



Eleven Northeast Florida Individual Artists Receive Art Ventures Grants

Recipients include visual artists, photographers, mosaicists, a songwriter, a sculptor, and textile artists

JACKSONVILLE, Florida – July 10, 2018 — The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida has awarded \$38,500 in career development grants to eleven individual artists through the Art Ventures initiative. They were chosen by a selection panel from more than 40 applications, based on the applicants' artistic accomplishments, their proposal to use the funds to further their work, and the extent to which their artistic practice is rooted in Northeast Florida.

"We continue to be awed by the depth and breadth of the artistic talent in Northeast Florida, and are so grateful to the donors who make this possible," said Amy Crane, senior program director at The Community Foundation, noting that a contribution from the Baker Family Fund allowed The Community Foundation to award a record number of grants.

"The Baker Family's gift was designed to leverage the impact of the individual artists in the community, an area that was deeply important to Ann McDonald Baker," said Crane. Ann Baker was one of the creators of the Art Ventures initiative and was a past Chair of The Community Foundation's Board of Trustees.

The 2018 grantees are:

- **Anthony Aiuppy**

Visual artist Thony Aiuppy holds an MFA from the Savannah College of Art and Design, and a BFA from the University of North Florida. His work has been featured in group and solo exhibitions including at the Haskell Gallery at JIA and the Cummer's LIFT exhibit. Thony is currently the J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver Educator for Family and Children's Programs at the Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville. With the grant, Thony will pursue an interdisciplinary writing and visual art practice resulting in a new body of written and visual work which will be exhibited in a solo show in 2019.

- **Christopher Clark**

The work of visual artist Christopher Clark was recently selected to travel with the 'Through Our Eyes' exhibit to the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Clark has also been commissioned to complete a mural by the Northwest Jacksonville Community Development Corporation, 3416 Moncrief Rd. In addition to explorations in painting, Clark co-authored and illustrated a children's book with his daughter Kaydence. The Art Ventures grant will support the creation of a second children's book and large-scale artworks.

- **Manila Clough**

Mosaic artist Manila Clough has completed three commissions for the Art in State Buildings program, in addition to more than a dozen public art commissions across Florida. She was awarded the ROWITA Award recognizing Outstanding Women in the Arts by the St. Johns County Cultural Council in 2016. Her grant will fund a series of four mosaics called "Florida Natives," for an exhibit in the rotunda of the St. Johns County Administration Building in 2019. Following the exhibit, the work will be permanently donated to St. Johns County Schools.

- **Sarah Crooks**

Artist Sarah Crooks is a certified Florida Master Naturalist and received a BFA from the University of North Florida. She has received numerous awards including the Nina May Holden Cummer Award, the distinction of representing Florida in the National Holiday Tree exhibit in Washington, DC, and a previous Art Ventures grant. Sarah has worked as an artist-in-residence for several prominent programs including the Museum of Science and History, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, and currently serves as a 'Lift Every Student' artist for Duval County Public Schools. Her work is collected in numerous private and public collections, including the City of Jacksonville Art in Public Places collection. For her grant, Sarah will create a catalogue of her monumental textile series, "The Red Pearl River." Publication will coincide with a series of traveling exhibitions.

- **Ingrid Damiani**

Ingrid Damiani describes her photography as visual storytelling, and so it is fitting that the grant proposal outlines a project to expand the process by photographing, filming and audio recording the remaining graduates of Old Stanton High School. The project's aim is to create a history of the LaVilla neighborhood when it was a vibrant part of Jacksonville's landscape. Ingrid's photography has been featured in prominent community exhibitions including the Frisch Family Holocaust Memorial Gallery, Jacksonville Public Education Fund's One in Three exhibit at the Cummer Museum, and the Lift exhibit, also at the Cummer.

- **Jovita Harper**

Jovita Harper is a self-taught textile artist whose work has been featured in the "Keisha" exhibit at the Jacksonville Library's Makerspace, "Through Our Eyes," at the LaVilla Museum and during St. Augustine Fashion Week. She was also recently honored during The Fashion Group International's "2017 Rising Star of North Florida" Awards. Jovita is a small business owner, operating Conscious Designz. The Art Ventures grant will fund upgrades to the artist's sewing equipment, materials, and travel to research design, history, and African textiles.

- **Agnes Lopez**

Photographer Agnes Lopez will mount an exhibit, "The Faces to Remember," at the Florida School of the Arts in February 2019 featuring a series of powerful portraits recalling historically significant events and shared memories around them. Subjects include WWII veterans, Jacksonville's first African-American teacher at an all-white school, and a local Holocaust survivor. Each portrait is accompanied by narrative about the subject's story. The Art Ventures grant will support the artist's travel to photo-document the subjects, as well as mounting and framing for the subsequent exhibition. Lopez is a food and lifestyle photographer, operating her own small business. Her book, "The Chef's Canvas Cookbook," was the recipient of the Independent Publisher Book Award.

- **Laura Mongiovi**

Laura Mongiovi is an associate professor of art at Flagler College. She holds a BFA from Florida State University, and an MFA from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Mongiovi works in a variety of visual art media and has been featured in numerous exhibitions in the Southeast. The grant will assist Mongiovi in creating a new body of textile work for an exhibition at the Ormond Memorial Art Museum in 2019, where she will present an artist talk and workshop.

- **Elena Ohlander**

Elena Ohlander's work has been exhibited widely since she received her BFA from the Art Institute of Jacksonville in 2014, including at FSCJ Wilson Center for the Arts, The Space Gallery, and Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum. Her grant will fund an exhibition which will be co-located at Space 42 gallery and at the Bryan Good Planetarium at MOSH. The exhibition of new work will combine art and technology, utilizing the artist's imagery in visual artworks, animation and projection.

- **Jordan Poole**

Singer/songwriter Jordan Poole has performed internationally, and his two original releases have garnered listeners in more than 30 countries. Sale of the work has assisted Poole in raising funds for global humanitarian causes. Poole serves as the youth worship leader at Chet's Creek Church. The grant will fund the purchase materials to record, promote, perform and release a body of new music.

- **Ben L. Thompson**

Artist Ben L. Thompson received his MFA from the Massachusetts College of Art, and his BFA from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette. He currently serves as the deputy director of the Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville. His sculptures involve working with different aspects of metal work, and he will use his grant to purchase a hydraulic forging press for his studio. He hopes to create a new body of sculptural work, allowing him to present workshops to other artists interested in the medium.

About the Art Ventures Initiative

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. Individual artists may apply for up to \$3,500 each. Art Ventures also makes grants to small arts organizations in a separate selection process. For more information, www.jaxcf.org/the-arts

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 54th year, the Foundation has assets of \$398 million and has made \$450 million in grants since 1964.

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Attention Editors! Photos are available of either a representative piece of artwork OR the artist's own image for nearly all the artists above. Please contact me to receive photos, proper identification and appropriate photo credit.

Anthony Aiuppy {Photo Credit: Ingrid Damiani}



THE COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
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Giving Back. Giving Forward.

Ingrid Damiani {Photo Credit: Dennis Ho}

Sara Flaire {Photo Credit: Natalie McCray}

Ben Thompson {Photo Credit: John Burroughs}