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Leeway Foundation Announces Fall 2018 Art and Change Grantees
16 women and trans artists and cultural producers receive project-based grants to further social change in Greater Philadelphia

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PHILADELPHIA – Today, the Leeway Foundation announced \$36,800 in grants to 16 women and trans artists and cultural producers in Greater Philadelphia, supporting their work to address a range of social change issues.

Leeway’s Art and Change Grant provides project-based funds of up to \$2,500 to women and trans artists and cultural producers who: propose a project that impacts a larger group, audience or community; have financial need; and live in the Greater Philadelphia region. The grant supports artists practicing a variety of disciplines including performance, crafts and textiles, and visual arts.

The Fall 2018 Art and Change grantees are (in alphabetical order):

Bonita Elaine Taylor of Chester, Crafts & Textiles, \$2,500

Claudia Peregrina of Point Breeze, Crafts & Textiles, \$2,500

Cybee Bloss of Southwest Philadelphia, Media Arts/Literary Arts, \$2,500

Danny of Chester, Multidisciplinary, \$2,500

Eliza Leighton of West Philadelphia, Visual Arts/Performance, \$2,500

Eppchez! of Germantown, Crafts & Textiles/Visual Arts, \$2,500

Here and Now Zines of West Philadelphia, Literary Arts, \$2,500

LaTierra of Cedar Park, Multidisciplinary, \$2,500

Marie Alarcon of Belmont, Media Arts/Performance, \$2,500

Mariya Oneby of Overbrook, Literary Arts, \$1,800

pep marie of Southwest Philadelphia, Crafts & Textiles/Literary Arts, \$2,500

Sarah Muehlbauer of Germantown, Performance/Media Arts, \$2,500

Shreshth Khilani of Cedar Park, Performance, \$2,500

Ya Shoosh of North Philadelphia, Media Arts/Visual Arts, \$2,500

Yolonda Johnson-Young of Carroll Park, Media Arts/Visual Arts, \$2,500

Art and Change Grants are distributed twice a year and evaluated by an independent peer review panel. The Fall 2018 review panel consisted of cultural organizer and facilitator **Andrea Jácome**, filmmaker and sound artist **Catherine Pancake (LTA '17, WOO '17, ACG '16)**, and multidisciplinary artist **Petra Floyd**.

Applications are made available on the Leeway website, and may also be obtained by calling (215) 545-4078 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 Denise Beek at (215) 545-4078, ext. 14 or dbeek@leeway.org.

**We use the term "trans" in its most inclusive sense, as an umbrella term encompassing transsexual, transgender, genderqueer, Two-Spirit people, and more generally, anyone whose gender identity or gender expression is nonconforming and/or different from their gender assigned at birth.*

ABOUT LEEWAY

The Leeway Foundation supports women and transgender 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 www.leeway.org.

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Bonita Elaine Taylor**Neighborhood: Chester****Change Partner: Jerry Puryear****Discipline: Crafts & Textiles****Social Change Intent: Cultural Preservation; Economic Justice****Amount: \$2,500**

Bonita will lead a series of workshops for low income, predominantly Black children to use their imagination and self-expression to design and sew one-of-a-kind custom-made clothing that reflects their Black culture. This will ensure that the cultural preservation of Black inspired clothes making is not lost. Participants will find creative innovative ways to earn a living by marketing and selling custom-made clothing as a hobby or as an entrepreneurial endeavor.

Claudia Peregrina**Neighborhood: Point Breeze****Change Partner: Providence Center****Discipline: Crafts & Textiles****Social Change Intent: Cultural Preservation****Amount: \$2,500**

Claudia will facilitate a series of seven workshops for Latinx youth on the meaning and the creative process of making tenangos. Tenangos are colorful images of mystical figures including birds, flowers and landscapes expressed in fabric, originating from the indigenous Otomi people from a town called Tenango de la Noria in the state of Hidalgo, Mexico. The project will culminate in an exhibition of the works created to be shown at the Providence Center in North Philadelphia.

Cybee Bloss**Neighborhood: Southwest Philadelphia****Change Partner: Sarah Kim, Philadelphia Print Works****Discipline: Media Arts/Literary Arts****Social Change Intent: Disability Justice; Economic Justice; Feminism****Amount: \$2,500**

Cybee will curate and host *Cry/Sis Game Jamz*, a monthly workshop series where women, trans, and nonbinary friends and neighbors are invited come together to make mini video games in a femme affirming space. The theme is mental health and support, which they will explore together, playing games such as *Depression Quest* and *Dys4ia*. They will use fun, accessible software to make playable resources for themselves and others.

Danny**Neighborhood: Chester****Change Partner: Misty Sol****Discipline: Multidisciplinary****Social Change Intent: Economic Justice; Racial Justice****Amount: \$2,500**

Danny will design and lead a color theory, colorism and cosmetics creation workshop for dark skinned Black girls ages 12 to 16, in Chester. They will develop a line of lip glosses and nail polishes, and author a written positive statement to accompany the product. They will share the cosmetics with the community at a product launch party. The girls will learn entrepreneurship and self-love through makeup art.

Eliza Leighton**Neighborhood: West Philadelphia****Change Partner: Edwin Kosik****Discipline: Visual Arts/Performance****Social Change Intent: Feminism; Racial Justice****Amount: \$2,500**

Eliza will produce and stage *Little Debbie*, a solo performance in a 1950's style, all-white, interactive kitchen whose red interior is exposed when viewers open cabinets. The titular character is Little Debbie, a housewife clown who welcomes folks into her home for tea and conversation, where it becomes clear she is afraid of culturally different unicorns and the color red. *Little Debbie* aims to challenge white fear and whitewashed history.

Eppchez!**Neighborhood: Germantown****Change Partner: Voyager (Josefine Parker)****Discipline: Crafts & Textiles/Visual Arts****Social Change Intent: Economic Justice; Transgender justice/gender self-determination****Amount: \$2,500**

Eppchez!'s project, DarbGarb, will design and create gender affirming, non-phallic, soft art objects for 15 to 20 trans/nonbinary individuals to wear in their pants. The goal of this celebration of self-determination is to bring healing and confidence to wearers. Ey will document each wearer's process and the outcomes of these explorations into uncharted authenticity in gender self-determination will be curated and shown in a public show.

Here and Now Zines**Neighborhood: West Philadelphia****Change Partner: Philly Anarchist Black Cross****Discipline: Literary Arts****Social Change Intent: Ending war: militarization, criminalization, and mass incarceration****Amount: \$2,500**

Here and Now Zines is an anti-authoritarian radical zine distribution project that will disseminate free zines and literature. They aim to spread and deepen a critique of society by giving a platform to marginalized and criminalized voices, while also connecting alienated people with ideas, tools, and frameworks to empower them to take action in Philadelphia and beyond.

LaTierra**Neighborhood: Cedar Park****Change Partner: Cierra Freeman****Discipline: Multidisciplinary****Social Change Intent: Cultural Preservation; Feminism; Racial Justice****Amount: \$2,500**

LaTierra will curate a monthly Black Healing Space, which activates the Healing Justice Practice Space principles. This cultural installation will be where community activists and organizers come to engage in arts and apothecary for collective healing, relationship-building, resilience and rest for resistance.

Marie Alarcon**Neighborhood: Belmont****Change Partner: PhillyCAM****Discipline: Media Arts/Performance****Social Change Intent: Cultural Preservation; Displacement, migration, and immigration****Amount: \$2,500**

Marie will develop a project using virtual and augmented reality technologies, such as Google Cardboard VR (Virtual Reality) to document and share stories about the displacement process. This project, in collaboration with Bartrams Village residents, will creatively explore modes of resistance using dance, interviews, and guided tours of the area.

Mariya Oneby**Neighborhood: Overbrook****Change Partner: Cyrée Jarelle Johnson****Discipline: Literary Arts****Social Change Intent: Cultural Preservation; Transgender justice/gender self-determination****Amount: \$1,800**

Mariya will write a non-fiction narrative and memoir about their lived experiences at the crossroads of gender and faith as an intersex woman. The narrative also confronts toxic cultural norms that ignore the existence and widespread recognition of people of transgender and intersex experience as integral members of community. This project will culminate in events designed to bring writers of trans and intersex experience together.

pep marie**Neighborhood: Southwest Philadelphia****Change Partner: Felicia Blow****Discipline: Crafts & Textiles/Literary Arts****Social Change Intent: Cultural Preservation; Racial Justice; Transgender justice/gender self-determination****Amount: \$2,500**

pep marie will host a fashion show of apparel co-created with ten black trans and gender non-conforming collaborating models. The show and accompanying booklet will be a celebration of an often ignored, exploited, and attacked aesthetic. These collaborating models will strut the catwalk in their customized pay-what-you-can clothing while investigating a deeper understanding of their own and others' intersectional race and gender journey in and out of fashion.

Sarah Muehlbauer**Neighborhood: Germantown****Change Partner: Erin Ball****Discipline: Performance/Media Arts****Social Change Intent: Disability Justice****Amount: \$2,500**

Sarah will develop the choreography, video, and sculpture for *Ripple Effect* as part of her larger multidisciplinary, multi-stage project titled *Things That Survived The Winter*. *Ripple Effect* draws together the work of abled and disabled artists to tackle common issues around mental illness, visible, and invisible disability. The performance focuses on individuals and families suffering from the effects of medical crises and chronic pain.

Shreshth Khilani**Neighborhood: Cedar Park****Change Partner: Madhusmita Bora****Discipline: Performance****Social Change Intent: Displacement, migration, and immigration; LGBTQI social movements;****Transgender justice/gender self-determination****Amount: \$2,500**

Shreshth will host and perform *Immigrant Kitchen*, an interactive theater piece about the roles of femininity, queerness, and gender fluidity in both their life and in Hindu mythology along with live cooking. The piece will be an invitation to form queer community in Shreshth's own kitchen through sharing a meal and their own experiences with the group.

Ya Shoosh**Neighborhood: North Philadelphia****Change Partner: Afaq Mahmoud****Discipline: Visual Arts/Media Arts****Social Change Intent: Displacement, migration, and immigration; LGBTQI social movements****Amount: \$2,500**

Ya Shoosh will curate *Kweez Mara Min Hona (Queers Were Here): A Muslim Visibility Project*. This two-part project will feature a mixed media art installation with interviews from queer and trans Muslims alongside a portrait series. Ya Shoosh plans to share the project in a community space to facilitate dialogue around pressing issues. There will also be a potluck gathering in conjunction with the exhibition opening. The project will expand to culminate in the creation of a website to engage with other LGBTQ+ Muslim artists.

Yolonda Johnson-Young**Neighborhood: Carroll Park****Change Partner: Scribe Video Center****Discipline: Media Arts/Visual Arts****Social Change Intent: Disability Justice; Racial Justice****Amount: \$2,500**

Told from a mother's perspective, *Finding Elijah* is a documentary film that follows a young man's journey from home into mental illness, homelessness and ultimately suicide, using interviews, archival footage and original art and photos. It explores how a search for answers leads a mother to action. The film will be used as a teaching and healing tool to assist individuals and families affected by loss through suicide.



Andrea Jácome

(pronoun: she)

Andrea Jácome is a cultural organizer and facilitator. She is the former Community Organizing Director at Girls Rock Philly, a music mentorship nonprofit that builds with girls, women, and trans and gender nonconforming people. A graduate of Swarthmore College, she has been dedicated to interdisciplinary modes of cultural organizing and popular education - often bridging music with art and gardening - as means to build pockets of liberatory spaces. From 2011-2014, she was a core member of Taller de Paz, a transnational collective of popular educators working with internally displaced youth outside of Bogotá, Colombia. From 2015-2017, as co-director of Girls Rock Philly, she focused on deepening GRP's commitment to social justice and youth power--among wearing many other hats. Currently, she is working toward completing her herbal apprenticeship with Sacred Vibes Apothecary as well as her first chapbook of poetry.

Catherine Pancake (LTA '17, WOO '17, ACG '16)

(pronouns: he, she, or they – all pronouns are okay)

Catherine Pancake is an award-winning filmmaker, video, new media, and sound artist. She has exhibited at national and international venues such as the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), Royal Ontario Museum, Baltimore Museum of Art, Murray Art Museum Albury, Australia, Shanghai Conservatory – Shanghai PRC, and Academy of Fine Arts, Prague. Pancake's narrative and experimental documentary work has been screened at over 150 venues nationally, as well as broadcast (entirely or as excerpts) in the US and UK on the Sundance Channel, PBS, FreeSpeech Television, and the CommunityChannelUK. Her films are nationally & internationally distributed by Bullfrog Films and Canadian Filmmakers Distribution Centre and are held in permanent collections in over 75 university and museum archives nationally. Pancake is an Assistant Professor in the Film and Media Arts Program at Temple University.

Petra Floyd

(pronoun: she)

Petra Floyd is a first-generation Liberian-American multidisciplinary artist from Philadelphia. She uses drawing, sculpture, writing, printmaking, and performance to meditate on Blackness in the United States and other sites of the African diaspora, focusing on reinvention through inherited and appropriated material culture and performance. Petra received a BA in Studio Art from Swarthmore College in 2012. She has been an artist-in-residence at 40th Street AIR (2016-2017), a Fob Holder at Second State Press (2016), and a Post-college Apprentice at The Fabric Workshop and Museum (2014). She has exhibited work at The Arthur Miller Theatre at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, The Art Dept., The Colored Girls Museum, 40th Street AIR Gallery, the Fox Art Gallery at University of Pennsylvania, FringeArts, and The Fabric Workshop and Museum. She has performed original work at 4 Weeks in January, Super I object 004: Bodies, Little Berlin, and the COLLAGE Festival.