

ADAA 60 YEARS

Art Dealers Association of America celebrates 60th anniversary with \$60,000 in grants to nonprofit arts organizations across the country

Six nonprofits will be awarded a one-time gift of \$10,000 to support the arts in their local communities; and the ADAA further expands their initiatives to mark this historic milestone



(September 29, 2022—New York) In celebration of its [60th anniversary](#), the **Art Dealers Association of America (ADAA)** is pleased to announce its **60th Anniversary Grants**, a one-time award of \$10,000 to six nonprofit organizations across the United States to support the arts in their communities. The recipients are **Arts of Life** (Chicago, IL), **Asian American Arts Alliance** (Brooklyn, NY), **Creative Growth** (Oakland, CA), **First Peoples Fund** (Rapid, SD), **Greetings from South-Central** (Los Angeles, CA), and **Project Row Houses** (Houston, TX).

Chosen for their commitment to transforming access to the arts in their regions and communities, the recipients were collectively selected by a vote of the entire ADAA membership from a pool of qualifying organizations and institutions. The 60th Anniversary Grants are thus distinct from that of the ADAA Foundation—which was established in 1970 and annually supports fine art museums from across the country with operating budgets under five million dollars.

“While the 60-year mission of the ADAA focuses on advocating for its constituent member galleries and the important work they do for and with artists, it also supports all facets of the art world big and small,” says **Executive Director Maureen Bray**. “I’m so pleased that we’re able to offer these new gifts that will help individuals gain access to the arts through nonprofit organizations that are making contemporary culture more available to everyone.”

In addition to the gift program, the ADAA has created a series of initiatives in celebration of its milestone anniversary. These include an expanded **Relief Fund** for arts and cultural organizations affected by natural disasters across the country, a series of **Member Interviews** that reflect on the history and impact of the ADAA, and a new digital **Membership Directory** that outlines the ADAA’s various organizational arms.

The **Relief Fund** was established in 2012 in the wake of Hurricane Sandy and its detrimental impact on art spaces in New York City. While emergency grants totaling half a million dollars were initially provided to ADAA members as well as non-member galleries to mitigate the devastation wrecked by this particular storm, the Fund has since expanded to serve any and all arts and culture organizations across the country that are struggling to rebuild and repair their spaces after natural disasters. On the occasion of the **10th anniversary of the Relief Fund**, a new [grant request page](#) on the ADAA’s website will now make it easier for organizations to request aid as soon as it becomes necessary.

Lucy Mitchell-Innes, former ADAA President, comments: “When Hurricane Sandy devastated New York, it was an extraordinary moment in which the arts community came together. Ten years later, we’re thrilled to re-engage the Relief Fund, and make the application process accessible on the ADAA website, that will enable any U.S. based arts organization in need of aid. The impact of climate change on small businesses is dire, and we must continue to work together to support the arts and one another.”

In the **Member Interview Series**, ADAA members reflect on what it means to be a dealer, and what it means to be a part of this historic Association. The videos shed light on the ways in which the art world has changed since the ADAA’s founding in 1962, the work of running a small business, and the joy of seeing artists’ careers thrive. These engaging interviews provide rare insights into the often mysterious mechanisms of the art market and its leaders. As **P.P.O.W co-founder Wendy Olsoff** explains, “a gallery’s relationship with an artist is that they’re there for that artist in good times and bad times. Galleries historicize the work, they research the work, and they also build an artist’s career.” **Leon Tovar** adds, “as an art dealer, as a gallerist, we have a responsibility for life.” While this project complements the ADAA’s ongoing written interview series, **Gallery Chat**, it remains distinct and will take the form of a video archive—excerpts from which are available on the ADAA’s website.

A new digital version of the 2022 **Membership Directory** provides further details about the history of the ADAA on the occasion of its 60th anniversary. **ADAA President Anthony Meier** says: “Each member is exemplary in their own regional communities as well as nationally, through the exhibitions they mount, the artists and collections they represent, and their contributions to scholarship, institutions, and artistic production. As innovators in the field, ADAA members spur the creative economy and contribute to the vitality of their communities.”

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About Arts of Life

Founded in 2000, Arts of Life is guided by a progressive vision to put inclusivity and creativity first in support of adult artists with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Arts of Life currently serves over 60

artists across Chicago-land. Work by Arts of Life artists has been featured in prestigious venues throughout the world, including EXPO Chicago, Art on the MART, Chicago Cultural Center, Carl Hammer Gallery, the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, and INTUIT Center for Outsider Art in Chicago, IL; John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C.; Outsider Art Fair in New York, NY, and the Museum of Everything in London, UK.

About Asian American Arts Alliance

The Asian American Arts Alliance (A4) is a nonprofit service organization dedicated to ensuring greater representation, equity, and opportunities for Asian American artists and cultural organizations through resource sharing, promotion, and community building. For nearly 40 years, A4 has sought to unify, promote, and represent the artistic and cultural producers of one of New York City's fastest-growing populations. As a diverse alliance of artists, organizations, and arts supporters, A4 believes that working together as a pan-ethnic, multidisciplinary community is essential to nurturing the development of artists and arts groups.

About Creative Growth

Creative Growth is an art studio and gallery in Oakland, California that advances the inclusion of artists with developmental disabilities in contemporary art while providing a supportive studio environment and gallery representation. The studio is home to 140+ artists who work in a variety of media. Facilitated by professional artists, the studio provides high-quality materials for painting, drawing, ceramics, woodwork, fiber arts, printmaking, and digital media. The gallery exhibits and promotes Creative Growth artists. Their work is featured in public exhibitions in the Oakland gallery and shown in major collections and institutions worldwide and at national and international art fairs.

About First Peoples Fund

First Peoples Fund is a Native-led non-profit that provides direct funding, resources, and professional development to Native American, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native artists, culture bearers, and Community Development Financial Institutions. Guided by the mission of honoring and supporting the *Collective Spirit* © of First Peoples artists and culture bearers, First Peoples Fund recognizes the power of art and culture to bring about positive change in Native communities, beginning with individual artists and their families. With the belief that art embodies Native peoples' culture—an understanding of who we are, and where we come from—artists and culture bearers provide the power to connect with the past and chart the future.

About Greetings from South Central

Greetings from South-Central is a community-based non-profit dedicated to the youth, educators, and families of South-Central Los Angeles. The organization's mission is to promote, advocate for, and foster experiences where the South-Central L.A. community can participate in arts and culture.

About Project Row Houses

Project Row Houses is a community platform that enriches lives through art with an emphasis on cultural identity and its impact on the urban landscape—engaging neighbors, artists, and enterprises in collective creative action to help materialize sustainable opportunities in marginalized communities. Occupying a significant footprint in Houston's Historic Third Ward, one of the city's oldest African-American neighborhoods, Project Row Houses encompasses five city blocks and houses 39 structures that serve as a home base to a variety of community-enriching initiatives, art programs, and neighborhood development activities.

About the ADAA

The Art Dealers Association of America (ADAA) is a nonprofit membership organization that supports the economic and cultural contributions of the nation's leading fine art galleries. The ADAA includes nearly 200 members from more than 30 cities in the U.S., representing hundreds of established and emerging artists internationally. ADAA members have extensive expertise across primary and secondary markets and established reputations for upholding the best practices in the field. The ADAA serves as a resource and advocate, raising awareness of dealers' critical roles in the international art market and the cultural community. The ADAA is a leader on issues pertaining to connoisseurship, scholarship, ethical practice, and public policy. The ADAA Foundation, supported by donations from ADAA members, promotes a broad range of activity in the arts and culture community by distributing grants to museums with operating budgets under \$5 million to advance art historical research and exhibition development. The Foundation's 2021 grantees include the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art; Contemporary Arts Museum Houston; the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts; the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia; the National Museum of Mexican Art; and the Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota. www.artdealers.org.

Image: Project Row Houses empowers people and enriches communities through engagement, art, and direct action. Courtesy of Project Row Houses.

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