

THE LEEWAY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$180,000 IN UNRESTRICTED SUPPORT TO 12 WOMEN, TRANS* AND GENDER NONCONFORMING ARTISTS AND CULTURAL PRODUCERS CREATING ART FOR SOCIAL CHANGE.

January 24, 2022

Amid COVID and its lasting impacts on arts, culture, and its practitioners, Leeway Foundation announces \$180,000 in unrestricted support to 12 artists and cultural producers working at the intersection of art and social change.

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This year's cohort spans an array of artistic disciplines and social change intents – photographers focused on immigrant justice, dancers preserving and reinventing cultural legacies, poets championing racial justice, musicians creating work about gender self-determination, and more. This cohort also reflects an increase of awardees who identify as cultural producers. Whether they are artists or cultural organizers driving social change or curators uplifting the work of others, cultural producers offer a unique perspective and utilize their practices to connect and engage community members through art-driven social change events, practices, and opportunities.

These 12 awardees have continued to work through the pandemic, adapting and expanding their artistic practices in ways that safely engaged and supported their communities.

The 2021 Leeway Transformation Award (LTA) recipients are (in alphabetical order):

Ada Trillo of Logan Square, Visual Arts
Ama Schley of Logan, Performance/Folk Art
Andrea Walls of Overbrook, Visual Arts/Media Arts
Annielille “Ani” Gavino of West Philadelphia, Multidisciplinary
Arielle Julia Brown of East Mount Airy, Multidisciplinary
Erlina Ortiz of South Jersey, Multidisciplinary
Jasmine L. Combs of West Philadelphia, Literary Arts/Performance
Julie Lipson of West Philadelphia, Music/Performance
Las Artivistas (Diana Lugo Martinez, Maria Guadalupe Castillo, and Maria Lourdes Flores) of Norristown, Multidisciplinary
Marángeli Mejía-Rabell of Center City, Multidisciplinary
Shivon Pearl Love of Brewerytown, Folk Art/Literary Arts
Sinta Penyami Storms of South Philadelphia, Folk Art/Performance

A national panel of artists and cultural producers convened to review applications and work samples in this two-stage process. The 2021 panel included Philadelphia-based filmmaker and new media artist **Anula Shetty**, Texas-bred and D.C.-based multidisciplinary artist, curator, and art historian **Claudia Zapata**, and Los Angeles-based

dramaturg, scholar, and facilitator **Omi Osun Joni L. Jones**. The second stage panel welcomed Brooklyn-based dancer, choreographer, and community organizer **Maria Bauman**, and South Carolina-based filmmaker, photographer, and educator **Roni Nicole Henderson-Day**, and was facilitated by **Sage Crump**, New Orleans-based culture strategist, artist, and facilitator.

Applications are made available on the Leeway website and may also be obtained by calling 1(215) 728–9273 or emailing 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 Brittnie Knight (215)728–9273 or 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.

**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.*

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