Dear Friends,

We hope you and your families are healthy and safe, and managing through this difficult time. As engaged members of our community, I wanted to assure you that FCA’s Board and staff are acting quickly to help artists who have faced unexpected losses due to the coronavirus pandemic, and on March 18 launched the $2 million FCA Emergency Grants COVID-19 Fund. Many artists do not have full-time jobs, paid sick leave, health insurance, or savings to get them through this unprecedented situation. We are immensely grateful to the foundations, artists, and individuals who have so quickly and generously supported this fund. Please read on for a full description of the program, and if you are in a position to consider supporting this effort, contributions can be made here.

Although it now seems like long ago, we were so thankful to have had the opportunity to celebrate the 2020 Grants to Artists recipients at FCA’s annual Grants Reception in early March. It is the one time each year we come together with grantees, artists, supporters, and friends to highlight the innovative work of FCA grantees: an event we savor, especially this year. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us—in person or in spirit! Please see below for photos.

While many of us seek out forms of creative nourishment from our homes, we are reminded of the vital role that artists play in our society. As an organization founded “by artists, for artists,” we are grateful to be able to work together with our Board, staff, artist community, and with you to ensure that artists are supported during this critical time. Thank you for standing by us.

Stay well, and best wishes,

Stacy Tenenbaum Stark
Executive Director

Emergency Grants Update: FCA COVID-19 Fund

In response to the closure of all arts venues around the country and the even more precarious position in which this leaves so many emerging artists, on March 18 we launched the FCA Emergency Grants COVID-19 Fund. Administered as a subset of FCA’s Emergency Grants program—which offers modest, immediate grants to artists with unexpected opportunities or budget shortfalls associated with presenting work to the public—the new $2 million fund is a resource for artists whose performances or exhibitions are either unexpectedly canceled or indefinitely postponed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The FCA Emergency Grants COVID-19 Fund will offer one-time $1,500 grants...
on a monthly basis, intended to offset unplanned losses incurred by artists who were anticipating income from ticket sales, artist fees, or other earnings related to a scheduled performance or exhibition that has been canceled or postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak. Applicants will still be required to meet FCA’s criteria of mission fit (contemporary, experimental work) and artistic excellence. In keeping with FCA’s “by artists, for artists” spirit, applications will be reviewed and processed by artists on staff, and grants will be determined by an all-artist panel at monthly meetings.

FCA will also distribute one-time $1,500 relief grants to all its past Grants to Artists and John Cage Award recipients, a community of some 300 artists. These artists will be contacted separately by FCA and directed to the appropriate application.

For those interested in supporting this initiative, contributions may be made here, and additional information can be found in the FCA Emergency Grants COVID-19 Fund Fact Sheet, or by contacting Kathleen Flynn at info@contemporary-arts.org. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Artists wishing to apply please read eligibility requirements carefully to ensure that the proposed canceled project for which you seek funding meets FCA’s requirements for contemporary, experimental work. Due to the large volume of applications, FCA’s small staff will only be able to assist artists whose work meets these guidelines.

The Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grants COVID-19 Fund has been generously supported by several artists and individuals, as well as the following foundations:

- The Willem de Kooning Foundation
- The Destina Foundation
- Helen Frankenthaler Foundation COVID-19 Relief Effort
- Howard Gilman Foundation
- Glenstone Museum
- Roy Lichtenstein Foundation
- The Richard Pousette-Dart Foundation
- The David Rockefeller Fund
- Teiger Foundation
- Trust for Mutual Understanding
- Cy Twombly Foundation
- The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

2020 Grants Reception

In early March, artists and other members of the FCA community came together to celebrate the 2020 Grants to Artists recipients. 2015 Grantee and musical performance artist Cynthia Hopkins presented the grantees, and 2013 Grantee Matana Roberts gave an improvisational performance on saxophone in honor of the new grantees.
Percussionists Marshall Trammell (2020 Grantee) and Sean Meehan (2020 Grantee) and Frederick Weston (2020 Roy Lichtenstein Award Grantee) and Meredith Monk (2020 John Cage Award Grantee)

Elizabeth Smith (Executive Director, Helen Frankenthaler Foundation), Kerstin Brätsch (2020 Helen Frankenthaler Award for Painting Grantee), and Sarah Haug (Arhivist, Helen Frankenthaler Foundation)
Presenter Cynthia Hopkins (2015 Grantee)  Ngoc Dai (2020 Grantee)

Matana Roberts (2013 Grantee) performing
Mission

Since its inception in 1963, FCA's mission has been to encourage, sponsor, and promote innovative work in the arts created and presented by individuals, groups, and organizations. For more information, please visit our [website](#).