

LOWER MANHATTAN CULTURAL COUNCIL (LMCC) AWARDS OVER \$1.5 MILLION TO MANHATTAN- BASED ARTISTS AND ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC) announces today the awardees of over **\$1.5 million** in grants and residencies to **291 Manhattan-based artists and arts organizations** via its **Manhattan Arts Grants** and **SU-CASA** programs. Often a launching pad for emerging artists and organizations working across disciplines, these awards specifically respond to the need for direct financial support for artists and provide local arts programming to Manhattan audiences, participants and learners. As the largest re-grantor of public funds for the arts in New York City, LMCC is committed to and uniquely capable of offering critical resources to individual artists and smaller arts organizations throughout the borough in collaboration with its funders and partners: New York City's **Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA)** in partnership with the **City Council**, **New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA)**, **Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Development Corporation (UMEZ)** and New York City's **Department for the Aging (DFTA)**.

With minimal funding opportunities available to individual artists and arts organizations operating on a smaller scale, the continued and growing investment in this work by DCLA, NYSCA, and UMEZ is significant. Collectively, the projects of 2019's grantees and resident artists will provide opportunities for more than 300,000 people to engage with the arts in Manhattan's parks, theaters, libraries, senior centers, community galleries and public spaces. With increased support from DCLA and UMEZ, LMCC committed to closing the gap between supported individual artists and organizations this year, not only providing more grants and an increased average award for all 2019 grantees, but with an average award for individual artists that has doubled since 2017. The work of these artists is ever-present in the cultural fabric of the borough, permeating the city's cultural life in neighborhoods from Inwood to the Battery and forging connections, both formal and informal, with neighbors, local businesses, community organizations and artistic collaborators. Recipients of this year's awards are making space for invention, reflection and celebration through vibrant public arts events and activities.

"The Department of Cultural Affairs is committed to supporting artists and helping them thrive in an ever-changing New York City," said **Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl**. "Congratulations to the 2019 LMCC grant recipients. We are proud to support such a diverse group of over 200 grantees as part of a record high City investment in culture across the five boroughs, and we are eager to see the collective impact on New York's vibrant cultural life in Manhattan and beyond."

"New York's abundant community of artists and arts organization forges the city's identity as a global cultural capital, and we are proud to collaborate with our regrant partner of more than 20 years LMCC to provide foundational support," said NYSCA Executive Director **Mara Manus**. "We congratulate this year's grantees, whose work provides transformative experiences for thousands of New Yorkers."

“The 2019 UMEZ Arts Engagement recipients demonstrate the depth and breadth of our rich cultural community in Upper Manhattan,” said **Blair M. Duncan**, President and CEO of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone. “We congratulate the artists and organizations on their creative ideas and original artistic work.”

LMCC’s Executive Director of Artist Programs, **Lili Chopra** said, “Individual artists are at the core of Manhattan’s cultural life, igniting a web of creativity throughout the city, and yet often lag behind organizations in building resource for their projects.” **Diego S. Segalini**, LMCC’s Executive Director of Finance & Admin, added, “We are thrilled to play this role alongside our funding partners in increasing the range, reliability, and depth of support available to artists throughout the borough.”

LMCC’s support for Manhattan artists and organizations is carried out through four programs:

- **Creative Engagement** provides awards of up to \$9,000 to individual artists and organizations in their efforts to provide the public with rich arts experiences borough-wide. In 2019, LMCC is awarding **191 Creative Engagement grants totaling over \$900,000 in City and State funds**.
- **Creative Learning** provides awards of up to \$9,000 to individual artists and organizations in their efforts to bring arts education and enrichment programming to youth, adults and/or seniors in community settings. In 2019, LMCC is awarding **27 Creative Learning grants totaling over \$100,000 in City and State Funds**.
- **UMEZ Arts Engagement** provides awards of up to \$10,000 to Upper Manhattan fiscally sponsored individual artists and smaller arts organizations carrying out public-facing arts projects or programming in Upper Manhattan. This funding stream, now in its second year, aims to enhance the diversity and frequency of arts and cultural presentations in Upper Manhattan. In 2019, LMCC is awarding **53 UMEZ Arts Engagement grants totaling \$400,000 in UMEZ funds**.
- **SU-CASA** is a city-wide community arts engagement program—the Manhattan branch of which is administered by LMCC—that places individual artists and small arts organizations at senior centers across the five boroughs of New York City. The program provides selected artists with a \$4,500 stipend in exchange for the creation and delivery of arts programming for seniors. This year, LMCC matched **20 artists** from a range of artistic disciplines with Manhattan senior centers.

2019 supported projects include concerts, performances, public art installations, exhibitions, screenings, festivals, workshops, readings and more, a few examples of which are included below followed by the full list of grantees and SU-CASA artists.

- **Blackberry Productions** presents *My Harlem Tis of Thee*, a documentary theatre piece of personal stories about gentrification, set against the backdrop of a visual art exhibit chronicling the last century of Harlem with a jazz score that captures the heartbeat and diverse rhythms of a community in transition.
- **Pele Bauch** presents *A.K.A. Ka Inoa*, an interdisciplinary solo work using dance, storytelling, song and red ribbon to dig into racial identity and push against the needs of personal identity.
- **Stephanie Echeveste** is working with **Grand Coalition of Seniors** to explore personal cultural histories and how they may relate to or be explored by fiber art. The program

will introduce a variety of fiber art techniques, including weaving, macramé and embroidery, encouraging participating seniors to share their own knowledge of fiber arts.

- **Gung Ho Projects** presents *Salesman之死*, a play exploring the historic collaboration between Arthur Miller, who travelled to Beijing to direct a production *Death of a Salesman* translated into Chinese by Ying Ruocheng, and asks what happens when a classic play is transplanted into an entirely different culture.
- **Los Pleneros de la 21** presents *Cultural Legacy Initiative Project 2019*, a year-long roster of down home Puerto Rican music and culture performances. Between May and December, Los Pleneros de la 21, NYC's Bomba and Plena Ambassadors to the World, will feature singing and dancing with immersive performances of bomba and plena.
- **OPEN DOORS Reality Poets** presents *Real Cuts Barbershop*, a play that addresses street violence from the vista of men who are permanently in need of wheelchairs because of decisions they made while reacting to the presence of guns in their neighborhood.
- **Two Bridges Neighborhood Council** offer the *Two Bridge Music Young Composer's Program*, which teaches children and teenagers how to write their own music for acoustic instruments and orchestras in weekly classes resulting in a public concert of their original pieces.
- **XFR Collective** presents *New Findings in 1970s Japanese Video Art: Works of Ko Nakajima and Video Earth Tokyo*, an exhibition project that intends to uncover the neglected history of early Japanese video art and its relation to the 1970s independent media art movement, while also combining preservation and access initiatives.

To see a full list of supported artists and organizations by program visit the below links:

[CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT](https://bit.ly/CE_Grantees_2019) (bit.ly/CE_Grantees_2019)

[CREATIVE LEARNING](https://bit.ly/CL_Grantees_2019) (bit.ly/CL_Grantees_2019)

[UMEZ ARTS ENGAGEMENT](https://bit.ly/UMAE_Grantees_2019) (bit.ly/UMAE_Grantees_2019)

[SU-CASA](https://bit.ly/SU_CASA) (bit.ly/SU_CASA)

SUPPORTERS

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UMEZ Arts Engagement program funding is provided by the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Development Corporation (UMEZ).

SU-CASA is a collaboration among the New York City Council, the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), the Department for the Aging (DFTA), and the City's five local arts councils—Bronx Council on the Arts, Brooklyn Arts Council, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Queens Council on the Arts and Staten Island Arts.



ABOUT LMCC

LMCC empowers artists by providing them with networks, resources, and support to create vibrant, sustainable communities in Manhattan and beyond.

In 2019, LMCC will provide studio residency programs, professional development skills, and networks for emerging and mid-career artists, and award over \$1.5 million dollars in grants to artists and arts organizations.

LMCC's studio residency spaces are open to US and international artists, and its Manhattan Arts Grants are open to Manhattan-based artists and arts organizations.

Through public programs such as Open Studios and the River To River Festival, LMCC bridges the gap between audiences and the artistic process, engaging the public through different phases of creation. LMCC artists-in-residence have the opportunity to grow through our programs, showcasing intimate works-in-process, special commissions, as well as large-scale, finished presentations and premieres.

Currently, LMCC's Arts Center at Governors Island is undergoing a comprehensive renovation. The Arts Center will be a place to incubate new work across a broad range of artistic disciplines and a nexus for exchange with the public. Short and longer-term studio residencies, rehearsal rooms, galleries, performance spaces and other public amenities will anchor arts and culture on the Island and provide a place from which to make and export important new work to Lower Manhattan and beyond.

www.LMCC.net

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