



Smithsonian
National Museum of the American Indian

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**50 New York City Artists of Color Receive Fellowships Totaling \$100,000
in the Second Awards from the New Urban Artist Initiative/NYC**
20 Additional Artists are Named Finalists

(New York, NY – April 14, 2008) The Urban Artist Initiative/ NYC (UAI/NYC), a consortium effort to strengthen the infrastructure and support for artists of color in New York City, announced the 50 New York artists who received UAI/NYC Fellowships this year. An additional 20 New York City artists have been selected as UAI/NYC Fellowship Finalists. Major funding for UAI/NYC Fellowships has been provided by the JPMorgan Chase Foundation.

The consortium includes the Asian American Arts Alliance, Association of Hispanic Arts, Harlem Arts Alliance, the Queens Council on the Arts, the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, working in partnership with the New York Foundation for the Arts and the Bronx Council on the Arts, the project's sponsor.

"JPMorgan Chase believes it is important for artists to have the proper support they need in order to be successful and showcase their talents," said Gayle Jennings-O'Byrne, Vice President, JPMorgan Chase Foundation. "We are proud to support the Urban Artist Initiative / NYC because it gives artists from all backgrounds an opportunity to excel."

Bronx Council on the Arts Executive Director Bill Aguado said, "UAI/NYC, a unique collaboration of seven arts intermediaries, creates a point of entry for artists from their specific communities, many of whom have not traditionally participated in grant and service programs for artists. Moreover, because the organizations are working as one entity, an even more powerful alliance is being shaped to include and recognize the contributions and talents of so many previously under-served and under-recognized artists."

Executive Director of Harlem Arts Alliance and UAI Consortium member Linda Walton said, "A single motivating factor prompted seven organizations to come together and without hesitation, work beyond organizational capacity and resources to produce admiral results. It is truly amazing what can emerge from a single idea in the hands of first rate partners committed to a common goal –serving artists of color. This is why we do it!"

UAI/NYC marks the first time a cross-discipline citywide grant program has been developed for NYC artists who self-identify their heritage as African, Latino, Asian, or Native American, embracing as well the diversity that exists within diverse communities.

UAI/NYC Project Director Ted Berger emphasized, "This is an important local demonstration which serves as a national example of expanding opportunities for under-served communities and their artists who have been far too often under-recognized and under-supported."

UAI/NYC Fellowship recipients were chosen from nearly 800 applications. A complete list of recipients, finalists, and panelists is included here. Through a highly-competitive peer-panel review process, four panels in Literature, Performing Arts, Media, and Visual/Interdisciplinary work reviewed the work submitted by applicants. Grantees include choreographers, dancers, playwrights, musicians, writers in all genres, visual artists in various media, filmmakers, and video artists. A complete list of recipients and panelists is included here.

UAI/NYC's next grants cycle is anticipated in fall 2008. New on-line applications and guidelines will be available on the websites of the participating organizations. To request the application and guidelines, email uainyc@yahoo.com.

UAI/NYC is part of a national network of cities that serves as a laboratory for projects effecting local and national change in the lives of artists. It is one of the Creative Communities programs of LINC (Leveraging Investments in Creativity).

A reception celebrating the 140 2007 & 2008 UAI/NYC grantees and panelists will be held on May 22nd at the Harlem State Office Building.

The public will soon have a new opportunity to view selected work of UAI grant recipients. In June the Longwood Arts Project of the Bronx Council on the Arts will host an exhibit of UAI grantees in the visual arts curated by Wanda Raimundi-Ortiz. The exhibition will be held at the Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos from June 4 through August 9, 2008. On June 6 and 7, in conjunction with the exhibit, UAI/NYC will hold a symposium discussing how demographic changes and the situation of artists of color impact cultural and public policy. For more information about the exhibit, see www.longwoodcyber.org; for more information about the UAI Symposium, see www.bronxarts.org.

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List of UAI/NYC Grant Recipients			
Visual Arts Jae Hi Ahn Keith Anderson Catherine Chow Nichole Frocheur Alfredo Garcia Skowman Hastanan Takashi Horisaki Wennie Huang Eunjung Hwang Janelle Iglesias Teru Kuwayama Jessica Lagunas Alfonso Munoz Gordon Sasaki Xaviera Simmons Kako Ueda Claudia Vieira Shen Wei Injoo Whang Dylan Williams Jacque Williams Chin Chih Yang	Performing Arts Malinda Allen Manuela Arciniegas Yanira Castro Richard Chang John Chong Charles Fambro April Lynn James Soomi Kim Pattydukes Marian Yalini Thambynayagam Nelida Tirado Jeanette Yew	Literary Arts Joelle Bourjolly Wah-Ming Chang Jennifer Chen Carla Ching Mitchell Jackson Joie Lee William E. Perdomo Keegan Stephan Paul Takeuchi Lorelei Williams	Media Arts Mari Jaye Blanchard Yunah Hong Claudia Joskowics Lanre Olabisi Akiva Penelozza Cyrille Phipps
List of UAI/NYC 20 Finalists			
Visual Arts Carlos Esguerra Tony Gonzalez Jason Lujan Hong-Ling Wee Eugenia Yu	Performing Arts Gustavo Aguilar Laura Andel Gerald Casel Tze Chun Anabella Lenzu	Literary Arts Elliot Aguilar Cynthia Cruz Deanna Fei Sarah Gambito Joseph O. Legaspi	Media Arts Hima B. Ryan Bilsborrow-Koo Judith Escalona Melissa Montero Noel Shaw
List of UAI/NYC Grant Panelists			
Visual Arts Pamela S. Booker Susanna Torruella Level John L. Moore Elaine Tin Nyo Lloyd Oxendine	Performing Arts Alvan Colon Lespier James V. Cyrus Mary Edwards Ishmael Houston-Jones Brigitte Noh	Literary Arts Malaika Adero Angelo Ragaza Carlos J. Serrano Christopher Stackhouse Lourdes Vasquez	Media Arts Daryl Chin Christina Ibarra Kathe Sandler Deborah Silverfine Jack Waters

Besides funding from the JPMorgan Chase Foundation, UAI/NYC Fellowships are also supported by LINC via the Ford Foundation and the Buddy Fund for Justice of the Rockefeller Philanthropic Advisors. Additional funding has been provided by the Joan Mitchell Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and the Booth Ferris Foundation.