

BLACK ARTIST FOUNDRY

Friday January 6, 2023

Dear Black Artist Foundry Artists, Donors, Partners, and Supporters,

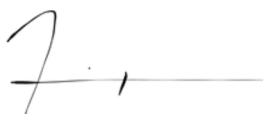
In July 2020, I attempted to address racial inequity in arts funding. I expected to raise only a few thousand dollars for contemporary Black artists creating work in Sacramento during the COVID-19 pandemic. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine we'd raise \$10,000 in the first 72 hours of launching our GoFundMe campaign, and in the last two and a half years Black Artist Foundry has awarded \$76,125 to 101 Black artists and Black artist-led projects! We understand that funding does not address all of the issues a Black artist will face throughout their career, so we've also committed ourselves to building capacity for individual artists and Black led arts organizations. Partnering with schools throughout Sacramento and Stockton to provide teaching opportunities for Black artists, we have also collaborated with the Sacramento Kings, Unseen Heroes, and the City of Sacramento cultivating relationships between these organizations and Black artists. We've hosted community-led discussions with artists, policymakers, and community leaders. And most importantly to me, we've made physical exhibition space accessible to several Sacramento Black artists to explore and experiment with new bodies of work.

As you join me in celebrating our past accomplishments, I ask you to look with me to our future. Black Artist Foundry has applied for two grants this week and several more later this month. This will have an immediate and direct impact on us offering more frequent and much larger funding opportunities to Black artists. In March 2023, we will begin our Black arts incubator & residency program, throughout the year we will host capacity building workshops, artist talks, and publish our quarterly Black AF publication. We will continue to support our growing community of Black artists through our artist directory, slack channel, and a curated list of opportunities, resources, and events that are updated weekly on our website and newsletter.

I am excited to continue on this important work with Black Artist Foundry and ask that you join me in making a commitment to the development of Black Artists and visit www.blackartistfoundry.org to **make a contribution today.**

A very special thanks to Jessa Ciel, Maya Wallace, Niva Flor, Cloudy, Jackie Cole, Kiara Reed, Delilah Clay, Clay Nutting & DBA Arts, Estella Sanchez & Sol Collective, Crocker Kinglsey, Meghan Phillips & Honey, Tre Borden Co., Verge Center for the Arts, Steve Hansen, and the City of Sacramento for your support and dedication to Black Artist Foundry.

Sincerely,



Faith J. McKinnie, Black AF Executive Director
faith@blackartistfoundry.org | @blackartistfoundry

Born in Sacramento, built up by Black artists, patrons of the arts, and grassroots fundraising efforts, we have grown. We will continue to support the local arts community, welcome others to join our mission and benefit from it. As we secure more funding and expand our ability to reach more artists, we will always look to provide space for Black artists to connect and produce culturally relevant art.

We Are #BlackAF



We lead loudly with heart and soul, cheering on each Black artist. We bring their art front and center, for the work they are creating is necessary for an evolution in the industry. Our voice is not a meek one. We are Black AF.



We seek to support, strengthen and instill confidence in Black artists, both present and future. We encourage connection and collaboration in hopes of providing a space to continue to create.



We tell it how it is. We do not shy away from speaking out about the inequity Black artists face, and we will not be passive when there's so much work to be done. Black art is not a new movement, it has always been here, and it's here to stay.

CYCLE I

\$ 15,750 & 39 artists

CYCLE II

\$22,000 & 26 artists

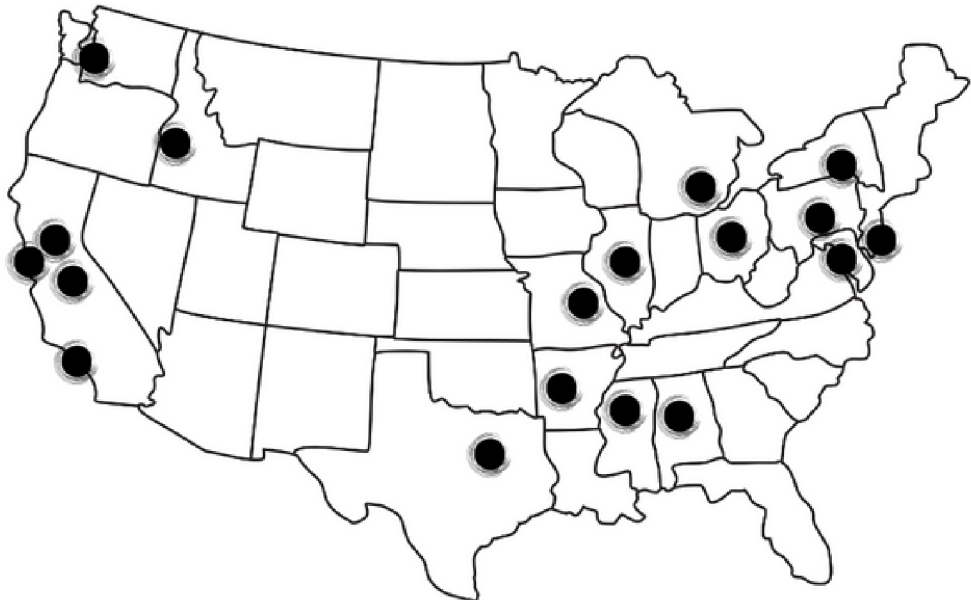
CYCLE III

\$11,875 & 24 artists

OTHER

\$ 27,741.50


15 artists & artist-led projects



CYCLE III


In 2022, We awarded over \$11,875 in unrestricted funds to twenty-four Black contemporary artists working throughout the performing and visual arts, film, literature, design, music, and technology. **responses from several Black AF awardees:**

“Producing this play has been a dream of mine for nearly 10 years. Black culture is multifaceted, and it means so much to me to be able to represent that in a very modern, human and beautiful show. Since I normally produce my original work, I am so thankful this award supports my ability to expand the stories I tell and the audiences I reach.




Johanna Crystal is a Black and Filipino playwright, actor, director and theatrical producer from Elk Grove. She founded 501(c)(3) nonprofit Sunny Side Theatre Co in 2019 to increase multicultural representation and mental health awareness in the Sacramento theatre community. She who holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from CSU Sacramento, and her debut play "City of Trees" is now available through the Sacramento Public Library. www.sunnysidetheatre.org

“This award will help my creative practice as I venture my services into entrepreneurship and create a professional demo reel for my portfolio. In addition, I plan to enhance my cinematography and editing skills to expand my creative palette and marketability.



Alana I. Smith, a Sacramento native, graduated from Natomas Charter School Performing Fine Arts Academy with a Renaissance Distinction and Acting emphasis. With her charisma and determination, she is pursuing filmmaking to educate the masses, elevate our differences, and embrace our connectedness through the art of storytelling. At 17 years old, she wrote, directed, and produced an award-winning short film, Wake Up. As the National Black Movie Association's 2021 Reel HBCU winner, she was recognized as the "Filmmaker of the Year." Following this award she released two short films, Forgotten and Too Fresh 4 School, and became a grant recipient of Black Artist Fund and Da Cypher Youth Creative Fund. She was featured on Good Day Sacramento, a local television station, to discuss her education in the arts and the story behind her filmmaking process. Currently, Alana is attending Howard University to study a Bachelor of Arts in Media, Journalism, and Film. www.alanaismith.com

“This award will help me further my skills and cultivate a more professional approach to my designs.



I am a multifaceted creative, striving to inspire the next generation through my art. My medium choice is always changing based on where I am at in life. I express myself through poetry, painting, styling, and fashion design. No matter how I decide to express myself my art will always represent a Black woman building, growing, and collaborating to do better.

“ This award helps my creative process flow beyond just my mind or my notes app. It allows me the opportunity to collaborate with producers and make my sound come to life.



Velvetwavez is a Black, queer, trans spoken word poet, singer and songwriter. Most of their work outlines both their experiences in love and life as well as their aspirations. Much like their name suggest, Velvetwavez largely takes a r&b stylistic approach to their music, but doesn't limit themselves to just one genre.
www.velvetwavezmusic.com

“ All of my photography exhibits to date have been free and open to the public in accessible buildings. This award was essential to my creative practice because exhibiting is expensive. The award amount reimbursed the cost of printing the photographs that appeared in my exhibit. My exhibit took place during a pandemic. The country is in an economic recession and we are experiencing inflation. Furthermore, the art industry is one of the employment sectors that has experienced the most hardships during these tumultuous times. Thus, I am grateful for the support I received through the BAF award.



Photographer Catherine Goode's work has been published in the Queens Chronicle, Queens Courier, and BoredPanda. The Queens Chronicle selected her photograph as the 1st place winner in the professional category for their 12th annual Summer in the Borough Contest. The Mr. & Mrs. Schlagle Library & Environmental Learning Center in Kansas chose her photograph as the 1st prize winner of their 16th annual Lawson Roberts Butterfly: Insect Photo Contest. In 2020, Catherine's photography was exhibited by Orange Art and LoosenArt in Brooklyn, NY and Rome, Italy, respectively. In 2021, the Mr. & Mrs. Schlagle Library and the Kew Gardens Community Center exhibited her photography in Kansas City, Kansas and Kew Gardens, New York, respectively. In 2022, Catherine is delighted to exhibit her work at Maple Grove Cemetery and Baldwin Library in New York.

“ I express deep gratitude to the Black Artist Foundry for the BAF '22 award. Thank you so much for this resource that enables me to thrive as an artist. The BAF award assists with investing in my craft by purchasing equipment. It also is a tool of inspiration, encouraging consistency and comfort.



Danielle Hill's artistic practice evaluates the repetition of imagery from family archives and present day encounters, looping in her memory. The images are off guard photos of herself and family members from her mother's abundant photo boxes, sent through photo message or mail. By piecing together archival snapshots and memorable personal experiences, Hill completes puzzles revealing the meaning of said repetition. Through mixed media, acrylic, oil, charcoal, photography, and digital art, Hill creates high chiaroscuro compositions, maximized in color and texture, distorting backgrounds, exposing a two-dimensional unusual atmosphere. She welcomes the viewer into her mind palace, revealing a story and allowing others to see themselves and discover their own meanings. Her artwork is a perpetual journey of understanding herself in the present day. A time capsule of emotion. Her work is a conversation of societal effects on Black adults and children. The webs between relationships of kindred and alike. The roles of blood relationships are examined by centering family bonds. www.danielleahill.com