

## Eleven Northeast Florida Individual Artists Receive Art Ventures Grants

*Recipients include visual artists, photographers, writers, composers, a sculptor and a filmmaker*

JACKSONVILLE, Florida – July 23, 2019 — The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida has awarded grants worth \$3,500 each to 11 individual artists as part of the 2019 Art Ventures initiative. These talented recipients were chosen by a selection panel including past Art Ventures recipients, trustees, and subject area experts. The panel based the awards on the applicants’ artistic accomplishments, their proposal to use the funds to advance their work, and the extent to which their artistic practice is rooted in Northeast Florida.

“As we approach the thirtieth anniversary of grantmaking from the Art Ventures Fund, we are grateful for the initial vision of Art Ventures—which has been a springboard for artistic exploration for hundreds of regional artists,” noted Amy Crane, senior program director at The Community Foundation. “By recognizing an artist’s desire to stretch into new territory, these grants not only help the artists in their career development, they also elevate the cultural landscape of the entire community.”

Funding for Art Ventures Individual Artist grants comes from 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. An additional contribution from the Baker Family Fund allowed The Community Foundation to award two additional grants in 2019, for a total of 11.

The 2019 grantees are:

- **Cindy Bear**, singer/songwriter - for costs associated with a six-song EP of original Florida Folk songs. Cindy incorporates Florida Folklife and history in her songs, and performs widely at folk and acoustic music festivals.
- **Shawana Brooks**, writer/curator - for production and publication of a memoir based on the artist’s “My Motherhood Musings,” blog posts, and related community conversations around Black motherhood. Shawana was affected by her son’s premature birth, and created a digital diary on social media to capture the impact in real time.
- **Katie Evans**, visual artist - to help offset expenses of studio rental, supplies, and exhibition materials to complete a drawing series of feminine figures. Her work features layers of detail captured in everyday objects and women in relation to them, giving them sustained attention that transform the seemingly mundane.
- **Daniel Fulmer**, composer - for preparation and printing of a professional-level score of an original composition reflecting Florida’s natural seascapes, beaches and birds. Daniel’s three-movement concerto for alto saxophone and wind symphony is scheduled to premiere at JU in the spring of 2020.
- **Jenny Hager**, sculptor - to fund the artist’s exploration of new sculptural techniques through the creation of a life-size cast-bronze eagle. Her work has been featured in numerous national and international exhibitions and private collections. She has also coordinated numerous local public art projects including UNF Seaside Sculpture Park in Jacksonville Beach, Sculpture Walk Springfield, Jax Sculpture Walk in Main Street Park.

- **Nicole Holderbaum**, visual artist - to create a body of visual artwork to be featured in a solo exhibition, "COAL." While Nicole is a well-known community artist having created more than 50 signature large-scale projects, this grant is funding a departure for the artist to be able to create smaller scale, individual works for exhibition.
- **Marsha Hatcher**, visual artist - to create a series of socially conscious artworks to be featured in the "Legacy of Lynching" exhibit at the MOSH as well as for other exhibits in NE FL in 2019-20. Marsha calls this body of work, "Premeditated Extrajudicial," and it will feature works which represent individuals lynched in the South through hand-painted rock installations and accompanying mixed media artworks.
- **Tiffany Manning**, photographer - for "The Feminine Soul Project," featuring close-up portraits of 100 Jacksonville women accompanied by short, personal narratives. The portrait exhibit will have a backdrop of an audio loop of the women sharing stories or experiences which they usually choose not to talk about.
- **Traci Mims**, visual artist – for a series of mixed media pieces, "Women's Work," which explore women's roles in society. Traci's grant will fund creation of eight mixed media works on paper, including two-dimensional processes such as relief printmaking, drawing, painting, as well as 3d elements.
- **Justin Murphy**, filmmaker - to support the next stage of production for the artist's hand-drawn animated feature film, "Dawgtown." Murphy's students at the Florida School of the Arts will have the opportunity to work on the film and gain professional experience. Mr. Murphy seeks to bring awareness to animal cruelty by highlighting the abuses of dog fighting.
- **Toni Smailagic**, photographer - to work with local creatives on a series of portraits and interviews defining cultural development in Jacksonville, culminating in a printed publication and exhibit. Toni pursued a career in photography, primarily fashion, in Paris, New York City and Los Angeles before returning to Jacksonville to launch his own photography and marketing business.

### **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](http://www.jaxcf.org/the-arts)

### **About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida**

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida ([www.jaxcf.org](http://www.jaxcf.org)), Florida's oldest and one of its largest community foundations, 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 55<sup>th</sup> year, the Foundation has assets of \$384 million and has made \$500 million in grants since 1964.

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**Attention Editors!** Please contact me directly  
if you would like photos of the grantees'  
artwork OR the artist's own image.