

Marcella Brenner Grants for Faculty Development & Research and the Stanley Rosen Faculty Development Endowment

Spring 2020

Marcella Brenner Grants for Faculty Development and Research funds projects that contribute to the faculty member's professional, artistic, or scholarly research and development. The Faculty Grants Committee meets to review Marcella Brenner Grants applications and recommends to the Provost a ranked slate of proposals for grant awards on the basis of the evaluation criteria. The Spring 2020 Brenner Grants for Faculty Development and Research grant program received 25 applications, of which 13 were able to be supported. The following proposals have received funding.

Move Slowly

Hannah Brancato

First Year Experience (FYE) | Graduate Studies

Move Slowly is a new project by Hannah Brancato featuring interviews between creative activists working to end sexual violence discussing practices of resilience and care. These conversations are being catalogued through 10-minute audio interviews, a series of large fabric banners with an excerpt from each activist discussing the theme of resilience, a website, and a zine. The project will launch with an exhibition of the visual art, a listening station for the interviews, and the interviewees gathering together in person for a roundtable discussion. *Move Slowly* is based on the Brancato's experiences of burnout and secondary trauma within anti-sexual violence activism, and her knowledge that others doing similar work go through related challenges. This project was awarded \$1,989.48 in funds.

Psychological Autopsy Certification Training

Mikita Brottman

Humanistic Studies

Mikita Brottman will take part in the Psychological Autopsy Training designed by the American Association of Suicidology to teach participants how to reconstruct the proximate and distant causes of an individual's death by suicide. The training teaches ways to ascertain understandings to the often-asked "why?" question raised by survivors regarding the suicide of loved ones. The method is used in case-control research studies to better ascertain risk factors for suicide, and helps to answer questions of causation in both individual cases (e.g. where negligence may be alleged)

or suicide and interconnections between cases (as in clusters of suicides), helping to inform prevention efforts and spread suicide awareness. Brottamn hopes to enrich her understanding of this forensic process, which will inform her true crime book entitled *Couple Found Slain*. This project was awarded \$311.75 in funds.

Fleisher Art Challenge Support

Christina P. Day

Fiber

Christina P. Day has an upcoming exhibition in the Fleisher Art Challenge Exhibition series in Philadelphia, PA. She will begin building an architectural installation for this exhibition during a residency she was awarded at the Studios at MASS MoCA, in North Adams, MA. Support from the Brenner Grant will help her cover her residency cost, travel costs to and from North Adams, MA, and will supply her with all related material needed to realize her sculpture when she returns to Philadelphia. This project was awarded \$2,000.00 in funds.

Author Meets Critics; Evangelical Philosophical Society

Firmin DeBrabander

Humanistic Studies

Firmin DeBrabander was invited by the Evangelical Philosophical Society to attend its session at the American Philosophical Association's Central Division meeting in Chicago on February 26, 2020, and serve as a respondent and critic to a new book authored by philosopher Michael Austin, entitled *God and Guns in America*. Austin's book discusses the relation of the contemporary gun rights movement to Christianity, and asks how, when and where the radical gun rights agenda runs afoul of Christian moral philosophy. Firmin was asked to serve as the main respondent to Dr. Austin's book due to his experience in this field as author of the book *Do Guns Make us Free?* This project was awarded \$767.70 in funds.

Re-Education of the Senses at the Slamdance Film Festival

Erinn E. Hagerty

Animation

The funds awarded assisted Erinn E. Hagerty in traveling to Park City, Utah to represent her collaborative experimental animated short film, *Re-Education of the Senses*, at the 2020 Slamdance Film Festival—one of the top-ranked US film festivals. While at Slamdance, Hagerty presented her film at multiple screenings to international

audiences, spoke at Q&As about her film, and attended screenings, masterclasses, and networking events. This project was awarded \$2,000.00 in funds.

Las Ruinas Circulares (The Circular Ruins)

Nadia Hironaka

Film and Video

Las Ruinas Circulares (The Circular Ruins) is an immersive installation and short film project by Nadia Hironaka using extended reality to explore the dreams, concerns, and accounts of many immigrants—both documented and undocumented—who have crossed the US/Mexico border. Using the motif of the monarch butterfly's migration between the United States and Mexico, imagery from the National Butterfly Center in Mission, TX will provide the backdrop for an unraveling animated tale. The National Butterfly Center is currently scheduled for imminent demolition for US Border wall construction. This project was awarded \$1,720.00 in funds.

You Held Me Over the Waves

Kirsten D'Andrea Hollander, MFA

Filmmaking MFA

Kirsten D'Andrea Hollander will direct and produce *You Held Me Over the Waves*, an eight-minute narrative film that functions as part of a trilogy investigating the sustainability of adult children's relationships with aging parents. In the storyline, a forty-something woman realizes she can no longer withhold a long-buried traumatic truth to maintain status quo with her family. Two additional eight-minute narratives will also investigate relationships between children and parents to complete this trilogy. will act as producer or co-producer to the other two films in the trilogy who will have their own writing and director teams.

This project was awarded \$500.00 in funds by the Grants Committee through the Stanley Rosen Faculty Development Endowment. This grant is awarded annually to a deserving faculty member who is identified by the Grants Committee from their review of the spring applications for the Brenner Grants for Faculty Development & Research.

Sculpture Space NYC Exhibition

Aya Kakeda

Illustration

Aya Kakeda, full-time professor at MICA Illustration Department specializing in character design and fine art illustration, received funding for her exhibition at Sculpture Space NYC. In her new ceramic installation she is integrating glass as part of her sculptures. To be able to understand how glass and ceramics can be merged to create new forms and textures she is taking “Introduction to Glass for Ceramic Artists by Alison Kudlow,” a class that expands her knowledge of full fusing, tack fusing, pâte de verre, mold-forming, and slumping techniques. Kakeda sought funding to cover the class fee, new material for experimentation, and to accomplish her installation for the upcoming exhibition. This project was awarded \$1,858.80 in funds.

The Invited Symposium of Scholar Collectives on Education & Social Justice

Vanessa López

Teaching (MAT)

By special invitation, members of CREA+E (Coalition on Racial Equity in the Arts and Education)—Joni Acuff, Michelle Bae-Dimitriadis, Amelia Kraehe, Gloria Wilson, and MICA faculty Vanessa López—will participate and present as part of the Invited Symposium of Scholar Collectives on Education and Social Justice at the University of Illinois, Chicago. This is an invitation-only event that brings together thirty of the leading scholar-educator-activists in the United States to share and strategize educational research. CREA+E advocates, teaches, researches, and publishes on issues related to racial equity in the arts and education. Vanessa López will be co-presenting research on the topic of art education, racial justice, and collective scholarship. This project was awarded \$1,606.00 in funds.

Paper on the Dakota Prisoner of War Letters at MLA International Symposium

John Peacock

Humanistic Studies | Rinehart School of Sculpture MFA

Humanistic Studies Professor and Rinehart Critic-in-Residence John Peacock’s paper *Recovering Lost Voices: Translating the Dakota Prisoner of War Letters* describes his role editing and writing the forward and afterword to two present-day Dakota elders’ book-length English translation of 50 letters written in Dakota by Dakota prisoners of the 1862 Dakota-US War. The dual-language book has become a primary documentary source of Dakota history through Dakota eyes and a tool for learning the

once-suppressed and still endangered Dakota language. This project was awarded \$2,000.00 in funds.

trace

Renée Rendine

First Year Experience (FYE) | General Fine Arts

Renée Rendine created a site-specific installation and performance for the exhibition *The Unbearable Impermanence of Things: Nineteenth Century Naturalism and Contemporary Art*, at the University of Denver's Viki Myhren Gallery. Utilizing water-soluble plastic, wooden embroidery hoops, water, thread, and implements, Rendine transformed her sculptural environment for the duration of the exhibition's opening reception. This project was awarded \$1,661.49 in funds.

Fragile Webs in the Corners of the Room

Jann Rosen-Queralt

Rinehart School of Sculpture MFA

Using awarded funds, Jann Rosen-Queralt will conduct research at the Center for Creative Photography (CCP) in Tucson Arizona to lay the groundwork for *Fragile Webs in the Corners of the Room* (FWCR). The CCP holds a formidable collection of southwestern landscape photography. FWCR, a solo exhibition, is an immersive revelatory multi-media installation in Baltimore City, and will incorporate materials informed by the research, as well as natural and human-made artifacts and objects of science. These elements offer insight into the present-day global water crisis, not unlike how objects collected during colonial expansion and emerging globalization were displayed in cabinets of wonder in the 16th century as an effort to understand the world. This project was awarded \$2,000.00 in funds.

Mediums

Jesse Turnbull

Illustration

Jesse Turnbull is working on creating a new stop motion animated short. This will be a follow up to his last stop motion short, *Maidez*. This short, tentatively titled *Mediums*, follows two psychic mediums during the turn of the century who are racing to be the first to contact a widower's dead wife and claim his reward money. Each is trying every trick, scheme, and methodology at their disposal to convince the husband he is in touch with his newly deceased wife. One medium is gifted with authentic abilities to

contact the dead, the other is a devious huckster. Their battle back and forth will push them to their limits and reveal secrets about the husband and wife they may not want exposed. This project was awarded \$400.00 in funds.