



Ruth Foundation for the Arts Announces Fall Grant Programs

The Foundation Provided \$10.5M to 138 Arts Organizations with Two New Grant Programs and Ruth DeYoung Kohler Legacy Fund

Milwaukee, WI — November 18, 2022 — Today, the **Ruth Foundation for the Arts (Ruth Arts)** is pleased to announce its newest cycle of grantmaking programs: **Thought Leaders**, which awards recipients \$300,000 in the next three years, and the **Core Grant**, which awards recipients \$50,000.

In addition to these two new grants, the Foundation has introduced the **Ruth DeYoung Kohler (RDK) Legacy Fund**, mirroring the support Ruth DeYoung Kohler made to arts institutions throughout her lifetime.

“These programs are at once forward-facing and anchored in Ruth DeYoung Kohler II’s inimitable legacy,” says **Executive Director Karen Patterson**. “We’re proud to honor Ruth’s lifelong commitment to the arts by continuing to fund the organizations she personally supported, and to develop new programs in her spirit of experimentation and community-building.”

This fall’s inaugural **Core Grant** is providing approximately \$50,000 in funding to each of **84 nonprofit arts organizations—\$4.5 million** in total. The one-year program builds out the Foundation’s programmatic scope and geographic reach.

The multi-year **Thought Leaders** grants total **\$4.5 million** in funding to **14 nonprofit arts organizations**. Each organization is slated to receive approximately **\$300,000** within the next three years. Through this substantial, sustained level of support, these multi-year grants uplift organizations undertaking ambitious initiatives with long-term impact. An integral aspect of the program is its emphasis on generosity and thought leadership—that the participating organizations commit to public knowledge sharing throughout their term.

Supported by a generous bequest from the late Ruth DeYoung Kohler II, Ruth Arts relaunched in June 2022 with the Artist Choice Grant, which features a unique nomination process guided by a panel of more than 50 artists. The inaugural Artist Choice Grant provided a total of \$1.25 million in funding to 78 nonprofit arts organizations across the United States, and will be awarded annually in the spring.

“We understand this field to be a continuum, in which our activities are intertwined with and built upon the incredible work that these organizations have accomplished and continue to pursue,” said **Kim Nguyen, Program Director of Artistic Initiatives**. “The Thought Leaders are engaging in transformative pursuits, with a willingness to reimagine and re-envision the future of art, and we are so grateful we get to learn alongside them.”

“It is a tremendous honor for the Toshiko Takaezu Foundation to be included in the inaugural Ruth Foundation for the Arts Thought Leaders cohort,” said **Darlene Fukuji, President of Toshiko Takaezu Foundation**. “Their team, particularly Karen Patterson, Rachel Reichert, and Kim Nguyen, have been incredibly supportive, taking a collaborative approach to navigating the unique complexities of an artist-endowed foundation. My great aunt Toshiko Takaezu paved the way for many artists, especially women, and with this opportunity with the Ruth Foundation for the Arts, it feels like we are now paving the way for other artists who have been overlooked in history to finally have their legacies cemented.”

Distributed in the fall alongside the Thought Leaders and Core Grants, the **RDK Legacy Fund** is dedicated to honoring and continuing Ruth DeYoung Kohler’s steadfast support of regional and craft-based organizations and artist-built environments. The Fund will provide **\$1.5 million annually** across **40 organizations** historically supported by Ruth DeYoung Kohler II.

Collectively, these three streams total **\$10.5 million** in funding across **138 nonprofit arts and cultural organizations**.

These new grant programs, alongside the Artist Choice Grant announced earlier in 2022, total **\$11.75 million in grantmaking by Ruth Arts to date**. Consideration for future grant cycles will continue on an invitation-only basis as Ruth Arts grows and develops. Additional programs currently under development will be announced in the coming year. For more information about the Foundation’s grants and programming, please visit the [Ruth Arts website](#).

Ruth Arts Fall 2022 Grant Cycle Recipients:

An asterisk denotes recipients with fiscal sponsors

Thought Leaders

- **Afro Charities**
Baltimore, MD
- **Arts @ Large**
Milwaukee, WI
- **Ballroom Marfa**
Marfa, TX
- **Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts**
Omaha, NE
- **Benny Andrews Estate***
Brooklyn, NY
- **Coleman Center for the Arts**
York, AL
- **Headlands Center for the Arts**
Sausalito, CA

- **Independent Curators International**
New York, NY
- **Pasaquan***
Buena Vista, GA
- **People's Kitchen Collective***
Oakland, CA
- **Rivers Institute**
New Orleans, LA
- **The Black School**
New Orleans, LA
- **The Laundromat Project**
Brooklyn NY
- **Toshiko Takaezu Foundation**
Quakertown, NJ

Core Grant

- **Artists' Cooperative Residencies & Exhibitions (ACRE)**
Chicago, IL
- **Performance Space**
New York, NY
- **Project Onward**
Chicago, IL
- **Center for Land Use Interpretation**
Culver City, CA
- **TRADES A.I.R.***
Honolulu, HI
- **Native Arts and Cultures Foundation**
Portland, OR
- **DiverseWorks**
Houston, TX
- **The Luminary**
St. Louis, MO
- **Lynden Sculpture Garden**
Milwaukee, WI
- **Art Handlrxs***
San Francisco, CA
- **Movement Research**
New York, NY
- **On the Boards**
Seattle, WA
- **Pu'uhonua Society***
Honolulu, HI
- **Orange Show Center for Visionary Arts**
Houston, TX
- **Self-Help Graphics and Arts**
Los Angeles, CA
- **Asia Art Archive in America**
Brooklyn, NY
- **Queer Cultural Center**
San Francisco, CA
- **Beta-Local**
San Juan, PR
- **Salvation Mountain**
Calipatria, CA
- **Art.coop***
United States
- **Lauren Edson Dance (LED)**
Boise, ID
- **Big Car Collaborative**
Indianapolis, IN
- **Related Tactics***
Washington, DC/San Francisco, CA
- **Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center**
Asheville, NC

- **Center for Native Futures**
Chicago, IL
- **Dr. James W. Washington Jr. and Mrs. Janie Roggwa Washington Foundation**
Seattle, WA
- **Pública Espacio Cultural**
San Juan, PR
- **High Concept Labs**
Chicago, IL
- **The Last Resort Artist Retreat***
Baltimore, MD
- **Studio Arts Boulder**
Boulder, CO
- **Wormfarm Institute**
Reedsburg, WI
- **Storefront for Art and Architecture**
New York, NY
- **Project for Empty Space**
Newark, NJ
- **Women's Studio Workshop**
Rosendale, NY
- **S.O.U.R.C.E. Studio**
Venice, CA
- **Pearl Fryar Topiary Garden**
Bishopville, SC
- **Black Lunch Table**
Chicago, IL
- **Alternate Roots**
Atlanta, GA
- **Amargosa Opera House**
Death Valley, CA
- **Appalshop**
Whitesburg, KY
- **BlackStar Projects**
Philadelphia, PA
- **Charlotte Street Foundation**
Kansas City, MO
- **Children's Museum of the Arts**
New York, NY
- **Yaddo**
Saratoga Springs, NY
- **Creative Growth**
Oakland, CA
- **CAM Summer Fellowship**
Memphis, TN
- **Baxter Street Camera Club**
New York, NY
- **Griot Museum of Black History**
St. Louis, MO
- **Art Omi**
Ghent, NY
- **BalletX**
Philadelphia, PA
- **Experimental Sound Studio**
Chicago, IL
- **First Light Alaska**
Anchorage, AK
- **First Peoples Fund**
Rapid City, SD
- **Materials For the Arts**
Long Island City, NY
- **Los Angeles Visual Arts Coalition***
Los Angeles, CA
- **GYOPO**
Los Angeles, CA
- **Brooklyn Rail**
Brooklyn, NY

- **Haystack Mountain School of Crafts**
Deer Isle, ME
- **Institute 193**
Lexington, KY
- **Print Center New York**
New York, NY
- **Real Time and Space***
San Francisco, CA
- **Locust Projects**
Miami, FL
- **Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture Inc.**
New York, NY
- **Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE)**
Los Angeles, CA
- **MARSH STL***
St. Louis, MO
- **All My Relations***
Minneapolis, MN
- **Penumbra Foundation**
New York, NY
- **The Clay Studio**
Philadelphia, PA
- **Pike School of Art**
Summit, MS
- **Poeh Cultural Center**
Santa Fe, NM
- **Milwaukee Film**
Milwaukee, WI
- **Sala Diaz**
San Antonio, TX
- **Midway Contemporary Art**
Minneapolis, MN
- **Side Street Projects**
Pasadena, CA
- **Taller Puertorriqueño**
Philadelphia, PA
- **Arts of Life**
Chicago, IL
- **The Center for Contemporary Arts**
Santa Fe, NM
- **Project Row Houses**
Houston, Texas
- **The Children's Art Carnival**
New York, NY
- **The Heidelberg Project**
Detroit, MI
- **The Leather Archives and Museum**
Chicago, IL
- **Twelve Gates Arts**
Philadelphia, PA
- **White Columns**
New York, NY
- **Museum of Jurassic Technology**
Culver City, CA

RDK Legacy Fund

- **John Michael Kohler Arts Center**
Sheboygan, WI

RDK Education

- **Smith College**
Northampton, MA
- **Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design**
Milwaukee, WI

RDK Art Environments

- **Ernest Hüpeden's Painted Forest***
Valton, WI
- **Wisconsin Concrete Park***
Phillips, WI
- **Prairie Moon Sculpture Garden and Museum***
Fountain City, WI
- **Friends of S.P. Dinsmoor's Garden of Eden Inc.**
Lucas, KS
- **The Hartman Rock Garden***
Springfield, OH
- **Langlais Sculpture Preserve***
Cushing, ME
- **Paul and Mathilda Wegner Grotto***
Sparta, WI
- **The Chauvin Sculpture Garden***
Chauvin, LA
- **Grandview***
Hollandale, WI
- **Vollis Simpson Whirligig Park and Museum**
Wilson, NC

RDK Wisconsin

- **Artists Working in Education, Inc. (AWE)**
Milwaukee, WI
- **Lakeshore Chorale, Inc.**
Sheboygan Falls, WI
- **Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Inc.**
Milwaukee, WI
- **Create Wisconsin, Inc.**
Madison, WI
- **Milwaukee Ballet Company, Inc.**
Milwaukee, WI
- **Mecikalski Stovewood**

Buildings

Foundation, Inc.

Pelican Lake, WI

- **Plymouth Art Foundation, Inc.**
Plymouth, WI
- **Racine Art Museum Association, Inc.**
Racine, WI
- **Renaissance Theaterworks**
Milwaukee, WI
- **Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra, Inc.**
Sheboygan, WI

- **Ten Chimneys Foundation, Inc.**

Waukesha, WI

- **Theater For Young Audiences, Inc.**
Sheboygan, WI

- **Weill Center for Performing Arts, Inc.**

Sheboygan, WI

- **Woodland Pattern**
Milwaukee, WI

- **American Players Theater of Wisconsin**

Spring Green, WI

- **Sheboygan Theater Company***

Sheboygan, WI

- **United Performing Arts Fund, Inc.**

Milwaukee, WI

- **Wisconsin Historical Foundation, Inc.**

Madison, WI

- **Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters**

Madison, WI

RDK Midwest

- **Intuit: the Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art**
Chicago, IL

- **Walker Art Center**
Minneapolis, MN

RDK Craft

- **Penland School of Craft**
Penland, NC

- **Northern Clay Center**
Minneapolis, MN

- **National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts**
Boulder, CO

- **American Craft Council**
New York, NY

ABOUT THE RUTH FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS

The Ruth Foundation for the Arts (Ruth Arts) is a new grantmaker based in the Midwest and dedicated to meeting the evolving needs and lived experiences of artists, communities, and arts organizations whose work is anchored by visual arts, performing arts, and arts education. Based in Milwaukee and national in scope, the Foundation reflects the culture and spirit of the Midwest,

which long inspired its namesake and benefactor Ruth DeYoung Kohler II. Led by Executive Director Karen Patterson, as well as Program Directors Kim Nguyen and Rachel Reichert, the Foundation is a responsive and adventurous new force in the realm of arts philanthropy.

ABOUT RUTH DEYOUNG KOHLER II

A lifetime supporter of the arts, Ruth DeYoung Kohler II (1941-2020) was deeply committed to artists and consequently, broke down hierarchies and categories within the art world to center artists, support communities, and engage with overlooked art forms. She made significant contributions to the arts across the U.S., including serving as Chairman and member of the Wisconsin Arts Board, acting as a National Endowment for the Arts Visual Artists Organization panel member and past site evaluator, as founder of the Preservation Committee of Kohler Foundation, Inc., and Director of the John Michael Kohler Arts Center for more than forty years.

Among the many awards and honors Ruth received are the Governor's Award for the Arts, Wisconsin; Visionary Award, American Craft Museum; Visionary Leadership Award, Center for Intuitive and Outside Art; Visionary Lifetime Achievement Award, Museum of Art and Design; and honorary doctorates from various institutions of higher learning.

She believed passionately that the arts reveal who we are as a people: past, present and future. She promoted equitable and inclusive access to the arts in her local community, her home state of Wisconsin, and on national and international levels.

ABOUT THE FISCAL SPONSORS*

Thought Leaders Grant Recipients: The Andrews-Humphrey Family Foundation for Benny Andrews Estate; Social Good Fund for People's Kitchen Collective; and Columbus State University Foundation for Pasaquan.

Core Grant Recipients: Queer Cultural Center for the Art Handlxrs* project; Open Collective Foundation for the Art.coop project; Young of Heart Workshop for Pu'uhonua Society; Fractured Atlas for the TRADES A.I.R. project; Chinese Culture Foundation for Related Tactics; Maryland Art Place for The Last Resort Artist Retreat project; Fulcrum Arts for the Los Angeles Visual Arts Coalition; Intersection for the Arts for the Real Time and Space project; Spark for the Arts for the MARSH STL project; and Native American Community Development Institute for the All My Relations Arts initiative.

RDK Legacy Fund Recipients: Edgewood College for The Painted Forest; Springfield Foundation for The Hartman Rock Garden; Pecatonica Educational Charitable Foundation, Inc. for Grandview; Friends of Fred Smith Inc. for Wisconsin Concrete Park; Georges River Land Trust for the Langlais Sculpture Preserve; Monroe County for Paul and Mathilda Wegner Grotto; Nicholls State University Foundation for The Chauvin Sculpture Garden; and Sheboygan County School District for the Sheboygan Theater Company.

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