

Joyce Foundation grants set for Old Town School, Steppenwolf

January 26, 2010

The Joyce Foundation announced today that two Chicago arts organizations will each receive a 2010 Joyce Award to help fund new works from artists of color:

The Old Town School of Folk Music will receive a \$50,000 grant to commission a new work from the Carolina Chocolate Drops, an African-American string band from North Carolina, to create "Kingdom Coming," a multimedia performance piece celebrating black heritage from Vaudeville;

And Steppenwolf Theatre Co. will also receive a \$50,000 grant to help fund a new work by African-American playwright Tarell Alvin McCraney based on the Bible book of Job. McCraney's "Brother/Sister Plays" opens at the theater, 1650 N. Halsted, on Saturday.

Other Midwest arts organization receiving 2010 awards include the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts in St. Paul, Minn.; the Minneapolis Institute of Arts; and the Milwaukee Art Museum.



Steppenwolf, Old Town School win Joyce Awards

January 26, 2010

Steppenwolf Theatre Company and the Old Town School of Folk Music have won Joyce Awards from the Chicago-based Joyce Foundation — which works to make Midwestern towns anything but second-tier arts cities.

Each winner gets \$50,000 to support new works by minority artists.

"Their artistry illustrates the diversity and creativity that lies within our area and is part of what makes the Great Lakes region so special," foundation President Ellen Alberding said in a release announcing the awards.

Local artists get seed money

A Chicago foundation for artists of color is funding new works by a professor and a choreographer.

January 25, 2010



Ali Momeni

Galleries are great, but every artist itches to take over a whole building. That's what University of Minnesota art professor Ali Momeni and a team of artists will do next year at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA), thanks to Chicago's Joyce Foundation.

The award is among five \$50,000 Joyce grants to arts organizations in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois. Each will support new work by an artist of color.

St. Paul's Ordway Center also got a grant to commission a new dance from St. Paul-based choreographer Uri Sands, top right, inspired by the paintings

of black artist Ernie Barnes. TU Dance, a troupe headed by Sands and his wife, Toni, will perform the piece in the Ordway's 2010-11 season.

Momeni, bottom right, an Iranian-born musician and technology artist, working with colleague Jenny Schmid and a team of Minneapolis artists and teens, will project images about war and its global effects onto the exterior of the MIA. The performance will include original music, computer-manipulated drawings and audience participation. A signature element in the museum's new contemporary art program, the event also will be documented in a multimedia gallery show linking current events to historic material in the museum's collection including Persian textiles and 16th-century Mughal paintings.

Three other Joyce grants went to organizations in Chicago and Milwaukee. In Chicago the Old Town School of Folk Music will commission a vaudeville-inspired multimedia performance from the Carolina Chocolate Drops, a black string band, and Steppenwolf Theatre will do a new play based on the biblical book of Job by black playwright Tarell Alvin McCraney. The Milwaukee Art Museum will mount an exhibit by Theaster Gates incorporating pottery, sculpture, video and music.



Ordway and MIA will receive Joyce Awards

January 26, 2010

Amy Carlson Gustafson

Two Twin Cities organizations have each been awarded \$50,000 grants from the Joyce Foundation. The Ordway Center for the Performing Arts and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts won Joyce Awards, which support artists of color in major Midwestern cities.

At the Ordway, African-American choreographer Uri Sands will create a new dance work inspired by the paintings of artist Ernie Barnes. Sands plans to bring Barnes' work on canvas — much of which reflected urban life and dance — to the stage accompanied by RB music from the '60s.

At the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Iranian-American artist Ali Momeni will create two new media installations to engage younger audiences and the diverse population of the MIA's neighborhood — Whittier — where nearly one-third of residents were born outside the United States.



Joyce grant to Steppenwolf

Tarell Alvin McCraney will adapt Book of Job

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By GORDON COX

Chicago's Steppenwolf Theater has picked up a \$50,000 Joyce Foundation grant to develop a new play by Tarell Alvin McCraney based on the Book of Job.

The Joyce Awards program hands out funds supporting artists of color in major Midwestern cities. Other orgs scoring the year's five grants include St. Paul's Ordway Center for the Performing Arts and the Milwaukee Art Museum.

McCraney ("Wig Out!") will develop the new biblical adaptation for the Steppenwolf ensemble in collaboration with director Tina Landau ("Superior Donuts"), the Steppenwolf member helming the theater's current staging of "Brother/Sister."

The Joyce Foundation is based in Chicago and doles out coin throughout the Great Lakes area.