



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Inspiration Grants to Local Artists**

**Kansas City Metro** (August 12, 2011) — The Arts Council of Metropolitan Kansas City Board of Directors approved \$6,200 in new ArtsKC Fund Inspiration Award funding for seven projects by local artists. These awards mark the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Inspiration awards for the 2011 grant cycle, bringing the total of all Inspiration awards made this year to \$13,400.

“We are very pleased to support work by another group of Kansas City’s talented and highly productive artists,” said Harlan Brownlee, President and CEO of the Arts Council of Metropolitan Kansas City. “Their imagination and creativity brings an energy and vitality to this community that is irreplaceable, and we are lucky to have them here.”

Inspiration Grants are an investment in human capital, providing direct support to individual artists and arts professionals for projects and activities that have the potential to advance their careers and build their capacity for future work.

<u>Artists</u>	<u>Amount Awarded</u>
Laura Berman	\$1,250
Enrique Chi	\$500
Renee Laferriere Cinderhouse	\$1,000
Ryan Fletcher	\$1,000
Richard Fritz	\$500
Diana Heise	\$1,250
Nicholas Naughton	\$500
TOTAL	\$6,200

Here is a quick summary of the proposals that the panel has recommended for funding.

**Laura Berman:** (\$1,250)

Printmaker Laura Berman has planned two artist residencies in Europe this fall, one in Belgium and one in Barcelona; funding from ArtsKC will support expenses associated with the residency in Spain, which will extend the impact of this trip and help fund a subsequent exhibition in Kansas City later this year.

**Enrique Chi:** (\$500)

Musician and songwriter Enrique Chi requests support for a short film spotlighting his band Making Movies, to include performances, backstage scenes, interviews and a music video, with segments of the film to be shown on You Tube and other internet music/film sites.

**Renee Laferriere Cinderhouse:** (\$1,000)

Funding for this request will help ceramicist Renee Laferriere Cinderhouse develop a new body of works for a major, multi-disciplinary installation exhibition in the fall of 2012 at La Esquina. This request is a follow-up to her earlier, successful application for Inspiration funds which she had to decline, when other funding for an international residency was not forthcoming.

**Ryan Fletcher:** (\$1,000)

Ceramicist Ryan Fletcher has been invited to the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual International Ceramics Symposium in Wroclaw, Poland and seeks support for travel expenses in order to take advantage of this opportunity to work with established international masters in his field.

**Richard Fritz:** (\$500)

Visual artist and designer Richard Fritz proposes the creation of 10 unique custom-made books featuring handmade covers and traditional hand press printed pages on the inside, to be featured in an exhibition that also documents the creative process and authentic craftsmanship of the project.

**Diana Heise:** (\$1,250)

Recently awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study and work in Mauritius, Africa, video and installation artist Diana Heise requests funding to assist with the purchase of equipment and supplies needed for a non-fiction video project to be created while she is traveling on sabbatical from the Kansas City Art Institute next spring.

**Nicholas Naughton:** (\$700)

Printmaker and visual artist Nicholas Naughton needs support to assist with start-up expenses for La Cucuracha Press, a community fine art print studio which will help fill the void left by the loss of the INKubator Press at the recently-closed Arts Incubator.

**About the Arts Council of Metropolitan Kansas City:**

The Arts Council strengthens and enriches the community by growing appreciation, participation and support of the arts.

The goals are achieved through various programs and services which focus on three primary strategies:

- Increased funding for the arts and cultural initiatives from diversified and sustainable sources.
- Increasing community awareness of the arts and culture and the impact on quality of life issues in our community.
- Establishing the arts as an integral part of economic development and other key civic and business initiatives.

**Arts Council of Metropolitan Kansas City Business Partners:**

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