

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 7, 2019

Contact: Barbara Reed

Public Information Officer

334-242-5153

barbara.reed@arts.alabama.gov



ASCA ANNOUNCES \$253,000 IN FELLOWSHIPS AND CULTURAL FACILITIES GRANTS

Montgomery, Ala. – At its June quarterly meeting in Montgomery, the Alabama State Council on the Arts (ASCA) awarded seventeen (17) fellowship grants including one arts administration fellowship totaling \$85,000, and five (5) Arts and Cultural Facilities grants totaling \$168,000 for a grand total of \$253,000. Fellowships are awarded to individual artists and recognize artistic excellence, professional commitment and maturity and contribute to the further development of the artist and the advancement of his or her professional career. Arts and cultural facilities grants are awarded for planning, design or construction of an arts space. All projects must involve top professionals with demonstrated expertise in urban and/or community-planning, architecture, landscape design or historic preservation. This round of grants will support activity taking place between October 1, 2019 and September 30, 2020.

The arts and cultural facilities grant program provides support to organizations large and small in an effort to enhance spaces for arts creation and presentation. In all cases where a grant is awarded, evidence of community support is a key element. Dr. Elliot Knight, Executive Director of the Council said, *“This important program continues to provide support for adaptive re-use projects in communities across the state. This year’s support includes the communities of Tuscumbia, Bessemer, Andalusia, Florence, and Atmore. All of these facility oriented projects reflect important initiatives that enhance spaces where arts programming will impact the community and surrounding area.”*

Fellowships are grants awarded to outstanding individual artists from Alabama who create important works of art and make valuable contributions to the entire state. Joel T. Daves IV, Chairman of the Council emphasized, *“Our state is fortunate to have so many artists from every artistic discipline producing works of the highest caliber.”*

Fellowships are given to individuals working in arts administration, dance, design, media/photography, music, literature, theatre, visual arts and crafts. These awards recognize artistic excellence as well as professional commitment and maturity. Recipients may use funds to set aside time to create art, improve their skills, or to do what is most advantageous to enhance their artistic careers.

These grants are in response to applications submitted under a March 1, 2019 deadline and are awarded for the 2020 fiscal year beginning October 1, 2019 and extending through September 30, 2020.

Joel T. Daves IV of Mobile chairs the 15-member Council which makes final decisions on all grants awarded. The next deadline for the submission of fellowship and arts and cultural facilities applications is March 1, 2019. For more information, visit www.arts.alabama.gov.

County	Grantee	City	Description	Discipline	Grant
Calhoun	Lynnette K. Hesser	Wellington	Craft Fellowship	Visual Arts	\$5,000.00
Colbert	Tennessee Valley Art Assoc.	Tuscumbia	The Ritz Campus, Design	Design Arts	\$35,000.00
Covington	Andalusia Ballet Association	Andalusia	Renovation of Church St. School	Design Arts	\$65,000.00

DeKalb	Mark Leputa	Fort Payne	Craft Fellowship	Visual Arts	\$5,000.00
Escambia	Pride of Atmore	Atmore	Recording Studio Project, Design	Design Arts	\$12,000.00
Jefferson	Timothy Huffman III	Birmingham	Music Fellowship	Performing Arts	\$5,000.00
	Therese Laeger	Birmingham	Dance/Choreography Fellowship	Performing Arts	\$5,000.00
	Kwoya F. Maples	Vestavia Hills	Literary Arts Fellowship	Literary Arts	\$5,000.00
	Cary Norton	Birmingham	Gay Burke Photography Fellowship	Visual Arts	\$5,000.00
	Celeste Amparo Pfau	Birmingham	Visual Arts Fellowship	Visual Arts	\$5,000.00
	Amy Pleasant	Birmingham	Visual Arts Fellowship	Visual Arts	\$5,000.00
	Kim Scott	Birmingham	Music Fellowship	Performing Arts	\$5,000.00
	The Holland Project	Bessemer	Lincoln Theatre Restoration, Design	Design Arts	\$21,000.00
	Alicia Johnson Williams	Bessemer	Theatre Fellowship	Performing Arts	\$5,000.00
Lauderdale	Florence Arts & Museums	Florence	Southall House Renovation	Design Arts	\$35,000.00
Lee	Ken Autrey	Auburn	Literary Arts Fellowship	Literary Arts	\$5,000.00
	Kelly Vornauf Bryant	Auburn	Design Fellowship	Design Arts	\$5,000.00
Montgomery	Lindsay Renea Benton	Montgomery	Dance/Choreography Fellowship	Performing Arts	\$5,000.00
	Michelle Browder	Montgomery	Design Fellowship	Design Arts	\$5,000.00
	Sydney Foster	Montgomery	Media/Photography Fellowship	Visual Arts	\$5,000.00
	Chintia Kirana	Montgomery	Visual Arts Fellowship	Visual Arts	\$5,000.00
Shelby	Emily (Emma) Bolden	Pelham	Literary Arts Fellowship	Literary Arts	\$5,000.00
					\$253,000.00

ARTS & CULTURAL FACILITIES GRANTS

Andalusia Ballet Association in Andalusia was awarded \$65,000 in an art & cultural facilities grant for the renovation for the Church Street School. This planned space is an adaptive re-use project and will allow the Ballet to expand its programming.

Florence Arts & Museums in Florence was awarded \$35,000 in an art & cultural facilities grant for a design plan for the Southall House Renovation. This space will support cultural arts development, local history, arts and humanities and educational programming in the Shoals area.

The Holland Project in Bessemer was awarded \$21,000 in an art & cultural facilities grant for the design phase of the Lincoln Theatre. The design will plan for a proposed performing arts center in one of the last remaining historic theatres in the Marvel City and will celebrate diverse cultures with special emphasis on African-American cultural heritage.

Pride of Atmore in Atmore was awarded \$12,000 in an art & cultural facilities grant for a recording studio project. This planned space will be used for music instruction, individual and group recordings and songwriting workshops.

Tennessee Valley Art Association in Tuscumbia was awarded \$35,000 in an art & cultural facilities grant for the design phase of the Ritz Campus. Once completed the Campus will conduct planned programs, demonstrations, and exhibitions and provide art education opportunities for the community.

FELLOWSHIP GRANTS

Ken Autrey of Auburn was awarded a literary arts fellowship in the amount of \$5,000. He is a poet and retired Emeritus Professor of English from Francis Marion University in South Carolina. Autrey boasts a long list of published work, including four chapbooks. Since returning home to Auburn, he has

promoted the literary arts by conducting public poetry workshops, teaching poetry classes at Auburn University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and helping coordinate the acclaimed Third Thursday Poetry Series at the Jule Collins Smith Museum.

Lindsay Renea Benton of Montgomery was awarded a dance fellowship in the amount of \$5,000. Her work shows a great movement vocabulary and is produced with skillful compositions. Benton's visual elements of costuming and lighting choices enhance the overall dynamic and design of her choreography.

Emily (Emma) Suzanne Bolden of Pelham Emily (Emma) Suzanne Bolden of Pelham was awarded a literary arts fellowship in the amount of \$5,000. She has published three, full-length poetry collections, including *House is an Enigma*, winner of the 2017 Cowles Poetry Book Prize and published by Southeast Missouri State University Press in 2018. The title poem from that collection was selected for inclusion in *The Best American Poetry 2015*. Bolden was awarded a 2017 Creative Writing Fellowship in Poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Michelle Browder of Montgomery was awarded a design fellowship in the amount of \$5,000. Her painted shoe project is hailed as being creative and impactful. Browder will continue her community involvement and working with at-risk children. She plans to use her fellowship to expand her own design work.

Kelly Vornauf Bryant of Auburn was awarded a design fellowship in the amount of \$5,000. Bryant utilizes deconstructed typography in her design with good elements of surprise for the viewer. She plans to use her fellowship to advance her career and creative voice in the field of design. Kelly previously won a design fellowship from the Alabama State Council on the Arts in 2010.

Sydney Foster of Montgomery was awarded a media/photography fellowship in the amount of \$5,000. Foster's work show maturity and understanding of exposure and color. Already highly accomplished, Foster has photographed individuals such as Dave Matthews and Tarana Burke founder of the "me too movement." She has worked with agencies such as the Dragonfly Agency LA, LA Models, and St. Claire Modeling Agency. Her accreditation includes Creme of Nature, Screen Shot Magazine, Conformity Magazine, Repp Magazine, 7Hues Homme Magazine, Dashboard US and Stadium ATL.

Lynnette K. Hesser of Wellington was awarded a craft fellowship in the amount of \$5,000. Hesser's work captures the essence of flowers, fungi, and other natural elements which are hand carved to shape in each clay piece. The intricacy and subtle simplicity of her delicate patterns provide for a realistic, three-dimensional creation. Her observation of nature allows her to expand upon her imagination for the total final form. She often uses white stoneware and porcelain firing with one glaze or multiple glazes.

Timothy Huffman III of Birmingham was awarded a music fellowship in the amount of \$5,000. Huffman's work is skillful and demonstrates a wide range of complex rhythms reflective of a percussionist. His transcriptions reflect originally in his arrangements. Huffman plans to use his fellowship to create professional recordings and to seek workshops and coaching opportunities at the national level.

Chintia Kirana of Montgomery was awarded a visual arts fellowship in the amount of \$5,000. She is a multidisciplinary artist and art activist with work exhibited in 8 countries and on 4 continents. Kirana's recent 3D work and lightbox installations are viewed as intentional and meticulously executed.

Therese Laeger of Birmingham was awarded a music fellowship in the amount of \$5,000. Laeger demonstrates pedagogical skills in her exploration of large artistic musical concepts. Her broad view of music is strong and shows immense potential for career advancement.

Mark Leputa of Ft. Payne was awarded craft fellowship in the amount of \$5,000. Leputa's work involves planned manipulations of glass. After he heats and molds glass to the shape he desires, it is allowed to cool. Afterwards he carves that same glass and adds different textures and layers to give it dimension and depth.

Kwoya F. Maples of Vestavia Hills was awarded a literary arts fellowship in the amount of \$5,000. Her debut collection of poetry, titled *Mend*, was published in 2018 by University of Kentucky Press and was a finalist for the Association of Writers and Writing Program's Donald Hall prize for Poetry in 2017. Her chapbook *Something of Yours* was published by Finishing Line Press in 2010. A graduate Cave Canem Fellow, Maples teaches creative writing at the Alabama School of Fine Arts in Birmingham.

Cary Norton of Birmingham was awarded the Gay Burke photography fellowship in the amount of \$5,000. Norton's use of tintype shows great skill as he works with this difficult medium. Norton plans to use his fellowship documenting lost heritage sites; a subject he has covered in the past and yet wishes to expand upon.

Celeste Amparp Pfau of Birmingham was awarded a visual arts fellowship in the amount of \$5,000. Pfau's work is inspired from natural elements such as hand-picked flowers, foliage, seeds and roots. Her botanical monoprints, whether printed on paper or printed to be wearable art comes to life on a manually operated etching press. The aim of her work is to be a bridge connecting people to the natural world and to each other.

Amy Pleasant of Birmingham was awarded a visual arts fellowship in the amount of \$5,000. A prolific artist, Pleasant's work includes painting, drawing, and ceramic sculpture. Her aim is to explore the theme of the body and language through repetition. Using a limited palette and with a minimal array of line, she illustrates universal motions and behaviors.

Kim Scott of Birmingham was awarded a music fellowship in the amount of \$5,000. Proficient in many genres of music, Scott has produced a significant body of work. Her work is expressive, with clarity of tone, good sound projection and shows a flawless technique. Scott has an upcoming collaboration with No. 1 Billboard charting composers/keyboardists Jonathan Fritzen and James Lloyd.

Alicia Johnson Williams of Bessemer was awarded a theatre fellowship in the amount of \$5,000. Williams' work shows the development of conflict between characters through drafted dialogue in both her full length work, and in the excerpts of her works. Her exploration of topics are original, and have a unique voice which is primarily developed for young performers.

The Alabama State Council on the Arts is the official state arts agency of Alabama. The staff of the Council, directed by Dr. Elliot Knight, administers the grants programs and provides financial assistance in arts planning and programming. The Council receives its support through an annual appropriation from the Alabama Legislature and funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

For more information, please contact Barbara Reed at 334-242-5153 or visit our website: www.arts.alabama.gov.