

locustprojects

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****MEDIA ALERT****

Locust Projects Receives Two Prestigious National Grants Supporting Visual Arts Programming



A large, stylized handwritten signature of Andy Warhol in black ink.

**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT** for the **ARTS**

The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

 arts.gov

[Miami: January 15, 2020] Locust Projects is the recipient of two prestigious grants supporting the creation of new commissioned exhibitions, projects, and public programs: The Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts has awarded Locust Projects \$100,000 over two years to support its programming, and the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts has approved Locust Projects for a grant in the amount of \$25,000 for its 2020 season. The funds will support the creation of new commissioned exhibitions free and open to the public, as well as accompanying free public programs, talks, and activations.

“Locust Projects is thrilled and honored to be the recipient of these two prestigious national grants recognizing our contributions to South Florida’s arts community,” said Locust Projects Executive Director, Lorie Mertes. “We are excited to have the work that we do shared on a national platform, and look forward to continuing our 21-year legacy of providing opportunities and resources for visual artists at all career stages as they experiment and push their practices.”

46 organizations from 19 states will be awarded a Fall 2019 grant from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts to support their visual arts programs, exhibitions, and curatorial research. Locust Projects is one of only two awardees in the state of Florida to receive a grant in this cycle. The grant is Locust Projects’ third Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts multi-year grant supporting its exhibitions and programming.

The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts President, Joel Wachs stated, “The selection of grantees highlights the foundation’s commitment to art and exhibition making that takes risks, and to its belief that artists are key contributors to sociopolitical and critical conversations taking place across the country.”

The Foundation focuses primarily on supporting work of a “challenging and often experimental nature”, funding organizations that support artists and their work and foster innovative artistic expression and the creative process.

The National Endowment for the Arts has approved 1,187 grants totaling \$27.3 million in the first round of fiscal year 2020 funding to support arts projects in every state in the nation, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Of the 14 Miami-Dade County organizations receiving

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grants, Locust is the only institution to receive an Art Works grant for Visual Arts. The 2020 grant marks Locust Projects' sixth NEA Art Works grant to date.

The Art Works funding category supports projects that focus on public engagement with, and access to, various forms of excellent art across the nation; the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence; learning in the arts at all stages of life; and the integration of the arts into the fabric of community life.

"The arts are at the heart of our communities, connecting people through shared experiences and artistic expression," said Arts Endowment chairman Mary Anne Carter. "The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support projects like Locust Projects' 2020 season of exhibitions and programs."

During the grant periods, Locust Projects will present commissioned site-specific large scale exhibitions by artists including New Jersey-based Jeff Thompson, Miami-based artists Marielle Plaisir, GeoVanna Gonzalez, Summer Jade Leavitt, Christina Pettersson, Juana Valdes, Juan Ledesma, and Mette Tommerup, among others. Exhibitions will be accompanied by free public programming, including artist activations, artist and curator talks, workshops and performances that activate conversations around new art and ideas.

For the complete list of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts Fall 2019 grantees, visit warholfoundation.org/grant.

For more information on projects included in the Arts Endowment grant announcement, visit arts.gov/news.

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.

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, Funding Arts Network, the Wege Foundation and Locust Projects Exhibitionist and Significant Other members.

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