

**THE SACHS
PROGRAM
FOR ARTS
INNOVATION**

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA



6TH ANNUAL GRANT AWARDS CELEBRATION

TUESDAY • MAY 9 • 4:30-7PM
THE ARTS LOUNGE, ANNENBERG CENTER
3680 WALNUT STREET

AGENDA

4:30 PM

**PERFORMANCE
BY JULIUS MASRI**

5:00 PM

GRANT AWARDS PROGRAM

REMARKS BY INCOMING PROVOST
JOHN JACKSON

REMARKS BY SACHS PROGRAM ADVISORY BOARD
MEMBERS GRACE SANDERS JOHNSON AND ZOË RYAN

2023 GRANT AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT

5:45 PM

**PERFORMANCE
BY ALEX SMITH**

6:00 PM

**RECEPTION WITH MUSIC
BY DJ MUHAMMAD**

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our 6TH Annual Grant Awards Celebration. We are excited to announce this year's Annual Grant Awards and to celebrate the recipients with a night of stellar performances, food and drink, and the company of our colleagues and friends. It is also our pleasure to welcome incoming Provost John Jackson, a true champion of the arts at Penn, who will kick off our program tonight with some opening remarks.

Since our first awards in 2018, The Sachs Program for Arts Innovation has now awarded over \$1.5 million in grants and supported more than 250 projects and practitioners across the arts at Penn and within the diverse communities we serve. Between all of our categories, this year's pool of applicants was our largest to date. The proposals received represent the vast range of creative practices and areas of exploration by students, faculty, staff, artists, and community partners, and the decisions made about what to support were difficult and not taken lightly.

The fifteen projects we are supporting this year span five categories—Community Partnership Grants, Project Grants, Artist Residency Grants, Curricular Grants, and Independent Creative Production Grants. They include a wide range of creative expression including a Palestinian literature festival; an exhibit addressing breastmilk and environmental toxins; a Trans Oral History Project highlighting creative practitioners in the trans and non-binary communities; AR/VR workshops centering Afro and Indigenous Futurism; a blueprint for activating vacant spaces and enhancing Philadelphia's street life by local artists and makers; and a program using creative practice to engage West Philadelphia youth, to name just a few. We are incredibly proud of the 2023 cohort and are thrilled to share all of their wonderful projects with you.

In addition, earlier this spring we announced support for seventeen Student Grants, and over the course of the fall and spring semesters, we supported thirteen First-Year Seminar Grants in partnership with the College of Arts and Sciences. We are delighted to celebrate the success of all of our 2022-2023 Academic Year Grant Award recipients tonight and we ask you to join us in raising a glass in their honor.

The Sachs Program was founded by a gift from Keith and Kathy Sachs, whose visionary belief in the arts at Penn, paired with their deep commitment to the importance of arts access and creative practice, is a constant inspiration that guides all that we do.

We wish to thank Kathy and her late husband Keith for unwavering generosity, along with everyone else that has made our six years of grantmaking possible, most importantly our Grant Committees, for their incredibly thoughtful review of the grant proposals; and our Advisory Board, for their significant guidance and advocacy. Special thanks as well to Interim Provost Beth Winkelstein and everyone in the Provost's office for their continued and steadfast support of our work.

And thank you all for joining us tonight and for your continued support and commitment to the arts. Congratulations to all the grantees and we hope you enjoy the celebration!

—*John McInerney*
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

—*Chloe Reison*
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

—*Tamara Suber*
EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR OF GRANTS, COMMUNITY,
AND EQUITY STRATEGIES

THE SACHS PROGRAM FOR ARTS INNOVATION
sachsarts.org



2023 GRANTS

- 01 **COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP**
- 02 **ARTIST RESIDENCY**
- 03 **PROJECT**
- 04 **INDEPENDENT
CREATIVE
PRODUCTION**
- 05 **CURRICULAR**
- 06 **STUDENT**
- 07 **FIRST-YEAR
SEMINAR**

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
UP TO \$15,000 TO SUPPORT
COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN
PENN COMMUNITY MEMBERS
AND COMMUNITY ARTS AND CIVIC
NON-PROFITS AND ORGANIZERS.

- Huda Fakhreddine and Palestine Writes
*Palestine Writes Literature Festival:
Indigenous Stories of a Fabled Homeland*
- Akhenaton S. Mikell, MS, Penn Community Scholar,
Imani Star Development, and Research & Equity
in Academic Community Partnerships for Health
(REACH)
We Express Us Through Arts Program
- Penn Museum, The Barbara and Edward
Netter Center for Community Partnerships,
and Sayre High School
*Your Food Story: Storytelling through
the Photography of Community Landscapes*

ARTIST RESIDENCY
UP TO \$25,000 TO BRING
ARTISTS, CURATORS, AND
COLLECTIVES (FORMAL OR
INFORMAL) TO PENN AS
ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE
OR CURATORS IN RESIDENCE.

- Cecilia González Godino and Corine Labridy
(Un)Learning Revolution, a Residency with Tessa Mars
- Simon Kim, Mark Yim, and Camillo Jose Taylor
Envisioning Climate: Afrofuturist Chronicles, a Residency with Vanessa Keith

PROJECT
UP TO \$8,000 TO SUPPORT
PERFORMANCES, EXHIBITIONS,
VISITING ARTISTS, AND OTHER
FORMS OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.

- Joshua Mosley and Simon Richter
Penn Climate Animation and Research Studio
- Jay Kirk and the Daedalus Quartet
BARTOK'S MONSTER
- Natacha Diels
Beautiful Trouble
- Brian Phillips
Meantime Activation Toolkit
- Nat Rivkin and The Trans Oral History Project
The Trans Oral History Project—Artist Collection

**INDEPENDENT CREATIVE
PRODUCTION**
**UP TO \$8,000 TO SUPPORT
FACULTY AND STAFF IN THE
PRODUCTION OF THEIR OWN
ARTISTIC WORK.**

- Ani Liu
Embodied Plastic Entanglements (working title)
- Alison Katz
*Exactly the Same But Completely Different—
Comics About Parenting*
- Miriam Saperstein
Morning in Olam Haba (working title)
- Jamie Diamond
Skin Hunger

CURRICULAR

**UP TO \$8,000 FOR PEDAGOGICAL
RESEARCH FOR NON-STANDING
FACULTY THAT EMBRACE THE
ARTS AND HUMANITIES.**



Julia Heim

*Making Italian Art Media Accessible
for Language Classrooms*

STUDENT
PROVIDE UP TO \$4,000 TO
UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE
STUDENTS AND STUDENT
GROUPS FOR AMBITIOUS
STUDENT-DEVELOPED AND
STUDENT-DRIVEN PROJECTS.

- Alan Zhang
 COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, ENGLISH
*Unraveling Hidden Stories:
 Chinese American Families*
- Angel (Qi) Wu
 COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, FINE ARTS
 AND DESIGN; WHARTON, ECONOMICS
Lighting the Way
- Black Cultural Studies Collective
 (Amber Rose Johnson and Taylor Manigault)
 SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES;
 WEITZMAN SCHOOL OF DESIGN
...be, not allowed, but embraced
- James Diaz and Julia Suh
 SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, MUSIC
[speaking in a foreign language]
- Julia Ongchoco
 COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, COGNITIVE SCIENCE
Grids
- Julie Flandreau
 COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES,
 COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
*Lessons in Love and Struggle:
 The Story of Karen and Omar Ali*

- Juliet Glazer and Giovanni Cestino
SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES, MUSIC
In the Workshop: Collaborative Multisensory Ethnography of Musical Instrument Making
- Kevin Mulvey
WEITZMAN SCHOOL OF DESIGN, GRADUATE FINE ARTS
Gay Sex, Excess, and Work—All Lights On/All Lights Off
- Khayla Saunders
WEITZMAN SCHOOL OF DESIGN,
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
HERitage
- lexi welch
WEITZMAN SCHOOL OF DESIGN, GRADUATE FINE ARTS
Obstinate document
- Marta Rodriguez Maleck
WEITZMAN SCHOOL OF DESIGN, GRADUATE FINE ARTS
What I want you to know
- Maxime Cavajani
WEITZMAN SCHOOL OF DESIGN, GRADUATE FINE ARTS
grounds (chapter1)
- Meg Gladieux and Mira Sydow
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES, COGNITIVE STUDIES,
FRENCH & FRANCOPHONE STUDIES; ENGLISH,
URBAN STUDIES
Woodlands Magazine
- Nicole Cheng
WEITZMAN SCHOOL OF DESIGN, LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE
Multispecies Relations Across Diasporic Landscapes
- Quake Magazine
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
Quake Magazine
- Rudy Gerson
WEITZMAN SCHOOL OF DESIGN,
GRADUATE FINE ARTS
It could lead to dancing: where basketball was Jewish
- Tayeba Batool
SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES, ANTHROPOLOGY
*Memories of a Forest City: Ecological Encounters
and Affect in Islamabad*

FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR
UP TO \$2,500 TO SUPPORT ARTS
ACTIVITIES AND ARTS-DRIVEN
PEDAGOGY WITHIN FIRST-YEAR
SEMINARS. IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH THE COLLEGE OF ARTS
& SCIENCES.

- Anna Weesner
Mozart to Mitski and Bach to Beyonce
- Ann Kuttner
What Happened To Classical Myths?
- Anthea Butler and Justin McDaniel
Religion, Identity and the Self
- Beans Velocci
Studying Sex
- Carol Muller
On Belonging: Music, Displacement, and Well-Being
- Emma Hart
American Pasts in American Places
- Gwendolyn DuBois Shaw
Portrait of the Artist
- Ivan Drpic
Portraiture

- Jasmine Henry
Black Jazz Experimentalisms in the United States
- Jonathan Zimmerman
Why College? Historical and Contemporary Perspectives
- Kristen Ghodsee
Behind the Iron Curtain
- Oscar Aguirre Mandujano
Of Horses, Bows and Fermented Milk: the Turkish Empire in 15 Objects
- Rossella Di Rosa
Contemporary Italy: Black Italy
- Srilata Gangulee
Planning to be Off- shore?



MISSION STATEMENT

The Sachs Program for Arts Innovation's mission is to support and inspire creative practice and practitioners across the university—in all twelve schools, in the university's artistic and cultural centers, and through the many partnerships and collaborations that connect Penn to the world at large. We support a vibrant creative community and wish to ensure that our community members are valued and supported in the ways necessary to thrive. Diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-racism are central to our goals as a program, as well as to our priorities for grantmaking.

We aim to bolster marginalized peoples and elevate voices that have historically been silenced. We also seek to support artists and practitioners in the creation of work that grapples with current issues and ideas relevant to our time, as well as in contextualizing scholarly and historical research in topical ideas and innovative approaches to practice and pedagogy. Experimentation is a core value of The Sachs Program, as is collaboration within and across disciplinary and institutional boundaries. We are committed to a holistic approach for enriching the arts at Penn, investing in schools and centers, as well as in creative practitioners, and contributing to collective efforts for the growth and expansion of arts-driven activities and spaces.

The Sachs Program is also committed to cultivating meaningful partnerships between Penn and its surrounding communities and encouraging non-hierarchical artistic and intellectual exchange. The Sachs Program does not place greater value on one art form over another but rather aims to support a range of innovative and experimental practices across disciplines, departments, centers, creative groups, and peoples.

SACHS PROGRAM STAFF

John McInerney
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chloe Reison
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Tamara Suber
EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR OF GRANTS,
COMMUNITY, AND EQUITY STRATEGIES

SACHS PROGRAM ADVISORY BOARD

6TH ANNUAL GRANT AWARDS CELEBRATION

Deborah A. Thomas, Co-chair

R. JEAN BROWNLEE TERM PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Sharon Hayes, Co-chair

PROFESSOR OF FINE ARTS (CURRENTLY ON LEAVE)

Al Filreis

KELLY FAMILY PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR PROGRAMS IN
CONTEMPORARY WRITING

FACULTY DIRECTOR, KELLY WRITERS HOUSE

Christopher A. Gruits

EXECUTIVE & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, PENN LIVE ARTS

Dagmawi Woubshet

AHUJA FAMILY PRESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
OF ENGLISH

ASSOCIATE CHAIR, ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Grace Sanders Johnson

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF AFRICANA STUDIES

Jasmine Elizabeth Johnson

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF AFRICANA STUDIES
(CURRENTLY ON LEAVE)

Josephine Park

PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

Matt Neff

DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE FINE ARTS AND DESIGN,
WEITZMAN SCHOOL OF DESIGN

Michelle Lopez

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, SCULPTURE,
WEITZMAN SCHOOL OF DESIGN

Timothy Rommen

DAVIDSON KENNEDY PROFESSOR IN THE COLLEGE
CHAIR IN MUSIC

Sonal Khullar

W. NORMAN BROWN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SOUTH
ASIAN STUDIES, PENN HISTORY OF ART

Zoë Ryan

DANIEL W. DIETRICH, II DIRECTOR,
INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

A list of our 2023 Committee Members will be shared through a digital announcement of our Grant Awards following this event on sachsarts.org.

The Sachs Program for Arts Innovation was established in 2017 by Penn Alumni Keith and Kathy Sachs to support the arts at Penn.

Special thanks to the Penn Live Arts.

Event Design by Elaine Lopez.

Also on view: Excluded/Inclusion: The Work of Chen Lok Lee, the third exhibition in the Annenberg Center's new Arts Lounge gallery space.





SOUNDS BY
(((MUHAMMAD)))

