

NEWS RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 7 p.m. April 29, 2013

43 Ideas for the Philadelphia arts receive more than \$2 million in funding

Knights Arts Challenge winners foster artistic collaborations, support next generation of creative thinkers and weave arts into neighborhoods

PHILADELPHIA – April 29, 2013 – Emerging from a field of 1,200 applicants, 43 projects received more than \$2 million today as winners of the [2013 Knight Arts Challenge](#).

A program of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the challenge funds the best ideas for engaging and enriching Philadelphia through the arts.

Ranging from individual artists to collectives, public spaces and some of the city's most prominent cultural groups, the 2013 challenge winners will:

- Explore cross-discipline mash-ups – with DJ's and restaurants inspiring visual artists and technologists, and singers using a Beaux Art Rotunda as a musical instrument;
- Make art more participatory – with the audience becoming a part of an enormous battle during Shakespeare's *Henry IV*, and amateur musicians performing alongside a local orchestra;
- Develop the next generation of creative thinkers – with a student monologue series, training for young dancers who want to become instructors, and after school music composition classes;
- Weave art into neighborhoods – with pop-up dance performances, artistic bike racks across the city, and musical performances in the heart of the city's Latino neighborhoods.

The full list of winners and their project ideas is included below, with additional information available at [KnightArts.org](#).

John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, 200 S. Biscayne Boulevard, Suite 3300
Miami, FL 33131

Tel. (305) 908-2600 Web: www.knightfoundation.org Twitter: @knightfdn

Informed & Engaged Communities



“At some point in the day, we’d love for all Philadelphians to have an encounter with art – to experience a moment of inspiration that brings people together and helps strengthen a sense of community,” said Dennis Scholl, Knight Foundation’s vice president/Arts. “This year’s Knight Arts Challenge winners will help do that by weaving the arts into neighborhoods and people’s everyday lives.”

The Knight Arts Challenge asked one simple question: What’s your best idea for the arts? There are only three rules for applying: 1) The idea must be about the arts; 2) The project must take place in or benefit Philadelphia; and 3) The grant recipients must find funds to match Knight’s commitment, within a year.

The announcement marks the final year of the three-year initiative, which has funded 114 projects. Knight Foundation, which has invested more than \$100 million in the city’s vitality since 1970, will continue to support the city’s vibrant arts scene through its year-round, community grant making program. More arts investments will be announced in the fall.

“My hat is off to our cultural community. In just three years, the challenge has generated more than 4,000 ideas, including some mind-blowing projects we never would have dreamed of ourselves. We’ve been introduced to a wealth of creative minds and organizations. Now, we’re going to dig deeper to see how we can take more initiatives to the next level in Philadelphia. Stay tuned,” said Donna Frisby-Greenwood, Philadelphia program director for Knight Foundation.

For more on Knight Foundation’s arts initiative and to view a full list of Knight Arts Challenge winners, visit www.KnightArts.org. Connect on the Knight Arts Challenge Facebook page [here](#) and via [@KnightArts](#) on Twitter.

About the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Knight Foundation supports transformational ideas that promote quality journalism, advance media innovation, engage communities and foster the arts. We believe that democracy thrives when people and communities are informed and engaged. For more, visit www.knightfoundation.org.

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Knight Arts Challenge Philadelphia 2013 Winners

For more detailed project descriptions, visit knightarts.org.

A Month of Music Celebrates Philadelphia's Jazz Heritage

Recipient: Ars Nova Workshop

Award: \$50,000

To honor Philadelphia's rich jazz legacy by producing a month-long festival in venues across the city during Jazz History Month

Resource for Art Lesson Plans Expands Young Minds

Recipient: Art Sphere

Award: \$20,000

To enrich Philadelphia's youth by providing free access to arts education resources and hands-on instruction to organizations with limited resources.

Artists Get Career Support Through Professional Development Programs

Recipient: Artists U

Award: \$14,000

To increase professional development opportunities for local performance artists by expanding a pilot project that allows artists to seek targeted advice and counsel

Institute Cultivates New Skills in Emerging Arts Leaders

Recipient: Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia

Award: \$100,000

To strengthen the next generation by establishing an institute where emerging arts leaders can gain a deeper understanding of management and leadership

Training Program Fosters Next Generation of Philadelphia Dance Instructors

Recipient: BalletX

Award: \$25,000

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To further the careers of young dancers by both teaching them the art of dance instruction and having them instruct in local schools

Local Artists Bring a New Spin to Bike Rack Design

Recipient: Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia

Award: \$50,000

To create more public art and enliven city streets by hosting a competition for artists to design new bike racks

Amateur Musicians Deepen Their Connections to Classical Music

Recipient: Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra

Award: \$50,000

To deepen amateur musicians' engagement with classical music by offering adults opportunities to perform alongside the orchestra's professionals

Diverse Film Festival Supports Independent Black Filmmakers

Recipient: BlackStar Film Festival

Award: \$50,000

To support global black cinema through a film festival that will also feature a short screenplay contest

New Art and Technology Space Encourages Collaboration, Innovation Recipient:

Breadboard at the University City Science Center

Award: \$100,000

To bring the city's art and tech communities together through a new alliance and facility that will provide hands-on programming, plus a civic prototyping lab addressing community issues

Multi-Gallery Exhibit Unifies City's Artist-Run Collectives

Recipient: CITYWIDE

Award: \$13,000



To promote collaboration in the visual arts by enabling more than 20 collectives to produce a multiveneue, one-month exhibit

Major Choral Event Empowers Girls Through Music

Recipient: Pennsylvania Girlchoir, member-choir of Commonwealth Youthchoirs

Award: \$15,000

To empower girls through music by launching a large-scale choral event for seventh- to 12th-grade girls, featuring female conductors and composers

Live Dance Takes Spotlight in Public Pop-Up Performances

Recipient: Dance/USA Philadelphia

Award: \$20,000

To raise the visibility of live dance by creating a pop-up studio in a highly visible public space where passers-by can witness the usually private rehearsal process

Temporary Outdoor Wall Installations Spark Dialogue

Recipient: David Guinn

Award: \$9,000

To engage Philadelphians with art by bringing artist-created temporary outdoor wall-painting installations to Center City

Chamber Ensemble Brings Classical Music to Latino Communities

Recipient: Dolce Suono Ensemble

Award: \$25,000

To bring more music to Philadelphia's Latino communities by working with organizations to develop a new outreach initiative bridging classical and Latin music

Technology-Enhanced Live Music Provides a Feast for the Senses

Recipient: Drexel ExCITE Center

Award: \$75,000

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To engage and develop new audiences for music with a series of live concerts enhanced with audio-driven media technologies

Center City Jazz Festival Expands to Reach New Audiences

Recipient: Ernest Stuart

Award: \$15,000

To increase audiences for jazz by expanding the Center City Jazz Festival to include additional events and venues

Utopic Floating Structure on the Delaware Suggests Bold Environmental Future

Recipient: FringeArts

Award: \$50,000

To ignite imaginations around the future of environmental conservation by creating a large and visually stunning art installation along the Delaware River complete with solar panels, gardens and more

Choreographers Mount Living Installations in Two Well-Known Public Spaces

Recipient: Inta

Award: \$50,000

To bring bold, highly theatrical performances by dancer/choreographers Eiko & Koma to two unique public outdoor spaces, the Reading Viaduct and PAFA's Lenfest Plaza

Audience Members Become Performers in New African Dance Work

Recipient: Kùlú Mèlé African Dance & Drum Ensemble

Award: \$20,000

To invite audiences to participate in master classes, rehearse and perform a new work blending traditional African dance with hip-hop, funk and soul

Theatrical Performance Brings Together Two South Philly Neighborhoods

Recipient: Lee Ann Etzold

Award: \$25,000

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To foster a greater sense of community between two geographically close but culturally diverse neighborhoods by producing a theatrical performance written and performed by its residents

Immersive Opera Experience Begins in the Balkans

Recipient: Opera Philadelphia

Award: \$100,000

To offer a more immersive opera experience by launching a series of 50-minute operas, the first of which, about a Serbian wedding, will be followed by an authentic Balkan wedding feast

Festival Celebrates Contemporary Flamenco Pioneers

Recipient: Pasion y Arte Flamenco

Award: \$35,000

To celebrate the contributions of Flamenco dance by producing a two-week festival including an educational symposium and performances by groundbreaking Flamenco artists

Newly-Restored Theater Hosts Local Film Screenings

Recipient: Philadelphia Film Society

Award: \$150,000

To provide students and local filmmakers the opportunity to share their cinematic work on the big screen by holding monthly community screenings at the Theater at the Roxy

After-School Programs Let Students Take Center Stage

Recipient: Philadelphia Parks & Recreation's Performing Arts Office

Award: \$5,000

To offer after-school art programming for children by placing art teachers in each of the eight city districts to give instruction in singing, acting and dancing

Exhibitions Zoom In on New Approaches to Photography

Recipient: Philadelphia Photo Arts Center

Award: \$100,000

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To cultivate new audiences for contemporary photography by organizing innovative exhibitions featuring digitally printed photographic murals, nontraditional approaches to portraiture and auxiliary programming

New Theatrical Work Investigates School-to-Prison Pipeline

Recipient: Philadelphia Theatre Company

Award: \$100,000

To engage Philadelphia in a dialogue about young people being shuttled from school into the criminal justice system by supporting a two-year residency of actress and playwright Anna Deavere Smith.

Monologue Festival Puts a Spotlight on Student Voices

Recipient: Philadelphia Young Playwrights

Award: \$20,000

To help students gain a deeper understanding of how to leverage theater for social change by expanding a festival, in collaboration with InterAct Theatre Company, featuring professional productions of high school students' monologues.

Indie Rockers and Indie Theatermakers Collaborate on Hybrid Opera Performance

Recipient: Pig Iron Theatre Company, with Dr. Dog

Award: \$60,000

To merge two indie-arts genres by translating the music of rock band Dr. Dog into a theatrical spectacle.

After-School Music Program Cultivates Children's Creative Skills

Recipient: Play On, Philly!

Award: \$150,000

To cultivate students' music skills by coordinating a multifaceted creative initiative that

will teach music production and technology, composition, jazz and more.

Pop-Up Performance Art Enriches Reading Terminal Market

Recipient: Reading Terminal Market

Award: \$60,000

To weave the arts into people's everyday lives by curating a formalized performing arts series at Reading Terminal Market

Participatory Shakespeare Performance Encourages Unique Audience Interactions

Recipient: Shakespeare in Clark Park

Award: \$35,000

To engage audiences in new ways with an interactive event around Shakespeare's Henry IV, enabling attendees to participate in a battle scene

Seasonal Pop-Up Series Builds on Neighborhood Traditions

Recipient: South Street Headhouse District

Award: \$15,000

To bring cultural vibrancy to the South Street neighborhood by organizing a series of pop-up and street events featuring music, theater and visual arts

Indian Music Gets Creative Makeover with Nontraditional Concert Series

Recipient: Sruti, The India Music and Dance Society

Award: \$15,000

To celebrate Indian music and introduce it to a young and urban audience by offering a concert series with rotating ensembles of professional musicians

Philadelphia DJs Amplify Visual Art in Immersive Exhibition

Recipient: Stacey Wilson

Award: \$20,000

To explore the connection between music and art by offering an aural experience for patrons that pairs individual works of visual art with a unique music mix

Event Series Combine Arts Forms for Truly Multimedia Experience

Recipient: Swim Pony Performing Arts

Award: \$40,000

To push the boundaries for audiences by curating a series of cross-disciplinary events that feature unexpected collaborations

Communities Come Together Through Latino Arts

Recipient: Taller Puertorriqueño

Award: \$60,000

To engage more audiences in the city's Latino arts scene by organizing gallery exhibits, including mixed-media installations and music performances

Local Poets Get New Opportunities Through Poetry Slams and Workshops

Recipient: The Philly Pigeon

Award: \$13,000

To bring poetry to a wider audience and support the development of more performance poets by expanding The Pigeon Presents: The Philadelphia Poetry Slam.

Musicians Explore Sound in Local Architectural Treasure

Recipient: The Rotunda

Award: \$7,000

To challenge musicians to turn a 100-year-old Beaux Arts sanctuary into a musical instrument using their voices and other sound experiments

Public Art Serves the Environment and Educates Public

Recipient: The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education

Award: \$20,000

To address the city's environmental issues by hosting artists who will collaborate with scientists to create public environmental artworks and educational programs



Social Practice Artist Residencies Reflect on North Philadelphia Communities

Recipient: The Village of Arts and Humanities

Award: \$150,000

To offer a home to emerging and mid-career artists seeking an urban environment by creating a year-long artist residency program

Artists and Restaurateurs Collaborate on Cutting-Edge Projects

Recipient: Theresa Rose

Award: \$25,000

To create connections between neighborhood restaurateurs and artists by commissioning dinners featuring art projects from across neighborhoods

University Students Celebrate Beloved African American Artist

Recipient: Tyler School of Art, Temple University

Award: \$8,000

To celebrate one of the community's most beloved African-American artists, Charles Searles, by inviting art students from three universities to collaborate on paired exhibitions and events inspired by the artist's legacy

Radio Series Spotlights Classical and Jazz Artists

Recipient: WRTI

Award: \$50,000

To share the talents of established and emerging musicians with the community by recording, then broadcasting, individual and ensemble performances from a state-of-the-art studio

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