

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
ROUND TWO GRANTEES ANNOUNCED
BLACK ARTISTS FUND

Contact:
Faith McKinnie
Phone: (916) 740-9238
info@blackartistsfund.org

BLACK ARTISTS FUND AWARDS \$22,000 in SECOND ROUND OF FUNDING

Sacramento, CA: On Friday, December 4, 2020, Black Artists Fund will award \$22,000 to 26 Black artists in its second round of funding. After a successful first round awarding nearly \$16,000 to 41 grantees in July, the Black Artist Fund opened round two of funding this past October, receiving over 80 applications from Black-Identifying fine, applied, and creative artists.

What: Black Artists Fund announces round two of grantees

When: December 4, 2020

Where: Announcements will be made on the Black Artist Fund social media and web pages as well as on Vertible Good's *Lift Every Voice* event.

Who: Local artists Shonna McDaniels, Keia Kodama, Talyana, and Christopher Williams are among the 26 grantees receiving funding for round two.

Black Artists Fund Founder and Director, Faith McKinnie noted, "We learned a lot about the needs and aspirations of Sacramento's Black creatives from our first round of grants and subsequent conversations with our grant recipients and community members. In our second round, we especially wanted to support major projects for our Sower grant recipients, so we increased the grant size significantly. We also received more applications than during our first round, for a total of over \$100,000 in requests. We hope to raise additional funds to support more grants, as well as professional development workshops, artist convenings, and technical assistance to help Black artists in Sacramento thrive."

Black Artists Fund Grantee, Keia Kodama articulated the benefit of her award thus: "Being a grantee of the Black Artists Fund has granted me access to officially be seen and taken seriously as an artist/creative in Sacramento. This year began with uncertainty after being laid off due to this pandemic but I was able to pivot, build and move forward in the right direction due to this generous grant. It allowed me to invest in the supplies and tools I needed to build, brand and expand my business The Kodama Project."

About the Organization:

Black Artists Fund was started by Sacramento Black creatives to address inequity in arts funding. Through micro and small grant-giving we are attempting to close the gap that Black artists face in beginning and sustaining their art careers. **More about The Black Artists Fund:** <https://www.BlackArtistsFund.org/about>

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SACRAMENTO-BASED BLACK ARTISTS FUND AMPLIFIES BLACK ARTISTS WITH NEW GRANT RESOURCE

Sacramento, CA - On Monday, July 6, 2020, Black Artists Fund awarded \$16,000 to 40 Black artists in its inaugural round of funding. Black Artists Fund (BAF) issued grants to artists to support their creative practice and to address inequity in funding for Black artists. In addition to funding, BAF intends to amplify and elevate the needs of Black artists in Sacramento through networking, promotion, and advocacy.

Local artists [Delgreta Brown](#), [Ted Labissiere](#), [Jupiter Lockett](#), [Omonivie Okhade](#), and [Paul Willis](#) received the Fund's Sower grant in the amount of \$1,000 each. The Sower grant is awarded to Sacramento-based Black artists whose work exhibits exceptional power and potential. Recipients will use the funds to create new bodies of work, complete major projects, and assist with preparation for exhibitions and residencies. Sower grant recipient Paul Willis, a hip-hop artist and diversity, equity and inclusion expert, noted, "As a Black creative, we often have to create our opportunities, so it's critical that we also create our conditions for success. The Black Artists Fund is part of the strategy to level the playing field and provide a funding source exclusively for Black artists who are devalued by arts patrons, institutions and funders. This is for us by us and I love it."

In addition to the Sower grants, BAF awarded over \$8,000 to assist grantees with project support through their Germination, Seed, Roots & Shoots, and Cultivation grant categories. BAF issued grants ranging from \$100 - \$750 for materials, equipment, supplies and other resources to enhance the future of Black arts & culture in the region. Artist Aliyah Sidqe, who recently completed her first solo show at the Brickhouse Gallery, said that she will put her Cultivation grant "directly towards materials for upcoming projects," and that "I'm feeling inspired to dig deeper into themes I've expressed previously and having extra funds will allow me the freedom I need to explore new materials and methods within my work. I'm so grateful to have the opportunity because lack of extra funds can hold artists back from finding that perfect formula through which they create." Finally, in order to cultivate dialogue among artists and collectors in Sacramento and throughout the state, BAF awarded several outstanding applicants with Branch grants of \$500 to support the growth of their practices.

Black Artists Fund was launched by Faith McKinnie, a local independent art collector and curator on June 11, 2020 with an initial goal of \$10,000. Within a few days, the fund exceeded

its goal and has received over \$25,000 in donations from over 250 individuals to date. McKinnie started the fund to address the lack of resources and access for Black artists in Sacramento, especially in the early stages of their careers. A burgeoning curator herself, McKinnie stated “I am really excited in our ability to create more capacity for Black artists working in Sacramento. Black Artists Fund will certainly provide funding, but will also provide Black artists with further opportunities for collaborations, exhibitions, residencies, gallery representation, and overall much more visibility. As a collector, curator, and friend of many Black artists in Sacramento this is the least that I could do to support and elevate their work!” BAF will be promoting the work of its grantees via its social media channels, as well as working with local service providers and mentors to support BAF grantees throughout their careers. BAF plans to fund another round of grants in August.

Black Artists Fund operates with fiscal sponsorship from local arts nonprofit incubator DBA Arts. In addition to founder Faith McKinnie, the board consists of Sacramento Youth Poet Laureate Chianne “Cloudy” Rhodes Carrier, Sacramento Region Community Foundation, Chief Impact and Strategy Officer Niva Flor, Sacramento-based artist and filmmaker Jessa Ciel, and Sacramento Arts, Culture & Creative Economy Commission Vice Chair Maya Wallace.

More information about Black Artists Fund

While Sacramento is home to many artists and arts organizations that serve the Black community, the presence of Black art in highly-trafficked, affluent parts of the city is minimal. In this time of Black Lives Matter movement-building, it is important for every community to uplift its Black artists as they work to express themselves, share experiences, dialogue with the world around them, and foment change. BAF aims to build capacity for Sacramento-based Black creatives by providing funds to support the development of a thematic body of work, creating an anchor for Black artists to practice in community and dialogue with one another, and promoting their work in the Sacramento region and beyond. In addition, BAF plans to support the growth of Sacramento’s arts scene by facilitating critical dialogue and creating a culture of continuous feedback and improvement.

Please visit Black Artists Fund at:

Web: www.blackartistsfund.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/blackartistsfund/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/blackartistsfund/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/blkartistsfund>

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