



For Immediate Release

Eight Northeast Florida Artists Receive 2016 Art Ventures Grants from The Community Foundation

Recipients include five visual artists, an actor, a writer and a filmmaker

JACKSONVILLE, Florida – August 3, 2016 – For the twenty-sixth year, The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida is providing grants to individual artists who are poised to make new strides in their artistic pursuits. Each year, The Community Foundation solicits applications from regional artists and convenes a review panel to select recipients, each of whom may request a grant of up to \$3,500. This year, eight artists will receive grants to help them advance their work:

- Filmmaker **Drew L. Brown** received a 2014 Student Academy Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. Brown, who grew up in Middleburg, is a graduate of The Art Institute of Jacksonville. His grant will fund the creation of a semi-autobiographical play, “Monarch,” based on the life of his mother, who was sentenced to six years in prison for a crime she claimed she did not commit. The play will portray how the events affected her life as a mother and the systemic flaws which affected the adjudication of her case. Grant funds allow Brown time to complete the script, and take the play through the workshop phase with writing advisors and theatre readers. (Duval)
- A professor of art at FSCJ, **Dustin Harewood** is currently featured in the “*Lift*” exhibit at the Cummer Museum. Harewood holds a BA and MFA in painting from North Carolina Central University and University of North Carolina - Greensboro, respectively. He has been featured in numerous group and solo shows, and is known for two Springfield murals, one which was self-funded and the other completed in partnership with Operation New Hope. Art Ventures funds will help Harewood continue his street art series with two murals slated for downtown Jacksonville and Springfield. (Duval)
- A self-proclaimed Renaissance-Muse-Recovering-Banker, **Yvette Angelique Hyater-Adams** has attended numerous writers’ residencies including at University of Minnesota Split Rock Arts Program and the Amherst Writers & Artist Advanced Workshop for Leaders of Creative Writing. Hyater-Adams received a Master of Arts from Goddard College where she studied creative and expressive writing for personal and social change, and a Creative Writing Graduate Certificate from the University of Denver. The grant was awarded to help her complete a book of essays, covering the expenses associated with a four-week writing residency and fees for a professional editor. When complete, the essays will share her musings and realities as she spars with the intersectionality of sexism and racism in the context of a larger world view. (Atlantic Beach)
- **Tarra Conner Jones** (the “j” is intentionally lower case) Tarra studied Voice and Elementary Education at Edward Waters College, where she received her BA, and was also a student at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. As a member of the Actor’s Equity Association, she performed in her first professional theatre production in 2013. Since then, Jones has been cast in numerous productions at the Alhambra Dinner Theatre and has performed in other professional theatres in Florida. Recently, she has performed in the acclaimed productions of *Swamp Radio*. Her Art Ventures grant will help her produce her first one-woman cabaret-style show, “*Here!*” for stages in Northeast Florida. (Duval)
- With an impressive resume of solo and group exhibitions, **Sara Pedigo** is an associate professor of painting at Flagler College and the recipient of the 2007 Joan Mitchell MFA grant. She has exhibited widely, both regionally and nationally in both solo and group exhibitions. The panel was influenced by the strength of her work and how it reflected the beauty of everyday North Florida scenes. The grant will fund camera equipment to improve her

ability to represent the quality of her paintings in digital media. The rest will fund supplies and a small stipend for time to paint. (St. Johns)

- As a self-taught portrait artist, **Adrian Pickett, Jr.** has produced work and exhibited from his gallery, AP Studios, in the Jacksonville Landing since 2010. He has won numerous awards, including the 'Living Legends Artist' of the 2011 Tampa Bay Black Heritage Festival, and was a featured artist during the 2012 National Black Arts Festival in Atlanta, GA. Four of Pickett's originals were purchased by the Dr. Carter G. Woodson Museum for its permanent collection in St. Petersburg. He has served as an art instructor, as well as a juror for several national art award competitions. Pickett will use the grant to purchase equipment and supplies to further enhance his process for creating Fine Art charcoal renderings. (Duval) **Funded by the Independent Life Minority Arts Award Fund*
- Landscape watercolorist **Kathy Stark** has received numerous accolades for "The Wilderness of North Florida's Parks" project. Made of up several phases, the project is centered on her signature-style large scale watercolors of our numerous wilderness parks in Northeast Florida and corresponding educational sketchbook journal pages about the parks. This grant will help fund the community engagement phase which includes the printing of indoor and outdoor exhibition pieces. Stark's work is already confirmed for exhibition in several prominent venues in 2016-17 including the Museum of Science and History and the Sky Gallery at Jacksonville International Airport. Having received two previous grants, this will mark Kathy Stark's third and final Art Ventures award. (Duval)
- Visual artist **Roosevelt Watson III** has shown widely in Northeast Florida and Georgia, and was recently selected to create work for the Cummer Museum's "Lift" exhibit. Holding a BFA from the Atlanta College of Art, Watson was also commissioned to create several large-scale mural projects in the Southeast. His proposal will fund three large-scale paintings depicting Jacksonville history makers and the issues that inspired their dreams for a better world. Watson, known for incorporating cyphers in his works, will feature historical symbols of disenfranchisement of the black community. The paintings will be exhibited in various locations in his Murray Hill neighborhood and at FSCJ during the year, and are meant to inspire community dialogue. (Duval)

Art Ventures also makes grants to small arts organizations in a separate selection process.

Since 1990, more than \$1 million has been granted through the Art Ventures initiative, which is funded through the Art Ventures Endowment, the J. Shepard, Jr. & Mary Ann Bryan Arts Endowment, the Anne and Sallyn Pajcic Art Ventures Endowment, the Independent Life Minority Arts Fund, and the Alynne Sharp Art Fund.

About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida (www.jaxcf.org), Florida's oldest and largest community foundation, works to stimulate philanthropy to build a better community. The Foundation helps donors invest their philanthropic gifts wisely, helps nonprofits serve the region effectively, and helps people come together to make the community a better place. Now in its 52nd year, the Foundation has assets of \$313 million and has made grants of nearly \$369 million since 1964.

###

Note to Editors: Selected Images of the Artists and their Work Available on Request

Contact:

Susan Datz Edelman
VP, Strategic Communications
The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida
904-356-4483 | sedelman@jaxcf.org