

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 21, 2023

**Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA) announces Round 12 recipients of the Precipice Fund, with \$61,750 in direct support to unincorporated visual art collectives, alternative spaces, and collaborative projects in and around Portland, Oregon.**

**Precipice Fund website:** [precipicefund.org](https://precipicefund.org)

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The logo for the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA) features the word "PICA" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters are positioned on a bright yellow rectangular background.

PORTLAND, OR - Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA) is proud to announce the Round 12 recipients of the Precipice Fund. The Precipice Fund has provided critical support to unincorporated visual art collectives, alternative spaces, and collaborative projects in and around Portland, Oregon, since 2013. This year, a total of \$61,750 in grants were distributed to 13 artist projects, spanning 37 individual artists.

The projects selected for this year's grant cover a wide range of varying media, concepts, and audiences, including a visual & sonic storytelling presentation rooted in indigenous epistemologies; a community-engaged research project that resulted in 18 new works that reframe homelessness in Portland; a publishing project bringing visibility to language-centric visual art practices; a dissection of domestic violence and racial injustice; workshops exploring interdisciplinary techniques seen in *Harana for the Aswang*, an audio-visual-performance work; a social club bridging communities and individuals through public interventions and paletas; a program for ceramic art education and creation serving LGBTQIA+ artists; a weekend of exhibitions, workshops, and performances by local performance and movement artists; an artist-in-residence program at the new SWANA Rose Culture and Community Center; a publishing-based cultural exchange that centers perspectives and experiences of migrant communities; and risograph posters and design resources for Oregon activists and counter-hegemonic voices.

An independent panel selected this year's recipients. This review body consists of artists and visual art professionals external to PICA who understand, value, and support the contributions of contemporary artists to their communities and the role of informal, independent, collaborative, and experimental projects and programs to a broader arts ecology. This year's panelists included interdisciplinary artist, educator, and independent curator Jaleesa Johnston (Portland, OR); Native Hawaiian interdisciplinary artist and kapa maker Lehuauakea (Pāpa'ikou, HI and Santa Fe, NM), and Director and Curator of Moving Image at Walker Art Center Pablo de Ocampo (Minneapolis, MN). Lehuauakea described their experience of serving on this year's Precipice Fund panel:

*Being a part of this year's panel was an enlightening experience, and offered new insight to the ever-expanding variety of dynamic and important projects set forth by Portland artists. This round of grantees represents a range of cultural backgrounds, skill sets, media, and community engagements that we all felt are vital to the city's arts ecology.*

We thank the panelists for their time, expertise, and thoughtful consideration and discussion of this year's project proposals.

Below is an alphabetical list of the projects selected for funding in Round 12, including working titles, collaborating artist names, award amounts, and project descriptions (as provided by the artists). This information is also available at [precipicefund.org](http://precipicefund.org).

PICA congratulates all the grantees, acknowledges all the applicants, and extends sincere gratitude to the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts for continuing to invest in contemporary art and artists nationwide.

### **Precipice Fund Round 12 Grant Recipients**

#### ***Bichos Sagrados (Sacred Bugs)* | \$4,750**

Bichos Sagrados: donde hay bichos, hay vida  
[Sacred bugs: where there are insects, there is life]

Inti Raymi, Knorke Leaf, Jaime Rodriguez

*Bichos Sagrados (sacred bugs)* is an interdisciplinary project, a visual & sonic storytelling presentation rooted in indigenous epistemologies that challenge colonial divisions between humans and the animal world. Following this radical tradition, *Bichos Sagrados* is a call to action to address the ecological crisis we face by focusing on the intertwined connections between insects and all life on Earth. We choose insects for no other reason than that life itself is worth preserving.

### **DREAMTV (Rest)idency | \$4,750**

Takaaki Okada, Mia Imani, Mayola Tikaka

Who can afford to dream? We spend one-third of our life asleep. We wake every morning with the opportunity to shape our waking life, but how often do Black and BIPOC people feel supported in reconstructing our realities? DREAMTV (Rest)idency is a three-day residency that will become a pilot TV program that imagines a world where rest and dreams are its core. During the residency, we will conduct interviews, research, and surveys.

### ***Epilogue: 18 works of visual art offering an arts-based impact assessment of Changing the Narrative | \$4,750***

Kacy McKinney, Olivia DelGaudio

*Epilogue* is an arts-based reflection and impact assessment resulting in 18 multidisciplinary artworks. In spring 2023, we invited collaborators from Changing the Narrative, a community-engaged research project, to reframe homelessness in Portland by providing accessible, beautiful, engaging research-based stories translated into comic form, distributed by *Street Roots*. The resulting ceramics, paintings, collages, textiles, sculptures, comics, and video installations will be shared in a public exhibit, print book, and website. *Epilogue* participants are the research team, artists, and storytellers of Changing the Narrative. Most of us are Portland-based, have lived experience of homelessness or housing instability, and are from communities disproportionately impacted by homelessness, including LGBTQAI+; Black, Indigenous, AAPI, and Latine; Disabled; and Veterans.

### **home school press | \$4,750**

manuel arturo abreu, Victoria Anne Reis, Samuel Osaro

In print, still and moving image, and cassette, home school brings visibility to and crafts publics for non-object based, hybrid, and language-centric visual arts practices in Oregon, as well as internationally. We've worked with Letra Chueca, Container Corps, and the National Audio Company. The press proceeds 'by any means necessary' collaborating with small local printers and corporate print-on-demand services alike.

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**I see it's coming: Nudity Fortress/Naked Garment Project | \$4,750**

Mai Ide, Jewlz Baptiste

Jewlz Baptiste and Mai Ide are a two-BIPOC art collective whose project surgically dissects our escalated social phenomena of domestic violence and racial injustice. The Naked Garment Project seeks to empower people who are struggling with those issues. Through this project, participants can discover or instigate different perspectives of the cultural meaning of mending, not only repairing the object but also our brokenness, our mental illness, or traumatic experiences under a capitalist society.

**In My Own Image | \$4,750**

Jacque Hammond, Darian Anthony Patrick, Max Chanowitz, Kellen Malloy, Rose Léon, Aeden Keffelew

In my own mind. In my own body. In my own words. In my own way. *In My Own Image* is a four-part exploration of identity and existentialism as we navigate a new, but vaguely familiar, world. It's 2029 and we awaken on a new planet. After experiencing collective grief, division, and peril on earth, we experience a new challenge of finding out who we are beyond our trauma. Deepening a connection to ourselves and the new planet, we begin to build a new world with others who have also awakened. Together, we realize that life beyond mere survival is possible if we can imagine it. Inspired by original music, we are bringing this story to life through an immersive audio and visual experience.

**Orchids Roll Their Eyes: A Behind-the-Techniques Workshop Series with the House of Kilig | \$4,750**

Moonyeka & The House of Kilig

House of Kilig welcomes local artists to two behind-the-techniques workshops exploring interdisciplinary techniques seen in *Harana for the Aswang*, an audio-visual-performance work. In Spring, HOK will be developing material and capturing visuals on the Oregon Coast that propel the next phase of our project titled, *Orchids Roll Their Eyes*. This inspiration fuels our October workshop series. Participants are invited to experiment with HOK's QT diasporic methodologies in embodied movement, writing, vocalization, video mixing, and more!

**Paletas Communal Social Club | \$4,750**

Mario Mesquita, Cole James

Paletas Communal Social Club (CSC) collects expressions and stories of resilience, practices to thrive, and memories crowd-sourced through questionnaires and mini-interviews given over the mobile cart in exchange for a paleta. Paletas' intention is to bridge communities and individuals through public interventions in exchange for something sweet. Paletas CSC Portland will explore how communities reconnect, support, and thrive amid our local and global "new normal." Community and individuals will have a chance to talk about their memories, reflections on the past, their current state, and visions for the future by sharing and listening to others.

**Queer Cat 2024 | \$4,750**

Twig C., Aubrey Sloan

Queer Cat is a free ceramic art program driven by community-building, advocacy, and accessibility intended to support the inclusion and advancement of LGBTQIA+ artists in wood-fire ceramics in Oregon. Queer Cat gives a platform for over 50 new and seasoned queer wood-fire ceramic artists from the Portland Metro Area to share in the creation of meaningful artwork, mentorship opportunities, community development, and career growth through artistic collaboration, activation, exhibition, and leadership.

**SayWhen Festival 2024 | \$4,750**

Allie Hankins, keyon gaskin, Takahiro Yamamoto, Lu Yim

Physical Education (Allie Hankins, keyon gaskin, Takahiro Yamamoto, and Lu Yim) will produce their third SAY WHEN Arts Festival. Featuring the work of visual and performance artists from Portland and beyond, audiences will experience exhibitions, workshops, and performances over the course of one weekend in Summer 2024.

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## **THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS - SWANA ROSE ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM 2024 | \$4,750**

Sa'rah Farahat, Melory Mirashrafi

The Precipice Fund will support an artist-in-residence program at the new SWANA Rose Culture and Community Center in 2024. Five artists will be paired with curator artists Sa'rah Farahat and Melory Mirashrafi for a two-month residency — creating work in the first month and activating the window gallery in the second, culminating in an opening night celebration and artist talk. Residencies enliven the new SWANA Rose space and inspire SWANA artists by providing a dedicated space to exhibit their work.

## **The Migrant Knowledge Press | \$4,750**

Diana Marcela Cuartas, Marissa Perez

The Migrant Knowledge Press is an initiative for cultural exchange, reflection, and artistic experimentation through publishing. It is a social space for bringing artists and people from different backgrounds and generations together to share knowledge and create publications related to the migrant experience. Its mission is to expand access to publishing practices and resources to inspire creative visions about our relationship with the city, centering on the perspectives and experiences of migrant communities that contribute to the cultural diversity of Portland.

**PICA**

## **Vital Community Risographs (VCRs) | \$4,750**

Christina Martin, Sharita Towne, nun studios, Community at large

VCRs supports diverse Portland communities by offering free risograph posters and design resources to Oregon activists and counter-hegemonic voices. Artists, organizers, and community-based organizations are invited to submit social justice related concepts for posters. This initiative serves as a platform for artists and communities to connect, share stories, and amplify crucial messaging through impactful print to be distributed at their own discretion. In addition to aiding in a wide range of community-centered posters and advocacy efforts, the project culminates with a final poster exhibition celebrating our collective effort. The project is stewarded by Christina Martin and supported by nun studios, a local risograph cooperative and publication studio in Portland, Oregon.

## About Precipice Fund

Since 2013, the Precipice Fund has provided critical support to unincorporated visual art collectives, alternative spaces, and collaborative projects in and around Portland, Oregon. Operating outside traditional forms of support, funded projects seek to promote dialogue, cultivate communities, and encourage generative and expansive artistic process while driving culture forward locally and nationally. The Precipice Fund recognizes these informal, experimental, and often anti-institutional projects as integral to the innovative spirit and vibrant art ecology of Metro Portland and surrounding areas.

## About the Warhol Foundation Regional Regranting Program

The Regional Regranting Program partners with local arts organizations around the country to make grants to artists and collectives for projects that chart new creative territory in their communities; participation is by invitation only. Each partner in the network creates its own program tailored to the specific needs and artistic identity of its region. Established in 2007, the network is currently active in 35 cities and regions, supporting artists whose work falls outside the scope of traditional presenting organizations and/or funding opportunities. Projects supported by these grants have included queer zines, living room galleries, radical seafaring events, and virtual reality film screenings, among other public-facing experimental activities. Learn more at [warholfoundation.org/grants/regional-regranting](http://warholfoundation.org/grants/regional-regranting).

## About The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

In accordance with Andy Warhol's will, the mission of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts is the advancement of the visual arts. The Foundation manages an innovative and flexible grants program while also preserving Warhol's legacy through creative and responsible licensing policies and extensive scholarly research for ongoing catalogue raisonné projects. To date, the Foundation has given nearly \$280 million in cash grants to more than 1,000 arts organizations in 49 states and abroad and has donated 52,786 works of art to 322 institutions worldwide.

## About Portland Institute for Contemporary Art

Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA) acknowledges and advances new developments in contemporary art, fostering the explorations of artists and audiences. Since 1995, PICA has championed the practice of contemporary artists from around the world, driving vital conversations about the art and issues of today. PICA presents artists from visual and performance backgrounds and embraces those individuals who exist at the borders of genres and ideas. Through artist residencies and exhibitions, lectures and workshops, public programs, and the Time-Based Art Festival, PICA constructs a broad platform for contemporary art. More information can be found at [pica.org](http://pica.org).