



The ArtsKC Fund Inspiration Grant Awards + Descriptions

Managed by ArtsKC – Regional Arts Council, the ArtsKC Fund raises money to support a wide range of arts organizations, arts programs, and artists throughout the region.

Grants are awarded to organizations, programs, and individuals in three categories.

Inspiration Grants are awarded to individual artists, artist collectives, and arts professionals for special projects or career development.

The total amount approved in funding in this cycle is \$21,000. There are three cycles each year. The next cycle of Letters of Inquiry are due August 3rd, 2015. Here is a quick summary of the proposals approved for funding.

Barry Anderson: (\$1,000)

This Inspiration Grant will partially fund the acquisition by artist Barry Anderson of new video equipment to achieve a more cinematic level of quality in his work. The equipment will be used initially to create two new film shorts as the next phase of his long-term project “The Janus Restraint” that documents personal initiation rites with the land and explores themes of heritage and mythology.

Emily Connell: (\$1,300)

Inspiration funding for ceramicist Emily Connell will help pay for ceramic materials, firings, the workshop fee, luggage fees, and room/studio fees while she is at the International Ceramics Studio in Kecskemet, Hungary for almost seven weeks. During the residency she will create a new body of work of 10 to 15 pieces that will use the special hard clay-body available there to push the forms in previously unexplored ways.

Jonah Criswell: (\$750)

Visual artist Jonah Criswell has been invited to participate by two galleries in Berlin, Germany in a group show and a solo exhibition. Inspiration grant funding will help the costs of shipping a large body of his work to take advantage of these opportunities to deepen his ties to young arts professionals overseas, share his work with an entirely new arts audience there and help him to seek further exhibition opportunities both in the U.S. and abroad.

Timothy De Paepe: (\$2,000)

Filmmaker Timothy De Paepe has been working for over ten years to create a documentary on the life and work of painter Albert Bloch, the lone American of The Blue Rider art movement (1911-1914) in Munich Germany, which included famous artists such as Kandinsky and Paul Klee. The Inspiration grant will help pay for the services of a professional actor to perform and record the voice of AB Bloch for the documentary, which will tell the story of this pivotal international artist who occupies a central place in the pantheon of painters who shaped 20th century art.



AJ Harbison: (\$850)

This Inspiration grant will fund composer AJ Harbison to create a new piece of music for students of Harmony KC to rehearse and premiere alongside members of the Kansas City Symphony in December of 2015. Through the project, the students will have the opportunity to meet and interact with a living composer, and the commission will help the composer by increasing his chances of receiving further commissions for similar work.

Gary Huggins: (\$2,000)

Local filmmaker Gary Huggins will receive an Inspiration grant to commission the original musical score for his new, almost completed feature film "Kick Me" from Austin-based composer Graham Reynolds, a frequent collaborator of renowned filmmaker Richard Linklater. The score will be recorded by local musicians for this homegrown action-comedy about the two Kansas Cities that dramatizes the divide between its halves as the split in the character of a man--a dignified resident of KCMO caught one night in KCK without money, hope or pants.

Cory Imig: (\$1,400)

Visual artist Cory Imig has been selected as this year's Kansas City representative to attend the Art Omi International Artist Residency Program this summer in New York, a unique opportunity to experiment with new work, develop relationships with artists from around the world, gain critical feedback and vastly expand her professional network. The Inspiration grant funding will help pay travel costs to and from the residency by auto, the most cost-effective way for Cory to transport herself along with needed supplies and equipment.

Peter Lawless: (\$2,000)

This Inspiration Grant will help fund 2 live performances of Claire and the Classical Revolution, a concert and recording collaboration between pop/rock band Claire and the Crowded Stage and classical chamber group Classical Revolution KC. The event will feature vocalist and songwriter Claire Adams fronting a fifteen-piece classical ensemble performing arrangements of her original songs orchestrated by the grant applicant, Peter Lawless.

James Martin: (\$800)

Arts professional James Martin has built a local public art consulting practice, advising various local and guiding them through the complicated selection and installation process. He will use these grant funds to attend the Public Art and Placemaking Preconference at the Americans for the Arts annual conference in Chicago, in order to meet other public art professionals and broaden his knowledge and experience in this specialized field.

Garry Noland: (\$600)

Noted visual artist Garry Noland is recommended for full funding for this modest request to defray expenses related to his participation in a two-artist show at the University of Northern Iowa. The show will raise his visibility within the Chicago and Minneapolis art communities and feature an exhibition essay by Lynne Warren, curator, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; this will provide for Garry the highest profile of curatorial exposure that his work has had on a formal level.



Vincente Perez: (\$1,000)

Poet and spoken word artist Vincente Perez requests Inspiration funding to pay for the creation of a joint audio and print chapbook that explores the status of being Black, Latino, a father, and more. The print aspect of the chapbook will involve a physical copy of a poetry collection by the artist complete with artwork and graphic design, and the audio portion will be available via a download link on a streaming website.

Suzanne Ryanstrati: (\$1,000)

The Life Story Project by choreographer Suzanne Ryanstrati will feature a sound score based on the oral history of five people living with Parkinson's disease, using dance to tell their life stories in a public performance, with the creative process preserved on video. The interviews with the patients and their caretakers will include their experience with the disease but focus on their lives as a whole including work, family, hobbies, and retirement.

Sabrina Staires: (\$1,000)

Photographer Sabrina Staires requests Inspiration funding for an exhibition of large scale prints on fabric of her work documenting the deteriorated and polluted landscapes of the former lead mining town of Picher, Oklahoma. A silk organza printing process will create black and white ghostly images printed on transparent pieces of wispy fabric that will hang floor to ceiling in the Leedy-Vouklos Art Center gallery at an exhibition next April, timed to coincide with Earth Day in 2016.

Vi Tran: (\$1,800)

Funding for touring expenses for musician and songwriter Vi Tran's "Forty Years Fallen" project will pair a historical exhibit about the fall of Saigon in 1975 with Vi's theatrical performance memoir "The Butcher's Son." The musical play chronicles his family's escape from Vietnam, imprisonment by the Khmer Rouge, and resettlement in the meat packing town of Garden City, KS, and will tour to several small Midwestern towns with significant communities from the Vietnamese Diaspora.

Susan White: (\$1,500)

In collaboration with a local foundry, artist Susan White has discovered a way to successfully cast her complex natural thorn sculptures in bronze, to preserve them permanently and increase their value as art objects. Three of these sculptures will be created with the help of this Inspiration grant for an upcoming showing of Susan's work at the Daum Museum in Sedalia, Missouri, her first time to have a one-person exhibition in a museum environment.

Zane Winter: (\$2,000)

Inspiration grant funding for this project will help bring to life The Debussy Project, an ambitious collaborative new multi-composer work inspired by and building on Debussy's 1915 Sonata for Flute, Viola and Harp. The Debussy Project will premiere at the downtown art installation and concert venue Prairie Logic on October 1st and 4th, 2015; performances will be free and open to the public, and high-quality recordings will be distributed at no charge after the conclusion of the project.