

## CREATIVE BALTIMORE FUND GRANTEES ANNOUNCED; 10 INDIVIDUAL AND 27 NONPROFITS AMONG THE RECIPIENTS

### BALTIMORE ARTISTS & ORGANIZATIONS AWARDED GRANTS TO SUPPORT THEIR PROJECTS AND PRACTICES

Baltimore, MD, March 5, 2025 — The Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts (BOPA) is proud to announce the FY25 grantees of the Creative Baltimore Fund. This annual grant, which is allocated from the City's general fund, is administered by the Baltimore City Arts Council and consists of two funding opportunities. General Operating Support (GOS) grants provide core support for established arts or cultural organizations ranging from \$3,000–\$10,000, and the Mayor's Individual Artist Award which provides a \$3,000 grant to 10 individual creatives. All grantees will produce events, workshops, and/or programming throughout 2025 that will be publicized by BOPA for the public to enjoy.

This year, the Creative Baltimore Fund awards funds to 37 grantees: 10 individual artists and 27 non-profit organizations. "The diverse mediums and projects proposed by the applicants made the selection process extremely difficult," says Twi McCallum, BOPA's Community Engagement Manager. "The chosen applications were dynamic in their ideas and clear on the intent and impact of their proposed programs." Additionally, this year's selection committee made an intentional effort to fund applicants who have not received this grant in the last two fiscal years or more.

Grant applications were adjudicated by a team of 12 volunteers independent of BOPA, in addition to five youth workforce development participants hosted by BOPA: three Maryland Service Year Fellows and two Bloomberg Arts Interns. The 2025 Creative Baltimore Fund was managed by Twi McCallum, with oversight by BOPA's Interim CEO Robyn Murphy, Baltimore City Arts Council Director Lou Joseph, and the Mayor's Senior Advisor of Arts & Culture, Tonya Miller-Hall.

### MAYOR'S INDIVIDUAL ARTIST AWARD

Here are the 10 recipients of the Mayor's Individual Artist Award, selected on the basis of program merit, artistic merit, focus on underserved communities, and budget clarity:

**Taj Poscé** | Instagram: [@tajposce](#)

Eternal Presence is a painting and mixed media studio project. The artist will create a body of work based on ancient Kemetic and indigenous symbols that represent the present moment.

**Rowan Bathurst** | [www.rowanbathurst.com](http://www.rowanbathurst.com) Instagram: [@rowanbathurst](#)

The artist will paint a community mural for the historic neighborhood of Highlandtown in celebration of the multicultural beauty of generations of Italians, Ukrainians, Salvadorians, Poles, Guatemalans, and more.

**Brandon Kanion** | [www.heartofhiroh.com](http://www.heartofhiroh.com)

At the Grand Kanion Ball (GKB), Brandon Kanion will theatrically perform and bring his new fashion collection for The Heart of Hiroh Arts label (HOH) to life.

**Jade Flower Foster** | [www.jadeflowerfoster.com](http://www.jadeflowerfoster.com) Instagram: [@jadeflowerfoster](#)

Jade Flower Foster will facilitate a bespoke poetry experience that prioritizes connection by creating ‘typewriter poems’ in real time on her vintage typewriter on the spot.

**Vanna Ramirez** | <https://vannaramirez.com/>

The artist plans to create both sculptural and functional ceramic pieces for sale through their studio and online platforms, as well as exploring opportunities for commissioned works.

**Alfonso Fernandez** | <https://www.alfonso-fernandez.com/>

“Tierra y Tradición (Earth and Tradition)” is a workshop series that explores how Indigenous methodologies of resourcefulness and connection to the land inform the creation of pigments and paints from plants, minerals, and other natural elements.

**Mark West** | <https://markanthonywest.com/>

The Butterfly Project is a public art project that installs four-foot colorful butterfly sculptures throughout key alleys and streets in the Bromo Arts District.

**Abdul Adaranijo** | [www.instagram.com/vllager.me](http://www.instagram.com/vllager.me)

The grant will support the artist’s practice of AFROABSTRACTURE, a spiritual & energetic reconnection to the DIVINE within and around us, following in the Yorùbá philosophy of ÀṢÈ.

**Eleisha Faith & Tonisha Hope McCorkle** | [www.hopeandfaith.art](http://www.hopeandfaith.art)

“Manifesting the Metaphysical: Beyond Black Grief” is a curatorial community engagement project inviting Black and Afro-Indigenous creators to a series of intentional programming, including Zoom discussions, healing through artmaking workshops, community gatherings, and activities, and a group exhibition during Mental Health Awareness Month, with a closing reception on Juneteenth.

**Jann Rosen-Queralt** | [www.jannrosenqueralt.com](http://www.jannrosenqueralt.com),

The artist will exhibit their artwork at The Peale Museum for eight weeks beginning June 2025. The installation will coincide with two companion exhibits, one sharing concerns about social justice and the environment in Curtis Bay, the other climate change activism in Maryland.

## NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Here are the recipients of the Creative Baltimore Fund General Operating Support (GOS) grants. To learn more about each of their projects, visit [promotionandarts.org/creative-baltimore-fund/](http://promotionandarts.org/creative-baltimore-fund/)

### **Non-Profit Organizations - \$5,000 grants each**

- AileyCamp Baltimore
- Arts Collective Inc.
- Bach Concert Series
- Baltimore BRATZ
- Dance Baltimore
- Highwire Improv Incorporated
- Oh to Dream
- Young Musicians of Baltimore

### **Non-Profit Organizations - \$10,000 grants each**

- Baltimore Playwrights Festival
- Baltimore: City of Accessible Arts
- BRUSH Mural Fest
- Charm City Fringe, Inc.
- Creative Nomads
- Hamilton Arts Collective

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The Arts Council of Baltimore City

- Hit Me With Music Foundation, Inc.
- Media Rhythm Institute Studios Inc.
- Michele's Haven, CDC, Inc.
- Mount Clare Museum (dba National Society of Colonial Dames)
- Mount Vernon Virtuosi, Inc.
- Nosreme Baltimore
- Painted Screen Society of Baltimore, Inc.
- Polish Heritage Association of Maryland
- Rise with a Purpose, Inc.
- Social & Economic Empowerment through Knowledge, Inc (SEEK, Inc)
- The National Edgar Allan Poe Theatre
- Yellow Arrow Publishing Co.

## MEDIA CONTACTS

For media inquiries, contact Communications Manager, Barbara Hauck, at [bhauck@promotionandarts.org](mailto:bhauck@promotionandarts.org).

*Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA) is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which serves as Baltimore City's arts council and film office. By providing funding and support to artists and arts organizations, BOPA's goal is to make Baltimore a more vibrant and creative place to live and work.*