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NYSCA AWARDS $42,000 IN "KEEP NYS CREATING" GRANTS TO 42 ARTISTS STATEWIDE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NYFA

Artists Receive $1,000 Awards Each to Continue Projects Interrupted by COVID-19

Grants Build on $490,000 to Arts Organizations in NYSCA NEA CARES Act Support,

Totaling $532,000 in 91 COVID-19 Relief Awards Statewide

As an extension of its ongoing support of artists who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the **New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA)** announced today that it has awarded $42,000 to 42 artists statewide through the new "**Keep NYS Creating"** grant program in partnership with the **New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA)**. These $1,000 grants are supported by National Endowment for the Arts funding through the CARES Act and will help artists continue their indispensable work within their communities throughout New York.

"New York State's cultural sector plays a critical role in our economy and communities, and our artists are at the heart of our state's powerful creative ecosystem," **said NYSCA Executive Director Mara Manus**. "At a time when our country faces immense challenges and our artistic field continues to navigate this moment together, we know that artists will play a vital role in our recovery, guiding

us to heal and emerge stronger and more united."

Among the Keep NYS Creating recipients is **Tiffany Bradley of Westchester**, who will create #ArtOffPause, a digital conversation in which artists, curators, and scholars explore how the COVID and structural racism crises are shaping their practice. The series features arts workers with a social practice or public engagement process, with an emphasis on those from LGBTQ and communities of color.

"Communities of color are at the center of the COVID crisis yet remain at the periphery of the art world," said Bradley. "This pandemic has been a force multiplier on existing financial, health, and housing disparities for people of color in the United States. But it can also be a catalyst for change. During this social rupture, artists need space for advocacy, imagination, and reflection. This is the most important critical work we can do right now."

Natasha Chuk of Cairo, who received a Keep NYS Creating grant for an interactive video game exhibition, said, "These funds will help support necessary accommodations for these events to come to fruition with CDC guidelines in place, including providing PPE for public events and offering assistance toward realizing a virtual component to our in-person meetings. Most importantly, this financial support is encouraging creativity and community at a time when it is desperately needed."

"As a member of an upstate community, this grant represents recognition of artists in rural regions who have strong, dedicated practices," added **painter Annie Hayes of Delhi**. "Supporting the perception that there are people doing extraordinary work regardless of where they live is important and becoming more essential as we collectively navigate the difficult waters of the current pandemic."

"Keep NYS Creating" grants will support visual, performing, media, and literary artists across disciplines who have been actively creating new work for the last three years. Recipients hail from the Finger Lakes, Southern Tier, Western New York, Central New York, North Country, Mohawk Valley, Capital Region, Mid-Hudson, and Long Island regions across the state.

In addition to the "Keep NYS Creating" grants, NYSCA has awarded $490,000 (https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/mediaContact/public/view.cfm?parm=AAD64E4F-C2FD-E1A4-28BBAA1949739BA4&backButton%20mediaContact%20NYS%20News%20apps.cio.ny.gov%20.)to 49 arts organizations in 9 regions and 23 counties of the state with the support of the NEA through the CARES Act.

2020 "Keep NYS Creating" Grants Recipients:

Artist / Project Leader	New York State Region	Primary Artist Discipline
Natasha Chuk (http://www.natashachuk.com/)	Capital Region	Nonfiction Literature
Marianne Schultz (http://www.marianneschultz.org/)	Capital Region	Nonfiction Literature
Kathryn Walat (http://www.kathrynwalat.com/)	Capital Region	Playwriting/Screenwriting
Jeffrey Alan Starr (http://jeffstarrpainting.com/)	Capital Region	Painting
Veena Chandra (http://www.veenachandra.com/)	Capital Region	Folk/Traditional Arts
Lacey McKinney (http://www.lacey-mckinney.com/)	Central New York	Painting
Boryana Dimitrova Dragoeva (http://boryanarossa.com/)	Central New York	Video/Film
Rebecca Ruige Xu (http://rebeccaxu.com/)	Central New York	Digital/Electronic Arts
Hannah Wnorowski (http://thedeckofcharacter.com/)	Central New York	Printmaking/Drawing/Book Arts
Julie Ann Bero-Emerson (http://julieberoemerson.com/)	Finger Lakes	Printmaking/Drawing/Book Arts
Robert M. Doyle	Finger Lakes	Photography
Jacob Rakovan (http://jacob-rakovan.blogspot.com/)	Finger Lakes	Poetry
Annemarie Zwack (http://www.zwackart.com/)	Finger Lakes	Interdisciplinary Work

Jeremiah Jamel Gaines	Hudson Valley (Mid-Hudson)	Choreography
Elisa M. Pritzker (http://www.elisapritzker.com/)	Hudson Valley (Mid-Hudson)	Craft/Sculpture
Anita Brown (http://www.anitabrownmusic.com/)	Hudson Valley (Mid-Hudson)	Music/Sound
Matthew Friday (http://matthewfriday.net/)	Hudson Valley (Mid-Hudson)	Interdisciplinary Work
Tiffany Daniella Bradley (http://colorcritics.com/)	Hudson Valley (Mid-Hudson)	Digital/Electronic Arts
Becca Van K (http://beccavank.com/)	Hudson Valley (Mid-Hudson)	Craft/Sculpture
Sayak Mukhopadhyay (http://www.shayok.com/)	Hudson Valley (Mid-Hudson)	Interdisciplinary Work
Timothy Manley (http://thefeelsshow.com/)	Long Island	Video/Film
Patricia Maurides (http://www.patriciamaurides.com/)	Long Island	Photography
Kenneth J Jackson (http://kenjacksonart.blogspot.com/)	Long Island	Painting
Onel Naar (http://onelnaar.com/)	Long Island	Interdisciplinary Work
Matthew E. Wilson	Long Island	Music/Sound
Maria Kozak (http://mariakozak.com/)	Mohawk Valley	Digital/Electronic Arts
Byron Nilsson (http://banilsson.com/)	Mohawk Valley	Interdisciplinary Work

Madeline Silber (https://www.msilberdesign.com/fine-art)	Mohawk Valley	Printmaking/Drawing/Book Arts
Christine N Heller (http://www.christinehellerstudio.com/)	Mohawk Valley	Printmaking/Drawing/Book Arts
Rebecca Soderholm (http://www.rebeccasoderholm.com/)	North Country	Photography
Frederic Glover	North Country	Playwriting/Screenwriting
Adrian D. Carr (http://www.adriancarrpiano.com/)	North Country	Music/Sound
Walter Early (http://www.walterearly.com/)	North Country	Craft/Sculpture
Annie Hayes (http://anniehayesart.com/)	Southern Tier	Painting
Suzanne Onodera (http://sonodera.com/)	Southern Tier	Painting
Anna Warfield (http://annawarfield.com/)	Southern Tier	Craft/Sculpture
Colin Lyons (http://www.colinlyons.ca/)	Southern Tier	Printmaking/Drawing/Book Arts
Aidan Ryan (http://www.aidanryan.com/)	Western New York	Nonfiction Literature
Rachel Shelton (https://www.rachelshelton.com/)	Western New York	Printmaking/Drawing/Book Arts
Seth Hebert (http://www.faergolzia.com/)	Western New York	Video/Film
Phil Hastings (https://www.philhastings.com/)	Western New York	Video/Film

Jamie Leigh Sampson (http://jamieleighsampson.weebly.com/)	Western New York	Music/Sound

About the New York State Council on the Arts

The New York State Council on the Arts preserves and advances the arts and culture that make New York State an exceptional place to live, work and visit.

NYSCA upholds the right of all New Yorkers to experience the vital contributions the arts make to our communities, education, economic development and quality of life. Through its core grantmaking activity, NYSCA awarded $43.8M in FY2020 to 2,500 organizations statewide through direct grants and regrants in our 15 programs, the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) initiative and the Mid-Size Capital Project Fund. NYSCA funding supports the visual, literary, media and performing arts and includes dedicated support for arts education and underserved communities. NYSCA further advances New York's creative culture by convening leaders in the field and providing organizational and professional development opportunities and informational resources. Created by Governor Nelson Rockefeller in 1960, and continued and expanded to the present day with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, NYSCA is an agency of the Executive Branch of the New York State Government. For more information on NYSCA, please visit www.arts.ny.gov, and follow NYSCA's Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/newYorkStateCouncilontheArts/), Twitter @NYSCArts (https://twitter.com/NYSCArts)and Instagram @NYSCouncilontheArts (https://www.instagram.com/nyscouncilonthearts).

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