

For Immediate Release

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34 Arizona Artists Awarded Research & Development Grants

Today the Arizona Commission on the Arts, an agency of the State of Arizona, announced the 34 recipients of Research & Development (R&D) Grants for 2023. Awarded through a competitive application and review process, these \$5,000 grants support Arizona artists as they work to advance their artistic practice, expand their creative horizons, and deepen the impact of their work.

Grantees represent a variety of artistic disciplines and reside in communities throughout the state.

2023 Research & Development Grant Recipients

The following artists were awarded 2023 Research & Development Grants. (Artist bios and additional information can be found at <https://azarts.gov/bios/2023randd/>.)

Julie Anand (Phoenix)	Barbara Kemp Cowlin (Oracle)
Katie Baird (Tucson)	Michael Kollwitz (Sedona)
Susanna Battin (Tucson)	Hila Lanciano (Phoenix)
William Bryant (Prescott)	Alan Lewine (PHOENIX)
Derrais Carter (Tucson)	Johanna Lundy (Tucson)
Amber Doe (Tucson)	Sophie McTear (Tucson)
Noemy Esparza-Isaacson (Chandler)	Seth Muller (Flagstaff)
Mary Fitzgerald (Phoenix)	Jennie Rhodes (Gilbert)
Flor de Nopal (Tucson)	Rebecca Ross (Tempe)
Lex Gjurasic (Tucson)	Safwat Saleem (Scottsdale)
Estephania González (Tempe)	Molly W. Schenck (Phoenix)
Isadora Hale (Tucson)	Diani Shepherd (Phoenix)
Chris Hamby (Phoenix)	Erin Taylor (Glendale)
Eugenia Hernandez-Ruiz (Chandler)	Dallas Teat (Phoenix)
Bin Hu (Tucson)	Kris Ann Valdez (Phoenix)
Andrew Dana Hudson (Tempe)	Matthew Windham (Flagstaff)
Debra Kay (Maricopa)	Lia Woodall (Phoenix)

This year, thanks to a public-philanthropic partnership between the state agency and the Arizona Community Foundation (ACF), and with funding from the Newton and Betty Rosenzweig Fund for the Arts, the number of available awards doubled, from 17 to 34.

Bill Desmond Award

In addition to the R&D Grants, the Arts Commission presented the Bill Desmond Writing Award to Michael Kollwitz. The recipient is selected from the pool of applicants for Research and Development Grants and a

single applicant may be awarded both. The award, which offers funding in the amount of \$1,000 to an excelling nonfiction writer, was established by Kathleen Desmond in honor of her late husband, Bill Desmond, a reporter, editor, and nonfiction writer.

2023 Research and Development Grant Review Panel

Applications were reviewed by a panel of Arizona artists:

- Amanda Meeks (Tucson)
- Cynthia Stokes (Tucson)
- Ruby Morales (Glendale)
- Ernesto Ortiz (Phoenix)
- Coley Curry (Phoenix)
- Dr. Alice Hatcher (Tucson)
- Gretchen Baer (Bisbee)
- Alisha Vasquez (Tucson)

After reviewing and scoring applications individually, the panelists convened online for a public meeting on November 18, 2022, to discuss top-scoring applications and make recommendations for funding. Ben Baer, a Governor-appointed Commissioner of the Arizona Commission on the Arts, acted as the panel chair, overseeing the process without participating in the review.

At their quarterly board meeting on December 8, 2022, the Arts Commission's Governor-appointed board of commissioners approved the panel's recommendations for funding.

About the Arizona Commission on the Arts

One of 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies across the United States, the Arizona Commission on the Arts is a 56-year-old agency of the State of Arizona and a leading force in the creative and professional development of Arizona's arts sector. Through robust programs, research initiatives, and strategic grantmaking, the Arts Commission catalyzes arts-based partnerships that strengthen Arizona communities through the arts.

We imagine an Arizona where everyone can participate in and experience the arts.

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Images and other press materials can be found at <https://azarts.gov/news-media/press-resources/>.

For more information on the Arizona Commission on the Arts, visit www.azarts.gov or contact Steve Wilcox, Communications Director, Arizona Commission on the Arts, at (602) 771-6536 or swilcox@azarts.gov.

To request this or any other agency publication in an alternative format, contact the Arts Commission offices at (602) 771-6502.

Images available upon request.