

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Awards SEED Grants to Detroit-Based Arts Innovators Complex Movements and Fringe Society Studio



A Complex Movements workshop with social justice youth organizers in Detroit. Photo: Complex Movements

New York, NY (August 23, 2016) – Today the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation announced the recipients of its 2016 SEED grants. Detroit-based arts organizations Complex Movements and Fringe Society Studio were selected for their pioneering work and their appetite for risk.

“Artists and cultural leaders need support that gives them the freedom to experiment, to fail forward, and ultimately to create new models,” said Risë Wilson, director of philanthropy for the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation. “None of our SEED grantees operate in the status quo and the Rauschenberg Foundation is pleased to help them push creative boundaries and test new ideas.”



Building on Robert Rauschenberg's legacy as an artist who was unafraid of risk—pushing the boundaries of his medium and working across disciplines long before it was standard practice—the SEED program celebrates innovation. Searching for groundbreaking, often artist-led organizations that take risks in their artistic and/or administrative practices, the SEED program provides a combination of risk capital and technical assistance over three years. Grantees are nominated to receive this support by local leaders familiar with their contributions.

Complex Movements and Fringe Society Studio will each receive \$35,000 over three years as well as opportunities for professional development and network building. They will also participate in a national gathering of all current and past SEED grantees at the Rauschenberg Residency in Captiva, Florida for a week-long conference.

This announcement marks the program's expansion to three new areas: Appalachia (Eastern Kentucky, Tennessee), Houston, and Santa Fe, as well as ongoing support to cultural organizations in Detroit and New Orleans. To date, the Foundation has awarded SEED grants to 48 projects in 13 cities/regions across the United States, including: Atlanta, Boise, Buffalo, Cleveland, Kansas City, Phoenix, Portland, and Providence.

"Since we started the SEED program three years ago, we have seen how each grantee organization has been able to leverage our support to take bigger risks, expand their work, and establish new relationships," said Christy MacLear, CEO of the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation. "What began as a pilot program to fund a few grassroots arts organizations has grown to reinforce the idea that art transcends geographic boundaries and should be supported no matter which corner of the country."

Other recipients of the 2016 SEED grants are: Alabama Song, Antena, Blights Out, Campbell Culture Coalition, Carpetbag Theater, EpiCentre Arts, New



Orleans Black Mardi Gras Indian Cooperative, Pelican Bomb, and Sustainable Native Communities Collaborative.

Learn more about the SEED program here:

<http://www.rauschenbergfoundation.org/grants/art-grants/seed>

About the Detroit Grantees

Complex Movements

Complex Movements creates multimedia works that integrate music, theater, visual arts, interactive performance, and creative technology into a seamless experience that evokes a hip-hop aesthetic and operate from a foundation of social justice principles. According to nominator and 2013 SEED grantee Mike Meadow of Allied Media Projects "Complex Movements has developed a truly unique approach: rich design, technological innovation, engaging performance, while staying deeply engaged and grounded in community."

<https://emergencemedia.org/pages/complex-movements>

Fringe Society

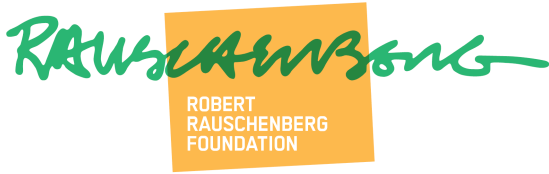
Nominated by Stephen Zacks of Applied Reporting and Urbanism for its promise "to bring a continuing new energy and may not be on the level yet to receive recognition from the competitive local grants," Fringe Society is a studio that generates both fabric and a sense of community through the process of textile production education.

<http://www.fringesocietystudio.com/weavers/>

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About the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation

The Robert Rauschenberg Foundation fosters the legacy of the life, artistic practice, and activist philosophy of one of the most important artists of the 20th century. Through exhibitions, scholarship, grants, and a residency program, the Foundation furthers Rauschenberg's belief that art can change



the world, while ensuring that his singular achievements and contributions continue to have global impact and resonance with contemporary artists.

<http://www.rauschenbergfoundation.org/>

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