



John S. and James L. Knight Foundation  
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[www.knightfoundation.org](http://www.knightfoundation.org)

NEWS RELEASE

## **Best ideas for the Philadelphia arts receive \$2.76 million in funding**

*Knight Arts Challenge winners promote wide range of creativity;  
bring art to neighborhoods and unexpected places*

**PHILADELPHIA – April 23, 2012** – Thirty-five ideas for the arts in Philadelphia will receive \$2.76 million as winners of the 2012 Knight Arts Challenge.

Now in its second year, the community-wide challenge funds the best ideas for engaging and enriching Philadelphia through the arts.

Emerging from more than 1,260 submissions, the 2012 winners represent a wide range of Philadelphia's creative thinkers, including artists Erica Hawthorne and Sean Stoops, small organizations like the Bearded Ladies Cabaret and the Little Berlin collective, and established institutions with innovative ideas.

"The cities that succeed, that offer the greatest quality of life, view every single person as a creative being," said Dennis Scholl, Knight Foundation's vice president for arts. "We hope the Knight Arts Challenge and its winners provide an added spark that inspires the community to build a better future together."

This year's winners will:

- Bring art into Philadelphia's neighborhoods, through pop-up Latin jazz performances, "Site and Sound" gardens in Nicetown-Tioga and a campaign that will bring locally produced art to public advertising spaces near the place where the piece was produced.
- Transform communities through public art installations, such as a new steam- and water-inspired work in Dilworth Plaza, a permanent light installation at a Quaker meeting house and rotating, site-specific public art for the community and daily commuters at The Porch at 30th Street Station.

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- Use the assets of larger organizations to benefit emerging artists, including a new black-box theater residency program at the Kimmel Center, an incubator for creative businesses at the University of the Arts and a teaching corps of tech-savvy art teachers at The Hacktory.

A full list of winners is below.

Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter declared April 23 Knight Arts Challenge Day in recognition of the initiative's impact and its support for a broad spectrum of the creative community.

To date, 71 ideas have been awarded \$5.4 million. A third round of the Knight Arts Challenge will open in the fall.

"We asked the community for their best ideas – and received an overwhelming response, showing the strength of this city's creative community," said Donna Frisby-Greenwood, Philadelphia program director for Knight Foundation.

The Knight Arts Challenge Philadelphia is open to anyone with a great idea for the arts. The challenge has just three rules: 1) The idea must be about the arts, 2) the project must take place in or benefit Philadelphia and 3) the grant recipients must find funds to match Knight's commitment.

The Knight Arts Challenge began in 2008 in Miami, where the initiative is now in its fifth year. Philadelphia is the second city to which Knight has offered this program.

For more on Knight Foundation's arts initiative and to view a full list of Knight Arts Challenge winners, visit [www.KnightArts.org](http://www.KnightArts.org). Connect on the Knight Arts Challenge Facebook page [here](#) and via [@KnightArts](#) on Twitter.

### **About the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation**

Knight Foundation supports transformational ideas that promote quality journalism, advance media innovation, engage communities and foster the arts. We believe that democracy thrives when people and communities are informed and engaged. For more, visit [www.knightfoundation.org](http://www.knightfoundation.org).

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## **Knight Arts Challenge Philadelphia 2012 Winners**

*For more detailed project descriptions & video, visit [knightarts.org](http://knightarts.org).*

### **Performing Arts Will Diversify Old City's First Fridays**

**Project:** Arden Festival Fridays

**Recipient:** Arden Theatre Company

**Award:** \$50,000

To diversify artistic offerings by presenting multidisciplinary performances alongside gallery events during Old City's monthly First Fridays

### **"Pop-Up" Performances Bring Latin Jazz to Philly Neighborhoods**

**Project:** AMLA Flash Jazz Mobile

**Recipient:** Artists and Musicians of Latin America

**Award:** \$35,000

To cultivate new audiences for Latin jazz by presenting "pop-up" performances by local artists using a portable stage

### **Stories of Urban Youth Come to Life in "Hip H'Opera"**

**Project:** Hip H'Opera

**Recipient:** Art Sanctuary

**Award:** \$100,000

To celebrate two art forms that use the human voice to tell profound stories by creating a "Hip H'Opera" using the stories of urban life

### **Communities Experience Art in Unexpected Places**

**Project:** Neighborhood Spotlight Series

**Recipient:** Asian Arts Initiative

**Award:** \$45,000

To provide everyday artistic experiences by creating site-specific works for nontraditional places like restaurants, storefronts and public plazas

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**Late-Night Cabarets Explore Social Issues with Sparkle on the Avenue of the Arts**

**Project:** Bearded Ladies Cabaret Revolution

**Recipient:** Bearded Ladies Cabaret

**Award:** \$30,000

To attract new audiences to theater – using the medium to explore social issues with sparkle – through a series of original, late-night cabarets

**New Form of Symphonic Pops Concert Celebrates World Music**

**Project:** Black Pearl Pops!

**Recipient:** Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra

**Award:** \$50,000

To showcase diverse cultures by transforming a symphonic “pops” concert into a celebration of world music

**College Students Gain New Access to the City’s Arts Scene**

**Project:** Campus Philly’s Passport to the Arts

**Recipient:** Campus Philly

**Award:** \$100,000

To foster a lifelong appreciation of the arts by offering free or discounted admission to venues and performances for college students

**Workshop Gives Voice to Unheard Stories of the Lao-American Community**

**Project:** Laos in the House: Voices from Four Decades of the Lao Diaspora

**Recipient:** Catzie Vilayphonh

**Award:** \$25,000

To promote storytelling within the Lao-American community through a writing, performance and filmmaking workshop

**Public Art Transforms Dilworth Plaza and Thriving Center City**

**Project:** New Public Art at Dilworth Plaza

**Recipient:** Center City District

**Award:** \$400,000

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To help transform historic Dilworth Plaza by commissioning internationally recognized sculptor Janet Echelman to create an artwork inspired by the site's historic association with water and steam

**Art Installation Open to All Inspires Dialogue on Art and Spirituality**

**Project:** In the Light: A Skyspace by James Turrell

**Recipient:** Chestnut Hill Friends Meetinghouse Project

**Award:** \$80,000

To offer visitors a contemplative art space by incorporating the work of internationally acclaimed light artist James Turrell into a new facility

**Residents Transform Vacant Lots Into Visual and Sound Gardens**

**Project:** Site and Sound Gardens

**Recipient:** COSACOSA art at large

**Award:** \$75,000

To transform abandoned spaces into “sacred” art parks for the community by engaging residents to create visual and sound gardens in the Nicetown-Tioga neighborhood

**Local Artists Get Support From Mini Grant Program**

**Project:** Small-But-Mighty Arts Grant

**Recipient:** Erica Hawthorne

**Award:** \$60,000

To give a boost to local artists by creating a mini grant program to help finance their art making with awards ranging from \$50 to \$1,000

**Mobile Studio Brings Community Art to New Neighborhoods**

**Project:** ColorWheels: Delivering Creativity to Your Community

**Recipient:** Fleisher Art Memorial

**Award:** \$50,000

To engage the community in hands-on art making by expanding the reach of a mobile studio where participants create projects inspired by their neighborhoods



**West Philadelphia Lots Become Artistic Skate Parks**

**Project:** Skateable City

**Recipient:** Franklin's Paine Skatepark Fund

**Award:** \$100,000

To help transform West Philadelphia neighborhoods by turning blacktop lots into art-laden skate parks

**Free Theater Festival Showcases Diversity On Stage**

**Project:** Philly Urban Theatre Festival

**Recipient:** GoKash Productions

**Award:** \$20,000

To promote original plays through a free theater festival dedicated to multicultural themes

**Late-Night Museum Happenings Encourage New Audiences**

**Project:** Midnight Madness

**Recipient:** Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation

**Award:** \$350,000

To engage younger audiences in the visual arts through a series of simultaneous late-night happenings at three of Philadelphia's premier art museums

**Cutting-Edge Performing Arts Gain New Visibility Through Residency Program**

**Project:** Underground Residencies at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

**Recipient:** Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

**Award:** \$150,000

To engage new audiences in the performing arts by creating a residency program in the Kimmel Center's black-box theater for innovative and emerging art groups

**Visual and Performing Arts Fill an East Kensington Lot**

**Project:** Little Berlin Fairgrounds

**Recipient:** Little Berlin

**Award:** \$10,000

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To help transform the East Kensington neighborhood by turning an empty lot into an event space for musicians, art fairs and children's workshops

**Outdoor Summer Film Series Showcases Local Artists and Filmmakers**

**Project:** Urban Drive-In with DIY Food Culture

**Recipient:** The Galleries at Moore College of Art & Design

**Award:** \$20,000

To introduce the work of local visual artists and filmmakers to a wider audience by establishing an outdoor independent film series on the Parkway

**Weekly Drumming Lessons Inspire Local Youth**

**Project:** Drum Line

**Recipient:** Musicopia

**Award:** \$90,000

To empower and inspire Philadelphia's youth through their participation in an indoor percussion ensemble by providing weekly drumming lessons and performing opportunities

**Gospel Choirs, Composers and Jazz Ensembles Celebrate Dr. King**

**Project:** New Music Celebrations of the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**Recipient:** Orchestra 2001

**Award:** \$40,000

To celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Orchestra 2001 will present a concert featuring a new concerto based on the civil rights leader's life

**Design Center Provides New Resources to Theater and Visual Artists**

**Project:** Philadelphia Theatrical Design Center

**Recipient:** Partners for Sacred Places

**Award:** \$180,000

To expand the capacity of the city's theater community by providing a new space for theater designers and visual artists at a repurposed local church

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**Free Digital Cameras Give Access to Communities for Photography Exhibition**

**Project:** Bring to Light: Philadelphia

**Recipient:** Philadelphia Photo Arts Center

**Award:** \$35,000

To encourage broader audience participation in the city's visual arts by expanding Philly Photo Day, where everyone is invited to take a picture on the same day for an exhibition

**Architecture Seen in a New Light with 3D Video Art Events**

**Project:** Animated Architecture: 3D Video Mapping Projections on Historic Sites

**Recipient:** Sean Stoops

**Award:** \$20,000

To support an innovative form of 3D digital animation by creating site-specific video art events screened on local buildings

**Plays in Nontraditional Spaces Bring Adventure to Audiences**

**Project:** Outside The (Black) Box

**Recipient:** Swim Pony Performing Arts

**Award:** \$50,000

To weave the arts into the community by presenting original, contemporary plays in nontraditional spaces, including Eastern State Penitentiary and the Academy of Natural Sciences

**Multidisciplinary Festival Features Black Male Artists**

**Project:** Henry "Box" Brown - The Escape Artist

**Recipient:** The Brothers Network

**Award:** \$25,000

To introduce diverse audiences to the performing arts by creating a multidisciplinary festival that features black men as thinkers, artists, choreographers, dancers, composers and more





**Locally Produced Art Populates Neighborhood Public Spaces**

**Project:** Made in Philly

**Recipient:** The Center for Emerging Visual Artists

**Award:** \$25,000

To bring visual art to a wider audience by placing locally produced art in public advertising spaces in the same neighborhood where the piece was produced

**Ceramic Mug “Assault” Explores Relevance of Handmade Things**

**Project:** Guerilla Mug Assault

**Recipient:** The Clay Studio

**Award:** \$15,000

To explore the relevance of handmade ceramic objects in the 21st century by providing a handmade mug to people leaving coffee shops and encouraging them to post about their experiences on the Web

**Choral Works for Nontraditional Spaces to Be Commissioned**

**Project:** Performances at the Icebox

**Recipient:** The Crossing

**Award:** \$50,000

To introduce a wider audience to contemporary choral music by establishing a series of new works designed specifically for a nontraditional venue – the recently restored Crane Arts’ Icebox

**Sculptural Installation Explores Visual Art and Theater**

**Project:** Daniel Arsham: Performative Architecture

**Recipient:** The Fabric Workshop and Museum

**Award:** \$80,000

To create a sculptural intervention by artist Daniel Arsham within The Fabric Workshop and Museum that will include a live performance to explore the boundaries between museum and theatrical spaces



**Teaching Program Fosters New Knowledge for Use of Technology in the Arts**

**Project:** Corps of Interactive Artist Teachers

**Recipient:** The Hacktory

**Award:** \$40,000

To promote the use of technology in the arts by developing an intensive tech/art curriculum for local artists who will share their knowledge with Philadelphia students

**Creative Incubator Supports Emerging Creative Businesses**

**Project:** Creative Incubator

**Recipient:** The University of the Arts

**Award:** \$120,000

To promote economic stability for the city's cultural community by offering support to emerging creative businesses with pre-seed funding, mentorship programs and workshops

**Citywide Scavenger Hunts Introduce Teens to Art and Adventure**

**Project:** ARTward Bound: a creative orienteering adventure

**Recipient:** The Village of Arts and Humanities

**Award:** \$60,000

To develop young people's awareness of the city's vibrant cultural scene through interactive scavenger hunts led by local artists

**Master Class Series Provides Advanced Training for Local Actors**

**Project:** Creating a Common Artistic Voice

**Recipient:** The Wilma Theater

**Award:** \$60,000

To enhance training for local actors by creating a series of master classes

**Public Art Enlivens The Porch at 30th Street Station**

**Project:** A Permanent Place for Temporary Art in University City

**Recipient:** University City District

**Award:** \$120,000

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To establish a new outlet for public art that showcases temporary installations at The  
Porch at 30th Street Station

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