloat with my own savings, creative uses and small loans. However, the longer we stay closed, the more dire it has become. I will use this gift to keep the building paid, so we are ready to open and welcome our students back, just as soon as it is safe, and we are able. I am forever grateful and humbled to receive it. THANK YOU! – Susan Sorensen*

*The artist relief fund helped me stay current with my house hold bills. It allows us to have enough food and personal care items for a few months... it allows peace of mind that we have food and shelter during major unemployment. With the immediate financial stress relief it gives us the mental energy to plan for the future. Expand our artistic outlets, diversify our talents. Thank you so much for the award!!! – LaRhonda Steele*

*During a year of great hardships from the pandemic to unemployment, this award will help me cover basic costs of living such as food, rent and utilities. Most importantly, the award has come at the right time for me to pay costs for framing and installing my new work for my upcoming exhibition at Fourteen30 Contemporary in Portland, Oregon this Spring 2021. – Taravat Talepasand*

*There are no words to describe the fear that I felt in March 2020. I've been an artist my entire life, and have been blessed enough to support myself from my artistry for most of my adult life. It is always a hustle, and an unknown when you make your living this way, but I was never prepared or had even thought about what if art can't happen. What will I do. I have three kids, but I support 100% on my own. I was scared for them more than myself. How would I keep our home? How about I feed them? How would I provide them with simple things like shoes or simply a beverage if they'd like. Do you want to be able to give your kids the most basic of things. I saw everything crumble, and as a single mother, you always figure it out. You always fight and make the impossible happen, but this time, I felt so helpless. I didn't even receive unemployment. Receiving this relief award will allow me to pay some back bills, and buy my children new shoes and clothes, and keep the fridge stocked, without feeling like I have to tell them to slow down on eating our food because we only have so much to last us. Thank you all again so very much, I am so grateful. – Julana Torres*

*The artist relief program allowed me to keep my studio which already had to be relocated due to COVID. Without the grant I would have to chose between housing and a working studio. – Kirista Trask*

*The Artist Relief program award is absolutely a financial savior to keep my studio open! The monies have afforded me the ability to continue creating art until economy improves and Convention center shows across the nation as well as small art in the vineyard type shows will be available to the public to make purchases, and having my galleries open with people freely available to view new products. I can't thank you enough or express in words really how grateful I am to have received this financial help to keep myself and other artists in their creative spaces. Art is so important, and is the life breath for many people, Who created, view it and share it. respect earth and peace Thank you! – Nina Walz "*

*Hello! I want to thank you all with the wholeness of my heart. Receiving this grant has really relieved the pressure of being unemployed during these times. I am having a gender affirming top surgery in a month, and have been saving every last penny to make sure I am able to get through it with everything I need. I have been suffering from back pain over the last two years, partially due to a poor mattress, and have been hoping to get a new mattress before my surgery begins so that I can recover without experiencing back pain while laying down. This grant not only assured that I will be able to pay my rent, bills, surgery supplies, and groceries without worry while recovering, but also is assisting in helping fund my new mattress before*



*surgery! I am hoping to get back on my feet quickly and back to work in March, not only teaching art but also working back on my art practice, back pain free. Thank you so much for everything you are doing! -- Bryn X*