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**Illinois Arts Council Agency Announces
2023 Artist Fellowship Award Recipients**

Chicago, IL - [The Illinois Arts Council Agency](#) (IACA) is honored to announce the 2023 Artist Fellowship Award (AFA) recipients. The IACA AFAs are \$15,000 unrestricted awards to Illinois artists in recognition of their outstanding work and commitment within the arts. This year 24 Illinois artists will receive Fellowships totaling \$360,000. Finalist Awards of \$1,500 were also awarded to 10 Illinois artists for a total of \$15,000. The Finalist Award category recognizes and encourages additional applicants who demonstrate considerable talent.

The AFA Program offered funding in 8 artistic disciplines. This year's Fellowship and Finalist Award recipients were selected from 283 Illinois based creative artists working in the disciplines of Choreography, Media Arts (category includes audio art, digital art, film, and video), Music Composition, Music Improvisation, New Performance Forms, Poetry, Prose, and Scriptworks.

Executive Director Joshua Davis-Ruperto, states, "As we re-engage post pandemic Illinois' individual artists are fueling our state's creativity, communities, and economy. After years of challenges brought on by the pandemic, artists have continued to provide opportunities for re-engagement and connectivity for those around them as well as ongoing investment in our communities. The 2023 IACA Fellows were selected for their remarkable artistic practice and their commitment to Illinois' communities – both within their specific regions and discipline at large."

The Council is proud to be able to provide Illinois artists with unrestricted funds in these awards that will support their creative endeavors and artistic growth. The mission of the Illinois Arts Council Agency is "To build a strong, creative, and connected Illinois through the arts." The Agency recognizes that Illinois' artists are an essential component of the social fabric of the state and its arts community especially during these challenging times.

The Artist Fellowship Awardees and Finalist range in demographics and identities, and hail from 13 different cities across the state including urban, suburban, and rural communities.

Following are the Fiscal Year 2023 Artist Fellowship and Finalist Award recipients listed by discipline.

Choreography

Joel Hall	Chicago	\$15,000
Erin Kilmurray	Chicago	\$15,000
C. Kemal Nance	Champaign	\$15,000
Regina Perry-Carr	Maywood	\$1,500

Media Arts

Rita Coburn	Flossmoor	\$15,000
Monty Cole	Chicago	\$15,000
Laura Harrison	Chicago	\$15,000
Özge Samanci	Evanston	\$15,000
Colleen Plumb	Chicago	\$1,500

Music Composition

Carlos Carrilo	Urbana	\$15,000
David Vayo	Bloomington	\$15,000
Martha Horst	Normal	\$1,500
Amy Wurtz	Chicago	\$1,500

Music Improvisation

Bobby Broom	Evanston	\$15,000
Robert Chappell and Liam Teague	DeKalb	\$15,000
Nick Mazzarella	Chicago	\$15,000
Jon Irabagon	Park Ridge	\$1,500

New Performance Forms

Lisa Fay and Jeff Glassman	Urbana	\$15,000
Meida Teresa McNeal	Chicago	\$15,000
Marcela Torres	Chicago	\$15,000
Aaliyah Christina	Chicago	\$1,500

Poetry

Allison Funk	Edwardsville	\$15,000
Christopher Kempf	Champaign	\$15,000
Simone Muench	Chicago	\$15,000
Suzanne Buffman	Chicago	\$1,500

Prose

Collen Abel	Champaign	\$15,000
Nami Mun	Chicago	\$15,000
Eden Robins	Chicago	\$15,000
S.L (Sandi) Wisenberg	Chicago	\$15,000
Kristi McGuire	Chicago	\$1,500

Sahar Mustafah	Orland Park	\$1,500
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Scriptworks

Kimberly Dixon-Mays	Chicago	\$15,000
Reina Hardy	Skokie	\$15,000
Missy Hernandez	Chicago	\$1,500

Biographies and more information about the 2023 Fellowship and Finalist winners can be found at:
<https://arts.illinois.gov/news/2023-fellowship-award-recipients>

The following advisory committee members reviewed this year's applications in the disciplines of:

Choreography: Margi Cole, AL; Joanna Furnans, IL; Rosanna Gamson, CA; Ayako Kato, IL; Haowen Wang, Washington DC

Media Arts: Paula Champagne, OR; James Duesing, PA; Susan B. Halpern, OH; Kristin McDonough, IL

Music Composition: Regina Baiocchi, IL; Seth Bousted, IL; Marjorie Rusche, IN; Laura Schwendinger, WI; Dan Visconti, IL

Music Improvisation: Geof Bradfield, IL; Ron Perrillo, WA; Dee Alexander, IL; Kathleen Keane, IL; Wayne Wallace, IN

New Performance Forms: Adelheid Mers, IL; Deke Weaver, IL; Chi-wang Yang, CA

Poetry: Rebecca Hazelton Stafford, IL; Emily Hooper Lansana, IL; Joshua Kryah, IL

Prose: Heidi Bell, IL; Mary Anne Mohanraj, IL; Matthew Neill Null, PA

Scriptworks: Julie Proudfoot, IL; Eric Thibodeaux-Thompson, IL; Kris Vire, IL

ARTIST FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

The intent of the Artist Fellowship Program is to enrich and strengthen the state of Illinois by supporting accomplished Illinois artists who are the foundation of Illinois' creative environment. The Artist Fellowship Program recognizes exceptional artists who have created a substantial body of work throughout their career by providing awards to support continued artistic growth. The awards are non-matching Fellowships in unrestricted fixed amounts of \$15,000. In the next application cycle (FY24), the discipline categories of Ethnic and Folk Arts, Interdisciplinary/ Computer-Based Arts, Visual Arts (Visual-Based Arts, Crafts, Photography, and Sculpture) will be offered.

To learn more about the Artist Fellowship Awards visit: <http://www.arts.illinois.gov/AFA-Program>

ABOUT THE ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL AGENCY

The Illinois Arts Council Agency was created as a state agency by the Illinois General Assembly in 1965 through legislation sponsored by Senators Paul Simon, Thomas McGloin, and Alan Dixon. The agency is governed by up to twenty-one private citizens chosen for their demonstrated commitment to the arts and appointed by the Governor. Council members serve in a voluntary, non-paid capacity and are

charged with developing the state's public arts policy, fostering quality culturally diverse programs, and approving grants expenditures. A small professional staff with in-depth knowledge of the arts develops and administers the agency's programs, provides technical assistance, and ensures the responsible and impactful distribution of all funds. Resources to support the Illinois Arts Council Agency are provided by the Governor and General Assembly of Illinois and the National Endowment for the Arts.

To learn more about the Illinois Arts Council Agency visit: <http://www.arts.illinois.gov/>

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