



The following artists received \$19,482 in funding as part of the 2015 ArtsKC Fund Campaign.

Gustavo Adolfo Aybar (\$732)

Inspiration Funding for poet and author Gustavo Adolfo Aybar will help pay expenses for attending the 2016 AWP Conference & Bookfair, an essential annual destination for writers, teachers, students, editors, and publishers. Gustavo seeks to find connections and contacts who could guide him in creating and completing his next manuscript, which focuses on his police academy training and the idea of being a man of color who wears a badge. The grant funds will help cover air fare, hotel accommodations, food, travel, and incidental expenses.

Jane Booth (\$800)

Visual artist and painter Jane Booth will use Inspiration funds to finish a welding/machine shop adjacent to her art studio, for the creation of small and large scale sculptures. The grant helps pay for relocating heavy equipment and a large collection of metal materials from a location 20 miles away, installing the equipment, getting a refresher course on welding skills and safety from a professional welder/machinist, and purchasing leathers, gloves, and a helmet for welding. Jane's long-range goal is to enter the public art arena, doing site specific commission work, and opening up a whole new world of possibilities, challenges, avenues, artists and patrons.

Jessica Borusky (\$400)

This Inspiration Grant will assist performance artist Jessica Borusky with travel costs to attend the Morni Hills International Performance Art Biennale in India. She has been invited by festival director Harpreet Singh to be the sole artist from the United States to perform there. The international experience and exposure will lead to opportunities involving artists and contacts in other countries, not only for Jessica to perform elsewhere, but also fueling her goal of eventually establishing an annual performance art festival and venue here in Kansas City.

Chin Ting Chan (\$1,650)

An original work by Chin Ting (Patrick) Chan, a Kansas City-based composer of acoustic and electro-acoustic music, has been selected as the national representative of Hong Kong in the 2016 ISCM World Music Days Festival, among hundreds of submissions from Hong Kong composers. This Inspiration Grant will help cover the cost of travel for Patrick to attend the festival in South Korea and work with a new musician who will be performing the live clarinet part for the piece, which requires extensive interaction with the computer-generated parts of the score.

Annie Cherry (\$1,000)

Performing artist and burlesque specialist Annie Cherry seeks funding to create and produce a new one-woman cabaret show based on stories about her life that will make its debut for the 2016 KC Fringe Festival and then be available for touring afterwards. To accompany the production, Annie will publish a book of her stories that will be available for sale to audiences to augment income from ticket sales and diversify her revenue stream. By presenting the stories as a printed collection in addition to the live show, the artist intends to expand the impact of her work from the ephemeral nature of live performance art to something one can hold in their hand and perhaps revisit again and again.

Michelle Davidson (\$1,000)

These Inspiration Grant funds will be used by filmmaker Michelle Davidson to pay for the final production expenses to finish her short film "The Perfect Note," a family friendly, character-driven story that incorporates live music within the production. Upon completion, Michelle will submit the finished film for consideration by top tier film festivals, where she would have the chance to pitch her feature film ideas and scripts, building upon the previous success of her award-winning short film "Good Conduct" with Patrick Rea, which opened the door to a producer optioning her first feature film project.

Jill Downen (\$1,000)

Visual artist Jill Downen will be using this Inspiration grant to support the installation and documentation of her exhibition "As If You Are Here" at Bruno David Gallery in St. Louis. Jill's sculptures, created over a 3 year period and previously exhibited in Kansas City, feature a series of miniature rooms situated inside of walls and viewed through small windows. The requested grant funds will be used for print catalogues and the photographic documentation of the artworks that is essential for marketing and expanding the audience for her work, as well as for materials for the wall that supports the sculptures.

Michelle Dreher (\$900)

The proprietors of Two Tone Press, visual artist Michelle Dreher and her sister Angela, will use this Inspiration Grant for the Eye Candy project, to purchase two pairs of the colorblind correcting Enchroma glasses. These glasses use a special lens that when worn by a color blind person allows them to see a part of the color spectrum that they may not normally be able to see; and when worn by people with normal vision, colors become amplified, giving those viewers a different and more vibrant experience as well. Small prints and larger works based on the use of the Enchroma glasses will be available as part of the grand opening of a new storefront space for Two Tone Press later in the year.

Amado Espinoza (\$1,500)

Musician and composer Amado Espinoza will use this Inspiration Grant for the production, recording and showcase of original musical compositions conceived for a theatrical work-in-progress titled "We Are the Landscape," to be performed on native wind and percussion instruments from Bolivia, Mexico, and the Philippines. The unique theatrical production is a journey through ancestral lands, recuperating the dignity of native instruments and indigenous values. As the heart of the show, the original songs are the vessel for the emotional journeys of the actors/dancers/storytellers, based largely on traditional rhythms from the various cultures the performers represent.

Stephanie Meyer (\$1,000)

This Inspiration Grant will fund photo and video documentation of *Moving Songs* a live interdisciplinary performance for six performers with music by André Previn, poetry by Toni Morrison, and photographs from the Nelson-Atkins's exhibit "Through the Lens: Visions of African American Experience, 1950-1970." Artistically directed by UMKC Conservatory doctoral candidate Stephanie Meyer, the program will be presented at three different venues in February, in recognition of Black History Month. The high-quality documentation of the production will provide much-needed work samples for the creative staff and performers to enhance their professional careers and future employment prospects.

Maria Ogedengbe (\$1,500)

This Inspiration Grant will support the first phase of a public/community art project to be created by artist Maria Ogedengbe, "Missouri GOURDen," featuring a gourd garden that will grow over a unique artist-designed bower to become a place where residents of Kansas City from diverse neighborhoods come together for recreation, art-making, and performances. Later in the year the cultivated gourds will be crafted into musical instruments along the lines of the West African shekere: a dry gourd covered in loose, beaded macramé. Sited east of Troost at Friendship Baptist Church and inspired by recent race and diversity issues in Missouri, the project aims to build trust and friendship among people of diverse backgrounds.

Annie Raab (\$1,200)

Author and critic Annie Raab will use this Inspiration Grant to participate in a month long residency at Green Olive Arts in Tétouan, Morocco, in May 2016. During that time she will concentrate on short fiction which will focus on the lives of Arab women through a lens of feminism and equality, dismantling the notion that Arab and Muslim women are homogenous, flightless birds with little to contribute. Upon returning to Kansas City, Annie will read the prose written at the residency at a public event and hold a connective discussion on how fiction plays an important role in the global feminist discourse.

Adrienne Russell (\$1,200)

By attending the 2016 Midwest Writers Workshop in Muncie, Indiana, author Adrienne Russell will gain valuable feedback on a work in progress that she plans to submit for agent representation and publication. The project is a young adult contemporary novel that has already received interest from a publisher, but more work on it is necessary. Upon her return to Kansas City, she would like to create development opportunities for local and regional writers to learn from faculty and/or attendees of the workshop, by presenting a series of readings of original works in progress by aspiring authors of color, who often don't have opportunities to develop skills of reading work aloud and workshopping their fiction.

Hyeyoung Shin (\$1,350)

"Departure" by visual artist Hyeyoung Shin is the third phase of a major year-long project that deals with human loss, suffering and vulnerability, inspired by the loss of her father to an incurable illness. Shin's Inspiration grant will fund a 4-week residency at the Vermont Studio Center in June, where she will complete work on 4 large scale drawings and 2 sculptural castings of doors to be installed jointly as an exhibition. The Inspiration grant will help pay costs for the residency fee that covers studio fee and accommodation at the Center, a well-

known artist-driven organization since 1984 where many passionate artists have been actively involved for over three decades.

Storm (\$400)

Local rapper and MC Laneshia Neely, aka Storm, has produced and starred in a documentary film of her 2015 concert “Storm at the Tank Room,” and seeks funds for duplication of a CD and DVD for sales and marketing purposes to promote her career. She considers this project instrumental to her my success and future as the launching pad for a 7 city tour inside of the state of Missouri. The DVD will serve as a great resume when contacting venues, managers, promoters and other artists about performances at their venue, and after the tour Storm plans to release another DVD, to give her fans and supporters an up-close and personal experience of what life is like on the road.

Max Wagner (\$1,600)

Photographer Max Wagner applied with Megan Pobywajlo on behalf of the Archive Collective for funding to launch a new publication series featuring the work of regional photographers and writers in a series of small, perfect bound books. Funds raised from sales of the first issue will be used to pay for the expenses for the next one, and so on. The goal of this publication is to foster community around regional photography and create a dialogue that will become part of a larger conversation about photography in our region.

Casey Whittier (\$1,250)

“Palm Petals – A Community Garden” is a community art project by ceramicist Casey Whittier in which people of all ages and abilities participate in the creation of flowers through the simple act of molding colored clay in the palms of their hands. Funds from the Inspiration Grant will be used to secure the raw materials needed to run the workshop and fund the digital documentation of the project, to explore the potential for using audio recording and the book format for capturing the poignant stories shared by participants during the creation of the garden. By capturing and sharing these stories alongside the installation, the project will be given a voice and longevity beyond the physical workshop and help Casey find new venues and partners for additional workshops.

Ryan Wilks (\$1,000)

“Gender Treason” by painter and visual artist Ryan Wilks is a year-long project to document the various realities of queer persons living in Kansas City through in-person interviews, photography, audio-recording, transcription and oil paintings. The Inspiration Grant will fund the expense of printing key elements from the interviews in vinyl lettering to be placed next to the 12 large scale oil paintings to be showcased at the Leedy-Voukos Art Center in the lower level gallery. Gender Treason aspires to tell the story of Queer Kansas City, to convey relatable humanity despite vast differences, and to help the public bond with both common and uncommon struggles and victories.