



THE COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
FOR NORTHEAST FLORIDA

*Giving Back. Giving Forward.*

## **Fourteen Individual Artists in Northeast Florida Awarded Art Ventures Grants**

*Visual artists, filmmakers, writers, and musicians were among those selected*

JACKSONVILLE, Florida – June 2, 2022 – Fourteen Northeast Florida artists recently received grants of \$3,500 each as part of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida’s Art Ventures initiative. As it entered its 32<sup>nd</sup> year, Art Ventures attracted a record number of applicants who competed for the coveted awards. The individuals selected for the 2022 awards were chosen for their demonstrated talent as well as their determination to move to the next level of professional development.

“Northeast Florida is home to a tremendous number of talented artists working in a variety of disciplines,” said Amy Crane, senior program director at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. “The Community Foundation continues to be inspired by the quality of work we see in the Art Ventures process, which makes the selection difficult, and the awards well-deserved.”

Applications are reviewed by a panel of judges and predominantly evaluated on artistic excellence, with additional consideration for how the artist is influenced by and impacts Northeast Florida. This year’s selected grantees were drawn from the categories of Film, Creative Writing, Music, and the Visual Arts. They include:

**Patrick Barry** is a commercial director and cinematographer working throughout the Southeast, calling Jacksonville his home. Several of his projects have gained significant recognition including the nationally syndicated web documentaries, *State of the RE:Union*. He was also recently a semi-finalist in Austin Film Festival’s screenplay competition. The grant will fund equipment to complete postproduction on “*The Maestro of Lake Orlok*,” a Northeast Florida-based film project.

**RaeJeana Brooks** is a Jacksonville native and holds an MFA in Poetry from Antioch University in Los Angeles, and a BA from the University of North Florida, where she was a contributor and editor for UNF’s *Talon Review*. Her writing projects are deeply personal, and in some cases autobiographical. To help establish her career as a professional writer and teaching artist, the grant will fund expenses to participate in writers' workshops and residencies to finish the author's first full-length publication

**Jennifer Chase** has performed and written a variety of work for the stage for more than 30 years. Most of this work is inextricably connected with Northeast Florida: its people, its history, and regionally unique voice. She has been an award-winning professor of Creative Writing at Florida State College since 2003 and a resident artist at CoRK Arts District since 2012. Chase’s most recent honors include a writing residency at Arquetopia International in Oaxaca, Mexico (2021) and she was a semi-finalist at the Eugene O’Neil National Music Theatre Conference (2022). Grant funding will support production of a multimedia performance event and accompanying memoir, “*Dear Jacksonville*.”

**Joe Gaskin** is well-known throughout the community as Mr. Joe, the only African American male librarian in the Jacksonville Public Library system. Having received his Master’s in Library Sciences, Gaskin has developed an engaging series of events for Northeast Florida children and families. These events promote literacy, diversity, and behavioral health through reading and music. The grant will support a series of books and accompanying music focused on helping young children explore the world around them and their emotions inside.

**Sheila Goloborotko** is a multidisciplinary artist who recently completed a residency at Jacksonville's Corner Gallery. Her work included sculpture, prints, and installations working within the themes of climate injustice and health disparities. She holds an MFA from Brooklyn College, has exhibited internationally, and has received several large-scale installation commissions. The grant will support the creation of a digital and printed catalog of the residency exhibit, "Many Small Gestures."

**Christie Holechek** is an arts educator and administrator in Northeast Florida. She holds an MFA from the Maine College of Art and has been a visiting instructor at the University of North Florida. Her recent solo exhibit at the Jacksonville International Airport Haskell Gallery featured her largest paintings to date. The artist plans to compete for two artist residencies in 2022, with the help of the grant which will fund materials and equipment to produce a solo exhibition at FSCJ South Gallery.

**Malcom Jackson** is a self-taught, professional photographer who has worked with sources such as the New York Times, Netflix, and the Washington Post. UF Health Jacksonville recently commissioned a large-scale installation of Jackson's work for its new Urban Health Alliance building. Through his projects, Jackson uses street photography and portraiture to focus on race, class, identity, and community. The grant will cover expenses to complete a photo project about the last African American Cowboys of Northeast Florida.

**Paul Jackson** is the trumpet player and band leader of Let's Ride Brass Band, a 10-piece Jacksonville-based ensemble. As an artist, Jackson has mastered numerous instruments and works as a musical entrepreneur, advancing the band from smaller private events to headlining festivals. Under his leadership, Let's Ride Brass Band was named 2021 Best Band of the Year by Void Magazine. Made up primarily of JU and UNF graduates, the band will use the grant funds to produce a live album and tour regionally.

**Tatiana Kitchen** has been a prolific muralist in recent years, collaborating on more than 10 public projects. A Douglas Anderson alumnus, she has participated in numerous group exhibitions, including at The Ritz, Art Basel Miami, and most recently in St. Augustine at the Lincolville Museum and the Historic Society. The grant will fund the purchase of art supplies to assist in the completion of the artist's first solo exhibition.

**Mark Krancer** has exhibited his photographs widely, ranging locally to internationally. His body of work has garnered several notable awards, including a recent first place award in the St. Johns County 200th Anniversary photography contest. Krancer's cityscape and landscape works celebrate the history, landmarks, and natural spaces of Northeast Florida. Many of his projects have benefitted local nonprofit initiatives, in an effort to give back to his adopted city. The grant will fund an exhibition of architecturally significant landmarks in Jacksonville included in a book by historian Wayne Wood.

**Cheryl McCain** most notably works within the realm of classic photography, collecting and using a variety of analog and vintage cameras. She is engaged with several regional artist collectives, including FemArt and Women Writing for a Change, and serves as assistant director at the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum. Most recently, her work was featured at the Lincolville Museum as part of the group show, "Musings on Black Motherhood." The grant will support the creation of a photo series of Jacksonville-based artists using vintage photography techniques, including tintypes and glass plates.

**Perla Reyes**, a Jacksonville native, has developed a series of multidisciplinary works based on her expressive character, Sitboy. The character is inspired by childhood memories, anime, insects, and sci-fi. Reyes has been part of significant group projects, including the Few 'N' Far Mural events in Wynwood, Miami as part of Art Basel. The grant will allow Reyes to expand the Sitboy series into digital art as a new medium and create related merchandise.

**Thorn** uses a variety of media to embark on community-driven arts experiences, combining her visual art practice with aspects of performance art and storytelling. As an arts activist, she has been engaged with the City's Art in Public Places Committee, the Aesop Project, and numerous group exhibitions. The grant will fund her effort to initiate interpersonal conversations in public spaces and document them through a series of artworks and video called TalkTalkConvo.

**Shameera Wiest** is a multidisciplinary artist who began making conceptual art with plastic just last year, as an extension of her work exploring science and nature themes. Her current work is made from locally found and donated plastics, which she repurposes into sculptural works. Her work has been exhibited, sold, and collected in the U.S, Switzerland, China, Australia, Korea, and by the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations. The grant will fund digital documentation of the artist's use of discarded plastics in the development of sculptural works of art, which will be exhibited as an installation at a local gallery.

#### **About Art Ventures**

Art Ventures began in 1990 as a commitment to invest in local individual artists as well as small arts organizations—and has made more than 225 grants to individual artists and 125 grants to small arts organizations, totaling more than \$1.4 million since inception. Funding for Art Ventures Individual Artist grants comes from the Art Ventures Endowment, the Baker Family Advised Fund, the J. Shepard, Jr. & Mary Ann Bryan Arts Endowment, the Delores Barr Weaver Black Artists Endowment, Anne and Sallyn Pajcic Art Ventures Endowment, the Independent Life Minority Arts Fund, the Alynne Sharp Art Fund and the Klaus and Barbara C. Wenger Family Fund.

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

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, the state'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. Created in 1964, the Foundation has assets of \$630 million and has made approximately \$640 million in grants since inception. For more information, go to [www.jaxcf.org](http://www.jaxcf.org).

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**Note to Editors: Images of artists and/or their work are available**

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