

WAVEMAKER GRANTS

LOCUST PROJECTS

297 NE 67th St, Miami, FL 33138
305.576.8570 | info@locustprojects.org | www.locustprojects.org
www.wavemakergrants.org

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE:
[MIAMI, FLORIDA]

LOCUST PROJECTS
ANNOUNCES:
2025 WaveMaker
Grantees

Long-Haul Projects:
Christopher Mitchell |
Lucía Morales | Angela
Rio | Gabriela Serra |
Ermol Sheppard | Barron
Sherer | Sofia Vailente

New Work/Projects:
Roxana Barba |
Sydney Rose Maubert

**Research+Development
/ Implementation**
Akia Dorsainvil | Gabriel
Soomar | Teri Watson

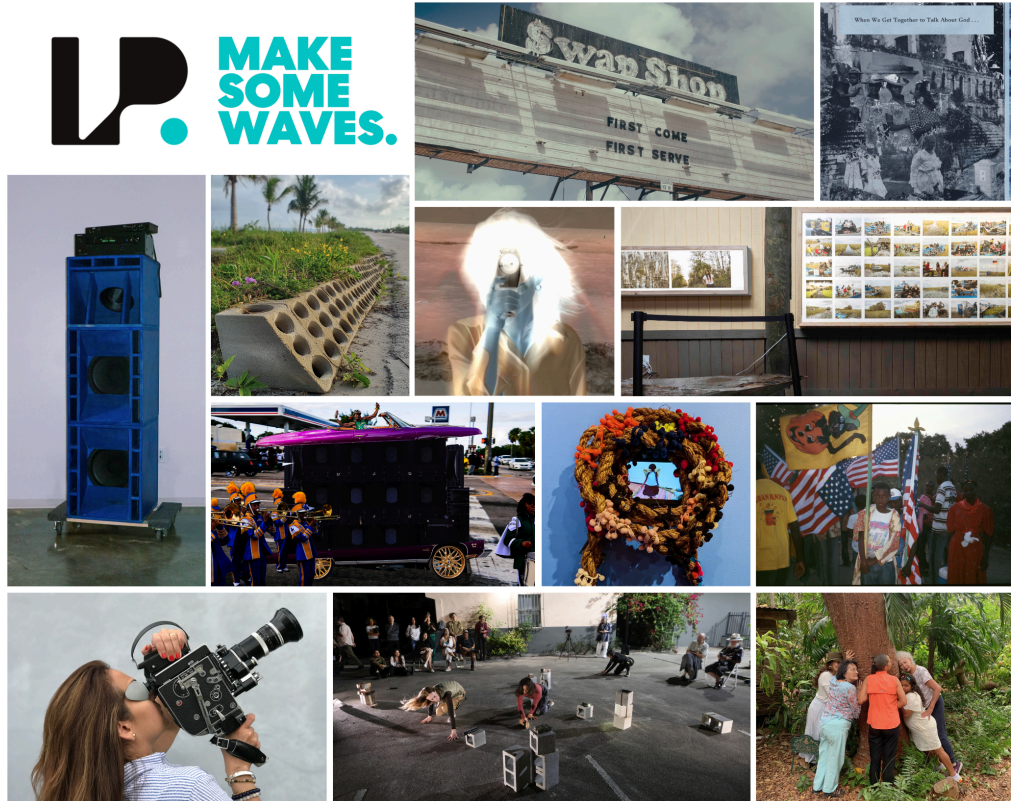
WaveMakergrants.org

Images: [Click here](#)

Media Contact:
[Sid Wolf](#)
305.576.8570

Locust Projects Announces 10 Years of Wavemaker Grants with \$60,000 in Grants to 12 Miami Artists

More than \$690,000 awarded to Miami-based Artists since 2015
Supported by the Andy Warhol Foundation's Regional Regranting Program



MIAMI, FL [August 1, 2025] – [Locust Projects](#), Miami's longest running incubator of new art and ideas, announces the recipients of its 2025 [WaveMaker Grants](#) made possible by the [Andy Warhol Foundation's Regional Regranting Program](#). Twelve Miami-based artists will each receive up to \$6,000 in three categories: New Work / Projects, Long-Haul Projects, and Research & Development + Implementation.



The 2025 WaveMakers are: **Long-Haul Projects:** Christopher Mitchell | Lucía Morales | Angela Rio | Gabriela Serra | Ermol Sheppard | Barron Sherer | Sofia Vailente; **New Work / Projects:** Roxana Barba | Sydney RoseMaubert; **Research & Development + Implementation:** Akia Dorsainvil | Gabriel Soomar | Teri Watson.

WAVEMAKER GRANTS

LOCUST PROJECTS

297 NE 67th St, Miami, FL 33138
305.576.8570 | info@locustprojects.org | www.locustprojects.org
www.wavemakergrants.org

In the spirit of Locust Projects' artist-centered mission, WaveMaker grantees take risks to experiment beyond traditional models for presenting art, creating innovative work that is accessible to the public and presented in non-traditional venues across Miami.

The announcement of Cycle 12 marks \$690,000 in WaveMaker incubator grants awarded to 139 of Miami's most visionary artists, curators, and collectives since WaveMaker launched in 2015. Administered by Locust Projects since 2017, WaveMaker grants provide vital funds at critical moments in the development and implementation of publicly accessible, innovative projects across Miami-Dade County. Over the past 10 years, Wavemaker has helped launch artist careers and supported the launch and long term sustainability of local artist-run initiatives such as: Commissioner, Dimensions Variable, EXILE Books, Fringe Projects, Women's Artist Archive Miami, and Third Horizon Film Festival, among others.

"As part of Locust Projects' mission to ADVOCATE FOR ARTISTS, we support artists with opportunities and resources to propel next steps in their creative careers. Among those resources is WaveMaker grants, a vital incubator grant providing Miami-based artists with funds to support their vision—from idea and implementation to sustaining their work over the long-haul," says Lorie Mertes, Executive Director at Locust Projects. "WaveMaker grants are unique in that they encourage anyone with a compelling idea to experiment and take risks in developing and realizing innovative visual arts-based projects that add value to our community."

The twelve grant recipients were selected from 101 applicants with the criteria that none of the New Work, Long Haul or R+D applicants had received a Wavemaker grant in the past five years. Projects were selected for conceptual rigor and relevance to the local cultural, geographic, and socio-economic context, impact on the local community, and the accessibility of the resulting project to the public.

The 2025 WaveMaker selection panel included: **Donnie Cervantes**, Program Director at Warhol Regional Regranting Partner, Ho'ākea Source at the Pu'uhonua Society, Honolulu, O'ahu, Hawai'i; **Yanira Collado**, Artist, 2024 WaveMaker Grantee; **Rebecca Pauline Jampol**, Co-Director at Warhol Foundation Regional Regranting Partner, Co-director at Project for Empty Space that powers the Newark Artist Accelerator in Newark, New Jersey; **Claudia Mattos**, Associate Curator of New Media Art at The Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach.

Focused on supporting projects intended for non-institutional/non-traditional spaces accessible to the public, WaveMaker introduces audiences to innovative artistic practices, responds to issues and ideas relevant to our community, and serves as a catalyst for dialogue and exchange. Visit wavemakergrants.org to view all current and past WaveMaker grantees.



Image: Left to right: Locust Projects' Executive Director Lorie Mertes, Rebecca Pauline Jampol, Donnie Cervantes, Yanira Collado, Claudia Mattos, and Locust Projects' Art + Digital Innovation Manager Andrew McLees.

MEET THE 2025 WAVEMAKERS:

LONG-HAUL PROJECTS - \$6,000



Christopher Mitchell | *Mystic Triangle*

Mystic Triangle is a decade-long film and research project exploring sacred Vodou ceremonies in Souvenance, Badjo, and Soukri, three of Haiti's most spiritually significant Lakou, or ceremonial compounds where ritual, oral history, and ancestral memory converge. Using interviews, field recordings, and layered soundscapes, the project honors Haitian spiritual life through a cinematic lens shaped by cultural intimacy and lived experience. Screenings and public conversations in

Little Haiti at venues including Lakou Café and the Little Haiti Cultural Complex aim to open dialogue and reflection across the Haitian diaspora.

Lucía Morales | *Sinpay/Trenzar*

Sinpay/Trenzar is an ongoing participatory project that uses braiding as a collective action for storytelling and community connection across the Andean diaspora. Beginning in Miami and expanding through gatherings in Chicago, Perú, and Indiana, the project invites participants to contribute to evolving trenzas made of hemp rope and local materials while sharing personal histories of hair, memory, and heritage. With each braid, new stories are woven into the work, which also incorporates video documentation and community-led activations. Supported by the North Miami Beach Public Library and other cultural partners, *Sinpay/Trenzar* supports cultural visibility, shared dialogue, and connection among Andean communities in South Florida and beyond.



Angela Rio | *BOYG1RL*

BOYG1RLMUSIC is a feature-length experimental film that follows a Black queer and trans artistic collective in 2025 Miami as they document their lives in the moment before what they believe to be their inevitable big break. Parallel to their story, a sentient supercomputer in the year 2225 ruminates on the city's collapse, searching for meaning in humanity's demise. Blending vérité documentary with surrealist sci-fi, the film juxtaposes spirituality, artificial intelligence, environmental decay, and queer futurism. Developed through Masisi Studio, the project includes an original electronic score by local collaborators and will screen in

alternative venues across Miami, from clubs to community spaces.

WAVEMAKER GRANTS

LOCUST PROJECTS

297 NE 67th St, Miami, FL 33138
305.576.8570 | info@locustprojects.org | www.locustprojects.org
www.wavemakergrants.org



Gabriela Serra | *Canto al Árbol*

Canto al Árbol is an intergenerational songbook and multimedia project that honors the trees of Miami and the wisdom of community elders. Rooted in a series of free workshops led by Serra alongside her mother, grandmother, and local musicians, the project invites participants to share cultural and spiritual relationships with trees. Drawing from Venezuelan traditions where plant knowledge is passed down through song, *Canto al Árbol* re-centers nature and elders as vital teachers. Through public performances and video portraits, the project preserves these stories in lasting form, connecting memory, land, and song.

Ermol Sheppard | *First Come, First Serve*

First Come, First Serve is a documentary film that traces the layered history of the Fort Lauderdale Swap Shop, a chaotic, iconic flea market and drive-in that has long served as a launchpad for South Florida's immigrant communities. Blending personal storytelling, archival footage, and visual collage, the film weaves together three narratives: the Swap Shop's rise as a cultural and economic hub, the artistic journey of painter Marie Franco, and the uncertain future of this rapidly changing landmark. Presented alongside a portrait exhibition, the film captures a vanishing landmark through layered, personal perspectives.



Barron Sherer | *Moving Image Alliance - 16mm for Contemporary Artists*

Moving Image Alliance is a hands-on workshop series designed to introduce digital-native artists to the practices and poetics of analog filmmaking. Led by media artist Barron Sherer, the program focuses on 16mm techniques including Bolex camera operation, hand-processing black-and-white film, and scanning footage for digital use. Through free, juried workshops hosted at Miami-based arts and archival spaces, participants will explore the material and historical possibilities of celluloid while developing their

own moving image works. The project equips a new generation of experimental filmmakers while expanding Sherer's ongoing initiative to preserve legacy cinema technologies.

WAVEMAKER GRANTS

LOCUST PROJECTS

297 NE 67th St, Miami, FL 33138
305.576.8570 | info@locustprojects.org | www.locustprojects.org
www.wavemakergrants.org



Sofia Vailente | *Kahayatle*

Kahayatle is a collaborative multimedia installation that centers the Miccosukee Tribe's sovereign relationship to the Everglades and the cultural memory embedded in the land. Developed in partnership with the Tribe's archives department, the project documents oral histories, field recordings, and video footage tied to sites such as the Everglades Study Research Trip, the Tamiami Trail, and a community garden

impacted by diverted water flow. Taking its name from the Indigenous word for "a bright, lit place" and "water that is bright," *Kahayatle* brings together sound, memory, and story to illuminate the intertwined ecological histories of the Everglades and Miami.

NEW WORK/PROJECTS



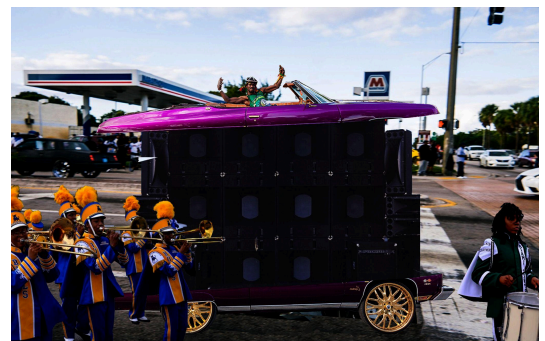
Roxana Barba | *Constructs* - \$6,000

Constructs is a site-specific, durational installation that unfolds over three hours, beginning at sunset and ending at nightfall. Blurring the line between sculpture and performance, the work evokes an illusory construction site—part artifact, part inhabited structure—in a slow crescendo of movement, sound, and shifting form. Using bricks, sand, wood, aluminum, and light, performers activate the space through choreographed actions and live sound loops captured by embedded

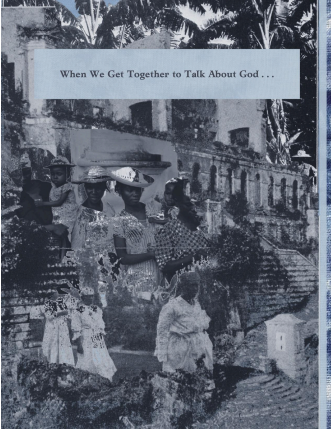
microphones and sensors. Themes of displacement, fragility, resilience, and transformation emerge as materials are built up, broken down, and rearranged. Without being fully participatory, the installation invites audiences to enter and witness its evolution from multiple vantage points, becoming part of a sensory environment where image and sound build toward a totality.

Sydney Rose Maubert | *Still Tippin'* - \$4,000

Still Tippin' is an installation that reimagines Southern car culture as monument, archive, and site of performance. Featuring full-scale metal car sculptures tilted in motion, the work draws from the legacy of the Great Migration and the Afro-Indigenous aesthetic traditions that traveled from South Florida to the Midwest. Blending metalwork, sound design, and architectural scale, Rose's sculptural environment honors Black design processes while centering joy as a radical expression of resilience. This marks the artist's first foray into metal and sound, expanding her painting-based practice into an immersive spatial installation that reclaims the gaze and maps the built environment through Black and Indigenous authorship.



RESEARCH + DEVELOPMENT / IMPLEMENTATION



Akia Dorsainvil | *When We Get Together to Talk About God . .* | Implementation - \$4,000

Created with Jasmine Repress, *When We Get Together to Talk About God . .* explores Miami’s ancestral spatiality through dialogue with spiritual leaders and community members rooted in Afro-diasporic traditions. Centered on neighborhoods like Opa-Locka, Little Haiti, Liberty City, and Miami Beach, the project gathers and archives oral histories as zines, transcripts, and audiovisual recordings to better understand the city’s spiritual landscape. Culminating in a live altar and performance honoring Erzuli Danto in Little Haiti, the work invites community members to co-create ceremony and access the research, artifacts, and embodied knowledge it activates.

Gabriel Soomar | *Ah Lil' Noise Later* | Research & Development - \$2,000

Ah Lil' Noise Later is a site-specific research project by Miami-based artist Gabriel Soomar that explores how Black Atlantic sonic cultures shape public space, memory, and architectural perception. Proposed for Green Haven in Overtown, the project centers on the design of a custom-built modular sound system inspired by Caribbean sonic traditions. Part sculpture, part platform, the system functions as a material study in how sound choreographs emotion, animates ritual, and shapes collective space. Alongside the structure, Soomar will develop a montage film using archival footage, field recordings, and experimental editing to examine how sound records, distorts, and reimagines place. Together, the installation and film consider how sound might shape our experience of architecture.



Teri Watson | *SEED Erosion Blocks* | Research & Development - \$2,000

SEED Erosion Blocks is a research-driven installation that repurposes invasive sargassum seaweed into modular concrete blocks designed to stabilize shorelines and support coastal plant growth. Developed through interdisciplinary collaboration with engineers and marine scientists, the project combines climate-adaptive design with material science that repurposes waste as infrastructure. Each block integrates planter cavities and solar lighting, forming a scalable prototype for erosion control that doubles as public art. Installed at sites across South Florida’s beaches, *SEED Erosion Blocks* introduce an experimental model for

sustainable coastal design rooted in art, science, and site-specific research.



297 NE 67th St, Miami, FL 33138
305.576.8570 | info@locustprojects.org | www.locustprojects.org
www.wavemakergrants.org

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.

ABOUT THE WARHOL FOUNDATION'S REGIONAL REGRANTING PROGRAM

Founded in 2015 and administered by Locust Projects since 2017, WaveMaker Grants is made possible by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts' [Regional Regranting Program](#), a network of 36 regranting partners across the country: Albuquerque - [516 ARTS: Fulcrum Fund](#), Atlanta - [Atlanta Contemporary: Nexus Fund](#), Baltimore - [The Peale: GRIT Fund](#), Buffalo - [The Buffalo Institute for Contemporary Art: Generator Fund](#), Chicago - [3Arts: Ignite Fund](#), Cleveland - [SPACES: The Satellite Fund](#), Denver - [RedLine Contemporary Art Center: INSITE Fund](#), Detroit - [CultureSource: Flourish Fund](#), Honolulu - [Pu'uhonua Society: Ho'ākea Source](#), Houston - [Aurora Picture Show, DiverseWorks, & Project Row Houses: The Idea Fund](#), Indianapolis - [Big Car Collaborative: Power Plant Grant](#), Kansas City - [Charlotte Street Foundation & Spencer Museum of Art: Rocket Grants](#), Iowa City - [Public Space One: Big Field Fund](#), Knoxville (TN) - [Tri-Star Arts: Current Art Fund](#), Lakota Communities/ Western South Dakota - [Racing Magpie: Sinew Fund](#), Los Angeles - [LACE Lightning Fund](#), Medford (MA) - [Tufts University Art Gallery: Collective Futures Fund](#), Miami - [Locust Projects: WaveMaker Grants](#), Milwaukee - [The Open, Poor Farm: The Open Fund](#), Minneapolis - [Midway Contemporary Art: Visual Arts Fund](#), Mobile - [Coleman Center for the Arts, Alabama Contemporary Art Center/ Space One Eleven: The Verdant Fund](#), New Orleans - [Antenna & Ashé Cultural Arts Center: Platforms Fund](#), Newark - [Project for Empty Space: Newark Artist Accelerator](#), Oklahoma City - [Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition: Thrive Grants](#), Omaha - [The Union for Contemporary Art: Populus Fund](#), Philadelphia - [Asian Arts Initiative: The Velocity Fund](#), Portland (ME) - [SPACE Gallery: The Kindling Fund](#), Portland (OR) - [Portland Institute for Contemporary Art: Precipice Fund](#), Providence - [Dirt Palace Public Projects: Interlace Grant Fund](#), Raleigh (NC) - [Visual Art Exchange: Snapdragon Fund](#), Salt Lake City - [Utah Museum of Contemporary Art: The Assemblage Art Fund](#), San Francisco - [Southern Exposure: Alternative Exposure](#), San Juan, PR - [Beta Local: Maquina Simple](#), Seattle - [Northwest Film Forum: Collective Power Fund](#), Tucson (AZ) - [MOCA Tucson: Night Bloom Grants](#), Washington DC - [Washington Project for the Arts: Wherewithal Grants](#).

**MAKE
SOME
WAVES.**