

## ABOUT US

### MISSION

To support and advance the arts and cultural fabric of Columbus.

### VISION

A thriving Columbus where the arts matter to all of us.

### OUR BOARD

The Greater Columbus Arts Council (Arts Council) Board of Trustees is composed of up to 30 members that includes five trustees appointed by elected representatives of the city of Columbus and three appointed by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners. The Board or a committee of the Board evaluates and approves all final funding decisions. To view a current list of the Board of Trustees, please visit our website: <https://www.gcac.org/about/board-of-trustees/>.

### EQUITY STATEMENTS & DEMOGRAPHIC COLLECTION

The Arts Council adopted a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) statement and Racial Equity Statement on October 15, 2020. The Greater Columbus Arts Council's vision is "a thriving Columbus where the arts matter to all of us." We recognize to achieve this vision we must actively work to overcome complex inequities in our community including racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia, classism, and ableism, among others. We believe that the arts play an essential role in examining the issues of our time, encouraging thoughtful dialogue and prompting change as a pathway to equity. Please visit our website to read the full equity statements: <https://www.gcac.org/about/equity-statements/>.

Basic demographic information is collected as part of the grant application and/or award process. Individuals have the option to select "I prefer not to answer" on all questions. Organizations are required to report on the demographics of their staff and board of directors. We view data collection as an essential tool to our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The data collected will serve multiple purposes: to help us understand how we reflect the communities we serve, to utilize data to better serve the needs of our artistic community, and to track progress with our Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access (I.D.E.A.) efforts. Refer to [APPENDIX F](#) for more details.

### NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Greater Columbus Arts Council prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), sex, gender expression or identity, pregnancy, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, genetic information, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation, military status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state or local law in all of its activities or operations.

Any arts and cultural organization or individual artist that receives funding through any of the Arts Council grant programs must ensure that no program participant, employee or applicant for employment is subjected to discrimination or excluded from participation based on any of the attributes listed above. Failure to comply may result in the termination of the grant agreement.

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

In accordance with Arts Council’s “Duality of Interest” policy, we maintain an annual written record of staff and board member’s duality of interest or any possible conflict of interest. A conflict of interest is defined as any artistic, financial or personal relationship that an individual has with an organization or individual that would prevent them from offering an unbiased evaluation, reaching an unbiased decision or any relationship that has a strong likelihood to lead an organization, individual or the public to perceive a conflict of interest. Staff and Board members who have disclosed a duality of interest or conflict of interest will refrain from participating in grant evaluations, scoring and voting.

### APPEALS PROCESS

Applicants who dispute a recommendation on grounds of a procedural error may request a review of that recommendation by the Arts Council Board of Trustees. Procedural errors can include failure of a Board member with a known conflict of interest to abstain from a vote or a misinterpretation of factual data contained in the application. Appeals may not be made on any grounds other than procedural error. Appeals may not be made regarding grant award recommendation or the evaluation of the application.

To file an appeal, the applicant must submit a letter to the President of the Arts Council within 30 days of notification stating the reason(s) for the request for review. Appeals will be reviewed and acted on by the Executive Committee of the Arts Council Board after consultation with Arts Council staff. Such action will be reviewed and voted upon by the Arts Council Board of Trustees whose decision is final.

### WHAT WE DO NOT FUND

The following activities, organizations, or expenditures will NOT be supported through the city of Columbus and Franklin County funded grants program:

- Units of government;
- Organizations that are not tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (except for the Thrive program, which has different requirements for applicants);
- Independent projects that do not have an eligible Fiscal Sponsor as a collaborative partner;
- Instructional/educational programming, when not part of a larger project;
- Religious programming;
- Fundraisers;
- Elimination or reduction of existing financial deficit;
- Previously completed activities.

**NOTE:** Additional restrictions may apply. Review the specific program details for more information.

## PUBLIC FUNDING

The Arts Council receives funding through annual contracts with the city of Columbus and the Franklin County Board of Commissioners for the purposes of expanding cultural services and community enrichment, primarily through grants. This funding is derived from four primary funding sources:

- City of Columbus Hotel/Motel Excise tax (no less than 75% must be allocated to arts & culture community), since 1978
- City of Columbus Creation, Innovation and Inclusion Fund (5% Arts & Culture ticket fee), since July 2019
- City of Columbus Facility Stabilization Fund (20% of Nationwide Arena's Arts & Culture Fee receipts), since July 2019
- Franklin County Board of Commissioners, since October 2019

In addition to the community funding programs, the Arts Council provides services to and advocates for arts organizations and artists, provides community-wide marketing for the arts and culture scene locally, regionally and nationally, and works closely with policy makers to foster an understanding of the economic and social impact of the arts on communities. The Arts Council also receives an annual sustainability grant from the Ohio Arts Council, Ohio's state arts agency.

## OUR THANKS

Many thanks to Mayor Andrew J. Ginther, City Council President Shannon G. Hardin and Columbus City Council, Franklin County President Erica Crawley and the Franklin County Board of Commissioners for their commitment to the Columbus arts and cultural community and the economic impact, education and quality of life that results from that investment.

Over the course of 15+ years, Columbus conducted more than 30 studies to assess the impact of the arts on the economy, study peer city funding models, identify Columbus' benchmark and determine the needed level of public funds for sustainability. In 2018, we stopped researching and took action. Together with our arts community, we advocated for new funding streams and our city and community leaders responded boldly. Columbus City Council passed legislation in December 2018 to administer a 5 percent arts and cultural admission fee, and in the fall of 2019 the Franklin County Board of Commissioners allocated \$2 million to the Arts Council for distribution through its grants programs. The County support continued in 2020 and 2022. We look forward to the impact these new funds will have on families, children, creative sector workers, businesses and residents in Columbus in the coming years.

**MAJOR FUNDING FOR THE GREATER COLUMBUS ARTS COUNCIL IS PROVIDED BY:**



## FELLOWSHIPS, RESIDENCIES AND AWARDS

For more than three decades, the Greater Columbus Arts Council (Arts Council) has supported hundreds of local artists of all disciplines through its Fellowships, Residency and Awards programs. The Arts Council continues to recognize, connect and honor Columbus' tradition of artistic excellence and legacy through its opportunities for local and visiting artists. All are offered annually, unless noted.



Greater Columbus  
Arts Council

### FELLOWSHIPS

#### Neighborhood Arts Connection Fellowship

**PURPOSE:** Celebrate and engage a specific neighborhood each year by inviting resident artists to create participatory arts experiences for the selected neighborhood. This fellowship is supported in part by Crane Group.

#### Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson Artist Fellowship

**PURPOSE:** Celebrate the legacy of the late Columbus-based artist Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson and recognize the exemplary work of a local African-American visual artist. This fellowship is in partnership with the Columbus Museum of Art.

#### Visual Arts Fellowship *(only offered in odd numbered years)*

**PURPOSE:** Recognize outstanding local visual artists every other year. This fellowship is in partnership with the Columbus Museum of Art.

### RESIDENCIES

#### Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson Artist Residency

**PURPOSE:** Celebrate the legacy of the late Columbus-based artist Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson and provide an African-American visual artist a 90-day residency in the Columbus home of the late Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson. This opportunity is open to African American artists in the United States. This residency is in partnership with the Columbus Museum of Art.

#### Artist Exchange Program: Dresden Residency

**PURPOSE:** Support a cultural exchange with one of Columbus' sister cities by offering two Columbus artists the opportunity for a 90-day residency in Dresden, Germany and host two German artists for 90-day residency in Columbus. This award is an invitation-only application process.

#### Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson Writing/Reading/Scholar Residency

**PURPOSE:** Celebrate the legacy of the late Columbus artist Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson and provide an African American writer/scholar/researcher with a 90-day residency in the Columbus home and studio. This opportunity is open to African American artists in the United States. This residency is underwritten by the Columbus Museum of Art.

### AWARDS

#### Artists Elevated Award

**PURPOSE:** Elevate the careers of Columbus-based artists by providing a more meaningful financial investment through an unrestricted \$20,000 cash award. This award is an invitation-only application process.

#### Raymond J. Hanley Award

**PURPOSE:** Recognize a Columbus-based artist who has demonstrated a high level of achievement while working at least five years in any discipline, in honor of the late leader of the Arts Council. This award recipient is chosen each year by a rotating panel of arts and community members.