

**EMBARGOED DECEMBER 4, 2019 7:00PM**  
**December 4, 2019**

**The Precipice Fund announces the recipients of \$60,000 in direct support to local artists' projects and spaces at an awards ceremony and Winter Social celebrating a year of PICA's artistic programming.**

**Date:** Wednesday, December 4, 2019

**Time:** 5:30 PM Doors Open / 6:00–8:00 PM Precipice Fund Award Ceremony & Grantee Presentations / 8:00–10:00 PM Year-End Celebration

**Location:** PICA, 15 NE Hancock Street, Portland OR

**Info:** Free / Holiday cocktails and light fare provided / No RSVP / Age Advisory 18+ This event will have ASL interpretation.

**Precipice Fund website:** [www.precipicefund.org](http://www.precipicefund.org)

**Event website:** [www.pica.org/event/2019-winter-social/](http://www.pica.org/event/2019-winter-social/)

**Press Inquiries:** Leslie Vigeant, [leslie@pica.org](mailto:leslie@pica.org)

Administered by the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA) as part of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts' Regional Regranting Program, the Precipice Fund awards grants to unincorporated visual art collectives, alternative spaces, and collaborative projects in Portland, Astoria, and Eugene areas of Oregon. Recognizing barriers to funding faced by independent arts initiatives, Precipice Fund supports both new and existing projects emblematic of Oregon's alternative, on-the-ground art community.

**PICA**

On Wednesday, December 4th, PICA will announce the Round 7 Precipice Fund grantees at the annual Winter Social, a Precipice Fund Award Ceremony and Year-End Celebration. The panel awarded a total of \$60,000 to 13 collaborative artist projects and spaces. The 2019 Precipice Fund selection panelists were Ashley DeHoyos (Houston, TX), Ashley Stull Meyers (Portland, OR), Lydia Rosenberg (Pittsburg, PA), and Ralph Pugay (Portland, OR). Learn more about the selection panelists on the final page of this release.

At the Precipice Fund reception, grantees will present a lightning round of presentations about their projects. These presentations will be ASL interpreted. Following the reception, at 8:00 PM, join PICA and our many artists, members, volunteers, community partners, and friends for a free, year-end celebration featuring signature seasonal cocktails, festive food, and music by DJs Troubled Youth and Casual Aztec. This high spirited fête will be a feast for all!

**\*\*\*\*\*GRANT RECIPIENT DETAILS TO FOLLOW\*\*\*\*\***

## 2019 PRECIPICE FUND GRANTEES

### **Acción Poética Portland**

**Collaborators:** Ariana Rosales, Carlos Esparza, and Miguel Rodriguez

**Amount Funded:** \$5,000

Acción Poética is an artistic movement at the intersection of visual art, poetry, and social practice that was started by the Mexican poet Armando Alanis Pulido in Monterrey back in 1996. Since then, this phenomenon involving painting and intervening on city walls with fragments of poetry has been adopted all over Latin America. We aim to adapt and bring this rich tradition to the Metro Area as Acción Poética Portland.

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### **Cascadia Uranium Film Art Festival**

**Collaborators:** Laura Feldman, Yukiyo Kawano, and Norma Field

**Amount Funded:** \$5,000

Portland area residents are invited to a two-day festival featuring documentaries and film shorts about the history and the local and global impacts of nuclear technology on their lives and the bioregion. By making a creative community space to experience the nuclear narrative we are a part of, we will commemorate the ninth anniversary of the ongoing Fukushima nuclear disaster, and learn more about the Hanford Nuclear Reservation on the Columbia River.

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### **Conduit**

**Collaborators:** Jade Novarino and Esse Rivers

**Amount Funded:** \$4,500

Conduit is an artist-run art space in Happy Valley, Oregon. Conduit functions as a seasonal residency; an exhibition space; a workshop studio; a support system; and a collaborative practice. We host artists May–September, offer workshops, and in our off-season, design and publish books with artists as Penny Press.

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### **Elemental Eating: Alchemizing Ancestry, Diaspora, and Story Through Food**

**Collaborators:** Candace Kita and Marilou Carrera

**Amount Funded:** \$5,000

*Elemental Eating* alchemizes stories of Japanese ancestry, diaspora, and food. Led by artists of Japanese descent Marilou Carrera and Candace Kita, the project combines potlucks, storytelling, historical research, and textile art to create an experimental visual and gastronomic archive between Portland and Japan. *Elemental Eating* elevates the complex, diasporic histories and origins of Japanese people in Portland; their evolving relationships to food; and their abilities to commune and transform through art, eating, and storytelling.

\*\*\*\*\*GRANT RECIPIENTS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE\*\*\*\*\*

**home school****Collaborators:** manuel arturo abreu and Victoria Anne Reis**Amount Funded:** \$5,000

home school is a free pop-up art school in Portland in its fourth year of curriculum that creates welcoming spaces for critical engagement with contemporary art. Drawing on the etymology of 'school' (Ancient Gk. 'shkole' rest, leisure time, idleness), we center demarketization, casual rigor, criticality as care, and refusal of white aesthetic metrics to present genre-nonconforming edutainment. Our multimedia engagements feature exhibition, conversation, publication, performance, poetry, music, research, and more.

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**It's Sumth'n Variety Show****Collaborators:** jazzelle "javy" dodd and FatherFannie**Amount Funded:** \$5,000

*It's Sumth'n Variety Show* will be a limited-run talk-show featuring local BIPOC/ Queer & Trans visual artists paired with DJ/Musical guests. Filmed in front of a live audience, with portable set pieces, each show will take place in a different location, stream live, and be edited into an episodic format, with additional featurette content for digital platforms. Each episode will feature a hybrid artist talk / Q&A & live performance.

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**Kinfofx****Collaborators:** Josh Cox and Gabriel Zinn**Amount Funded:** \$5,000

Our goal is to create a magazine, called *Kinfofx*, that accurately reflects the experiences of minority individuals and groups in Portland, OR. We feel that such representation is especially necessary now, given the rapidly changing nature of Portland's socio-economic landscape, and the potential for erasure that such changes portend. *Kinfofx* will mimic, subvert, and signify upon the aesthetic of the well-known *Kinfolk* magazine, which we see as emblematic of the cultural sea-change occurring in Portland.

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**Mental Health Club****Collaborators:** sean chamberlain, Gabe Saur, and Nicholas Petersen**Amount Funded:** \$4,000

Mental Health Club is a yearly queer underground party. Using the nightclub as site, MHC facilitates the converging of multiple artists' practices for one night, resulting in an ephemeral, site-specific installation that creates a place for our community to have their world actualized. MHC's core mission is to highlight both regional and national artists, to expand the field of queer cultural output, and help promote payment above the average rate of the gig economy.

**\*\*\*\*\*GRANT RECIPIENTS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE\*\*\*\*\*****PICA**

**MIRROR Series at Anita****Collaborators:** Liz Harris, Patricia Vázquez Gómez, and Adrian Eberstein**Amount Funded:** \$5,000

*MIRROR* is an exhibition series focused on presenting artwork that challenges predominant narratives of US history and identity. It is to occur three times between 2020 and 2022 at Anita, a community art/music/performance space in downtown Astoria OR. This application seeks funding for the first of these events, a show of activism and art that voice an alternative to existing cultural accounts.

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**Ori Gallery****Collaborators:** Leila Haile and Maya Vivas**Amount Funded:** \$5,000

2020 will mark the two year anniversary of Ori Gallery as a collaborative project between Leila Haile, Maya Vivas, and the Portland Community. As such our mission remains the same: to uplift the voices of Trans and Queer Creatives of Color via art exhibitions, community organizing, and mobilization through the arts. Our goals for 2020 will focus on supporting artists in the development and creation of new work, exhibitions, and community dialogue.

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**ShredCore!****Collaborators:** Darcy Neal, Midori Hirose, Francesca Frattaroli, Emma Prichard, and Alice Rotsztain**Amount Funded:** \$2,000

ShredCore! is a mobile, creative studio that will educate communities on decentralized plastic recycling. Specifically, we will provide workshops with custom machines that convert plastic waste to raw material useable for functional artistic projects. Trash Hackers collective will give workshops in Portland and Astoria, inviting residents to participate in making sculptural, expressive, conceptual, and/or usable objects from their local waste stream.

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**whateverSpace****Collaborators:** Crystal Cortez, Michael Romay, Shannon O'Brien, Francisco Botello, and Station**Amount Funded:** \$5,000

whateverSpace is a studio run by a collective of audio/visual artists with experience and training in a variety of artistic and technological disciplines. Over the course of 2020, we will be offering a series of workshops and seminars, open to the public, designed to introduce many creative coding topics and methods. By doing so, we hope to facilitate the creative development and evolution of other artists in our communities.

**\*\*\*\*\*GRANT RECIPIENTS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE\*\*\*\*\***

### **You Are Here**

**Collaborators:** Kalaija Mallery and Justine Highsmith

**Amount Funded:** \$4,500

*You Are Here* is an independent collaborative publication for the unseen, the unpublished, and the unknown. We print and distribute critical essays, art dissent, experimental poetry & fiction, art documentation, and ephemera that address and challenge exclusionary systems. The publication is a hybrid third space: it becomes an exhibition space, a poetic space, a critical space, and a political act for circumventing art world hegemony and capitalist structures of production.

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## **ABOUT THE PRECIPICE FUND**

The Precipice Fund provides critical support for artist-driven organizations, projects, initiatives, and publications that exist on the edge of new practice. These projects operate outside of traditional forms of support, galvanize communities, promote critical dialogue, and encourage generative and expansive artistic process while driving culture forward regionally and nationally. While we believe strongly in the productivity, rigor, and excellence engendered by competitive funding, the Precipice Fund aspires to cultivate a culture of grantmaking that emphasizes community over competition, awarding projects that are highly connective and publicly accessible.

## **ABOUT THE WARHOL REGIONAL REGRANTING PROGRAM**

The Regional Regranting Program aims to support vibrant, under-the-radar artistic activity by partnering with leading cultural institutions in communities across the country. The program allows the Foundation to reach the sizeable population of informal, non-incorporated artist collectives and to support their alternative gathering spaces, publications, websites, events and other projects. The Foundation plans to expand this program with partner organizations in areas where the level of on-the-ground, self-organized artistic activity is highest.

The twelve re-granting programs, developed and facilitated by organizations in Albuquerque, Baltimore, Chicago, Houston, Kansas City, Miami, Minneapolis, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Portland (OR), Portland (ME) and San Francisco provide grants of up to \$10,000 for the creation and public presentation of new work. Together the programs have funded nearly 800 projects over ten years.

## **ABOUT PICA**

Portland Institute for Contemporary Art acknowledges and advances new developments in contemporary art while fostering creative explorations of artists and audiences. PICA's programs support the experiments of the most vital and provocative artists of our time. Our vision is international, intergenerational, interdisciplinary, and decidedly forward thinking (even when those explorations look back in history). PICA is unique among institutions for working right alongside artists at the increasingly blurry boundaries between forms and at the edge of new ideas.

### **\*\*\*\*\*SELECTION PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES TO FOLLOW\*\*\*\*\***

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## 2019 PRECIPICE FUND SELECTION PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

**Ashley DeHoyos** serves as the Curator at DiverseWorks, Houston, TX, where she has currently organized the visual and performance projects, Bayou City Be All, Collective Presence, and solo works of Jefferson Pinder: Fire and Movement, and Autumn Knight: M \_ \_ \_ ER. She received her Bachelors of Fine Arts in Photography from Sam Houston State University and her Masters in Fine Arts in Curatorial Practice from Maryland Institute College of Art.

As an independent curator, Ashley has spent time working with non-traditional artists, activists, and cultural producers to explore the gallery as a space for cultural exchange. She's curated several projects and public programs, including Journey to Aztlán (2018), at Sam Houston State University's Gaddis Geeslin Gallery, Huntsville, TX, Cultural Platforms for Resistance (2017) at VisArts, Rockville, MD, TRACES Ni de aquí, Ni de allá (2016), at Area 405, Baltimore, MD, and co-organized moonLIT, a Non-Binary & People of Color Pop-Up Zine Festival (2017) in partnership with Coalition, Hysteria, and La Liga zine founders, at Space 2640, Baltimore, MD. Ashley joined DiverseWorks in 2018 and Co-Administers The Idea Fund, a Warhol Re-granting program in conjunction with Aurora Picture Show and Project Row Houses.

**Ashley Stull Meyers** is a curator and writer. She has curated exhibitions and public programming for a diverse set of arts institutions along the west coast, including those in San Francisco, CA, Oakland, CA, Seattle, WA, and Portland, OR. She has been in academic residency at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art (Omaha, NE) and the Banff Centre (Banff, Alberta). She is currently Northwest Editor for Art Practical and has contributed writing to Bomb Magazine, Rhizome, Arts.Black and SFAQ/NYAQ. She is co-curator of the Portland 2019 Biennial.

**PICA**

**Lydia Rosenberg** is a visual artist, educator, curator, and co-founder of Anytime Dept., an artist run collaborative exhibition space in Cincinnati, OH. Rosenberg has an MFA in Interdisciplinary Art from the University of Pennsylvania and a BFA in Intermedia from Pacific Northwest College of Art. She has exhibited in group and solo exhibitions throughout the US and Europe and has published writings and visual works. Recent solo exhibitions include, Half a mile backwards in 7 minutes, Cherry and Lucic, Portland, Lydia Rosenberg at Phelan Sculpture Park, Pittsburgh, So Vividly Rendered (part of Betrothal Social), Postscript Gallery, Philadelphia, and forthcoming Complete knowledge of the subject, Napoleon, Philadelphia.

**Ralph Pugay** holds a BA and MFA in Contemporary Art Practice from Portland State University and is a residency graduate from the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine. Other residencies include the Rauschenberg Foundation at Captiva Island, the Joan Mitchell Center in New Orleans, and PICA's Creative Exchange Lab. Pugay's awards include a Ford Family Foundation Rauschenberg Fellowship, Betty Bowen Award from the Seattle Art Museum, Oregon Arts Commission Fellowship and Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Award. Notable solo exhibitions were held at the Seattle Art Museum, Upfor, Vox Populi and FAB Gallery (Richmond, VA), among others. In early 2019, Pugay co-organized Schemers, Scammers and Subverters Symposium, funded in part through a Precipice Fund Grant. His work is represented by Upfor Gallery in Portland OR.

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