

ART VENTURES GRANT STATEMENT

I am requesting a personal artist grant in order to continue my 'Neighborhood Beautification Project.' This was a project that began a few years ago when a team called *Project New Hope* contacted me about doing a mural in Springfield.

Before then I had never worked in the street, but rather had only produced paintings to be hung in traditional art gallery spaces.

After that project I felt compelled to continue making murals as small gifts to communities. What inspired me the most was the energy that I got back from the Springfield residents.

This past summer I made a second mural in a small village in Barbados, just down the street from where my mother grew up. I converted an old out of use bathhouse into a point of visual emphasis for the community.

Upon returning to Jacksonville, I self-financed a third mural on 7th and Main in Springfield. The responses from my work were positive, and many people in each community thanked me for my time and energy.

I would like to continue my street art series hopefully with your help.

Artist Proposal Statement

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida Proposal Statement

The twentieth century painter Charles Hawthorne spoke of “learning to see more beautifully.” My artistic practice is based on the simple premise of purposefully seeing beauty in my everyday surroundings. Northeast Florida’s stunning nature is undeniable, my paintings record this and serve as reminders that visual pleasure is inherent in the world around us. Light plays a large role in turning the familiar in to the spectacular. By paying attention to light’s powerful impact, I record my visual experiences, so that others can share these awe-inspiring glimpses of familiarity. The subject matter explored in my artwork gained significance with Jean-Baptiste-Simeon Chardin’s eighteenth century French still life and domestic genre paintings. Chardin painted insignificant subject matter, the stuff of everyday life. As author Siri Hustvedt states in *Mysteries of the Rectangle*, “Chardin’s paintings make me feel reverence for what it means to be human. We breathe. We eat. Then one day we die.” My creative production continues this time-honored tradition of recording the things, people, and surroundings present in my everyday, as a celebration of life itself.

As a practicing artist I regularly exhibit my paintings regionally and nationally. With any career, incremental steps are necessary towards larger ambitions. This grant would facilitate my growth as an artist by allowing me to create and share my paintings with a higher degree of professionalism and sophistication. The largest portion of the budget is dedicated towards purchasing new camera equipment necessary for properly documenting my paintings. Digital images, via the internet, are my primary means of sharing paintings with the public and used explicitly for exhibition proposals. The purchase of updated camera equipment will allow me to more accurately and professionally document my paintings. I recently had the great fortune of meeting a painting hero, Susan Lichtman, at a two-person exhibition of our paintings at Barton College in North Carolina. Her initial comments about my work focused on the weak nature of my painting’s digital versions, a point I quickly conceded. In order to move forward in my career as an artist I must take the steps necessary to more accurately document my work. Purchasing proper camera equipment and, of course, continuing to create new paintings are the next steps in my career. The remainder of my proposal would directly fund the creation of new paintings. Given my current exhibition record, I am confident that I will secure more significant exhibition opportunities at either academic, non-profit, and/or commercial galleries with the assistance of this grant. I am interested in growing my reputation as an artist to achieve greater recognition on a national level. I am deeply committed to being a working artist from Northeast Florida and want to showcase our region’s beauty and serious commitment to the arts to the world at large.

Please help me to bring my vision to a larger audience with greater clarity and voice. In the following documents you will see my clearly defined budget to purchase updated photographic equipment, a new easel and painting supplies. These highly functional items will directly enhance my ability to create and share significant new artworks.