



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE SHELLEY & DONALD RUBIN FOUNDATION
ANNOUNCES OPEN CALL FOR 2017 GRANT APPLICATIONS
UNDER ART AND SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE**

Applications for organizations serving New York City now accepted through the Foundation's website www.sdrubin.org until September 15

New York, April 1, 2016 —The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation is pleased to announce its **open call for 2017 grant applications** under the Foundation's *Art and Social Justice* initiative for **non-profit organizations serving the five boroughs of New York City**. Grant applications are now being accepted through September 15, 2016 on the Foundation website www.sdrubin.org, and applicants will be notified of the Foundation's decision in January 2017.

The Foundation's *Art and Social Justice* initiative, now in its second year, supports art and culture with the belief that art is a cornerstone of cohesive, resilient and engaged communities. Through this initiative, the Foundation provides crucial funding and programmatic support to organizations promoting art as a mechanism for positive social change in New York City, the Foundation's headquarters.

Conceived to support the many vital roles art plays throughout New York City's diverse communities, the *Art and Social Justice* initiative in its first year awarded 46 grants to organizations including Working Artists and the Greater Economy (W.A.G.E.), which certifies arts organizations that pay artists fairly; and Art Beyond Sight (ABS), which is partnering with the Judd and Dedalus Foundations to launch the Art and Disability Institute (ADI), a professional and academic initiative dedicated to increasing art world access for people with disabilities.

Other grantees are using the Foundation's support to stage exhibitions and performances addressing social justice concerns, like the Brooklyn Museum's forthcoming *We Wanted A Revolution: Black Radical Women, 1965-85* (March 3 – July 23, 2017), and Ping Chong + Company's production of *Beyond Sacred: Voices of Muslim Identity*, which explores the diverse experiences of young Muslim New Yorkers coming of age in post-9/11 New York City in the face of rising Islamophobia. Also funded in this grantmaking cycle is Gibney Dance Community Action, which unites survivors of intimate partner violence in order to emphasize their strengths and aspirations.



“After a successful first year of grants under the Foundation's initiative *Art and Social Justice*, we're proud to continue our efforts to bring access to art and culture to all New Yorkers,” said Alexander Gardner, Executive Director of the Foundation.

The Foundation's grantmaking embraces organizations that catalyze collective action, promote equality, contribute to advocacy and policy change, and develop capacity for greater civic engagement and public discourse. In addition to supporting organizations in the arts, the Foundation also supports nonprofit organizations outside the arts whose programs seek to engage communities through cultural activities.

Funding specifically encourages organizational and institutional engagement with pressing social and cultural issues. Potential grantees should provide one or more of the following to audiences in New York city: arts education, public art, art in community and service centers, artistic activism, community-based museums, expanded access to art, art in the service of social justice or change, and the promotion of under-recognized artistic practice.

Past grants have ranged from \$5,000 to \$50,000, while the Foundation invites applications for funding on a variety of scales. Further information, including application instructions and application forms, is available at www.sdrubin.org.

About The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation

The Foundation believes in art as a cornerstone of cohesive, resilient communities and greater participation in civic life. In its mission to make art available to the broader public, in particular to underserved communities, the Foundation provides direct support to, and facilitates partnerships between, cultural organizations and advocates of social justice across the public and private sectors. Through grantmaking, the Foundation supports cross-disciplinary work connecting art with social justice via experimental collaborations, as well as extending cultural resources to organizations and areas of New York City in need. www.sdrubin.org

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