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90 New York City Artists of Color Receive \$125,000 in the First Awards from the New Urban Artist Initiative/NYC Grant Program

(New York, NY – February 21, 2007) The **Urban Artist Initiative/ NYC (UAI/NYC)**, a consortium effort to strengthen the infrastructure and support for artists in New York City, announced the 90 New York artists who received awards in the first grants cycle of the Program. The consortium includes the **Asian American Arts Alliance, Association of Hispanic Arts, Harlem Arts Alliance, and Queens Council on the Arts** working in partnership with the **New York Foundation for the Arts** and the **Bronx Council on the Arts**, the project's sponsor.

Bill Aguado, Executive Director of the Bronx Council on the Arts, said: “**UAI/NYC**, a unique collaboration of six arts intermediaries, creates a point of entry for artists from their specific communities, many of who have not traditionally participated in grant and service programs for artists. Moreover, because the organizations are working as one entity, an even more powerful alliance is being shaped to include and recognize the contributions and talents of so many previously under-recognized artists.”

UAI/NYC marks the first time a cross-discipline citywide grant program has been developed for NYC artists who self-identify their heritage as African, Latino, or Asian, embracing as well the diversity that exists within communities of color. In the next grants cycle anticipated in Spring 2007, Native American artists will be included. New applications and guidelines will also be available at this time. To request the application and guidelines, please call Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos at (718) 518-6728 or email uainyc@yahoo.com.

The grant recipients were chosen from nearly 1,000 applications through a peer-panel review process. Grantees include choreographers, dancers, playwrights, musicians, writers in all genres, visual artists in various media, filmmakers, and video artists. Four panels in Literature, Performing Arts, Media, and Visual/Interdisciplinary work reviewed the work and requests for new projects at various stages of development. Based on the amounts requested, grants have been awarded in the range of \$500 - \$2,500 each for a total of \$125,000. A complete list of recipients and panelists is included here.

UAI/NYC is part of a national network of cities that serves as a laboratory for projects effecting local and national change in the lives of artists. It is one of the **Creative Communities** programs of **LINC (Leveraging Investments in Creativity)**.

Linda Walton, Executive Director of Harlem Arts Alliance, said: "A single motivating factor prompted six service organizations to come together and without hesitation, work beyond organizational capacity and resources to produce admiral results. It is truly amazing what can emerge from a single idea in the hands of first rate partners committed to a common goal – serving artists of color. This is why we do it!"

Funds for the UAI/NYC Grants Program have been provided by LINC via the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Booth Ferris Foundation, and the Buddy Fund for Justice of the Rockefeller Philanthropic Advisors.

List of UAI/ NYC Grant Recipients

Visual, Interdisciplinary, Performance Art

Danielle Abrams
Karina Aguilera-Skvirsky
Desiree Alvarez
Maria Alvarez
Tomie Arai
Marlon Barrios-Solano
Phyllis Marie Bowdwin
Catherine Chow
Nayda Collazo-Lloréns
Aissa Deebi
Nicolás Dumit Estévez
Edwin González
Kanene Holder
Fay Ku
Charles Lilly
Dinga McCannon
Ruth Miller
Richard Dean Moss
Nzingah Muhammad
Stephen Nguyen
Yun Sook Park
Leon Reid
Alba Sánchez
Juan Sánchez
Samita Sinha
Dread Scott Tyler
Margaret Drue Williams
Katherine E. Yamasaki

Performing Arts

Sidiki Conde
Parijat Desai
George Faison
Bertie Ferdman
Kuang-Yu Fong
Ana García
Deyanira García
Ximena Garnica
Felix A. Insua-Brindis
Shanelle Jenkins
Kiyoko Kashiwagi
Rich Kiamco
Teresa Lasley
Angela Lyles

Rudresh Mahanthappa
Xiao-Fen Min
Joyce Solomon Moorman
Aya Ogawa
Megumi Okura
Kate Rigg
William Sims
Sparlha Swaby
Kelly Tsai
Rhina Valentín

Literary Arts

James Cañón
Jorge Cortinas
Angela Cruz
Alvin Eng
Rodney Evans
Sarah Gambito
Yvette Heylinger
Susan Lee
Tan A. Lin
Shivani Manghanni
Derek Nguyen
William E. Perdomo
Emily Raboteau
Alvin Realuyo
Nelly Rosario
Bridgette Wimberly
Jennifer Yee

Media Arts

Jaishri Abichandani
Konrad Aderer
Amilcar Alfaro-Martell
Francisco Bello
Joseph P. Chan
Mridu Chandra
Ngawang Choephel
Graciela Fuentes
Archer Hutchinson
Duron Jackson
Henry Kim
Liselle Mei
Richard Molsen
Donald A. Murphy
Prema Murthy
Miriam Neptune

James Richards
Alexander Tarampi
Camila Valdearellano
Justice Alexander Whitaker
Andrea Williams

List of UAI/ NYC Grant Panelists

Visual, Interdisciplinary, Performance Art

Gwendolyn Black
Alexander Campos
Bing Lee
Margaret Porter Troupe
Yasmin Ramírez

Performing Arts

Jaishri Abichandani
Penny Fujiko Willgerodt
Michael Green
Desmar Guevara
Claudia Norman

Literary Arts

Quang Bao
Sandra María Esteves
Elisha Miranda
Passion
Clarence Reynolds

Media Arts

Marianieves Alba
Fruto Corre
Dave Dratzlow
Devorah Hill
Wendy Sax