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**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE: [MIAMI,
FLORIDA]**

**LOCUST PROJECTS
ANNOUNCES**

WaveMaker 2020: Cycle 6

2020 Grantees:

New Work/Projects:

Robert Colom
Luna Goldberg
Reginald O'Neal
Rachelle Salnave

Long-Haul Projects:

Sebastian Duncan-
Portuondo
Rosa Naday Garmendia
GeoVanna Gonzalez
Laurencia Strauss

**Research+Development /
Implementation**

Summer Jade Leavitt
Oscar Rieveling
Anita Sharma
Juan Carlos Zaldivar

Images:

[WaveMakergrants.org](http://www.wavemakergrants.org)

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Locust Projects is Making Art Happen with \$60,000 in WaveMaker Grants to Miami Artists

Twelve Miami-based artists, curators, and collectives will receive grants up to \$6,000 each for projects that are accessible to the public via process, presentation, production, or publication.



MIAMI, FLORIDA – May 1, 2020 – Locust Projects announces the latest round of recipients of [WaveMaker Grants](#), an Andy Warhol Foundation funded regional re-granting program. Twelve Miami-based artists, curators and collectives will receive up to \$6,000 each in three categories: New Work / Projects, Long-Haul Projects, and Research & Development + Implementation. In the spirit of Locust Projects' artist-centric mission, WaveMakers take risks outside of art institutions and markets, creating innovative work that is accessible to the public via process, presentation, production, or publication. This year's projects represent diverse visions, subjects, and mediums, including a hybrid-disco chapel installation for self-identifying exiles, curated virtual

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reality experiences for senior living communities, and a participatory digital archive where Miami's women artists can shape their living legacies.

Since 2015, the WaveMaker Grants program has awarded \$399,000 in funding to 77 of Miami's most visionary artists, curators, and collectives providing vital funds at critical moments in the development and implementation of publicly accessible, innovative projects across Miami-Dade County including supporting ongoing artist-run initiatives such as: BLCK family, Commissioner, Dimensions Variable, EXILE Books, Fresh Art International, Fringe Projects, Obsolete Media Miami, Miami Women's Artist Archive, Page Slayers, Public Hives, Open Source Art, Sunday Painter, and Third Horizon, among others.

"As part of Locust Projects mission to Make Art Happen by supporting artists with opportunities and resources to advance their careers, WaveMaker grants is a unique grants program supporting artistic practice at various stages – from idea inception to implementation—even over the long-haul," says Lorie Mertes, Executive Director at Locust Projects. "Focused to support projects intended for non-institutional/non-traditional spaces accessible to the public, WaveMaker introduces audiences to innovative artistic practices and serves as a catalyst for dialogue and exchange."

This year's grant recipients were selected from a competitive pool of applicants through a dynamic review process by two local and two national arts professionals: **Dejha Carrington**, former WaveMaker grant recipient and Vice President of External Relations & Communications at National YoungArts Foundation; **Stephanie Seidel**, assistant curator at Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami; **Khadija Adell**, multimedia artist and Program Manager at The Grit Fund in Baltimore, a member of the regional regranting program; and **Mary Magsamen**, artist at Hillebrand+Magsamen and curator at Aurora Picture Show, which along with Project Row Houses administers the regional regranting program, The Idea Fund. The twelve grant recipients were selected from approximately 100 applicants. The jurors selected the grant recipients based on the projects' conceptual rigor and relevance to the local cultural, geographic, and socio-economic context, uniquely innovative interactions with and impact on the local community, and the accessibility of the resulting project to the public.

In response to COVID-19, this year's grantees are able to use up to 50% of their grant funds for emergency relief due to lost income as needed. As this current moment demands creative solutions to change, the Wavemakers may also adapt their project content, scope, form, venue, and/or timeline as necessary.

"Artists are especially good at seeing opportunities where there are challenges and at creatively adapting. Our WaveMakers are already showing their resilience and their commitment to their visions. We are so excited and curious to see how their projects evolve," said WaveMaker Coordinator Monica Peña.

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MEET THE 2020 WAVEMAKERS:

NEW WORK/PROJECTS

Robert Colom: Cinemóvil | New Work / Projects - \$6,000

Cinemóvil is a mobile repertory cinema that operates a state of the art digital projector and sound system out of a 2010 Ford Transit Connect, touring around Miami-Dade County to play films in unexpected outdoor community spaces. But the vision for Cinemóvil goes beyond the kitsch of a traditional mobile cinema project to serve as an essential conduit for exploring cultural permanence in Miami's increasingly impermanent communities.

Luna Goldberg: At Memory's Edge | New Work/Projects - \$6,000

Monuments and memorials have often served as placeholders for historical events--physical manifestations of memorialized legacies. Yet they have also functioned as acts of power reinforcing narratives written by the "victors." At Memory's Edge is a Miami-based multidisciplinary exhibition and symposium focused around contested monuments. The exhibition will bring together new works by Ashley Freeby, Efrat Hakimi, Iris Helena, and Lihi Turjeman. Examining structures across the U.S., Israel, and Brazil, the exhibition will investigate monuments as wounds of the past--structures that have manipulated the built environment and how we as individuals navigate and negotiate public space and memory. The exhibition will further be activated through a day long symposium featuring panels and roundtable discussions with artists, architects, and scholars aimed at investigating this topic from a historical and global perspective.

Reginald O'Neal: 18 Years and Counting | New Work / Projects - \$6,000

Through 18 Years and Counting, I explore the life of my father, Reginald O'Neal Sr., from the year 2002 until now. My father has been incarcerated for 18 years in Florida state prison, and I will be telling his story through paintings, photos, letters, installations, and audio. The purpose of this project is to give others insight into the experience of someone who is incarcerated. Intimate and personal, the artwork will stem from the perspective of those who are affected by my father's incarceration, allowing the audience to view him from the point-of-view of his friends and family, as opposed to the rest of society.

Rachelle Salnave: Madame Pipi | New Work / Projects - \$6,000

Madame Pipi is a short documentary that follows the lives of three Haitian female bathroom attendants who work at the hottest nightclubs in Miami. Relatively invisible, underpaid, and under-appreciated, their stories are a journey of triumph, as they massage the temperaments of their patrons for tips. Despite the rising cost of living, these women send remittances to Haiti, fueling a large part of their home country's GDP.

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LONG-HAUL PROJECTS

Sebastian Duncan-Portuondo: Club EXILE | Long-Haul Projects - \$6,000

Club EXILE is a hybrid disco-chapel installation that celebrates diverse exile identities through social engagement and community driven content. An exile is an uprooted person who permanently leaves their homeland in response to force. Club EXILE looks beyond this definition to ask how marginalized peoples experience different forms of exile.

The installation resembles a shrine; it is filled with metallic fabric, mirror mosaics and multi-colored lights leading to an ornate jukebox. Visitors find a mosaiced bar with a countertop memorial holding 49 ceramic stars for the victims of the 2016 Pulse Nightclub Shooting. The wall is covered with flowers, dedicated photographs, postcards, and a blinking neon sign that announces EXILE. The jukebox houses mix CD contributions that communicate personal histories in response to the prompt: what 10 songs make you think of exile?

Rosa Naday Garmendia: Rituals of Commemoration, public art | Long-Haul Projects - \$6,000

As the nation debates the role of monuments that commemorate slave owners and Jim Crow, this public counter-monument will commemorate black lives, serving as a placeholder and memorial that ensures the names of victims of police misconduct around the country are not forgotten. Rather than taking a “this too will pass” attitude, Rituals of Commemoration documents the lives of black men and women killed by police or other law enforcement since 1979: 1,252 so far, and the documentation of murdered lives continues. This interactive historical marker gives families an opportunity to mourn, while it is also an invitation for viewers to participate in a project that features reflection, social interaction, objects, and actions. Rituals of Commemoration is a physical and reflective space that is indelible to the conversations taking place across the United States regarding police brutality, systemic racism, inequality, and poverty.

Laurencia Strauss: The Bubble Pops Popsicle Project / PROJECTIONS |Long-Haul Projects - \$6,000

For over 2 years, Miami residents have been contributing their advice learned from adaptive experiences like immigrating or surviving hurricanes in exchange for a hand-crafted bubble popsicle. Each participant's advice has then been integrated into the next iteration of popsicles as the body of knowledge grows and circulates. With collaborator Zlatko Cosic, TheBubble Pops Popsicle Project / PROJECTIONS expands this communal adaptation advice archive by projecting it as a video on the façade of a Miami building. Visitors and locals will be able to view these collective responses --and contribute their own--as they engage with each other during pop-up iterations of the popsicle stand.

GeoVanna Gonzalez: Supplement Projects | Long-Haul Projects - \$6,000

Supplement Projects is a non-commercial arts platform with a focus on highlighting marginalized or under-represented artists, curators, activists, and cultural practitioners. Every exhibition/program occupies spaces outside of the traditional gallery structure, such as residential homes, empty lots, and vehicles. The project explores ideas of collectivity, inclusivity, and resistance. As a place of comfort and courage, communication and rest, each iteration offers a provocative alternative to the often over-commercialized spaces of art galleries and institutions. Supplement Projects acts as a community meeting-point run by artists for artists.

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RESEARCH + DEVELOPMENT / IMPLEMENTATION

Summer Jade Leavitt: The Queer Theory Library | Research & Development - \$2,000

The Queer Theory Library is a free community library and collective space for discussion, experimentation, creation, and knowledge. Hosting texts, books, essays, and zines--and making them available to the public--the Queer Theory Library will provide a scene for greater community dialogue. The Queer Theory Library will also function as an actively growing archive for local artists, writers, and residents to submit their work, writings, and ephemera.

With a mission to radically shift and create new possibilities for queer thought, culture, and creation, the library is focused on futurism. How we frame our past and present influences our future-building; how we perceive and write our realities creates new worlds. The Queer Theory Library, through education and collaboration, aims to enable, empower, and inspire our queer community.

Anita Sharma: Women's Artist Archive Miami (WAAM) | Implementation - \$4,000

The Women's Artist Archive Miami (WAAM) pilot digital archive is a platform that documents the contribution of women and female-identifying artists using principles of participatory archiving and digital preservation strategies. These models emphasize democratic processes of selection and curation, where the artist or cultural producer is in control of shaping their living legacy. By creating peripheral archival access points within the community, WAAM will reframe how archival institutions can engage and support local artists, obtaining content from artists across all career stages. WAAM will continue to expand its database after the pilot year by inviting artists to upload content to the digital archive to reflect the diverse and rich cultural production in Miami.

Juan Carlos Zaldivar: Variety Reinspires | Research & Development - \$2,000

Moving into a senior living community can make older adults feel as if their freedom is limited. Research has shown that social isolation is as detrimental to health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. In fact, more than 50% of senior-living residents will experience depression or isolation during their stay, making loneliness among seniors a modern mental health epidemic. Variety Reinspires aims to overcome social isolation through the power of virtual reality and shared experiences. Our project provides opportunities for senior residents to virtually leave the four walls of their community. A curated selection of experiences, each with a discussion guide, will help staff lead conversations.

Oscar Rieveling: Auto-Mariachi | Implementation - \$4,000

Auto-mariachi will bring a performance and related cultural programming to Homestead, Florida, a community that is often excluded in relation to other sites closer to the urban core of the city. The project aims to disrupt typical presentations of mariachi and to show how folk tradition is not static but actively reflects present socio-political conditions. This performance and related programs work to untangle colonial legacy, folk tradition, constructions of masculinity, and conceptual frameworks as a means of understanding Mexican and Latin-American/Latinx identity. The culminating performance will bring several mariachi groups to serenade each other in the context of the Redland Market Village, a publicly accessible site that boasts a family-friendly environment and free parking. A music workshop organized with the Homestead-Miami Mariachi Conservatory and the Mexican American Council will be organized to introduce the instruments and basic song patterns to an all ages audience. An accompanying lecture will be delivered by

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Jonathan Clark, UCLA ethnomusicology professor and mariachi historian, to present a more formal analysis of the development of the musical form and traditions.

ABOUT LOCUST PROJECTS

Founded by artists for artists in 1998, Locust Projects is Miami's longest-running nonprofit alternative art space. We produce, present, and nurture ambitious and experimental new art and the exchange of ideas through commissioned exhibitions and projects, artist residencies, summer art intensives for teens, and public programs on contemporary art and curatorial practice. As a leading incubator of new art and ideas, Locust Projects emphasizes boundary-pushing creative endeavors, risk-taking and experimentation by local, national and international artists. We invest in South Florida's arts community by providing artists with project grants and empower creative careers by supporting the administrative work of being an artist through an onsite artist resource hub and access to pro bono legal services.

WaveMaker Grants is made possible by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and is part of the [Warhol Foundation's Regional Regranting Program](#) consisting of sixteen national regranting partners: Albuquerque, 516 ARTS: Fulcrum Fund; Baltimore, Baltimore Arts Realty Corporation: GRIT Fund; Chicago, Threewalls & Gallery 400: Propeller Fund; Cleveland, SPACES: The Satellite Fund; Denver, RedLine Contemporary Art Center: INSITE Fund; Houston, Aurora Picture Show, DiverseWorks, & Project Row Houses: The Idea Fund; Kansas City, Charlotte Street Foundation & Spencer Museum of Art: Rocket Grants; Miami, Locust Projects: WaveMaker Grants; Minneapolis, Midway Contemporary Art: Visual Arts Fund; New Orleans, Antenna & Ashé Cultural Arts Center: Platforms Fund; Philadelphia, Temple Contemporary: The Velocity Fund; Portland (ME), SPACE Gallery: The Kindling Fund; Portland (OR), Portland Institute for Contemporary Art: Precipice Fund; Saint Louis, The Luminary: Futures Fund; San Francisco, Southern Exposure: Alternative Exposure; Washington DC, Washington Project for the Arts: Wherewithal Grants.

Locust Projects 2019-2020 exhibitions and programming are made possible with support from: The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; The Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners; The National Endowment for the Arts Art Works Grant; Hillsdale Fund; the Albert and Jane Nahmad Family Foundation; The State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; Kirk Foundation, Miami Salon Group, Funding Arts Network, and the Wege Foundation and Locust Projects Exhibitionist members. Thanks too to our Talks program partners at Oolite Arts.

ART HAPPENS HERE.