



leeway foundation

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### **2015 Transformation Awards Announced**

*Nine local artists receive honor celebrating their commitment to social change*

PHILADELPHIA—Nine artists & cultural producers have been named 2015 Leeway Transformation Awardees, the foundation announced today.

The Transformation Awards are granted annually to women and trans\* artists who have worked at the intersection of art and social change for the past five years or more, and impacted a larger group, audience, or community. The \$15,000 award is unrestricted—no project is required. The 2015 awards were presented to a diverse group of artists & cultural producers working in a range of disciplines including performance, music and folk arts.

This nine 2015 Transformation Award recipients are:

- **Camae Ayewa** of Strawberry Mansion, *Multi-Disciplinary*
- **Cei Bell** of West Oak Lane, *Literary Arts*
- **Elaine T. Jones** of Northeast Philadelphia, *Literary Arts*
- **Kerri Radley** of South Philadelphia, *Literary Arts and Visual Arts*
- **Lanica Angpak** of South Philadelphia, *Folk Art and Performance*
- **Lela Aisha Jones** of East Oak Lane, *Performance and Folk Art*
- **Maggie Eighteen** of West Philadelphia, *Literary Arts and Performance*
- **Nancy Lewis-Shell** of Crescentville, *Crafts & Textiles and Visual Arts*
- **Zaye Tete** of Southwest Philadelphia, *Music and Folk Art*

“The awardees represented here embody Leeway’s vision of artists as catalyst for change,” says Denise Brown, Leeway’s Executive Director. “We’re deeply honored to support cultural producers whose work speaks creatively and directly to the people, issues, and movements impacting our communities today.”

A national panel of artists and organizers convened to review applications and work samples in two stages. The 2015 panel consisted of: graphic novelist and previous Transformation Award recipient **Annie Mok** (LTA '14, ACG '13); media artist and documentarian **Portia Cobb**; writer and performer **Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha**; DJ and educator **Lynnée Denise**; and dancer **Maria Bauman**. Cultural organizer **Omisade Burney-Scott**, facilitated the second stage.

Applications are available on the Leeway website, and may also be obtained by calling 215.545.4078 or emailing [info@leeway.org](mailto:info@leeway.org). The next Leeway Transformation Award deadline is May 15, 2016. Interested applicants should attend one of the many applicant support sessions held throughout the year, or schedule an appointment with a foundation staff member for one-on-one support.

**Press inquiries should be directed to Denise Beek at (215) 545-4078, ext. 14 or [dbeek@leeway.org](mailto: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.*

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