Arts & Culture

ALTERNATE ROOTS INC.  
2012  
Atlanta, Ga.  
$100,000

The service organization brings together low-income residents, artists and anchor institutions to address issues in economically disadvantaged communities. A three-year, $300,000 grant funds programs and services that contribute directly to the vitality of inner-city neighborhoods.

ARCH DEVELOPMENT CORP.  
2013  
Washington, D.C.  
$250,000

The community-based organization incorporates the arts and the creative economy into its comprehensive approach to community revitalization in the historic Anacostia neighborhood, located in the nation’s capital. A two-year, $500,000 grant enables ARCH to continue existing programs and develop initiatives to reinvigorate the neighborhood by attracting artists, arts organizations and creative businesses to the central corridors.

ARTSPACE PROJECTS INC.  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
$1.25 million

A national leader in developing, owning and managing affordable live/work space for artists, Artspace rescues abandoned buildings and renovates historic structures that help artists’ housing anchor and contribute to broader community revitalization. This two-year, $2.25 million grant provides general operating support.

AS220  
Providence, R.I.  
$205,000

Serving as a hub for creative activity and an anchor for downtown revitalization, the community-based arts organization provides support and opportunities for artists, operates art-production facilities and gallery space and engages at-risk students and incarcerated youth through art classes, workshops and mentoring. This three-year, $500,000 grant supports AS220’s general operations and the launch of the Practice/Practice consultancy to share three decades of creative placemaking experiences and resources with other practitioners.

CENTER FOR GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS OF COVINGTON  
Covington, Ky.  
$742,000

The center equips residents with tools and resources to improve the quality of their lives and neighborhoods by supporting community development projects that incorporate arts and culture. This three-year, $1.45 million grant is being used to renovate a former lumber mill for use as a community space and makers’ studio, a neighborhood beautification program for existing residents, community-led arts projects and to advance other creative placemaking projects that improve the city’s Westside neighborhood.

ARTSPACE PROJECTS INC.  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
$1.25 million

BOLD IS MAKING ARTS AND CULTURE INTEGRAL TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION.
BOLD IS MAKING ARTS AND CULTURE INTEGRAL TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION.
Northeast Shores, a community development corporation in Cleveland, Ohio, has made artists and arts and cultural activities an integral part of its 10-year economic development plan for the city’s Collinwood neighborhood.

The plan, developed during a series of community gatherings, reflects the aspirations of local residents and business owners: to increase the neighborhood’s vibrancy and quality of life by creatively addressing the problem of vacant and underutilized spaces.

Vacant buildings are being converted into gallery, rehearsal and performance space for the artist/residents in this racially, ethnically and culturally diverse community, facilitating new business opportunities in Collinwood and providing an outlet for creative, cross-cultural expression.

With a $430,000 grant from Kresge, the organization will increase the number of low- and moderate-income rental spaces, support art projects focused on community health and facilitate manufacturer-artisan development partnerships.

In addition, business development services are available to artists working in music, crafts and design to help them achieve personal financial success and contribute to an overall rise in median household income.

Why It Matters

- Nonprofit cultural organizations generate more than $61 billion a year in economic activity for American communities, creating jobs, drawing visitors and generating revenue for local businesses and governments.

- People who attend arts and cultural events tend to be active in other aspects of community life and act as connectors for broader civic participation.

- Low-income neighborhoods with high cultural participation rates are more than twice as likely as those with low participation to have very high rates of school attendance and achievement.
KRESGE ARTS & CULTURE PROGRAM 2014

Grants Awarded

33 Grants Made
of foundation’s 408 total

Amount of Grants Awarded

$21.6 Million
of foundation’s $242.5 million total *

Amount of Grants Paid Out During Year

$18.5 Million
paid out on 2014 and prior-years’ grants

* Includes $100 million for the Foundation for Detroit’s Future, the fund created to help resolve Detroit’s bankruptcy; see Letter From the President.

A textile cooperative fills one of many long-vacant buildings converted into artist spaces in the Collinwood neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio. Photos courtesy Northeast Shores Development Corp.
The foundation supports philanthropy, leadership and service in the Indianapolis community and serves as the fiscal sponsor for Reconnecting Our Waterways, a collective effort to reclaim underused urban waterways to revitalize neighborhoods. This three-year, $1.35 million grant enables ROW to improve the economics, aesthetics, connectivity and well-being of waterways communities by increasing capital investments, engaging residents and artists in creative projects and enhancing natural features.

Chinatown Community Development Center
San Francisco, Calif.
$250,000

The organization works through neighborhood advocacy and engagement, affordable housing development and property management to revitalize San Francisco’s Chinatown community and enhance the quality of life for residents. A three-year, $750,000 grant underwrites the establishment of a resident-led Creative Placemaking Council that infuses arts and culture into revitalization strategies and ensures that public infrastructure projects reflect Chinatown’s cultural, artistic and social heritage.

City of Asylum/Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pa.
$200,000

The organization works to create a thriving community for artists, readers and neighbors in Pittsburgh’s Central Northside neighborhood by transforming blighted properties into venues for literary and community programs and emerging civic spaces through public art with text-based components. This three-year, $300,000 grant provides general operating support.

Community Foundation of Greater Memphis
Memphis, Tenn.
$163,000

Dedicated to strengthening the Memphis community through philanthropy, the foundation is a founding member and fiscal sponsor of Community Lift, a local community development organization that facilitates strategic investments in distressed neighborhoods to activate revitalization, build human capacity, promote economic and community development and improve the quality of life. A two-year, $262,000 grant from our Arts & Culture Program and Cross-Disciplinary Fund strengthens Community Lift’s overall operations and advances its Memphis Music Magnet initiative in the Southside neighborhood.

Cooper’s Ferry Partnership
Camden, N.J.
$350,000

The organization builds public and private partnerships to develop and implement sustainable community revitalization in Camden and promotes the city as a vibrant place to live and work. This two-year, $1.1 million grant supports a series of urban-design and public-art projects that engage neighborhood residents in the process of reimagining vacant, blighted properties in North Camden.

Cultural Development Corp.
Washington, D.C.
$100,000

The organization creates opportunities, housing and workspace for artists and arts groups that contribute to community development and quality of life in the nation’s capital. This three-year, $300,000 grant supports the development of affordable office and programming space for artist-driven projects and small arts organizations.

Dance Place
Washington, D.C.
$250,000

Dance Place seeks to build a creative community of artists, audiences and students through high-quality performances, commissions, training and educational programs while enriching the field of dance locally, nationally and internationally. A two-year, $500,000 grant funds the transformation of a vacant parcel adjacent to the Dance Place arts campus into an accessible, green, multifunctional civic space that connects a bike and pedestrian trail to a local Metro rail station in northeast Washington’s Brookland neighborhood.

District of Columbia Office of Planning
Washington, D.C.
$325,000

The office is the principal agency that leads planning, preservation and revitalization initiatives in District of Columbia neighborhoods. It is using a two-year, $650,000 grant to launch a series of resident-driven, cross-disciplinary creative placemaking projects that promote community building and increase engagement and connectivity in neighborhoods experiencing rapid demographic and social changes.

Dubley Street Neighborhood Initiative
Roxbury, Mass.
$250,000

The community-based organization empowers Dudley residents to organize, plan for, create and control a vibrant, diverse, high-quality neighborhood in collaboration with community partners. This two-year, $500,000 grant underwrites the expansion of a pilot project to integrate arts and culture into equitable transit-oriented development along the nine-mile Fairmont Indigo Line transit corridor.

EmArts Inc.
New York, N.Y.
$450,000

EmArts works collaboratively with people, organizations and communities to create the space and conditions to test innovative strategies and build cultures that embrace change. This funding supports the Innovation Labs for Creative Placemaking pilot project in three communities to help public and private stakeholders address complex challenges and integrate creative practice and artistic experience into frameworks of social innovation.

Friends of Peralta Hacienda Historical Park
Oakland, Calif.
$30,000

The organization is pursuing a new model for historical house museums by reframing its work to focus on the residents of the Fruitvale District and promoting a sense of pride and identity. This three-year, $90,000 grant supports grassroots efforts to promote cultural understanding, historical healing and a sense of community in the district.

Grantmakers in the Arts
Seattle, Wash.
$20,000

The national membership organization for professional private- and public-sector grantmakers for arts and arts-related activities seeks to support arts funders and to strengthen and expand the field of arts philanthropy. This grant underwrites the assessment of the two-year National Capitalization Project, designed to spur the adoption of capitalization principles by regional arts and culture funders in 12 cities, to determine the impact on participants and to identify the next steps for improving the capitalization of the nonprofit arts sector.

Greater Milwaukee Committee
Milwaukee, Wis.
$462,250

The private-sector civic organization unites leaders in business, labor, education, philanthropy and community development in supporting broad-based, collaborative initiatives to strengthen the cultural and economic base of the Milwaukee metropolitan area. A two-year, $174,500 grant funds a suite of resident- and partnership-driven, equity-focused creative placemaking initiatives aimed at the expanded Beerline Trail designed to build social cohesion and community pride among residents in the Harambee and Riverwest neighborhoods.

Hands Inc.
Orange, N.J.
$300,000

The organization revitalizes city neighborhoods through an arts-centric redevelopment strategy focused on repurposing shuttered factories and warehouses as creative spaces for arts, culture, business, recreation and learning. This three-year, $700,000 grant provides general support for its ongoing work to transform vacant properties into arts venues and expand arts programming.
INTERMEDIA ARTS OF MINNESOTA

The organization serves as a catalyst for community building and leadership development among artists, educators and community development professionals. Funding from a three-year, $355,000 grant to complete its strategic planning effort will enable the organization to expand its collaborative partnerships and raise the visibility of programs designed to advance arts and social justice practices.

INTERMEDIA ARTS OF MINNESOTA

Intermedia Arts serves as a catalyst for community building and leadership development among artists and educators in 25 local offices in 25 states to revitalize the nation’s neighborhoods, by helping community-based organizations gain access to financial capital, expertise and policy support to create affordable housing and commercial activity. A three-year, $712,500 grant underwrites its revitalization efforts and the restoration of a vacant church for use as an outdoor amphitheater.

LOCAL INITIATIVES SUPPORT CORP.

The national community development intermediary works through 30 local offices in 25 states to revitalize the nation’s neighborhoods, by helping community-based organizations gain access to financial capital, expertise and policy support to create affordable housing and commercial activity. A three-year, $712,500 grant underwrites its revitalization efforts and the restoration of a vacant church for use as an outdoor amphitheater.

PHILADELPHIA MURAL ARTS ADVOCATES

The Mural Arts Program unites artists and communities through an engaged, collaborative process, rooted in the traditions of mural making, to create art that transforms public spaces and individual lives. This year’s $1.5 million grant funds current programs and advances the development of a citywide model of creative practice and creativity that places art at the center of community revitalization and cross-sector collaboration.

NATIONAL ARTS STRATEGIES INC.

The organization provides executive-level education and leadership development programs for professional leaders of arts and culture organizations. This two-year, $1.1 million grant for operations underwrites the current Chief Executive Program and the design and implementation of an executive leadership pilot program that integrates creative placemaking concepts.

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

The national organization works with nonprofits to help strengthen their financial health and improve their capacity to serve their communities. This seven-year, $4 million grant creates a program of education and financial incentives for a cohort of previously funded children’s museums and community schools of music and art to address their building maintenance and repair needs within the context of their overall capitalization position.

NORTH EAST SHORES DEVELOPMENT CORP.

The community development corporation creates affordable housing, stimulates economic development and incorporates arts based-placemaking strategies to improve the quality of life for residents in the Two Harbors and North-Miami-Dade County communities. A two-year, $1 million grant supports the integration of community-generated art into the installation of shiny, protective canopies with artistic elements along 41st Drive Southwest and supports the renovation of a vacant warehouse into an artist’s residency complex.

POLICY LINK

The national research and action institute focuses on advancing economic and social equity. A two-year, $1.5 million grant supports an initiative designed to integrate arts and culture into PolicyLink’s programs and equity framework.

PILLSBURY UNITED COMMUNITIES

Dedicated to building successful communities of opportunity, the agency provides comprehensive and creative human services through its Pillsbury House and three other neighborhood centers, and engages underserved youth and adults in the creation and production of original theatrical works through its Playshop, Pillsbury House Theatre. This three-year, $1.2 million grant from our Arts & Culture and Human Services program teams supports the integration of creative practice and the scaling of creative placemaking throughout the Pillsbury United Communities network.

PROJECT FOR PUBLIC SPACES INC.

The planning, design and educational organization is dedicated to helping people create and sustain public spaces that build stronger communities. A grant two-year, $300,000 grant from our Arts & Culture and Detroit program teams advances efforts to integrate arts and culture into the organization’s framework for placemaking and strengthens the Placemaking Leadership Council as a thought and action leader in the placemaking movement.

PROJECT ROW HOUSES

Based in Houston’s Third Ward, Project Row Houses has created an environment where art can create real social change, based on four key components: a public art program; an urban and rural arts program; an artist-in-residence program; and a youth arts program. A three-year, $450,000 grant provides general operating support to advance the organization’s mission.

QUEENS MUSEUM OF ART

The cultural anchor institution serves as a catalyst for civic engagement and community revitalization and provides programming that directly relates to the contemporary urban life of its community. A three-year, $175,000 grant supports its socially engaged work in the Corona Park neighborhood.
Rebuild Foundation
Chicago, Ill.
$100,000

Rebuild Foundation serves as a catalyst for neighborhood revitalization by promoting artistic practices, individual empowerment and community engagement. A two-year, $200,000 grant supports project work focused on culturally driven redevelopment and the reclamation of abandoned and vacant properties in under-resourced communities.

Springboard for the Arts
St. Paul, Minn.
$360,000

Springboard drives creative community development to build stronger, more vibrant communities, neighborhoods and economies by linking artists with essential skills, information and services, and integrating artistic individuals into the socioeconomic fabric of the city. Assisted by this three-year, $800,000 grant, the organization is expanding a suite of programs, including Artist Organizer, Ready Go, Creative Exchange and Artists’ Access to Healthcare, which connect artists and arts organizations with community development.

St. Clair Superior Development Corp.
Cleveland, Ohio
$500,000

The organization is committed to asset-based growth in Cleveland’s low-income, east-side neighborhoods, reimagining community resources through resident engagement, workforce development, youth leadership, housing, health and creative placemaking initiatives. Through this joint two-year, $725,000 grant from our Arts & Culture and Health program teams, St. Clair Superior Development Corp. is implementing creative placemaking efforts in connection with the new Hub 55 food hub, generating new connections and access to fresh local food and educating residents on how to work with whole ingredients, share meals among neighbors and connect to food-related entrepreneurial endeavors through business training.

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors

The national nonprofit lender and financial consulting organization works with nonprofits to help strengthen their financial health and improve their capacities to serve their communities, and serves as the fiscal sponsor for ArtPlace America, a funder collaborative working with nonprofits to help strengthen their financial health and improve their capacities to serve their communities, and serves as the fiscal sponsor for ArtPlace, a two-year, $500,000 grant supports Arts Block, a university- and community-based partnership to expand the cultural corridor on Garfield Boulevard as an artist-led neighborhood revitalization strategy.

Seattle, Wash.
$460,000

The Wing Luke Museum connects visitors to the rich history, culture and art of Asian Pacific Americans through community-led programs that encourage multigenerational understanding and promote social justice. This grant for general operations enables the museum to refine and expand its creative placemaking programs and services.

Community Development Financial Institutions

Embrace Creative Placemaking

Catalyzing Culture and Community, a joint initiative with the Surdna Foundation, is intended to help support and expand the role of community development financial institutions in creative placemaking. The grants will allow the lenders to support the activities of artists and art enterprises that contribute to the health and well-being of neighborhoods as part of broader redevelopment efforts. The Kresge and Surdna foundations will provide a total of $1.35 million over two years to seven community lenders listed below.

Community Capital Works
$50,000

Community Capital Works is a community development financial institution operating under the umbrella organization Entrepreneur Works, which seeks to create pathways of opportunity for talented entrepreneurs in underserved communities. This grant for the CREATE pilot program supports artist-entrepreneurs and creative businesses in advancing economic revitalization in West Philadelphia and Chester.

The Economic Community Development Institute
Columbus, Ohio
$105,000

The institute is a statewide Small Business Administration lender that provides a range of development services and financial training to bridge the gap for businesses and individuals who are unable to receive traditional loans. This funding supports the Arts Entrepreneur Initiative, a small-business development program in Toledo designed to equip creative entrepreneurs with the tools, training and capital to launch and sustain arts-focused enterprises in the UpTown district.

Enterprise Center Capital Corp.
$105,000

This community development financial institution helps finance small businesses that have difficulty obtaining loans for start-up capital and business growth in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties. Grant funding for the Philly Food Innovation Loan Fund supports loans, training and networking opportunities for creative entrepreneurs seeking to locate food businesses in targeted commercial corridors undergoing economic revitalization.

Four Bands Community Fund
Eagle Butte, S.D.
$100,000

The community development financial institution strives to create economic opportunity on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation by helping residents build strong, sustainable small businesses and increase their financial capability to enter the financial mainstream. Grant money funds Rediscovering Native Art on Cheyenne River, a Lakota art and culture project that focuses on increasing the capacity of Native artists and promoting Native art both within and outside of the reservation as an economic development strategy.

Housing Fund
Nashville, Tenn.
$100,000

The community development financial institution finances affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization projects throughout middle Tennessee. Grant money goes to support the Make a Mark loan program, which enables low- to moderate-income artists to own their live-work or production spaces and contribute to the diversity and vitality of greater Nashville.

New Mexico Community Development Loan Fund
Albuquerque, N.M.
$100,000

The community lending institution provides loans, as well as training and consulting services, to small businesses, entrepreneurs and nonprofit organizations in New Mexico that are unable to obtain financing through traditional lending sources. A grant funds the enhanced delivery of affordable credit and technical assistance to artistic and creative entrepreneurs in the Santa Fe and Albuquerque communities.

The Reinvestment Fund Inc.
$100,000

A leading innovator in financing neighborhood revitalization, the fund deploys as loans, equity and alternative financing for housing, community facilities and commercial real estate projects. This grant funds a pilot project in Baltimore, Md., to deploy targeted arts and culture investments in low-income neighborhoods as part of a comprehensive strategy to leverage other complementary revitalization efforts in marginalized communities.