

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Awards SEED Grant to Santa Fe–Based Arts Innovator Sustainable Native Communities Collaborative



Community members participating in a Heritage Walk by Sustainable Native Communities Collaborative.
Photo: Joseph Kunkel

New York, NY (August 23, 2016) – Today the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation announced the recipients of its 2016 SEED grants. Santa Fe–based arts organization Sustainable Native Communities Collaborative was 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 nominated to receive this support by local leaders familiar with their contributions.

Sustainable Native Communities Collaborative will receive \$35,000 over three years to support general operations along with access to 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, Complex Movements, EpiCentre Arts, Fringe Society, New Orleans Black Mardi Gras Indian Cooperative, and Pelican Bomb.

Learn more about the SEED program here:

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

About the Grantee

Sustainable Native Communities Collaborative

Sustainable Native Communities Collaborative connects traditional artists and culturally engaged tribal members to exemplary, collaborative design services that infuse architectural and site planning with social and artistic integrity. Jamie Blosser of Santa Fe Arts Institute nominated SNCC as a unique organization “in that it is based in Santa Fe and has a local impact with many surrounding tribal communities, yet it has the ability to scale up nationally. There is a great need and desire within tribal communities to harness the power of their own particular cultures and knowledge of place to be more self-determined, and to guide pathways toward which their communities can grow sustainably. SNCC serves that need.” <http://sustainablenativecommunities.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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