



## Culture

Several Joyce Award productions that premiered in 2010 embodied the Culture Program's mission of supporting new works by artists of color, bringing people together to share cultural experiences, and enabling more people to see the arts as integral to their lives.

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Photographs, Pottery, Music, and Murals

Chicago artist Theaster Gates at the Milwaukee Museum of Art crossed boundaries of both art and society. Gates, looking for forbearers in the field of ceramics, found his way to Dave Drake, a slave in antebellum South Carolina. “Dave the Potter” made stoneware pottery, mostly functional objects, and inscribed poetic couplets on them.

Gates, a potter, musician, and performance artist, had found his match: an African American potter with a multimedia sensibility. For his homage to Dave, *To Speculate Darkly*, he collaborated with workers at the nearby Kohler manufacturing plant to create new ceramic work that again relates functional and art objects. He set Dave’s couplets to music and assembled a local gospel choir to record them for the installation and perform at the opening. The result: a collaboration between white workers and African American artists that explores race and craft, past and present, function and art.

At the Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland (MOCA), Iona Rozeal Brown, a painter and a DJ, also worked across media with local residents to create her exhibit *All Fall Down*.

Brown’s paintings combine the style of Japanese Ukiyo-e prints and hip-hop themes. Her central character, Yoshi, is described as “an enlightened warrior

who communicates with divine spirits but remains on the earthly realm to guide young mortal spirits.” Brown engaged her own “young mortal spirits” from a local high school and a hip-hop summer camp. Together they produced a wall painting and a Japanese screen featuring a Brown landscape and rhymes written by the students.

As the MOCA curator put it, “By engaging students in her artistic practice, Brown teaches them to draw inspiration from a diversity of sources in order to help inspire and transform their own experiences, outlooks, and mythologies.”

While Gates and Brown brought in community members as makers of art, in Wing Young Huie’s *University Avenue Project*, sponsored by Public Art St. Paul, community members are both the subject and the audience.

Huie photographed people who live and work along the St. Paul thoroughfare and then, from May to October 2010, displayed them in shop windows along the route. Five nights a week the photos were projected on 40-foot screens set up in a vacant lot surrounded by shipping containers. The project transformed University Avenue into a six-mile art gallery—and transformed the gritty urban neighborhood, about to be disrupted by construction of a light rail line, into a place of art.

## Culture

### Not Just for Artists

Along with supporting cultural institutions and artists, the Foundation is committed to diversifying the arts world behind the scenes as well. Grants to the Theater Communications Group (TCG) have enabled more than 40 theater professionals of color to network with peers at the group's annual conference.

"It was fantastic to know that the American theater landscape is changing, and I'm part of that change," said one participant. "The pre- and post-conference, in which we got to meet and talk to each other, is so

meaningful to me as I navigate my career in this industry."

Another participant singled out the mentorship arranged by TCG with the head of a major New York theater group: "Any time you have the opportunity to engage in repeated communications with someone of that stature, you always pick up things."

The group honored the Foundation at its June 2010 meeting with its Regional Funders Award for supporting "the hundreds of small and mid-sized arts organizations that reflect and promote the cultural life of local communities and ethnic audiences in Chicago."

## Grants

*Culture Grants 2010: \$1,785,000*

Access

**Chicago Office of Tourism and Culture**

Chicago, IL \$70,000  
To support the Made in Chicago Jazz concert series in 2010 and 2011. (2 yrs.)

**Columbia College Chicago Dance Center**

Chicago, IL \$30,000  
To support the implementation of a cross-ethnic research and marketing project to engage diverse audiences. (1 yr.)

**Court Theatre**

Chicago, IL \$75,000  
For continued salary support for African American director Ron OJ Parson as a resident artist and for the production of the George Gershwin classic, Porgy and Bess. (1 yr.)

**Guild Complex**

Chicago, IL \$30,000  
For continued support of Palabra Pura, a bilingual poetry series. (1 yr.)

**Hubbard Street Dance Chicago**

Chicago, IL \$35,000  
To support the launch of a new minority fellowship program in dance administration. (1 yr.)

**Hyde Park Art Center**

Chicago, IL \$70,000  
To support outreach and programming for diverse residents in several Chicago minority communities. (2 yrs.)

**Illinois Humanities Council**

Chicago, IL \$30,000  
To support the Public Square, a forum for residents in underserved neighborhoods to experience arts and culture, and to discuss social and political issues impacting their communities. (1 yr.)

**Old Town School of Folk Music**

Chicago, IL \$80,000  
To continue support of its Cultural Heritage Project to deepen relationships with ethnic communities in Chicago and develop new programs to serve diverse audiences. (2 yrs.)

**Steppenwolf Theater Co.**

Chicago, IL \$125,000  
For continued support for its minority arts management training programs. (2 yrs.)

Community-based Arts

**Arts & Business Council of Chicago**

Chicago, IL \$35,000  
To support the recruitment, training, and placement of diverse board candidates at established culturally specific, mid-sized arts organizations. (1 yr.)

**Asian Improv aRts Midwest**

Chicago, IL \$50,000  
To support staff salaries, marketing, and programming. (2 yrs.)

**Cambodian Association of Illinois**

Chicago, IL \$50,000  
To support programming and the salary of the executive director of its Cambodian Heritage Museum. (1 yr.)

## Grants

### *Culture Grants continued*

#### **Chicago Cultural Alliance**

Chicago, IL \$35,000

For continued salary support of its executive director and for fees to hire a fund-raising consultant. (1 yr.)

#### **Chicago Sinfonietta Inc.**

Chicago, IL \$150,000

For continued support of audience and leadership diversity efforts, and the implementation of its strategic plan. (2 yrs.)

#### **Congo Square Theatre Company**

Chicago, IL \$50,000

To continue support of staff salaries. (1 yr.)

#### **eta Creative Arts Foundation**

Chicago, IL \$70,000

For continued support of capacity-building initiatives. (2 yrs.)

#### **Gillourey Institute**

Chicago, IL \$100,000

For continued support of capacity-building initiatives including staff salaries, program expansion, and implementing its strategic plan. (2 yrs.)

#### **International Latino Cultural Center of Chicago**

Chicago, IL \$25,000

To support the 2010 Latino Music Festival, a series of performances of music from Latin America and Spain. (1 yr.)

#### **Jazz Institute of Chicago**

Chicago, IL \$30,000

For organizational capacity building. (1 yr.)

#### **Luna Negra Dance Theater**

Chicago, IL \$100,000

For continued support of capacity-building initiatives aimed at strengthening its financial position. (2 yrs.)

#### **Ma'at Production Association of Afrikan Centered Theatre (MPAACT)**

Chicago, IL \$30,000

For continued salary support of its executive director. (1 yr.)

#### **National Museum of Mexican Art**

Chicago, IL \$150,000

To continue support of capacity-building strategies. (2 yrs.)

#### **National Public Housing Museum**

Chicago, IL \$50,000

For continued salary support of its executive director. (1 yr.)

#### **The University of Chicago Division of the Humanities**

Chicago, IL \$40,000

To support its Southside Arts and Humanities Network board placement program. (1 yr.)

# Grants

## *Culture Grants continued*

### **Joyce Awards Central Indiana**

#### **Community Foundation**

Indianapolis, IN \$50,000

To commission African American visual artist Fred Wilson to create a new public art sculpture for permanent installation on the Indianapolis Cultural Trail. (2 yrs.)

### **The Children's Theatre Company**

Minneapolis, MN \$50,000

To commission a new play for children by Asian American playwright Naomi Iizuka. (36 mos.)

### **Hubbard Street Dance Chicago**

Chicago, IL \$50,000

To commission a new work by African American choreographer Alonzo King. (36 mos.)

### **VocalEssence**

Minneapolis, MN \$50,000

To commission a new work by African American composer/musician Hannibal Lokumbe. (2 yrs.)

Other

### **Association of**

#### **American Cultures**

Lincoln, NE \$25,000

To support Open Dialogue XII, a national convening of diverse artists and arts administrators representing culturally-specific arts groups, in Chicago, August 12–14, 2010. (1 yr.)

### **Grantmakers in the Arts**

Seattle, WA \$25,000

To support the annual conference in Chicago, October 17–20, 2010. (1 yr.)

### **Theatre Communications Group**

New York, NY \$25,000

To support its 20th annual national conference in Chicago. (1 yr.)