

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Awards SEED Grants to Houston-Based Arts Innovators Alabama Song and Antena



The AntenaMóvil, a converted Mexican cargo trike turned bookmobile at Sunday Streets. Photo: Antena

New York, NY (August 23, 2016) – Today the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation announced the twelve recipients of its 2016 SEED grants. Houston-based arts organizations Alabama Song and Antena 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 grant program provides a combination of risk capital and technical assistance over three years. Grantees are identified and nominated to receive this support by local leaders familiar with their contributions.

Alabama Song and Antena 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: Blights Out, Campbell Culture Coalition, Carpetbag Theater, Complex Movements, EpiCentre Arts, Fringe Society, 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 Houston Grantees

Alabama Song

Alabama Song provides free access to experimental culture in an intimate setting by collaborating with artists, writers, musicians, and curators to produce a safe space for artists of color to bring difficult works of art to the attention of a wider audience. "Alabama Song is characterized by qualities that make the project incomparable to others in the Houston scene, special combinations of vision and experimentation, experience and newness, broad community-base and strong leadership, rigor and informality," said local nominator David Dove of Nameless Sound.

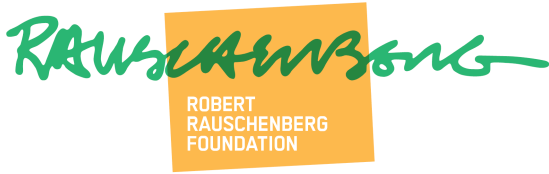
<http://alabamasonghouston.com/>

Antena

Antena is a language justice collaborative founded in 2010 by writers, artists, literary translators, bookmakers and activist interpreters. Ryan Dennis from Project Row Houses described Antena as an organization that "works at the intersection of multiple fields of artistic and political experimentation: writing, literary social practice, interpretation, translation, language justice, performance, installation, book-making, public interventions and radical pedagogy."

<http://antenaantena.org/>

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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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