



**leeway foundation**

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**Online:**

2023 grantee announcements: [leeway.org/news](http://leeway.org/news)

**Facebook:** @leewayfoundphl **Instagram:** @leewayfound  
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## 2023 News Release

### **Leeway Foundation announces its 2023 Media Artist + Activist Residencies and \$125,000 in funding to 5 women, trans\*, and gender nonconforming media artists**

*This year's cohort of recipients are focused on preservation and liberation, rooted in communities actively combatting displacement and/or gentrification*

PHILADELPHIA (October 23, 2023)--Leeway Foundation announces its 2023 Media Artist + Activist Residencies and \$125,000 in funding to 5 women, trans\*, and gender nonconforming media artists working in close collaboration with social justice/cultural organizations to document, reframe, and/or amplify the issues and campaigns of the organizations.

Now in its third year, these residencies will utilize animation, audio, film, podcast, video projection, visual EPs, and multimedia installations and tours to examine the ways in which media can be a vehicle to not only disseminate information, but propel change through communities on neighborhood, city-wide, and regional levels.

This year's cohort of recipients are focused on preservation and liberation, rooted in communities actively combatting displacement and/or gentrification. Projects include but are not limited to, a timely reaction to the potential 76ers Arena build in the heart of Philadelphia's Chinatown, and the preservation of Philadelphia's historical landmark, the Henry Ossawa Tanner House. This year's cohort saw a strong emphasis on cultural preservation, and racial justice.

*The Leeway Foundation Media Artist + Activist Residency was made possible by generous support from our funding partner, the Independence Public Media Foundation.*

### **The 2023 Media Artist + Activist Residents are (in alphabetical order):**

- [Blak Rapp Madusa and Die Jim Crow Records](#)
- [Danya AbdelHameid and Friends of the Tanner House](#)
- [Gabrielle Patterson and The People's Kitchen](#)
- [Kaia Chau and Sammy Wiener and Asian Americans United](#)
- [Kristen Harrison and Philly Thrive](#)

Media Artist + Activist Residency applications are evaluated by an independent peer review panel. The 2023 review panel consisted of media artist and documentarian, **Seyi Adebajo**; organizer, filmmaker, and multi-modal

artist, **Sheila Quintana Aguilar (MAR '21)**; and award-winning podcast journalist, producer, and editor, **Yowei Shaw (ACG '09, '10, '11, '12, '13; LTA '13)**.

## Independent Peer Review Panel

- **Seyi Adebajo (they/them)** Seyi Adebajo is a Queer gender-non-conforming Nigerian MFA artist. Seyi is a media artist who raises awareness around social issues through digital video, multimedia photography and writings. Seyi's work is the intersection of art, media, imagination, ritual and politics. Seyi is on the faculty of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, Special Programs, Open Arts, where they teach the integration of arts/ culture with the theories & practices of social change. Seyi also teaches at Metropolitan College of New York (MCNY). Seyi has been a visiting Artist at NYU Institute of African American Affairs, NYU Cinema Studies, Harvard University African & Diasporic Religious Studies Association, The Black Lavender Experience Conference at Brown University & Brooklyn Museum. Seyi was the keynote speaker at the 2016 Liberation-Based Healing Conference at the Silberman School of Social Work. Seyi has been an artist in resident with Allgo and has previously exhibited at the Longwood Art Gallery, Skylight Gallery Restoration Plaza Corporation, Bronx Academy of Arts & Dance (BAAD!), MCNY, the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art & Waterloo Arts Gallery. Seyi is currently a fellow with AIM at the Bronx Museum and has been a fellow with The Laundromat Project, Queer/Art/Mentorship, Maysles Institute, IFP and City Lore Documentary Fellow. Director of film documentaries such as *Oya: Something Happened On The Way To West Africa!*, *Trans Lives Matter! Justice for Islan Nettles & Against the Grain*. More about Seyi at: [www.seyiadebanjo.com](http://www.seyiadebanjo.com)
- **[Sheila Quintana Aguilar \(she/her/ella\) - MAR '21](#)** Originally from Acapulco, Guerrero, Mexico, Sheila Quintana Aguilar is a multi-modal artist and mother with a decade of community and national organizing experience at the intersection of migration, criminalization, and health. She has worked with local, state level, and national non-profit and social movement building organizations and campaigns developing participatory, intersectional narrative and communication strategy for social change. She led dozens of anti-deportation workshops and campaigns across the state and co-led the campaign to introduce the first ever Congressional bill to stop the deportation of a Pennsylvania immigrant family. Sheila has worked with Alianza Nacional de Campesinas/ National Farmworker Women's Alliance, ACLU-PA, Grassroots Global Justice Alliance, the U.S. Federation of Worker Cooperatives, Right to the City Alliance, the PA Utility Law Project, and more. She was a founding member and a former worker-owner at Bonfire Media Collective and her film work has been supported by the Juneteenth Birth Worker Fund, the Trail Running Film Festival, and more. She is an inaugural Leeway Foundation Media Artist + Activist Residence, a VONA writers workshop alum, and a recipient of the Artist Leadership Award by the Center for Cultural Power. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, and is a candidate for a Certificate in Novel Writing by the Creative Writing Program at the Stanford School of Continuing Studies. More about Sheila found at: [www.sheilaquintana.com](http://www.sheilaquintana.com)
- **[Yowei Shaw \(she/her\) - ACG '09, '10, '11, '12, '13; LTA '13](#)** Yowei Shaw is an award-winning podcast journalist, host, producer, editor, and documentarian who specializes in stories about cultural issues, particularly the experience of people of color, and stories that challenge harmful power structures and

narratives. She's the former co-host and editorial lead of NPR's *Invisibilia*, where she reported on racial sexual preferences, a local news website taking over the reality of a town, and the power of trolling your boss. Her work has also been featured in places like *This American Life*, NPR's *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*, and *Studio 360*. She has been honored with numerous awards, including a Third Coast Documentary Award, a National Press Club Journalism Award, a United States Artists Fellowship, and a Leeway Transformation Award. She got her start by teaching youth media (when she was a youth herself), and in her non-audio life, she's a proud auntie, daughter of Taiwanese-American immigrants, and member of multiple friend crews. You can find out more about Yowei at: [www.yoweishaw.com](http://www.yoweishaw.com)

Applications are made available on the Leeway website and may also be obtained by calling 1(215) 728-9273 or emailing [info@leeway.org](mailto:info@leeway.org). Potential applicants are encouraged to attend one of the many support sessions offered throughout the year or schedule an appointment with a staff member for one-on-one support.

**Press inquiries and photo requests should be directed to Bee Knight, 215.728.9273 or [bknight@leeway.org](mailto:bknight@leeway.org)**

## **ABOUT LEEWAY**

The Leeway Foundation supports women, trans\* and gender nonconforming artists and cultural producers working in communities at the intersection of art, culture, and social change. Through our grantmaking and other programs, we promote artistic expression that amplifies the voices of those on the margins, promotes sustainable and healthy communities, and works in the service of movements for economic and social justice. For more information about Leeway, its grant programs, grantees, and events, visit [leeway.org](http://leeway.org).

*\*Leeway is a trans-affirming organization committed to gender self-determination, and we use the term "trans" in its most inclusive sense, as an umbrella term encompassing transsexual, transgender, genderqueer, Two-Spirit people, and anyone whose gender identity or gender expression is nonconforming and/or different from their gender assigned at birth.*