



The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage 2018 Grantees

PROJECT GRANTS

Nikki Appino

The White Lama (working title)

A multimedia performance work featuring a new composition by American composer Philip Glass and Tibetan musician Tenzin Choegyal, and performed by actor Kevin Joyce, examines the adventurous life and death of early 20th-century explorer, mystic, and author Theos Bernard.

Ars Nova Workshop

Milford Graves: A Mind-Body Deal

An exhibition and interpretation of Milford Graves' artistic laboratory as a living, interactive theater shed light on a lifetime of multidisciplinary creative work from this icon of the free jazz movement.

Timothy Belknap

Killjoy's Kastle

A large-scale, interactive performance in the form of a haunted house at Icebox Project Space, created by artists Allyson Mitchell and Deirdre Logue, engages Philadelphia artists and addresses themes of identity, race, gender, and class.

Beth Sholom Synagogue Preservation Foundation

David Hartt Commission

A site-responsive, multimedia installation by David Hartt activates Beth Sholom Synagogue, offering new ways to experience and interpret the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed National Historic Landmark.

Bowerbird

Maryanne Amacher: Making The Third Ear

The multimedia compositions and visceral, large-scale installations of pioneering sound artist Maryanne Amacher are illuminated through concerts, workshops, and a performance installation.

Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection, Temple University

Black Lives Have Always Mattered: Hidden African American Philadelphia of the Twentieth Century

A new graphic novel depicts underrepresented stories of talent, courage, and achievement from 20th-century African American Philadelphians and encourages conversations about race in America.

The College of Physicians/Mütter Museum

Spit Spreads Death: The Influenza Pandemic of 1918-19 in Philadelphia

An interactive exhibition at the Mütter Museum about the 1918-19 influenza pandemic in Philadelphia explores connections between civic responsibility and public health.

The Fabric Workshop and Museum

Art in Process

A discovery project investigates best practices in sharing the process of art-making to create meaningful connections between contemporary art and audiences.

Fairmount Park Conservancy

In Motion, In Place: Trisha Brown Dance Company in Fairmount Park

Audiences experience Philadelphia's Fairmount Park in new ways as a series of site-responsive, outdoor performances present the works of pioneering post-modern choreographer Trisha Brown.

Institute of Contemporary Art

Colored People Time: Mundane Futures, Quotidian Pasts, and Banal Presents

The history, present, and future of blackness in America is examined in a three-part, multidisciplinary exhibition featuring the work of artists Carolyn Lazard, Cameron Rowland, Sable Elyse Smith, and Martine Syms.

Jazz Bridge

Documenting & Interpreting the Philly Jazz Legacy

A discovery process brings together the region's three major jazz organizations—Jazz Bridge, Philadelphia Jazz Project, and Philadelphia Clef Club—to explore how to meaningfully preserve, interpret, and share Philadelphia's expansive jazz history.

Kulu Mele African Dance & Drum Ensemble

Ogun & the People

Through movement and music, a new interpretation of a traditional Afro-Cuban Yoruba parable takes shape, under the direction of Dorothy Wilkie, and during a company residency with the Cuban performance troupe Ballet Folklórico Cutumba.

The Library Company of Philadelphia

Redrawing History: Indigenous Perspectives on Colonial America

An exhibition and a newly commissioned graphic novel by Native American artists—illustrator Weshoyot Alvitre and writer Lee Francis—re-contextualize 18th-century historic events from the perspective of indigenous communities.

Lightbox Film Center at International House Philadelphia

Dream Dance: The Art of Ed Emshwiller

A retrospective surveys Ed Emshwiller's expansive career in film, video, and visual art, introducing the artist's groundbreaking work to a new generation of audiences.

Mann Center for the Performing Arts

The Deep Blue Sea

A newly commissioned work from the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company explores the relationship between the individual and the larger community and brings 100 professional and local amateur performers to the Mann's outdoor stage.

Tiona Nekkia McClodden

Be Alarmed: The Black Americana Epic, Movement III - The Triple Deities

A multimedia performance merges art song, exhibition, film, and sculpture to examine black female identity, drawing from the work of poet Langston Hughes and composer Florence B. Price.

Diane Monroe*Violin Woman, African Dreams*

An evening-length suite composed by Diane Monroe for violin, string quartet, West African kora, and percussion draws inspiration from The Colored Girls Museum, a singular house museum located in Philadelphia's Germantown neighborhood.

National Constitution Center*Reconstruction and the Fourteenth Amendment Project*

An original theater work sheds new light on the history of slavery in the United States, the constitutional legacy of the Civil War, and the passage of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Partners for Sacred Places*Grounds That Shout! (And Others Merely Shaking)*

A series of performances curated by award-winning choreographer Reggie Wilson explores the African American religious experience and Philadelphia's historic religious sites, in a collaboration between Partners for Sacred Places and Philadelphia Contemporary.

PennDesign, University of Pennsylvania*Design With Nature Now*

Three parallel exhibitions highlight dynamic and visionary approaches to landscape design and development in the face of climate change and urbanization.

Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries*Chronicling Resistance, Enabling Resistance*

A discovery process explores new methods for telling the stories of Philadelphia's rich heritage of resistance by broadening accessibility to little-known documents held in the collections of 38 member libraries.

Philadelphia Chamber Music Society*Emerging Voices: Art Song and Social Connection*

A concert series curated in collaboration with tenor vocalist Nicholas Phan illuminates the evolution of art song and how the form, with its intersection of poetry and music, remains a powerful vehicle for social exchange.

Philadelphia Dance Projects*Old City Arts History Project*

A discovery project investigates the arts in relationship to place and aims to capture the legacy and influence of artists working in Old City, Philadelphia, in the mid-1970s and '80s.

Pig Iron Theatre Company*SUPERTERRANEAN (working title)*

The world premiere of a design-driven theater work, created in collaboration with MacArthur Fellow and Tony Award-winner Mimi Lien, considers how underground architecture, built environments, and hidden networks influence human behavior.

Odean Pope*Sounds of the Circle*

A new evening-length suite by master jazz musician Odean Pope evokes the "distinctive sonic environment" of North Philadelphia and the mid-20th-century innovators who helped build Philadelphia's jazz legacy.

Presbyterian Historical Society

Building Knowledge and Breaking Barriers: Archives-Based Learning

Collaborative research projects introduce Community College of Philadelphia students to rare historical materials, leading to exhibitions that examine the notion of accessibility and representation in archives.

PRISM Quartet

Mending Wall

Composers Martin Bresnick, George Lewis, Arturo O’Farrill, and Juri Seo create new works exploring the metaphorical meaning of walls in contemporary society, performed by PRISM Quartet.

South Asian American Digital Archive

Revolution Remix: A South Asian American Sound Tour of Historic Philadelphia

New musical compositions by Zain Alam, Rudresh Mahanthappa, and Rupa Marya enrich a walking tour that explores historic Philadelphia through the lens of South Asian American history.

Stenton

Inequality in Bronze: Monumental Plantation Legacies

A community-driven process commissions a memorial recognizing Dinah, an enslaved woman who lived at Stenton, and addresses the role historic sites can play in the national conversation about present-day monuments.

Temple Contemporary

1000 Ways to Listen

A multi-year performance project, led by theater company 600 HIGHWAYMEN, brings together 1,000 Philadelphians in 500 private homes to ask each other the question, “Are we listening?”

University of the Arts School of Dance

The School for Temporary Liveness

An eight-day pop-up performance experience, presented in the format of a school that occupies the Philadelphia Art Alliance building, features artists Nora Chipaumire and Isabel Lewis and generates new forms of spectatorship and participation.

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

Whitman at 200: Art and Democracy

Cultural events across the region mark Walt Whitman’s 200th birthday with exhibitions, a tribute performance by singer-songwriter and poet Patti Smith, and four newly commissioned works by artists Carolyn Healy and John Phillips, The Bearded Ladies Cabaret, Homer Jackson, and Spencer Finch.

The Wilma Theater

THERE

An ensemble-devised work, led by Blanka Zizka, adapts Lebanese American poet Etel Adnan’s book-length poem *There: In the Light and the Darkness of the Self and of the Other* and contemplates existential questions of personal and community identity and conflict, in an environment created by Berlin-based artist Rosa Barba.

PEW FELLOWSHIPS

David Hartt

Visual artist

Hartt's multidisciplinary work in photography, sculpture, installation, and digital film considers the history of social and cultural ideals in relation to the built environment.

David Ludwig

Composer

Ludwig's contemporary classical compositions for a range of instrumental ensembles, voice, theater, and film play with style and genre and address topics ranging from climate change to religious traditions.

Ken Lum

Visual artist

Working across mediums, including painting, sculpture, and photography, Lum's practice explores the formation of individual and societal identities as they are expressed within the context of public space.

Diane Monroe

Composer and violinist

Monroe says she aims to "abandon classifications of style and genre" by bridging classical and jazz repertoires, African and African American musical traditions, and contemporary experimental music.

Quentin Morris

Visual artist

Morris' five-decade meditation on the color black investigates identity and spirituality, driven by his desire to, in his words, "refute all negative cultural mythologies about the color."

Jonathan Olshefski

Documentary filmmaker

Olshefski's documentary films depict intimate portraits of contemporary American life, rooted in the long-term relationships he develops with his subjects.

Michelle Angela Ortiz

Visual artist

Through public art installations and a socially engaged practice, Ortiz examines issues of immigration, socio-economic inequalities, and human rights.

Ursula Rucker

Poet and performer

Rucker's interdisciplinary poetry and spoken word performances—which she characterizes as situated "along the edge of the terrains of poetry"—reflect on personal history, family, and place.

Leah Stein

Choreographer and dancer

Stein's choreographic practice integrates improvisational methods in site-specific works that illuminate the connections among the body, sound, location, and audience.

Zaye Tete

Traditional African vocalist

Tete's practice is dedicated to sharing and reinterpreting traditional Liberian music and dance, connecting Liberian Americans with their heritage across generations.

Alex Torra

Theater artist

Torra's ensemble-created, experimental performance work invites audiences to consider the complexities of contemporary cultural identity, community, and humanity.

Rachel Zolf

Poet

Zolf's poetry and art videos explore memory, history, ethics, and the limits of language.