

**leeway foundation****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****NOVEMBER 25, 2024**

**Leeway Foundation announces \$62,500 in project-based funding to 30 women, trans\*, and/or gender nonconforming artists and cultural producers in Greater Philadelphia with the 2024 Art and Change Grant (ACG).**

PHILADELPHIA, PA — Leeway Foundation announces \$62,500 in project-based funding to 30 women, trans\*, and/or gender nonconforming artists and cultural producers in Greater Philadelphia with the 2024 Art and Change Grant (ACG).

For over two decades, the Art and Change Grant has supported artists who are, as beloved Philadelphia queer artist and activist Paul Robeson said, “the gatekeepers of truth [and] civilization’s radical voice.” This year’s recipients are no different and highlight a strong focus on cultural preservation as well as disability, LGBTQIA, and racial justice movements. The 2024 ACG grantees are working in a diverse range of artistic practices such as crafts & textiles, folk arts, media, music, performance, visual arts, and multidisciplinary forms.

Chosen from over 100 applications, this year’s grantees are developing work that challenges dominant narratives and gives radical voice to topics such as adoption, aging, immigration, mental health, mortality and mourning. This cohort includes, but is not limited to: a portrait series centering Philadelphia’s LGBTQIA ancestors; audio tours of historic jazz venues; a documentary exploring the intersections of autism, race, and gender; son jarocho workshops preserving and reimagining Mexican traditions; a collective zine uplifting the transracial adoptee community; a musical-visual project intertwining folk songs from Haitian and Black American traditions; fashion events designed to bring together and support LGBTQ+, plus-size, and disabled communities; and an experimental film that explores climate change, mental health, migration, and Arab identity.

**The 2024 Art and Grant Recipients are (in alphabetical order):**

**Andrea Ngan and Danita Reese** of Germantown & West Kensington, Media Arts \$2,500

**Ants on a Log** of West Philadelphia, Performance/Music, \$2,500

**Arleen Olshan** of Mount Airy, Visual Arts/Crafts & Textiles, \$2,500

**Chaska Sofia** of Kingsessing, Music/Media Arts, \$2,500

**Christina Jackson** of Mount Airy, Media Arts, \$2,500

**CJ Jasen** of University City, Performance, \$2,500

**Ella-Gabriel Mason** of West Philadelphia, Performance, \$2,500

**Gina** of South Philadelphia, Multidisciplinary, \$2,500

**Jaye McNair Obaseki** of Overbrook, Crafts & Textiles/Folk Arts, \$2,500

**Kate Welbes and Nila Devaney** of West Philadelphia, Visual/Media Arts, \$2,500

**Kisha Barr** of Pennsauken, Media Arts, \$2,500

**Kris Aman** of South Philadelphia, Crafts & Textiles, \$2,500

**Leticia Roa Nixon** of Swarthmore, Visual/Media Arts, \$2,500

**Maia Chao** of Powelton Village, Visual/Media Arts, \$2,500

**Maya Yu Zhang** of West Philadelphia, Multidisciplinary, \$2,500

**Mila Romero** of Southwest Philadelphia, Multidisciplinary, \$2,500

**Ñuuxakun** of Northeast Philadelphia, Multidisciplinary, \$2,500

**Philly Queer Life Drawing** of South Philadelphia, Visual Arts, \$2,500

**Ro Adler, Jackie Soro, and Nicole Dupree** of Southwest Philadelphia, Mount Airy, & Kingessing, Multidisciplinary, \$2,500

**Sarah Trad** of Kensington, Media Arts, \$2,500

**Shavon Norris** of Point Breeze, Performance, \$2,500

**Stephanie Amma** of Chestnut Hill, Folk Arts/Crafts & Textiles, \$2,500

**Talie** of Cobbs Creek, Music/Media Arts, \$2,500

**Ximena Violante** of Montgomery County, Folk Arts/Music, \$2,500

**Zoë Greggs** of East Mount Airy, Multidisciplinary, \$2,500

## **ABOUT THE ART AND CHANGE GRANT**

Art and Change grant applications are evaluated by an independent peer review panel. The 2024 review panel consisted of cultural organizer and inaugural Executive Director of the Forman Arts Initiative (FAI), **Adjoa Jones de Almeida**; writer, educator, and organizer, **Asali Solomon**; and media artist and community organizer, [Feini Yin \(ACG '23\)](#).

**The Art and Change Grant (ACG) provides grants of up to \$2,500 to fund art for social change projects by women, trans\*, and/or gender nonconforming artists and cultural producers living in Greater Philadelphia.**

Applications are made available on the Leeway website and may also be obtained by calling 215.728.9273 or emailing [info@leeway.org](mailto:info@leeway.org). Potential applicants are encouraged to attend one of the many support sessions offered throughout the year or schedule an appointment with a staff member for one-on-one support.

## **ABOUT LEEWAY FOUNDATION**

The Leeway Foundation supports women, trans\*, and gender nonconforming artists and cultural producers working in communities at the intersection of art, culture, and social change. Through our grantmaking and other programs, we promote artistic expression that amplifies the voices of those on

the margins, promotes sustainable and healthy communities, and works in the service of movements for economic and social justice. For more information about Leeway, its grant programs, grantees, and events, visit [leeway.org](http://leeway.org).

*\*Leeway is a trans-affirming organization committed to gender self-determination, and we use the term “trans” in its most inclusive sense, as an umbrella term encompassing transsexual, transgender, genderqueer, Two-Spirit people, and anyone whose gender identity or gender expression is nonconforming and/or different from their gender assigned at birth.*

**PRESS CONTACTS:**

**Bee Knight**, Communications Director  
[bknight@leeway.org](mailto:bknight@leeway.org)

**Sophia Chirayil**, Communications Assistant  
[schirayil@leeway.org](mailto:schirayil@leeway.org)

**LEEWAY FOUNDATION**

The Philadelphia Building, 1315 Walnut St., Ste. 832, Philadelphia, PA 19107  
[leeway.org](http://leeway.org) @leewayfound & @leewayfoundphl 215.545.4078