

ANNOUNCEMENT

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RUBYS ARTIST GRANT PROGRAM LAUNCHES SECOND PHASE IN 2019

Robert W. Deutsch Foundation set to assume administration from GBCA

Baltimore, September 13, 2018 – The Robert W. Deutsch Foundation and the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance (GBCA) announce the transition of the Rubys Artist Grants Program from GBCA to the Deutsch Foundation. The planned transition of the program includes the promotion of Sonja Cendak from Program Manager at GBCA to Program Director at the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation.

Launched in 2013, the Rubys Artist Grant Program was conceived, designed, and initiated with funding from the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation. GBCA was selected to administer the first phase of the grant program. During the initial five years of development, the Rubys were established as an important and respected opportunity for artists in the Baltimore region and the program has granted over \$620,000 to 82 artists.

Past grantees represent all artistic disciplines, with selected projects ranging from jazz oeuvres and immersive theater to experimental film and poetic memoir. The Rubys are unique in that they provide direct funding to individual artists, guided by the core values of experimentation, risk-taking, and unfettered creativity in support of new artistic projects. Past grantees have gone onto critical acclaim with fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, United States Artists, and Halcyon Arts Lab, and have taken their projects to the Maryland Film Festival, the Hirshhorn Museum, and the Baltimore Museum of Art. The Rubys Artist Grant Program was inspired by the work of Creative Capital in New York City and named in honor of its visionary founder, Ruby Lerner.

“We invested in the Rubys at the onset because we believe in the multiplier effect of supporting bold, innovative artists in Baltimore,” says Jane Brown, President of the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation, *“Five years later we see the direct impact of this program on the trajectory of artists, and our city. We look forward to stewarding this next phase of the program, with Sonja at the helm.”*

“GBCA has been honored to incubate this game-changing program and is deeply inspired by all the artists who have been funded for new projects right here in the Baltimore region” says Jeannie Howe, Executive Director of the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance. *“I am excited to see what the next five years brings and am grateful for the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation’s partnership and their commitment to the artists living and working in this community.”*

As part of a larger arts and culture grantmaking strategy at the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation, the next phase of the Rubys Artist Grants program will focus on deepening impact through more grants to more projects, expanding professional development, network building, and technical assistance for applicants, while continuing to support some of the most innovative artists currently working in the region.

For more information on the Rubys, go to <https://www.rwdfoundation.org/our-work/rubys>.

The Robert W. Deutsch Foundation invests in innovative people, programs and ideas that promote arts and culture, economic and community development, and social justice, with a primary focus on the City of Baltimore.

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FOUNDATION

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The Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance (GBCA) nurtures and promotes a vibrant, diverse, and sustainable arts and cultural community essential to the region's quality of life. GBCA aims to promote the region's creative sector and significantly increase artists' and organizations' capacity to do great work.



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