CREATIVE CAPITAL

2026
IMPACT REPORT



Who We Are

Creative Capital Foundation is a 501(c)(3) national, nonprofit charity established in 1999 by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. After the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) ended the majority of grants for individual artists, a new national service was born to provide broad-based, grassroots funding for individual artists. Founded through the legacy of one individual artist, Creative Capital believes that investing in original artistic ideas contributes to a healthy democracy.

MISSION

Creative Capital fosters artistic freedom of expression by supporting individual artists creating innovative new works.

HOW WE SUPPORT ARTISTS

Creative Capital grants and services support individual artists creating experimental and ambitious new works in the visual arts, architecture, film, performing arts (dance, theater, music/jazz), technology, literature, multidisciplinary, and socially engaged forms. The Creative Capital Award provides unrestricted project grants between $20,000 and $50,000. The State of the Art Prize provides one artist in every US state and territory with a $10,000 unrestricted grant. Both grants are made through a national, multidisciplinary, open call process of external review by curators, cultural producers, scholars, industry experts, and artists. The Creative Capital Artist Lab provides online courses and webinars on taxes, finance, legal, archiving, grantwriting, communications, and more.

Creative Capital Foundation fundraises every dollar for our grants and services for artists.

Cover Image: Aliza Nisenbaum: Detail of *Reading Circles / Weaving Dreams / Seeding Futures*, a 70ft mural unveiled at the Obama Presidential Center, Chicago, IL in June 2026, supported by her 2024 Creative Capital Award in Visual Arts.



Gesel Mason, 2026 State of the Art Prize, Texas, Dance. Courtesy of the artist.

Letter from the President



Every day at Creative Capital, we endeavor to listen and respond to the needs of artists striving to create ambitious art—art that may be ahead of its time, art that may not yet have a commercial market, art that may challenge conventions—this is our North Star.

This year, 6,004 artists completed our **Artist Needs Survey: 4,125 artists (69%) ranked grants and national visibility as their #1 need**. In response to this widespread need, Creative Capital launched the State of the Art Prize, a new initiative dedicated to funding one artist in every state, in honor of our 25th anniversary and America 250.

In 2026, Creative Capital fundraised and awarded $2.9 million to artists in all 50 states for the first time in our history through the Creative Capital Award and the inaugural State of the Art Prize—a $10,000 unrestricted grant to one artist in every single state, plus Guam, Puerto Rico, and Washington, DC.

By investing in the creation of new artistic work, we change culture and catalyze different narratives. This year, 29 Creative Capital–awarded projects came to life in the US, Austria, France, and the UK—including **Aliza Nisenbaum**'s *Reading Circles/Weaving Dreams/Seeding Futures* monumental mural at the Obama Presidential Library in Chicago; **Derek McPhatter**'s powerful *water riot: a cyber punk rock opera* at the legendary Apollo Theater in Harlem; and **William D. Caballero**'s animated documentary *TheyDream*, which won the 2026 Sundance Film Festival NEXT Special Jury Award for Creative Expression.

Our community is vibrant and vast—we gathered this year in Aspen, Burlington, Chicago, Knoxville, Los Angeles, Meridian, New Orleans, New York, Spoleto, and Venice. I am thankful for our growing network of artists and friends who believe in and invest in the transformative power of the arts.

We are deeply grateful to our Board of Directors, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, MacArthur Foundation, Hearthland Foundation, Thompson Family Foundation, LEF Foundation, Bernstein Family Foundation, and all of our supporters who helped us achieve liftoff for the inaugural year of the State of the Art Prize.

The State of the Art Prize is a proof of concept: Creative Capital, with your support, is a powerful philanthropic infrastructure directing vital grants to artists across the entire landscape of America. There are talented artists and original ideas deserving of support in every region of this nation. We continue to serve as a trusted and essential pathway for artists to realize the new art of our times.

Together, we keep this pathway open for the next generation of artists in America!

With optimism for the future,



Christine Kuan
President & Executive Director

Letter from the Board Chair



I first learned about Creative Capital in 2017 through an introduction from a family friend. By then, I had been collecting art for eight years, and, if I am candid, it had become something of a trophy hunt. I was focused on acquiring objects, finding the next artist, the next work, the next addition to a collection. I appreciated the art, but I had not yet fully understood what it meant to appreciate the artist.

As I became more engaged with the organization, I was given the opportunity to meet practicing artists, spend time with them, hear their stories, and understand the ideas, experiences, and questions that shape their work. These encounters transformed my relationship with art. I began to see work not simply as an object to possess, but as the result of an artist's intellectual curiosity, courage, vulnerability, discipline, and imagination.

That initial time and engagement helped me grow and gave me a deeper sense of purpose. I came to understand that supporting art means supporting artists, and that doing so requires more than buying their work. It means creating conditions that allow them to experiment, take risks, challenge assumptions, and pursue ideas before the rest of us can fully see their potential.

For more than two decades, Creative Capital has invested in artists at pivotal moments in their careers. But its impact extends beyond financial support. It gives artists something equally valuable: a community, professional resources, visibility, and, most importantly, freedom to imagine.

My journey with Creative Capital has also reshaped my understanding of philanthropy. The most meaningful support is not transactional. It begins with listening, learning, and trusting artists to tell us what they need to realize their vision. Today, when I think about why I support Creative Capital, I think of the shift from collecting art to investing in the people who create it. I support Creative Capital because artists do more than make objects. They help us understand ourselves, question the world around us, preserve our stories, and express who we are as a nation today.

When I meet with prospective supporters, one of my first points is: We're on good financial footing thanks to the generous support from our founder, the Warhol Foundation, and many other foundations and friends of the organization. However, I do understand that Creative Capital is subject to economic headwinds that can chill support at any moment. I have long supported that Creative Capital undertake a capital campaign to safeguard the future of grants to individual artists. I am pleased that the board has agreed.

I have committed the lead gift, and board members have committed too. I hope you will consider a gift to Creative Capital. Challenges to freedom of speech and expression are clear and present dangers for artists. Our venues, such as museums, are in a "let's survive the moment" mode; risk-taking is not in their vocabulary. Our nation's stages, community, and regional theaters need support; our playwrights and actors have fewer opportunities. Direct support to artists is the only solution. Creative Capital deserves your support. Our mission is clear, and we are unwavering in what we do.

Please support the art makers.



Reginald M. Browne
Board Chair

2026 Artist Needs Survey

6,004 artists spoke up about their #1 need

51%

Grant funding
3,072 Artists

18%

National recognition, promotion, and/or visibility 1,053 Artists

17%

Professional development resources 1,023 Artists

14%

Networking with industry experts 856 Artists

We continue to listen to professional artists and respond to their needs at this moment in this country. This year, 6,004 artists responded to our Artist Needs Survey about their #1 need right now as a professional artist.

This data demonstrates that **69% of individual artists' greatest needs** can be served through Creative Capital's national grant program. An additional 17% of individual artists' needs can be served through the Creative Capital Artist Lab—online professional development courses and webinars. Creative Capital also provides industry networking services to awardees through our community-building events.

We invite conversations with institutional and individual supporters to explore how we can partner to support more artists across America.



Derek McPhatter (2021 Creative Capital Awardee, Performing Arts): *water riot: a cyber punk opera*, Creative Capital project premiered at the Apollo Theater, New York, NY, 2026. Image from *Water Riot* in Beta Songbook, concert presentation at the MCA Chicago, September 2022. Courtesy of the artist.

2026 Impact



Emily Bate, 2026 State of the Art Prize, Vermont, Theater. Courtesy of the artist.
FY26: July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026

$3.45m

Total funding disbursed to 216 artists in 119 cities, 50 states, and 3 territories

$2.9m

New grant funding awarded to artists

102

New grants to artists across 50 US states, plus Guam, Puerto Rico, and Washington, DC

11

Artists granted by Creative Capital for the first time in these states: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Idaho, Mississippi, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Wyoming

29

Creative Capital project premieres across the US, Austria, France, and the United Kingdom

41,080

Artists served by the Artist Lab in 134 countries



COULTER FUSSELL, 2026 STATE OF THE ART PRIZE, MISSISSIPPI, CRAFT/PHOTOGRAPHY

"So happy y'all have instigated the State of the Art Prize so that artists in places like rural Mississippi can receive support from such a great org! This is a terrific initiative and an example of true outreach and diverse arts support. I hope other orgs follow y'all's lead. Thank y'all, thank y'all! So grateful."

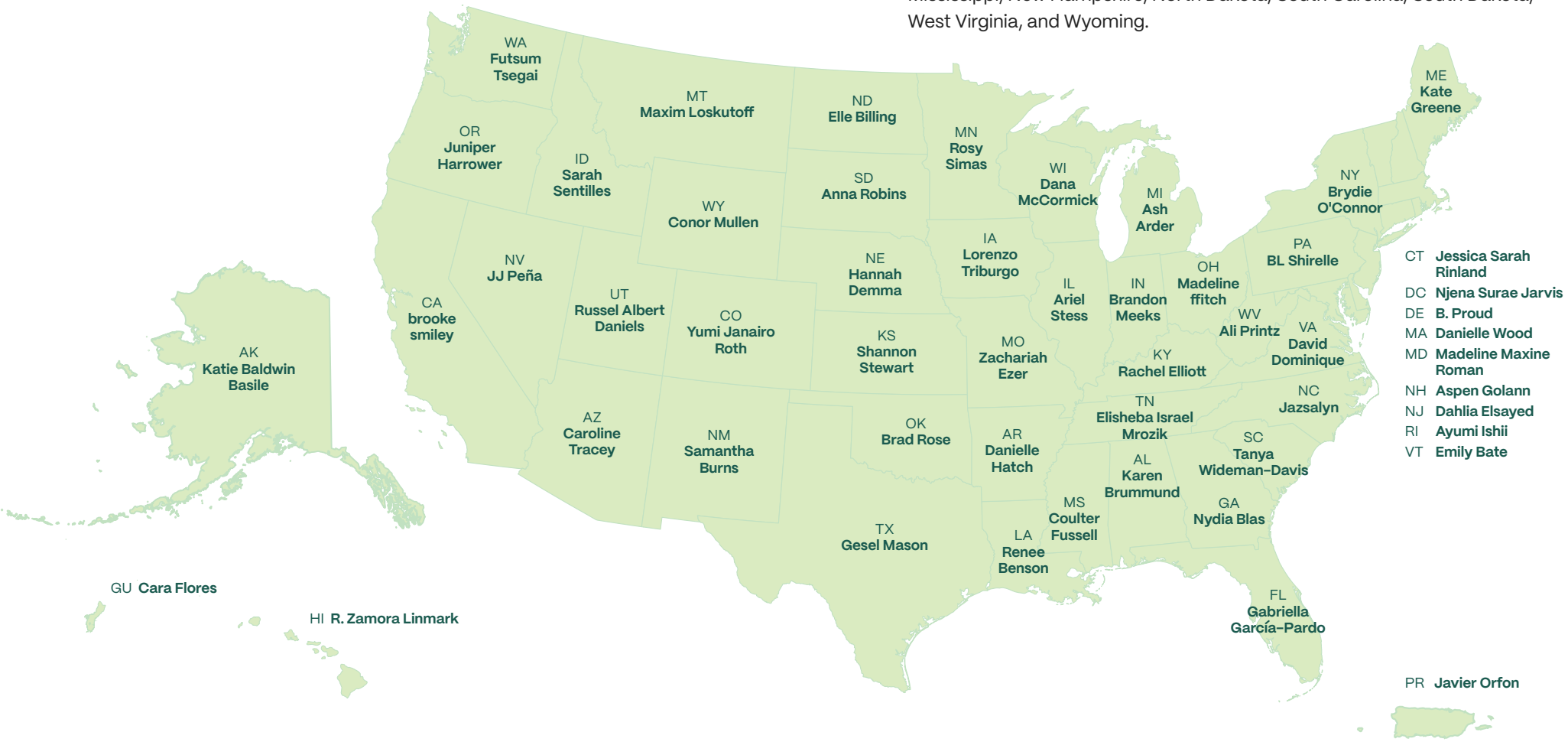


PAULA GAETANO ADI (2023 Creative Capital Awardee, Technology)
Guanaquerx, 2024

Photo: Pavel Romaniko. This Creative Capital project premiered at Ars Electronica Festival, Linz, Austria, September 2025, winning the Golden Nica for Artificial Life & Intelligence at the Prix Ars Electronica 2025. Courtesy of the artist.

The Inaugural State of the Art Prize

Creative Capital deepened its commitment to artistic freedom and expanded its national investment in individual artists. For the first time at Creative Capital, the inaugural State of the Art Prize awarded a **$10,000 unrestricted grant** to one artist in every US state, as well as Guam, Puerto Rico, and Washington, DC. This will be the first year Creative Capital is supporting artists in 11 states: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Idaho, Mississippi, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Wyoming.





BRANDON MEEKS, 2026 STATE OF THE ART PRIZE, INDIANA, JAZZ

"This feels like a major elevation of my work on a national stage, and the grant will give me a meaningful financial runway to do even bigger things creatively."

Read more about each State of the Art Prize artist

creative-capital.org/2026-state-of-the-art-prize

2026 Creative Capital Awardees



Ronald Rael (2026 Creative Capital Awardee, Architecture), Exterior, *Skylos*, 3D Printed Adobe, 2022. Photographer credit: Joshua Ware

The 2026 Creative Capital Awards support the creation of 49 original, risk-taking projects in visual arts, film, dance, theater, music/jazz, literature, technology, multidisciplinary practice, and socially engaged forms. The grantees are based in 17 states and Canada and Italy.

ANGELA MATTOX, DIRECTOR OF ARTIST INITIATIVES, CREATIVE CAPITAL

"From an Arabic-language jazz opera to a family-owned grocery store transformed into a community space in gentrifying Washington, DC, to a film meditation on the color blue, the 2026 Creative Capital Awarded projects boldly push artistic form and ideas forward."

Visual Arts

SADIE BARNETTE
Oakland, CA

GINA BEAVERS
West Orange, NJ

KENTURAH DAVIS
Altadena, CA

LISS LAFLEUR
Denton, TX

PEPE MAR
Miami Shores, FL

MASUD OLUFANI
Atlanta, GA

JEFF OSTERGREN*
New Haven, CT

MARGARET PEARCE
Rockland, ME

RONALD RAEL
Antonito, CO

CARA ROMERO
Santa Fe, NM

YOSHIE SAKAI
Gardena, CA

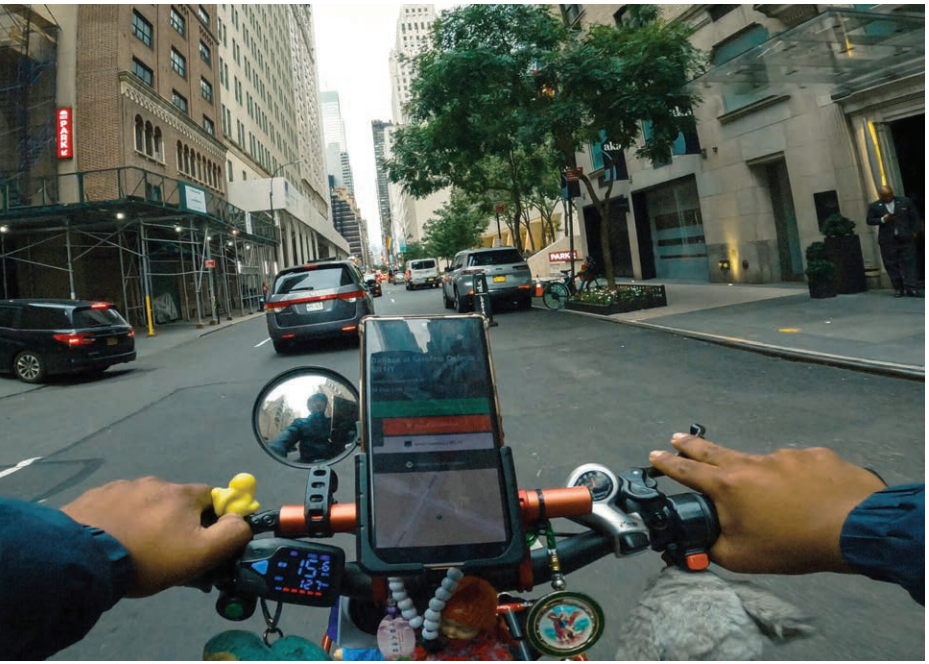
JEAN SHIN
Hurley, NY

CATHERINE TELFORD KEOGH
Brooklyn, NY

*This project raises awareness of the global fentanyl/opioid epidemic and is made possible with support from Isa Catto and Daniel Shaw, Catto Shaw Foundation, in honor of Bailey Shaw



Benjamin Akio Kimitch (2026 Creative Capital Awardee, Dance). *Tiger Hands*, presented by The Shed, NYC, 2022. Credit Photo: Erin Baiano, courtesy of the artist.



Rodrigo Olivar (2026 Creative Capital Awardee, Film). *POV*, Go Pro Still, 2024. Courtesy of the artist.

Film

DANIEL CHEIN
Carpinteria, CA

SUE DING,
SARAH GARRAHAN
Los Angeles, CA;
Long Beach, CA

CHERYL DUNYE
Oakland, CA

DON JOSEPHUS
RAPHAEL EBLAHAN
Chicago, IL

CARL ELSAESSER
Brooklyn, NY

EVA LOUISE HALL
Kansas City, MO

JEHANE NOUJAIM
New York, NY

RODRIGO OLIVAR
Brooklyn, NY

LIZ ROBERTS*
San Francisco, CA

LIZA SYLVESTRE,
CHRISTOPHER ROBERT JONES
Urbana, IL

GILLIAN WALDO
Chicago, IL

CHARLOTTE WELLS
Brooklyn, NY

*This project raises awareness of the global fentanyl/opioid epidemic and is made possible with support from Isa Catto and Daniel Shaw, Catto Shaw Foundation, in honor of Bailey Shaw

Multidisciplinary

LEX BROWN, SAMUEL BEEBE,
CREATINE PRICE,
DANNY ZELIBOR
Rome, Italy; Jamaica Plain, MA;
New York, NY; Staatsburg, NY

HARMON DOT AUT
Putnam Valley, NY

TANIA EL KHOURY
Red Hook, NY

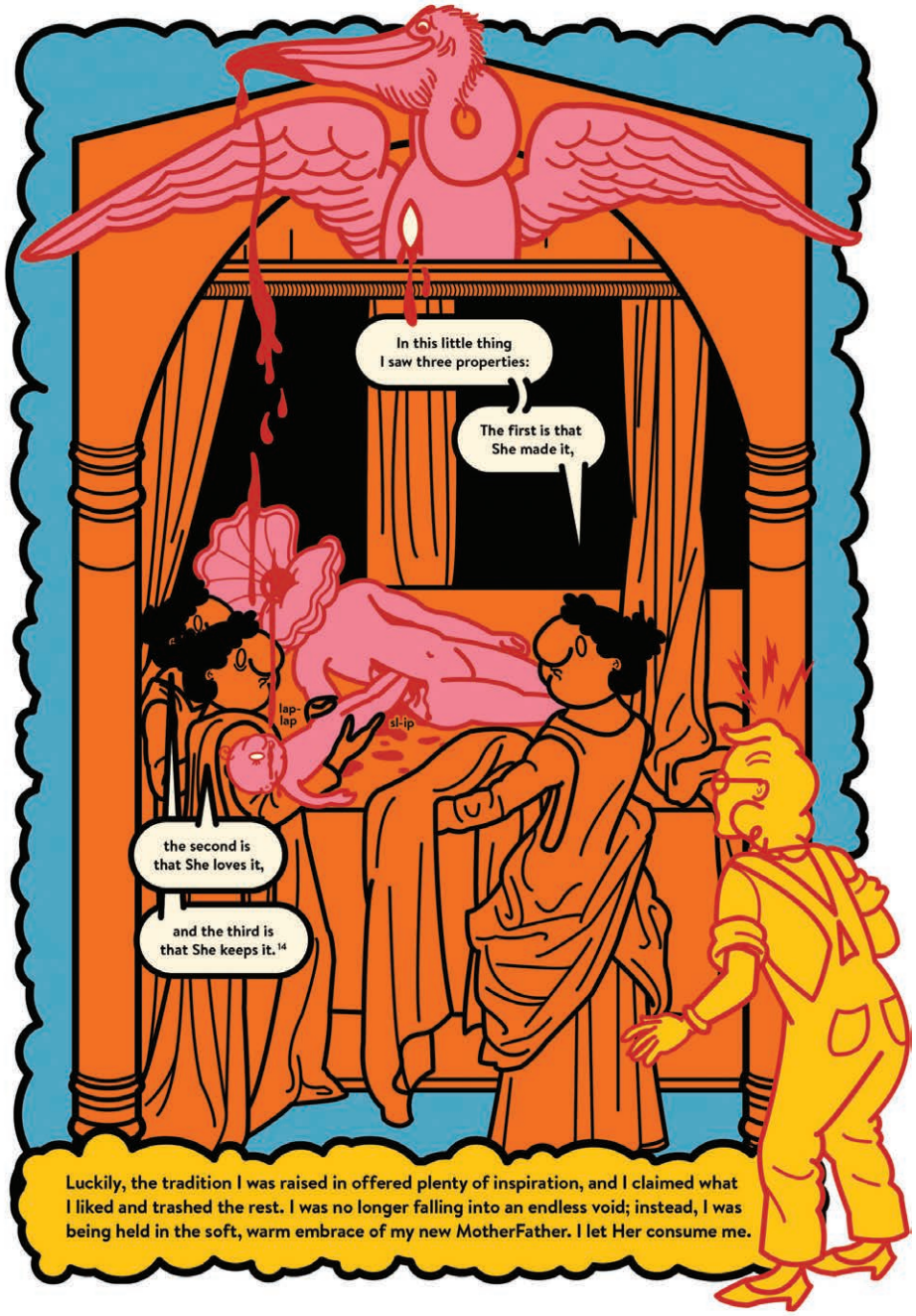
CARMINA ESCOBAR
Los Angeles, CA

Dance

DEVYNN EMORY
Brooklyn, NY

DAYNA HANSON
Seattle, WA

BENJAMIN AKIO KIMITCH
Brooklyn, NY



Kayla E. (2026 Creative Capital Awardee, Literature). *MotherFatherGod* (detail from *I Will Give You Rest*), Digital Drawing, 2025. Courtesy of the artist.

Literature

KAYLA E.
Burlington, NC

SUJI KWOCK KIM
Princeton, NJ

ROB MACAISA COLGATE
Chicago, IL

ALEX MARZANO-LESNEVICH
Vancouver, British Columbia

NADIA OWUSU
Brooklyn, NY

Music/Jazz

DELBERT ANDERSON
Kirtland, NM

AMIR ELSAFFAR
Brooklyn, NY

SHARON CHOHI KIM
Los Angeles, CA

SOFÍA REI
Brooklyn, NY

AVERY SHARPE
Plainfield, MA

Theater

JOCELYN BIOH
New York, NY

HARUNA LEE
Brooklyn, NY

ROGER Q. MASON
Santa Monica, CA

MASON ROSENTHAL, SCOTT R. SHEPPARD, ALICE YORKE
Philadelphia, PA; Queens, NY; Philadelphia, PA

JEANA SCOTTI
Brooklyn, NY

JOSIAH THOMAS TURNER
St Paul, MN

Project Premieres

In Fiscal Year 2026, 29 Creative Capital–awarded projects premiered at major venues and festivals, reaching new regional, national, and international audiences.



Dyani White Hawk (2024 Creative Capital Awardee, Visual Arts). *Love Language*, installation view, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN. Photos by Eric Mueller, courtesy of Walker Art Center.

Visual Arts

PAULA GAETANO ADI *Guanaquerx*
The Ars Electronica Festival, Linz, Austria

JACKIE MILAD *No Soy Ana Agnabi*
Goucher College, Baltimore, MD

TEGA BRAIN AND SAM LAVIGNE *Offset*
Pioneer Works, Brooklyn, NY

DYANI WHITE HAWK *Love Language*
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN

MIMI ỌNỤỌHA *Ground Truths*
Secession, Vienna, Austria

CHRISTINE WONG YAP *Bay Windows / Ventanas en saliente / 窗花*
Various locations, San Francisco, CA

ANDREA CARLSON *Endless Sunshine*
Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, MO

SANDY RODRIGUEZ *Book 13*
The Huntington, San Marino, CA

MERCEDES DORAME *Deliquescence: Sites of Transformation*
The Huntington, San Marino, CA

ALIZA NISENBAUM *Reading Circles/Weaving Dreams/Seeding Futures*
Obama Presidential Center, Chicago, IL

JOAN WALTEMATH *Treaty of 1868: An Epic (2009–2018)*
Joan Waltemath Foundation, Hooper, NV

Performing Arts & Literature

DAKOTA CAMACHO *MALI'E' • TÁTAOTAO*
Pier 62 waterfront, Seattle, WA

EISA DAVIS *The Essentialisn't*
HERE Arts Center, New York, NY

DAO STROM *Tender Revolutions/Yellow Songs*
Time-Based Art Festival, PICA, Portland, OR



William D. Caballero (2021 Creative Capital Awardee, Film). The Creative Capital–awarded project, *TheyDream*, premiered at Sundance Film Festival, Salt Lake City, UT, January 2026, winning the 2026 Sundance Film Festival NEXT Special Jury Award for Creative Expression. Courtesy of the artist.



WILLIAM D. CABALLERO, 2021 CREATIVE CAPITAL AWARDEE

"Creative Capital was the first funder of *TheyDream*, not just contributing much needed funds, but also providing that initial boost of confidence and faith in my project. This began a snowball effect, as several more funders (ITVS, Latino Public Broadcasting, Sundance Institute, and the Catapult Film Fund, to name a few) came on board to help bankroll the project."

***TheyDream* won the 2026 Sundance Film Festival NEXT Special Jury Award.**

LINDA PARRIS-BAILEY *Yankee Bajan*
Su Teatro Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Denver, CO

RASHAUN MITCHELL AND SILAS RIENER *Open Machine*
NYU Skirball Center, New York, NY

LEILEHUA LANZILOTTI *Dance Suite from Lili'u*
Tatou Festival, New York, NY

WILL RAWLS *[siccer]*
The Kitchen and Performance Space, New York, NY

MARIANA VALENCIA *Jacklean (Jacklean)*
ODC Theater, San Francisco, CA

DEREK MCPHATTER *water riot: a cyber punk rock opera*
Apollo Theater, New York, NY

BRENT MICHAEL DAVIDS *Requiem for America: Singing for the Invisible People*, Barbican Centre, London, UK

JACQUES SCHWARZ-BART *Resistance*
The French Library, Boston, MA

JASMINE HEARN *Memory Fleet: Beloved, Let's Cross*
New York Live Arts Theater, New York, NY

MARK NOWAK *. . . AGAIN*
Dia Chelsea, New York, NY

Film

SUNEIL SANZIGIRI *Two Refusals (Would We Recognize Ourselves Unbroken?)*, MoMA, New York, NY

WILLIAM D. CABALLERO *TheyDream*
Sundance Film Festival, Park City, UT

TSHAY *Tell Me When You Get Home*
SXSW Film Festival, Austin, TX

KATHRYN RAMEY *EL SIGNO VACÍO (the empty sign)*
Anthology Film Archives, New York, NY

CHRISTOPHER SULLIVAN *The Orbit of Minor Satellites*
Annecy Festival, Annecy, France

Creative Capital Carnival

Our 2026 Creative Capital Carnival welcomed artists, arts leaders, and guests from across the country to Lincoln Center in New York City for a day of industry roundtables, community connection, and celebration.

















DAYNA HANSON, 2026 CREATIVE CAPITAL AWARDEE, DANCE

"Carnival was a profound experience of connection, encouragement, and inspiration between artists, presenters, leaders and funders. The collective brilliance and good will in the room made the day an unforgettable celebration of art and art making."

Artist Community



LA Artist Panel: Kenturah Davis, Thanh Tran, Alice Bucknell



LA Artist Panel



MacArthur Foundation x Creative Capital, Chicago



Joseph Melillo and Carol LeWitt, Spoleto, Italy



Mahler & LeWitt Studios, Spoleto, Italy



Aspen Artist Dinner

Creative Capital Artists Making Waves

Across international biennials, major awards, and public commissions, Creative Capital artists continue to reach new audiences, earn recognition, and make their mark on major stages around the world.



Sol LeWitt, *Wall Drawing No. 951*, Palazzo Collicola, Spoleto, Italy, with Christine Kuan, Ekene Ijeoma, and Guy Robertson

Creative Capital x Mahler & LeWitt Studios International Residency Incubator

The inaugural Creative Capital x Mahler & LeWitt Studios International Residency Incubator opportunity was awarded to Ekene Ijeoma (2019 Awardee). In partnership with the Musei Civici di Spoleto, the residency offered a Creative Capital Awardee the opportunity to incubate new work in Italy during the Spoleto Festival dei Due Mondi 2026.

Obama Presidential Center

Creative Capital artists Aliza Nisenbaum (2024 Awardee), Jeffrey Gibson (2005 Awardee), Nick Cave (2002 Awardee), and Theaster Gates (2012 Awardee) were commissioned to create monumental artworks for the Obama Presidential Center's campus-wide public art program in Chicago.

Whitney Biennial 2026

The 2026 Whitney Biennial featured work by Creative Capital artists Ash Arder (2026 State of the Art Prize), Anna Tsouhlarakis (2021 Awardee), Nani Chacon (2024 Awardee), and Zach Blas (2016 Awardee).

61st La Biennale di Venezia

Among the artists invited to participate were Creative Capital artists Zoe Leonard (2000 Awardee), Nick Cave (2002 Awardee), Cauleen Smith (2008 Awardee), Tuấn Andrew Nguyễn (2012 Awardee), Carolina Caycedo (2015 Awardee), Carrie Schneider (2015 Awardee), Gala Porras-Kim (2015 Awardee), and Guadalupe Maravilla (2016 Awardee).

Sundance Film Festival 2026

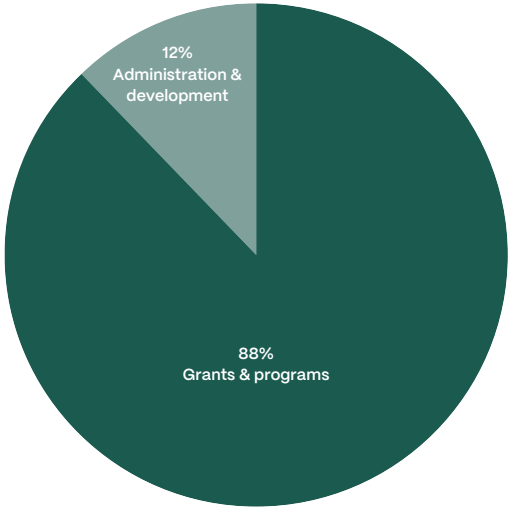
Creative Capital artists William D. Caballero (2021 Awardee), Sam Green (2001 Awardee), Adam Khalil (2021 Awardee), and Brydie O'Connor (2026 State of the Art Prize) presented work at the 2026 Sundance Film Festival.

69th Annual Obie Awards

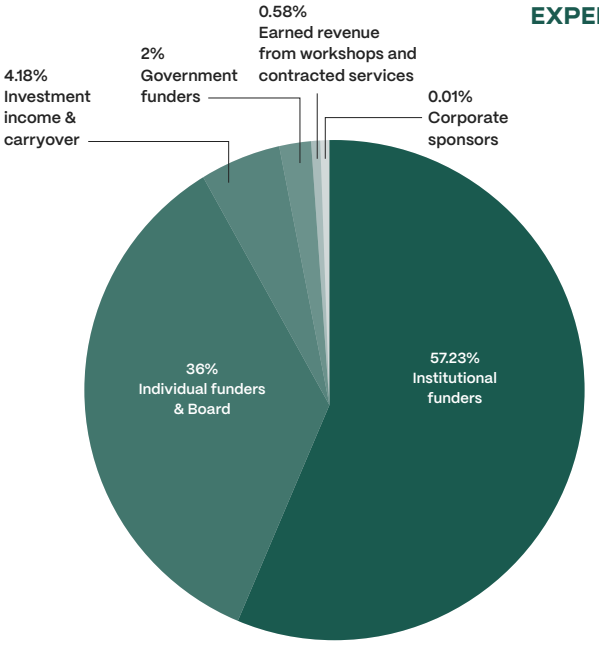
Carmelita Tropicana (2016 Awardee) received the Obie Award for Lifetime Achievement, recognizing her influential career in performance and theater.

Financials Fiscal Year 2026

July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026



EXPENDITURES



FUNDING SOURCES

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Ron Feldman
Archibald L. Gillies

*Creative Capital Awardee

Supporters

Creative Capital Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, gratefully acknowledges the generosity of numerous foundations, corporations, public funders, and individuals who power our grants and services to artists.

Founding Supporter

The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

100,000+

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$25,000–$99,999

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Every dollar you donate supports artists across all 50 states! creative-capital.org/donate

$10,000–$24,999

Laura Bardier, James Howell Foundation
Pele-o-ali'ilagi and Michael Bennett
Mr. Daniel J. and Mrs. Dawna P. Calderone in honor of Colleen Jennings-Roggensack
Channing Dungey and Scott "Sourdough" Power
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Mickalene Thomas*

$5,000–$9,999

Laura Lee Brown and Steve Wilson
James Keith Brown and Eric Diefenbach in memory of Chris Doyle
Elaine Chen-Fernandez
Sarah Duzyk in honor of Ed and Shirley Duzyk
JiaJia Fei
Jody Guralnick and Michael Lipkin Family Fund
Jess Jacobs and Bryan Keller
Emi Kolawole
Colleen A. Murphy
Kevin A. Pemberton
Mariko E. Silver
Catharine R. Stimpson
Tito's Handmade Vodka
Connie Yang

*Creative Capital Grantee

Creative Capital-awarded projects that raise awareness of the global fentanyl/opioid epidemic are made possible with support from Isa Catto and Daniel Shaw, Catto Shaw Foundation, in honor of Bailey Shaw.

State of the Art Prize leadership support is provided by John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Hearthland Foundation, Thompson Family Foundation, and Lyda Kuth, LEF Foundation. Significant support is also provided by Sarah Arison; Agnes Gund; Bernstein Family Foundation for California, Florida, Idaho, Washington, and Washington, DC; and Reily Foundation/Stephen Reily Family Fund for Kentucky and Louisiana. Additional support for the State of the Art Prize for Maine, in memory of Chris Doyle (2000 Creative Capital Awardee) is provided by the Alben F. Bates and Clara G. Bates Foundation, James Keith Brown and Eric Diefenbach, Lee Buck, Catharine Clark Gallery, Liz Cohen, Nicolas Grabar, Olukemi Ilesanmi, Ruby Lerner, Denise Markonish, the O'Grady Foundation, Deborah and Andy Rappaport, Stephanie Shemin, Alice Gray Stites, Anton Stuebner, and Marina Zurkow.

List includes supporters at the $5,000 level or more from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026.



Funding the creation of groundbreaking art since 1999

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New York, NY 10038

creative-capital.org/donate
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