

THE SACHS PROGRAM FOR ARTS INNOVATION

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

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The Sachs Program for Arts Innovation awards \$270,000 to support 34 ambitious arts projects at the University of Pennsylvania.

May 4, 2020—The Sachs Program for Arts Innovation has announced their 2020 Grant Awards, providing upwards of \$270,000 in funding for 34 projects in the arts and humanities at the University of Pennsylvania. This marks a record high for both amount of grants and total funding for the program, now in its third year. The 2020 grant recipients represent a diverse cross-section of Penn’s community including students, staff, and faculty from seven of Penn’s twelve schools, as well as many of Penn’s arts and cultural centers. Grants were given across eight categories, and also represent a range of practices and disciplines: including, but not limited to, the visual arts, performing arts, literature, history of art, film, anthropology, and many interdisciplinary areas of inquiry. The Sachs Program was founded in 2017 to support innovative and ambitious projects at the University of Pennsylvania, specifically around teaching, making, and presenting the arts and humanities. Grants range from \$3,000 to \$40,000 per project.

“The Sachs Program continues to expand its role on campus supporting the most exciting interdisciplinary arts projects,” said University Provost Wendell Pritchett. “These new grant winners embody Keith and Kathy Sachs’ founding vision of advancing the arts across every part of our campus — and supporting the next generations of artists in all disciplines.”

Grants include:

- [Dreaming Emmett](#), a remounting of Toni Morrison’s play *Dreaming Emmett* by The Annenberg Center in collaboration with Texas theater group DNAWORKS
- [Currents](#) (working title), an exhibition at the Arthur Ross Gallery curated by lauded Philadelphia artist and activist Roberto Lugo

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- [The Asian American Experience and the Craft of Writing with Jenny Zhang](#), an intensive two-day workshop and public talk by award-winning author Jenny Zhang
- [A Space to Appear, A Space to Tarry](#), an exhibition at Slought based on Photographer Michael Abramson's "Black Nightclubs on Chicago's South Side" (1975-1977)
- [On remembering, ceasing to be](#), a new composition by composer and PhD candidate Nathan Courtright, performed by the Daedalus Quartet
- [Living Room](#), a new artist space in West Philly supporting transgender, gender-nonconforming and genderqueer artists
- [#VoteThatJawn](#), a youth project to get out the vote, organized by author Lorene Cary
- [Robotics Art Residency](#), a collaboration between the Fine Arts & Design department and the GRASP robotics lab at Pennovation
- [Philadelphia Student Composers Project](#), a new city-wide initiative that brings together student composers from Curtis, Penn, Tyler and UArts to feature student compositions in an annual concert series, and to forge stronger connections among music departments in the four schools

"I am particularly impressed by the record amount of student-driven initiatives this year, at both the graduate and undergraduate level," said Sachs Program Executive Director John McInerney. "These are rigorous and ambitious projects from the next generation of artistic leaders."

The complete list of 34 grants, along with project descriptions, can be found on the Sachs Program's website: <https://sachsarts.org/grant-year/2020/>. Images are available for most projects.

"Each year we reach a little further – enabling our program to support projects in new corners of the university and to support collaborations that might not be possible otherwise," said Sachs Program Associate Director Chloe Reison. "We will always seek

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opportunities to adapt and improve the grants program, but we believe these resources are already having a significant impact.”

“In its third year, the Sachs Program is truly doing what it set out to, and we’re particularly proud of the excellence and diversity of projects this year,” said Vice Provost for Faculty Anita Allen.

About The Sachs Program for Arts Innovation

- Founded with a commitment of \$15 million from alumni Keith L. Sachs and Katherine Sachs– the largest gift ever made across the arts at Penn.
- Their generous gift established The Sachs Program for Arts Innovation, a university-wide initiative linking arts and arts education to the [Penn Compact 2020’s](#) goal of advancing innovation across the University.
- The Sachs Program for Arts Innovation provides grants and other resources to faculty, artists, students and other arts advocates at Penn. The Sachs’ vision is that the arts at Penn are valued and embraced as a creative catalyst that advances knowledge across the entire campus.
- Other major gifts from Keith L. Sachs and Katherine Sachs, which have transformed the landscape of arts education on campus, include the **Sachs Guest Curator Program** at the Institute of Contemporary Art; the **Sachs Professorship in Contemporary Art** in History of Art in the School of Arts and Sciences; and the **Fine Arts Program Fund** and **Visiting Professorship** in the Weitzman School of Design.

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