



## The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage 2022 Grantees

Learn more at [pewcenterarts.org/2022grants](https://pewcenterarts.org/2022grants)

### PROJECT GRANTS

*Each amount listed below represents project funding plus an additional 20% in unrestricted, general operating support.*

#### **Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture**

*Manal Travels with Ibn Jubayr*

\$273,600

An animated film by Ely Dagher and musical score by Khyam Allami reframe historical travel narratives and conceptions of Arabic-speaking people. Inspired by *The Travels of Ibn Jubayr*—an 800-year-old Andalusian text—the project offers an inclusive vision of a future in which unrestricted travel is readily available to Arab and Muslim people. Film screenings and live performances of the score take place in several locations across the Philadelphia region.

#### **Ars Nova Workshop**

*The Living Temple: Don and Moki Cherry*

\$231,600

A retrospective on the collaboration between Black jazz composer and musician Don Cherry (1936–1995) and Swedish visual artist and designer Moki Cherry (1943–2009) recreates the life partners' integrated vision of art without boundaries among genres, artistic disciplines, and cultures. Contemporary artist Lisa Alvarado designs an immersive environment to house the exhibition, bringing together textiles, paintings, music, video, and other media.

#### **The Barnes Foundation**

*William Edmondson (working title)*

\$360,000

An exhibition and newly commissioned performance recontextualize the life and work of Black American sculptor William Edmondson (1874–1951), repositioning his artistic practice within the early 20th-century art world. A new performance created by Brendan Fernandes, a Chicago-based artist working at the intersection of dance and visual art, responds to Edmondson's work and themes of cultural displacement and identity.

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### **Bartram's Garden**

*A Storied Landscape: New Public Interpretation at America's Oldest Surviving Botanic Garden*  
\$360,000

New interpretive installations and guided tours seek to reveal lesser-known histories within Bartram's Garden and its surrounding Southwest Philadelphia neighborhoods. Drawing from ongoing research on the National Historic Landmark and contributions from an intergenerational cohort of community advisors and high school students, the project expands the public's access to stories about the land's people, geology, and ecosystems, with a focus on Black residents dating back to the colonial period.

### **BlackStar Projects**

*Venus Fly Trap*  
\$301,152

Multidisciplinary artist Joiri Minaya collaborates with writer and curator Dessane Lopez Cassell on an outdoor performance series, short film, and publication that center Black and Indigenous narratives. Through ethnobotanical designs and movement, the collaborators, both members of the Dominican diaspora, examine Philadelphia's colonialist horticultural practices and the cultural significance of plants for Native and Black people of the Americas, especially the Caribbean.

### **Bowerbird**

*Beyond Borders*  
\$90,000

An exhibition and series of live performances and film screenings revisit the multicultural Shiraz Arts Festival, which was held annually in Iran from 1967 to 1977. With music, theater, dance, and film programming, the festival showcased classical, folk, and avant-garde artists spanning generations, languages, and cultures. Building on Center-supported research on effective ways to present this under-recognized history, the project examines the festival's artistic achievements along with the social and political complexities of its time.

### **The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia**

*Recomposing the Past: An African American Perspective*  
\$240,000

Composer Evan Williams creates new chamber pieces that recompose historical works, placing contemporary and Baroque music in conversation with African American genres. Grounded in minimalist and postmodern music, Williams' work frequently integrates music from non-orchestral traditions like jazz, blues, and spirituals. For the centerpiece of the project, a Mass inspired by and paired with Antonio Vivaldi's Gloria is performed by countertenor Reginald Mobley.

## **Cliveden of the National Trust**

*Transcending Thresholds*

\$276,000

New exhibitions and visitor tours focus on experiences of enslavement and servitude as Cliveden expands its interpretation of the site's history as a residence and location of the 1777 Revolutionary Battle of Germantown. With input from a committee of Northwest Philadelphia community members, the project places greater emphasis on the lives of people who lived and labored at Cliveden, looking outside traditional archives to uncover stories embedded in the site's architecture, landscape, and material culture.

## **EgoPo Classic Theater**

*Ramayana in FDR Park*

\$148,000

EgoPo collaborates with two Indonesian theater companies, Papermoon Puppet Theatre and Kalanari Theatre Movement, to present a contemporary retelling of the ancient epic poem *Ramayana*. The new interpretation explores the crossing of cultural borders and blends contemporary and traditional puppetry, dance, music, and theater. The performance takes place in an open-air tent in South Philadelphia's FDR Park, a long-time gathering spot for the city's Southeast Asian immigrant communities.

## **Esperanza Arts Center / Nueva Esperanza**

*The Nichos Project*

\$275,244

A music theater work traverses Mexico's long history and contemplates national identity after centuries of conquest, colonization, and cultural transformation. *Nichos* is developed by bilingual theater director and writer Tanaquil Márquez and composer and musician Ximena Violante with the band Ampersan. Their collaboration with local Mexican community members culminates in a performance with both historical and fantastical elements that collectively examine the challenges of preserving languages and cultural traditions.

## **The Fabric Workshop and Museum**

*Rose: You Are Who You Eat*

\$330,000

An immersive performance-installation expresses the gender journey of cabaret artist, director, and writer John Jarboe, assisted by performance company The Bearded Ladies Cabaret and filmmaker and production designer Christopher Ash. The self-paced experience unfolds through a series of themed rooms that employ video, music, childhood artifacts, and images to embody Jarboe's experiences and prompt audiences to reflect on their own relationships to gender. Live performances by other transgender and queer artists complement the installation.

**Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania**

*Carl Cheng: Nature Never Loses* (working title)

\$360,000

A survey of Carl Cheng's six-decade career prompts a restoration and reimagining of the Los Angeles-based artist's cross-disciplinary works from the 1960s to the present. The exhibition showcases a range of works from Cheng's oeuvre—including kinetic sculptures, photographs, drawings, and video—that address topics such as climate change, discrimination against Asian Americans, and the importance of making art accessible to varied publics.

**Institute on Disabilities at Temple University**

*Rhythm Bath*

\$345,358

A suite of immersive dance performance-installations examines questions of inclusion and exclusion within contemporary performance. Informed by her experiences with her neurodivergent son and collaboration with those who identify as neurodivergent, choreographer Susan Marshall works with set designer Mimi Lien to create performance environments that are welcoming to neurodiverse audiences. Using choreography, textural surfaces, sound, and light, the work encourages different ways of being—where there is no “right” way to be a “good” audience.

**Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia**

*Community of Images: Japanese Moving Image Artists in the US, 1960s-1970s*

\$299,028

An exhibition of film and video work preserves and reexamines the contributions and influence of Japanese artists working in the US in the mid-20th century. Japan American Society partners with Collaborative Cataloging Japan to explore previously overlooked archival works by artists including Mako Idemitsu, Kenji Kanesaka, Yayoi Kusama, and Fujiko Nakaya. The exhibition and accompanying publication seek to illuminate the artists' transnational identities, collaborations with US-based artists, and lasting impacts on both Japanese and American culture.

**The Library Company of Philadelphia**

*Beyond Glass Cases*

\$360,000

New approaches to exhibition design and historical interpretation consider public engagement with controversial artifacts held in the Library Company's collection of materials reflecting American society and culture from the 17th through the 19th century. The organization collaborates with community members to choose artifacts to be recontextualized and to develop more inclusive exhibitions that express multiple perspectives and go beyond traditional presentation models.

## **Mann Center for the Performing Arts**

*Improvisations on "Paint Factory" by Darin Atwater and Chill Moody*

\$360,000

A newly adapted version of Darin Atwater's *Paint Factory*—an orchestral work of classical music, hip-hop, spoken word, and dance—marks hip-hop's 50th anniversary and reflects on how culture and racial justice movements have advanced since the piece premiered in 2007. As the Mann Center's community-engaged artist-in-residence, Philadelphia hip-hop artist Chill Moody collaborates with Atwater on the new iteration of the 14-movement composition, performed by The Philadelphia Orchestra.

## **Monument Lab**

*Declaration House*

\$300,000

A public art installation, public programs, and a publication reframe the history of America's founding, centering on the story of Robert Hemings, an enslaved valet who aided Thomas Jefferson at the Philadelphia site where he drafted the Declaration of Independence. The project's lead artist Sonya Clark, whose work is concerned with national history and memory, develops an installation that shines a light on Hemings' legacy and the role Black and Indigenous peoples have played in American history.

## **Mural Arts Philadelphia**

*We Here*

\$360,000

A public art project led by ceramist and Pew Fellow Roberto Lugo explores pottery, poverty, and representation in Lugo's home community of Kensington. Monumental ceramics inspired by historical vessel forms and traditions, installed at public sites, reflect Lugo's earliest artistic influences: Kensington's street culture, graffiti, and hip-hop. Pattern-making workshops invite residents to contribute to the vessels' exterior designs, and a mobile pottery studio offers the public opportunities to learn about the cultural histories of clay and make their own pieces.

## **Orchestra 2001**

*ENGOMA ENTEERA: Classical Music from Uganda*

\$236,400

In a cross-continental collaboration with Ugandan composer Justinian Tamasuza, Orchestra 2001 premieres new works that marry Western classical music with Kiganda folk traditions from East Africa. Tamasuza uses techniques such as prepared instruments, microtones, and polyrhythms to give orchestral musicians tools to emulate the qualities of Kiganda music. Tableaus from Ugandan life are depicted in solos, chamber music, and chamber orchestra pieces conducted by Na'Zir McFadden.

### **Philadelphia Contemporary**

*The Re-Emancipation of Social Dance*

\$299,304

A participatory dance-theater performance, created by choreographer and director Raja Feather Kelly, celebrates the ways Black Philadelphians have choreographed freedom, community, and culture through social dance. Sited in a community recreation center staged as the scene of a house party, the piece interweaves the stories of local dancers with the rich history of one of the city's deeply rooted and influential art forms.

### **The Philadelphia Orchestra**

*Restoration of Works by William Grant Still*

\$360,000

Performances of music by 20th-century Black composer William Grant Still recover his less commonly known works in concert hall, community, and virtual settings. Though many of Still's compositions—including symphonies, ballets, and operas—were recognized during his lifetime (1895–1978), his complete body of work continues to be overlooked due to his race. In cooperation with the composer's daughter, Judith Still, the orchestra works to restore previously neglected musical scores.

### **The Philly POPS**

*The Jazz Orchestra of Philadelphia's Tribute to Shirley Scott*

\$318,000

A performance program of Shirley Scott's most innovative compositions pays tribute to her significant contributions to jazz as both a pioneer of the Hammond B3 organ and a woman bandleader working in a historically male-dominated genre. A Philadelphia native, Scott (1934–2002) was an early proponent of the B3, applying the instrument's expansive sound capabilities to work that blends bebop, swing, pop, blues, and gospel influences.

### **PRISM Quartet**

*Generate Music*

\$124,800

A collection of contemporary compositions written by Black and Jewish composers examines the musical traditions and intersections of two diasporic peoples and their roles in shaping American music and culture. Curated by PRISM Quartet and arts leader and visual artist Helen Haynes, the project features composers and musicians such as Tyshawn Sorey (percussion), along with Pew Fellows Susan Lankin-Watts (trumpet/vocals), Diane Monroe (violin), and Ursula Rucker (spoken word).

### **Temple Contemporary**

*Black Like That: Our Lives as Living Praxis*

\$360,000

As artists-in-residence at Temple Contemporary, Pat Phillips and Pew Fellows Tiona Nekkia McClodden and Karyn Olivier explore the ways in which Black history and contemporary Black life are intertwined. Each creates new work informed by archival materials in Temple University's extensive Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection and the artists' respective research on the histories of various Philadelphia neighborhoods. A community advisory committee led by arts leader Linda Earle contributes to the project, which includes a multi-site exhibition, program series, and digital archive.

### **TILT Institute for the Contemporary Image**

*Wherever There is Light*

\$360,000

A group of formerly incarcerated artists share their stories and consider the role of art and photography within the US penal system. A project team led by photo and video artist Larry Cook provides the artists with professional support and peer-to-peer mentorship as they produce new works for an exhibition addressing the effects of mass incarceration on people's lives, families, and communities. An accompanying website offers essays, documentation of the artists' processes, and resources on criminal justice reform.

### **University City Arts League**

*What is West?*

\$212,580

Community-designed public art installations express the character and creativity of West Philadelphia's culturally and racially diverse population. Working in collaboration with lead artists Selina Carrera and Pew Fellow angel shanel edwards, residents engage in discussions and art-making workshops including spoken word, video, collage, and movement-based mediums to produce final works installed at public sites throughout West Philadelphia.

### **University City Science Center**

*Futures Without Guns*

\$300,000

Eight artists working in a variety of mediums create new artworks and design propositions envisioning the possibilities for a future free from gun violence. With a focus on Philadelphia, the project invites community members affected by gun violence to share their experiences and, in several instances, inform the artists' processes. The resulting group exhibition draws on futures thinking and speculative design methods to consider multiple perspectives on and potential solutions to this complex issue and to amplify the role of art in advancing societal change.

**Vox Populi***Teaching at the End of Times*

\$102,000

A multipurpose mobile classroom provides outdoor arts programming and workshops to promote accessible community-based learning and skill-sharing. Ideas shared in public forums co-hosted by Vox Populi and project partner Tiny WPA contribute to the mobile unit's design and potential future uses. A corresponding exhibition highlights the sculptural and design solutions of similar mobile teaching projects, and an online resource guide offers lesson plans and documentation of classroom activities.

**The Wilma Theater***HILMA: An Opera* (working title)

\$360,000

A new opera explores the life, work, and spirituality of abstract painter and mystic Hilma af Klint (1862-1944), whose work is now celebrated but was largely unseen until decades after her death. With musical composition by Robert M. Johanson and a libretto by Kate Scelsa, the performance pushes boundaries of opera and traditional biography. The production's stage design is intended to suggest the immersive experience of standing in front of one of the artist's massive paintings.

**WXPN, University of Pennsylvania***Black Opry Residency*

\$298,500

A creative residency program supports five emerging Black Americana musicians in refining their artistic and professional practices. In addition to a final residency performance, an accompanying podcast chronicles the project and the participants' creative processes, expanding audiences for Black artists working to redefine their place in the American musical canon. To identify the residency artists, WXPN partners with the Black Opry collective, which offers a platform for Black musicians and Black fans of country, blues, folk, and Americana music.



## PEW FELLOWSHIPS

*Each Pew Fellow receives an unrestricted \$75,000 award.*

**Camille Acker**, Writer

*"I don't want my work to be easily consumed, easily digested. I hope the jagged edges of characters who aren't 'likeable' and the odd premises of my stories catch in the reader's throat."*

Acker's multi-genre novels and short stories interrogate race, class, and gender, contrasting the societal expectations and self-determined identities of Black women and girls. Her writing exposes the "humor in systems that are inherently absurd," she says, to grapple with racial power dynamics and "imagine new worlds without constraint."

**Maia Chao**, Interdisciplinary artist

*"I am drawn to working at various in-betweens as an artist: in between the art museum and the public, the art gallery and the artist, the art organization and its contract workers."*

Chao's work in performance, video, sculpture, and social practice investigates systems of value and power within formal and informal institutions such as museums, economic structures, and families. Often playful and humorous, her projects invite collaborations with the public and reveal opportunities for cultural institutions to become more communal spaces.

**Sabaah Folayan**, Writer and director

*"I make work in which viewers occupying different social positions can eavesdrop on one another's subjectivity and notice where their own viewpoint is located relative to others'."*

In fictional and documentary films and writing, Folayan engages with her collaborators and subjects through a holistic and trauma-informed approach, guided by principles of behavioral science and social justice. Examining Black, American, and female identities, her work presents multiple subjectivities within the same narrative, "rejecting the belief that difference is insurmountable," she says.

**Denice Frohman**, Poet and performer

*"What draws me to poetry is that it allows for multiplicity; it's a form meant to hold more than one thing at one time."*

Frohman writes and performs poetry that centers cultural preservation, particularly that of her Puerto Rican heritage and queer communities. Inspired by the Nuyorican literary tradition and the "communal alchemy of gathering," she frequently performs her narrative and rhythmic poetry aloud to create intimate connections with audiences.

**Adebunmi Gbadebo**, Visual artist

*"With my use of the land and body as material I am asserting literal Black bodies and Black spaces within an artistic canon that historically denies our influence."*

Gbadebo's multimedia practice surfaces the often overlooked lives, creativity, labor, and oppression of people who were enslaved in the American South. She works with materials that carry cultural significance and memory, such as indigo dye, rice, cotton, and red earth hand-dug from a plantation where her ancestors once toiled and are currently buried.

**Jesse Krimes**, Visual artist

*"My work frequently incorporates beauty...to draw viewers into an intimate examination of more brutal, visceral, or challenging content."*

Krimes uses materials such as prison bedsheets, used clothing, and bars of soap to probe systems of power, with a particular focus on criminal and racial justice. He draws from his own past experiences in prison and works with currently and formerly imprisoned people to illuminate their humanity and the societal impact of mass incarceration.

**James Maurelle**, Visual artist

*"A dance...between destruction, creation, and possible calamity is forever existent when I create objects."*

Inspired by five generations of tradesmen and woodworkers in his family history, Maurelle's sculptures in wood, metal, and found materials consider the relationship between labor and creativity. His works, which also include video and photography, speak to memory, history, and place and often commemorate influential Black activists, athletes, and the African diaspora.

**Odili Donald Odita**, Visual artist

*"I want to open painting to complex and nuanced cultural perspectives. I want to open painting to difference and to possibility, however it can be imagined."*

Odita uses color and pattern in abstract paintings, murals, and other public artworks that place African art and culture in dialogue with Western aesthetics. His large-scale pieces speak to issues of cultural diversity, his experiences as a Nigerian-born artist, and what he describes as "an embrace of all that is African despite one's location in the world."

**Asali Solomon**, Writer

*"Artistically I am committed to the precision, power, and imaginative capacity of language. And jokes."*

Solomon's novels and short stories portray the lives of Black Philadelphians in a city contending with the transformational effects of gentrification. Through a combination of reality, memory, imagination, and humor, Solomon situates her work in what she describes as "a multi-ethnic, culturally fertile space characterized by a diversity of Black identities."

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**James Allister Sprang**, Multidisciplinary artist

*"I create sensory audiovisual poems for the spirit...[and] space to lower the mind into the body in order to find transformation and restoration."*

Sprang creates audiovisual installations using multiple mediums such as photography, cyanotype prints, and spatial audio technology that gives sound dimension and movement—offering "the opportunity to feel through the unseen," he says. Informed by his family's Caribbean heritage and experiences of immigration, his work considers diaspora, displacement, and survival.

**Ada Trillo**, Photographer

*"I see myself as an artist...who wants to capture the essence of people who are being mistreated. I want to make their plights seen."*

Trillo documents the migration of people through Central America and the US-Mexico border while traveling alongside her subjects through dangerous conditions. Trillo typically exhibits images in black and white, which she says places the focus on her protagonists and captures "the spark, the feelings in their eyes."

**Cesar Viveros**, Visual artist

*"I use my art to heal social wounds, bring communities together, and call attention to spaces where valuable work is being done and needs support."*

Viveros creates murals, public art projects, and mixed-media installations that address issues of gentrification, spirituality, acceptance, and belonging. His practice reflects and interprets the personal—his Mexican heritage and bicultural experiences—in conjunction with the collective through work that is grounded in community needs and developed through collaboration.

## IN MEMORIAM

Composer and musician **Monnette Sudler** was named a 2022 Pew Fellow before her passing in August. Rooted in jazz guitar, Sudler's compositions crossed and blended musical genres—from funk and R&B to folk and avant-garde. She was a multi-instrumentalist, singer, songwriter, and bandleader whose career spanned more than five decades.