

TEIGER FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2025 GRANTEES AND EXPANDED COMMITMENT TO U.S. CURATORS

\$7 million awarded to contemporary art curators across the U.S. as Foundation expands grants



Left: Vanessa Hernández Cruz, *Soul Seeker*, 2024 (performance view). Commissioned for Abundance, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE), April 24–26, 2024. Courtesy LACE. Photo: Angel Origg. **Right:** Kelli Connell, *Betsy, Lake Ediza*, 2015. Archival pigment print, 6/6. From the series Pictures for Charis. Courtesy the artist.

New York, NY, August 27, 2025 — **Teiger Foundation**—the only U.S. foundation dedicated exclusively to supporting contemporary art curators—is pleased to announce its 2025 grantees. In its **largest grantmaking cycle to date**, the Foundation awards **\$7 million to 85 curators** working at institutions of all sizes across the United States and Puerto Rico.

Teiger Foundation’s grant program continues to support U.S. curators at organizations of all sizes to conduct research, mount exhibitions, and host touring shows; and curators at organizations with budgets of \$3.5 million and below to realize **three years of programming**. Grant amounts range from **\$50,000 to \$150,000**.

This year’s grantees reflect Teiger Foundation’s commitment to extending its support beyond traditional art centers. From rural Mississippi and Appalachia to Hawai’i and Puerto Rico, curators are engaging with the distinct environmental, political, and cultural contexts of their communities. In light of this, the Foundation embraces geography as a lens to amplify diverse perspectives, reinforcing its dedication to locally grounded, thoughtful work nationwide.

In addition to supporting curators at **large institutions** like the **Museum of Contemporary Art**, Los Angeles; **Detroit Institute of Arts**, Detroit; **Walker Art Center**, Minneapolis; and **Virginia Museum of Fine Arts**, Richmond, Teiger is funding significant projects at **small and mid-sized organizations** such as **516 ARTS** in Albuquerque, **BOFFO** on Fire Island, **Pu’uhonua Society** in Honolulu, **The Renaissance Society** in Chicago, and **Arts Foundation of Kosciusko** in Mississippi.

This year's grantees reflect the remarkable scope of curatorial innovation across the U.S., with projects that stage **landmark surveys of pioneering artists**; activate **regional, queer and diasporic cultural networks**; foreground **ecological histories and environmental justice**; or revitalize **overlooked archives and artistic lineages**. Together, these initiatives illuminate how curators are reshaping contemporary art's relationship to place, history, and community. **Select 2025 grantees include:**

Single Projects

- ***Theresa Hak Kyung Cha: Multiple Offerings*** at the **Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive**, CA, the first retrospective of the artist in over 20 years. Curated by **Victoria Sung** with **Tausif Noor**, the exhibition will present Cha's most comprehensive body of work to date, including pieces never before shown publicly, focusing on her explorations of language, memory, and diasporic identity.
- ***L.V. Hull***, the first major survey of the visionary artist and cultural leader, organized by the **Arts Foundation of Kosciusko**, MS. Curated by **Ryan N. Dennis**, **Annalise Flynn**, and **Yaphet Smith**, the exhibition spotlights Hull's vibrant found-object environments and legacy in her hometown. It will be presented concurrently at the L.V. Hull Home & Legacy Center and the Mississippi Museum of Art.
- ***Rodney McMillian: A Son of the Soil*** at the **Columbia Museum of Art**, SC, the artist's largest U.S. museum show and first solo exhibition in the Southeast. Curated by **Michael Neumeister**, it surveys McMillian's work across painting, sculpture, and film, highlighting his sustained engagement with land, labor, and history. McMillian grew up just blocks from the South Carolina statehouse in Columbia, where the Confederate flag flew until 2015.
- ***Afterlives: Japanese American Artists and the Postwar Era*** at **MOCA Los Angeles**, CA, curated by **Clara Kim** and **Kris Kuramitsu**, explores the creative legacy of artists, architects, and photographers affected by Executive Order 9066. Featuring around 200 works, the show highlights figures such as Ruth Asawa, George Nakashima, Miyoko Ito, and Isamu Noguchi, framing their post-incarceration work as acts of survival, resistance, and resilience—alongside contemporary artists including Kelly Akashi, Leonor Antunes, David Horvitz, Glenn Kaino, Ken Okiishi, and Bruce Yonemoto.

Three Years of Programming

- **Acadiana Center for the Arts** in Lafayette, LA, led by **Jaik Faulk**, will present exhibitions, performances, and publications rooted in southern Louisiana's cultural specificity. The program will highlight intergenerational artists and collectives reflecting the region's resilient, self-sustaining creative ecology. Upcoming exhibitions include a 30-year survey of Kathy Reed and Steve Breaux's collaborative practice; a major

exhibition on the Lafayette-based collective The Artists' Alliance (1986–1998); and a landscape-focused tribute to Elemore Morgan, who taught painting and drawing at the University of Southwestern Louisiana for three decades and influenced generations of local artists.

- **Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico** in San Juan, PR, will present exhibitions curated by **Marina Reyes Franco**, **Abdiel D. Segarra Ríos**, and **Alexandra Méndez**, exploring diasporic abstraction, food politics, and overlooked local conceptual art legacies. Exhibitions include *Trópico Agridulce*, an exhibition exploring the politics of food in the Caribbean; *Diasporican Abstraction: Identity Beyond Representation*, featuring artists like Olga Albizu, Gisela Colón, Zilia Sánchez, and Edra Soto; and a solo exhibition of work by Puerto Rican sculptor and printmaker Antonio Navia.
- **CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts** in San Francisco, CA is entering a new chapter of site-responsive programming following its move to California College of the Arts' unified campus. Led by **Daisy Nam**, **Jeanne Gerrity**, and **Diego Villalobos**, new initiatives include *Venue*, an outdoor commissioning series debuting with a performance by Jeremy Toussaint-Baptiste, followed by projects from Justin Caguiat, Rafael Delacruz, and Lotus L. Kang. A research season will activate the galleries through installations and public programs exploring labor and rest, while the Wattis residency relaunches with CFGNY.
- **Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop at EFA** in New York will launch *Global Impressions*, a three-year series of exhibitions, commissions, and programs organized by **Essye Klempner** and **Jazmine Catasús** that trace the international legacy of the Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop. Projects include retrospectives of Mohammad Omer Khalil and the Asilah Cultural Moussem, exhibitions on Caribbean and anti-apartheid networks, and new print portfolios by Shadi Harouni, Kameelah Janan Rasheed, and Nyugen E. Smith.

Hosting

- **The Industry in Los Angeles**, CA, under **Malik Gaines** and **Tim Griffin**, will stage *Sable Elyse Smith: If you unfolded us*, a multimedia opera originally commissioned by MoMA. Reimagined in a nightclub setting for her hometown, the immersive work explores a love story between two Black women and will be accompanied by citywide public programs.
- **Frye Art Museum** in Seattle, WA, will host *An Indigenous Present*, curated by Jeffrey Gibson and Jenelle Porter for ICA Boston, organized at the Frye by **Georgia Erger**. Expanding on the landmark 2023 publication, the exhibition explores abstraction in the work of contemporary North American Indigenous artists, including Caroline Monnet, Sonya Kelliher-Combs, Dakota Mace, and Kay Walkingstick, among others. It will be

paired with a presentation of Northwest Indigenous contemporary art organized by the Frye.

- **Luckman Fine Arts Complex** at Cal State Los Angeles, CA, will host *Millie Wilson: The Museum of Lesbian Dreams*, the first retrospective of the underrecognized LA-artist. Organized by David Evans Frantz and Amy L. Powell (Krannert Art Museum) and led locally by **Aaron Gomez**, this homecoming exhibition surveys Wilson's queer feminist photo-based installations and will feature a full-scale presentation of *Fauve Semblant: Peter (A Young English Girl)*.

Research

- **Valerie Cassel Oliver** at the **Virginia Museum of Fine Arts** in Richmond, VA, will conduct new research to organize *Al Loving: Folding Geometries*, a major retrospective tracing Loving's evolution from hard-edge abstraction to his iconic torn canvases and later constructions.
- **Blank Forms** in Brooklyn, NY, led by **Lawrence Kumpf**, will continue major research on the life and work of Catherine Christer Hennix (1948–2023). Drawing from her archive, the project will explore Hennix's impact on minimalism, mysticism, mathematics, and experimental music, culminating in a series of public programs in 2027.
- **Alisa Polischuk** at **Creativity Explored** in San Francisco, CA, will develop a free online resource establishing best practices for curating and collaborating with artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Beginning in 2025, Teiger Foundation will shift its Call for Proposals to a biennial cycle, allowing for a deeper investment in its grantees through extended programmatic support and creating space to expand grant opportunities in future cycles. In preparation for this strategic shift, this year the Foundation has **nearly doubled the grant amount** compared to its previous cycle of \$3.9 million in 2024.

Teiger will also expand its unique Hosting grant—the only program of its kind supporting traveling exhibitions—to a quarterly cycle. This increased frequency will create more opportunities for curatorial collaboration, deepen research on key themes and artists, and bring important exhibitions to new audiences, adapting them to local contexts in meaningful ways while extending their life-span.

The full list of 2025 grantees can be found below. The subset of grantees taking part in Teiger Foundation's Climate Action for Curator program will be announced in the coming months.

More information about the call for proposal process is available on [Teiger Foundation's website](#). Applications for the Quarterly Hosting Grants will open on September 15 on Teiger's website, and the first quarterly deadline will close on December 10, 2025.

*"Curators play a critical role in shaping cultural narratives, we are proud to support this dynamic and diverse cohort of leaders," said **Larissa Harris, Executive Director of Teiger Foundation**. "We're excited to support an expanded range of curatorial voices across geography, experience, and institutional scale, underscoring our belief that critical, ambitious work is happening in every corner of the country. These new programs allow us to meet curators where they are, respond to the evolving needs of the field, and ensure that artists and communities have the thoughtful stewardship they deserve."*

*"This cohort reflects the full range of contemporary curatorial practice in the U.S., from curators who honor major artistic legacies to those advancing conversations surrounding environment and land," said **John Silberman, Board President of Teiger Foundation**. "As we evolve our model, we remain committed to supporting curators who enrich and reframe the cultural landscape."*

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TEIGER FOUNDATION 2025 GRANT FOR CURATORS

SINGLE PROJECTS			
Curator(s)	Institution	Exhibition Title	Location
Denene De Quintal	Detroit Institute of Arts	<i>Contemporary Anishinaabe Art: A Continuation</i>	Detroit, MI
Clara Kim, Kris Kuramitsu	The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)	<i>Afterlives: Japanese American Artists and the Postwar Era</i>	Los Angeles, CA
Diya Vij	Creative Time	<i>Hum III</i>	New York, NY
Victoria Sung, Tausif Noor	Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA)	<i>Theresa Hak Kyung Cha: Multiple Offerings</i>	Berkeley, CA
Michael Neumeister	Columbia Museum of Art	<i>Rodney McMillian: A Son of the Soil</i>	Columbia, SC
Jodi Throckmorton, Chava Krivchenia	John Michael Kohler Arts Center (JMKAC)	<i>Ann Agee Mfg</i>	Sheboygan, WI

Alex Klein	The Contemporary Austin	<i>Threshold</i>	Austin, TX
Erin Dunn, Beryl Gilothwest	Telfair Museums	<i>Off the Coast of Paradise: Artists and Ossabaw Island, 1961-Now</i>	Savannah, GA
Alana Hernandez	Arizona State University Art Museum (ASUAM)	<i>Carmen Lomas Garza: Picturing the Familiar</i>	Tempe, AZ
Pavel Pyš	Walker Art Center	<i>Abbas Akhavan: Variations</i>	Minneapolis, MN
Ed Gomez, Luis G. Hernandez, and Maria Esther Fernandez	MexiCali Biennial with the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art and Culture of the Riverside Art Museum	<i>PARA/normal Borders</i>	Whittier and Riverside, CA
Ryan N. Dennis, Annalise Flynn, Yaphet Smith	Arts Foundation of Kosciusko	<i>L.V. Hull</i>	Kosciusko, MS
Lisa Crossman, Siddhartha Shah	Mead Art Museum, Amherst College	<i>Kwame Brathwaite: Revolutionary Movements</i>	Amherst, MA
Julia Bryan-Wilson, Natalia Brizuela	Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery, Columbia University	<i>Lotty Rosenfeld: Disobedient Spaces</i>	New York, NY
Laurel McLaughlin, Tanya Gayer	Tufts University Art Galleries	<i>How do you throw a brick through the window...</i>	Boston, MA
Olivia Amaya Ortiz	516 ARTS	<i>Kincentric Ecologies</i>	Albuquerque, NM

THREE YEARS OF PROGRAMMING

Curator(s) and/or Artistic Leadership	Institution	Location
Jaik Faulk	Acadiana Center for the Arts (AcA)	Lafayette, LA
Marina Reyes Franco, Abdiel D. Segarra Ríos, Alexandra T. Méndez García	Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico (MAC)	San Juan, PR
Essye Klempner, Jazmine Catasús	Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop at EFA	New York, NY
Stamatina Gregory	Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art	New York, NY
Kelsie Conley	Knoxville Museum of Art	Knoxville, TN

Joyce Chung, Dave Kyu	Asian Arts Initiative	Philadelphia, PA
David Oresick	Mattress Factory	Pittsburgh, PA
Myriam Ben Salah, Karsten Lund	The Renaissance Society	Chicago, IL
Brian Wallis, Marina Chao, Adam Giles Ryan	The Center for Photography at Woodstock (CPW)	Kingston, NY
Camila Marambio, Mauricio Marcín	Para la Naturaleza (PLN)	San Juan, PR
Faris Al-Shathir	BOFFO	New York, NY
Selene Preciado	Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE)	Los Angeles, CA
Kilolo Luckett	ALMA LEWIS (AL)	Pittsburgh, PA
Daisy Nam, Jeanne Gerrity, Diego Villalobos	Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts	San Francisco, CA
Drew Kahu'āina Broderick	Pu'uhonua Society	Honolulu, HI
Anthony Huberman	Giorno Poetry Systems	New York, NY
elizabeth elliot, Allison Schaub, Micah Mermilliod, Garrett Grimes Timme	Alabama Contemporary Art Center	Mobile, AL
Katie Stahl, Lucy Gross	SAGE Studio & Gallery	Austin, TX
Nanette Orly	Active Cultures	Los Angeles, CA
Calla Henkel, Max Pitegoff,	New Theater Hollywood	Los Angeles, CA
Lian Ladia	500 Capp Street	San Francisco, CA
Kristin Abhalter Smith, Nathan Abhalter Smith	Roman Susan	Chicago, IL

HOSTING				
Hosting curator(s)	Institution	Exhibition Title	Location	Originating curator(s) and institution
Georgia Erger, Alexis L. Silva	Frye Art Museum	<i>An Indigenous Present</i>	Seattle, WA	Jeffrey Gibson, Jenelle Porter (guest curators) Institute of Contemporary Art / Boston, Boston, MA
Kaegan Sparks	Mississippi Museum of Art	<i>Joe Overstreet: Taking Flight</i>	Jackson, MS	Natalie Dupêcher, The Menil Collection, Houston, TX
Tim Griffin, Malik	The Industry	<i>Sable Elyse Smith:</i>	Los Angeles, CA	Martha Joseph,

Gaines		<i>If you unfolded us</i>		MoMA, New York, NY
Natalie Bell, Zach Ngin	MIT List Visual Arts Center	<i>Goldin+Senneby: Flare-Up</i>	Cambridge, MA	Richard Julin, Accelerator at Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden
Ola Wlusek	The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art	<i>Andrea Carlson: A Constant Sky</i>	Sarasota, FL	Dakota Hoska, John P. Lukavic, Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO
Amber Esseiva	Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University (ICA VCU)	<i>Julien Creuzet: Attila cataract your source at the feet of the green peaks will end up in the great sea blue abyss we drowned in the tidal tears of the moon</i>	Richmond, VA	Céline Kopp, Le Magasin - Centre National d'Art Contemporain, Grenoble, France; Cindy Sissokho, Wellcome Collection, London, UK
Allison Peters Quinn	Elmhurst Art Museum	<i>Living with Modernism: Kelli Connell's Pictures for Charis and Double Life</i>	Elmhurst, IL	Greg Harris, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA; Rebecca Senf, Center for Creative Photography at the University of Arizona, Tucson (CCP), Tucson, AZ; Barbara Tannenbaum, The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH
Aaron Gomez	The Luckman Fine Arts Complex at Cal State LA	<i>Millie Wilson: The Museum of Lesbian Dreams</i>	Los Angeles, CA	David Evans Frantz (guest curator), Amy L. Powell, Krannert Art Museum at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL

RESEARCH			
Curator(s)	Institution	Research topic	Location

Alisa Polischuk	Creativity Explored	To establish guidelines for arts professionals on how to partner with artists with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) in the exhibition planning and curating process. The results will be published as a free, digital resource.	San Francisco, CA
Essence Harden	Sovern LA	To connect Black artists from Jamaica and the US West Coast. Grounded in Black geography and African Diaspora studies, the project will focus on Jamaican cities like Kinsgston, Portland, Negril, and Saint Mary Parish, and Los Angeles, the Bay Area, and Portland in the US.	Los Angeles, CA
Evan Garza, Ade Omotosho	Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA)	To explore the collaborative work of experimental filmmaker Marlon Riggs and poet Essex Hemphill and build knowledge on Black queer relationality, community-building, and artistic production during the AIDS crisis.	North Adams, MA
Hugo Cervantes	City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG)	To frame the practice of Los Angeles-based performance and installation artist Nao Bustamante through the lens of "amateurism" as theorized by Ricardo Montez, examining how marginalized artists deploy it as a strategic mode in performance and installation.	Los Angeles, CA
Lawrence Kumpf	Blank Forms	To deepen knowledge of Catherine Christer Hennix's (1948–2023) multimedia practice by investigating fields relevant to her work and the social landscape of New York's downtown experimental performance scene.	New York, NY
Regina Bain	Louis Armstrong House Museum (LAHM)	To examine the impact of Louis Armstrong's 1956 trip to Accra on diasporic consciousness and its lasting influence on contemporary Ghanaian artists and creative communities. This project will culminate in a two-part exhibition of	Corona, NY

		newly commissioned works, opening in 2026 in Corona and at The Nubuke Foundation in Accra.	
Valerie Cassel Oliver	Virginia Museum of Fine Arts	To trace the influence of painter Alvin D. Loving and his pivotal role in the development of abstraction and his sustained dialogue with peers across generations.	Richmond, VA

ABOUT TEIGER FOUNDATION

Teiger Foundation advances innovative curatorial practice in contemporary art. Through its grantmaking initiatives, Teiger Foundation aims to catalyze positive change within the field through its support of curatorial projects that further new research, broaden opportunities for diversity and inclusion, and embrace more sustainable practices.

Established by collector and art patron David Teiger (1929–2014) in 2008, the Foundation honors the spirit of its late founder who acted as an advocate for contemporary curators pursuing ambitious, innovative, and unconventional projects. The Foundation moved into a new phase of activity following the posthumous sale of Teiger’s collection in 2018–19. Between 2020 and 2022, the Foundation distributed a total of \$8 million, supporting artistic leadership and curators at nonprofit institutions; curator-led coalitions and initiatives that support and challenge the field of visual art; as well as COVID relief efforts that helped artists and cultural workers in need. 2023 brought the Foundation’s first Call for Proposals and climate action pilot, both of which have now become central programs of the Foundation’s grant-giving and support efforts.