



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Ruth Foundation for the Arts Announces 2024 Core Grant Recipients**

Milwaukee, WI, December 10, 2024 – The Ruth Foundation for the Arts (Ruth Arts) is pleased to announce the 2024 recipients of their Core Grants, awarding \$4.5 million in general operating funds to 90 arts and cultural organizations across the country. Based in Milwaukee and national in scope, Ruth Arts honors its benefactor Ruth DeYoung Kohler II (1941–2020) with inventive approaches to philanthropy that are rooted in creativity, experimentation, and access. Since launching in 2022 with the Artist Choice awards, the foundation has developed ten distinct grant programs and opened a new space as an extension of their grantmaking initiatives.

Now in its third year, the Core Grant is an annual application-based program open to organizations that have previously received an Artist Choice award. Applications are initially reviewed by a rotating group of readers who work across disciplines and regions. Each year, a relevant theme frames the grant questions. This year, organizations responded to prompts such as: *What are the ways your organization practices improvisation? How are you creatively shaping and shifting your work to ensure you are working towards the future you want?*

“Our hope is that these questions provide space for self-reflection and pathways for colleagues to engage in conversations about the core of their mission,” said Ruth Arts Executive Director Karen Patterson. “The Core program is the largest of our ten grant programs, so we spend time thinking about how these questions might get past boilerplate answers, to a place where applicants can share what really matters to them. We hope these prompts get to the heart of the matter, so we can more deeply understand them.”

As a national program, Core provides a snapshot of the current cultural landscape each year, giving insights into the strategic, imaginative, and critical ways organizations are approaching their work today. Ranging from emergent organizations to longstanding institutions, each successful organization receives a grant of \$50,000.

“This year’s Core grantees clearly situated themselves within their arts ecosystems and expressed a sensitive understanding of the context in which they work,” said Ruth Arts Program Director Kim Nguyen. “These organizations are seeking new ways of translating and evolving their core values and mission, remaining rooted in their traditions while continuing to work towards transforming and reimagining existing structures.

Connection, collaboration, and scale were at the forefront of the applications, with many organizations prioritizing relationship building as the key to their future growth and success.”

“The Ruth [Arts] Foundation has had the ability to see us, to feel us and to support us,” shared 2024 grantee Teatro Experimental Yerbabruja. “The contribution has made it possible for us to grow as artists without losing our voice even when we are in unfriendly territories. We appreciate the challenging and reflective questions that make us think about our practices and reimagine ourselves.”

Earlier this fall, Ruth Arts also opened a new space in Milwaukee, designed for a wide range of possibilities including exhibitions, convenings, talks, workshops, and fellowships. To launch, they partnered with the Andrews-Humphrey Family Foundation to present an exhibition and related programming exploring the multifaceted practice of artist, educator, and activist Benny Andrews (1930–2006). The Andrews-Humphrey Family Foundation, a Ruth Arts grantee, oversees the Benny Andrews Estate; the exhibition combines the artist’s extensive archive with a selection of his paintings and works on paper. *Benny Andrews: Trouble* is on view through March 7, 2025.

The 2024 Core Grant Recipients are:

Antenna New Orleans, LA	Asian American Arts Alliance New York, NY	Black Lunch Table Chicago, IL
Independent Arts & Media in support of Anti-Eviction Mapping Project New York, NY	Chinese for Affirmative Action in support of Asian Refugees United San Francisco Bay Area, CA and Greater Harrisburg, PA	Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center Asheville, NC
Art Enables Washington, DC	BalletX Philadelphia, PA	Beverly’s Exhibitions Corp in support of Black Painters Academy New York, NY
Queer Cultural Center in support of Art Handlxrs* San Francisco, CA	Beta-Local San Juan, PR	BlackStar Projects Philadelphia, PA
Movement Strategy Center in support of Art.coop National	Black Art Library Detroit, MI	The Bread & Puppet Theater Thetford Center, VT
Arts Foundation of Kosciusko Kosciusko, MS	Black Arts MKE Milwaukee, WI	The Brooklyn Rail Brooklyn, NY
Arts of Life Chicago, IL	Black Cube Nomadic Art Museum Denver, CO	Baxter St at the Camera Club of New York New York, NY
	Black Image Center Los Angeles, CA	Center for Native Futures Chicago, IL

Charlotte Street  
Kansas City, MO

Children's Art Carnival (CAC)  
New York, NY

Contemporary Art Library  
Los Angeles, CA

Contemporary Arts Memphis  
Memphis, TN

Corita Art Center  
Los Angeles, CA

Crow's Shadow  
Pendleton, OR

Deaf Spotlight  
Seattle, WA

Diasporic Vietnamese  
Artists Network (DVAN)  
San Francisco, CA

Dirt Palace Public Projects  
Providence, RI

DiverseWorks  
Houston, TX

Experimental Sound Studio  
Chicago, IL

Feel the Beat  
Englewood, CO

First Peoples Fund  
Rapid City, SD

Community Partners  
in support of  
Las Fotos Project  
Los Angeles, CA

Franklin Furnace  
New York, NY

GYOPO  
Los Angeles, CA

Harlem Stage  
New York, NY

Pu'uhonua Society  
in support of  
Ho'omau Nā Maka o ka 'Āina  
Ka'ū, HI

IAIA Museum of  
Contemporary Native Arts  
Santa Fe, NM

Indigenous Peoples Task Force  
Minneapolis, MN

La Impresora  
Isabela, PR

Institute 193  
Lexington, KY

Josephine Sculpture Park  
Frankfort, KY

Junior High  
Glendale, CA

The Lab  
San Francisco, CA

Leather Archives & Museum  
Chicago, IL

Locust Projects  
Miami, FL

Los Angeles Contemporary  
Exhibitions (LACE)  
Los Angeles, CA

Ma's House  
Shinnecock Indian Nation  
Southampton, NY

Movement Research  
New York, NY

Native Arts and  
Cultures Foundation  
Portland, OR

COUSIN Collective  
in support of  
New Red Order  
New York, NY

Nurturing Independence  
through Artistic Development  
(NIAD) Art Center  
Richmond, CA

Seventh Generation Fund  
in support of  
Onaman Collective  
Anishinaabeg Territory

Ox-Bow School of Art  
& Artists' Residency  
Saugatuck, MI

Parceleras Afrocaribeñas  
San Antón, PR

Performance Space New York  
New York, NY

Pike School of Art – Mississippi  
Summit, MS

Plataforma Eje  
Puerto Rico

The Field  
in support of  
POT  
Los Angeles, CA

Project for Empty Space  
Newark, NJ

Project Onward Chicago, IL	Shunpike in support of Seattle Asian American Film Festival Seattle, WA	Fractured Atlas in support of Trades A.I.R. Honolulu, HI
Project Row Houses Houston, TX		Ucross Foundation Clearmont, WY
The Center for Afrofuturist Studies at Public Space One Iowa City, IA	Side Street Projects Pasadena, CA	The Union for Contemporary Art Omaha, NE
Pu‘uhonua Society Honolulu, HI	Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture Madison, Maine	Northwest Film Forum in support of Wa Na Wari Seattle, WA
Queer Cultural Center San Francisco, CA	SOURCE Studio Burnsville, NC	Walker’s Point Center for the Arts Milwaukee, WI
Rabbit Island Foundation Lake Superior, MI	South Side Community Art Center Bronzeville, Chicago, IL	Women Photograph New Orleans, LA
RCS Empowers, Inc. Sheboygan, WI	Spiderwoman Theater Brooklyn, NY	Women’s Studio Workshop Rosendale, NY
Intersection for the Arts in support of Real Time and Space Oakland, CA	Taller Puertorriqueño Philadelphia, PA	YAYA New Orleans, LA
Sala Diaz San Antonio, TX	Tamir Rice Foundation Cleveland, OH	
	Teatro Experimental Yerbabruja Bay Shore, NY	

#### ABOUT THE RUTH FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS

With an inventive approach to philanthropy and artistic support rooted in creativity, care, and experimentation, The Ruth Foundation for the Arts (Ruth Arts) launched in 2022 to support organizations in the visual and performing arts. Leading with its flagship Artist Choice program that is guided by an artist-driven nomination process, the foundation continues to honor the legacy of its founder Ruth DeYoung Kohler II (1941–2020) with ten distinct grant programs. The foundation has awarded more than \$30 million in grants to date.

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