

United States Artists Announces 2022 USA Fellows

In largest fellowship to date, sixty-three artists working across ten disciplines receive unrestricted \$50,000 fellowships.

CHICAGO, IL – January 26, 2022 – **United States Artists (USA)** is pleased to announce its **2022 USA Fellows**. This year, **sixty-three artists** across ten creative disciplines will receive unrestricted **\$50,000 cash awards**. The award honors their creative accomplishments and supports their ongoing artistic and professional development. The 2022 USA Fellows class is the largest in the organization's sixteen-year history. USA Fellowships are awarded to artists at all stages of their careers and from all areas of the country through a rigorous nomination and panel selection process. Fellowships are given in the following disciplines: **Architecture & Design, Craft, Dance, Film, Media, Music, Theater & Performance, Traditional Arts, Visual Art, and Writing**.

Past awardees include creative composer and trumpeter Wadada Leo Smith (2021), painter and visual artist Howardena Pindell (2020), dancer and choreographer Alice Sheppard (2019), poet Claudia Rankine (2016), potter Roberto Lugo (2016), writer Teju Cole (2015), master Mardi Gras suit maker Darryl Montana (2014), filmmaker Barry Jenkins (2012), documentary filmmaker Laura Poitras (2010), fashion designers Kate and Laura Mulleavy of Rodarte (2009), multidisciplinary artist Martha Rosler (2008), and multimedia artist Paul Chan (2007).

"We are thrilled to award fellowships to sixty-three artists – the largest cohort in USA's history – this year. Our work continues to illuminate the importance of elevating individual artists and cultural practitioners in communities across the country," said **Ed Henry, USA Board Chair**. "These sixty-three fellows are representative of the magnificent range of disciplines and diversity of our nation's artists. Native and Indigenous artists make up 20% of this year's class, and the highest number of disabled artists – 17% of the cohort – have received fellowships. The breadth and depth of talent and the commitment of artists to their communities is remarkable."



BELIEVE IN ARTISTS

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“I am thrilled to be joining USA at this moment of incredible momentum,” added **Judilee Reed**, who has just been announced as **USA’s next President and CEO**. “I look forward to continuing to grow unrestricted support for our country’s artists, as we work to build even further on USA’s strength and core values. Artists live and work in every community across this country, and we want to support as many of them as possible.”

Representing twenty-three states and Puerto Rico, the 2022 USA Fellows span various geographies and career stages, but all of the artists offer a bold vision. Social practice, education, and pedagogy are particularly important to this year’s group, appearing across almost every discipline. The makeup of this year’s class also represents a growing commitment to elevate and amplify underrepresented voices. For example, the 2022 cohort boasts the largest number of Native and Indigenous artists (20% of the awardee class) and disabled individuals (17% of the group) in the Fellowship’s history. What’s more, the Architecture & Design category includes mostly practitioners of color, and this year’s Film discipline is characterized by compelling stories about immigrant and post-immigrant experiences from Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean. Artists from New England, all of whom identify as BIPOC, represent 10% of the 2022 USA Fellowship pool.

“After another year facing the challenges of the pandemic, artists once again demonstrate their deep commitment to uplifting those around them and nurturing their communities,” shares **Lynnette Miranda, Program Director of United States Artists**. “The 2022 USA Fellows were selected for their remarkable artistic vision, their commitment to community – both in their specific communities and their discipline at large – and the potential to influence future generations.”

In January 2022, Miranda will conclude her tenure at USA and begin a new position as a program officer at the Builders Initiative, overseeing an urban arts strategy for Chicago, IL. Builders Initiative is a close and generous partner to USA, so USA’s board, community of artists, and staff are thrilled that Miranda will not be very far away from USA’s work.



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The USA Fellowship is the organization’s flagship program and is central to its mission of believing in artists and their essential role in our society. Since 2006, the USA Fellowship has provided direct support to artists across the country. With this unrestricted award, fellows decide for themselves how to best use the money—whether it is creating new work, paying rent, reducing debt, getting healthcare, or supporting their families. The organization has awarded more than 750 artists and cultural practitioners with over \$36 million of direct support through the USA Fellowship.

Reflecting upon her fellowship experience, **Bisa Butler**, a **2021 Craft Fellow**, says, “Being chosen as a United States Artist Fellow has been paradigm-changing for me. Many times, we as artists are restricted in our creativity because we are anxious about where our funds will come from. Having this award has allowed me to feel brave in my decisions and made me a part of a unique artists community of creative minds.”

Each year since 2019, United States Artists has also presented the Berresford Prize – an unrestricted \$25,000 award given to a cultural practitioner who has contributed significantly to the advancement, well-being, and care of artists in society. In addition to directly providing resources to artists and cultural practitioners, United States Artists advises foundations, philanthropists, and other field partners to create or expand programs, administer funds, and conduct research in support of artists. Partners have included The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Ford Foundation, The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and the Kenneth Rainin Foundation, among others. Most recently, USA spearheaded Artist Relief, an emergency initiative to support artists facing dire financial circumstances due to COVID-19, and distributed more than \$23.4 million in emergency grants to 4,682 artists over fifteen months.

To make its work possible, United States Artists actively fundraises each year and is supported by a broad range of philanthropic foundations, companies, and individuals committed to cultivating contemporary culture across the country. This year, the organization publicly funded one award through its “Show Up for Artists” crowdfunding campaign, which raised over \$50,000 from nearly 200 funders.



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The 2022 USA Fellowships were generously made possible by: Sarah Arison, Barr Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Builders Initiative, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ford Foundation, The Ford Family Foundation, David Horvitz and Francie Bishop Good, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Steven H. and Nancy K. Oliver, Opportunity Fund and Heinz Endowments, Pritzker Pucker Family Foundation, Rasmuson Foundation, Reis Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, MacKenzie Scott and Dan Jewett, The Fred and Eve Simon Charitable Foundation, The Todd and Betiana Simon Foundation, Paul and Annette Smith, Walder Foundation, Katie Weitz PhD, Windgate Foundation, USA Ambassadors, USA Board of Trustees, USA Endowment Fund, and USA’s Show Up For Artists Campaign.

The 2022 USA Fellows are:

Architecture & Design

Germane Barnes
Miami, FL

Nina Cooke John
Montclair, NJ

Design Earth
Cambridge, MA

Dream The Combine
(Jennifer Newsom and Tom Carruthers)
Minneapolis, MN & Ithaca, NY

SO – IL (Jing Liu and Florian Idenburg)
Brooklyn, NY

Craft

Indira Allegra
Oakland, CA

Sharif Bey
Syracuse, NY

Melissa Cody
Long Beach, CA

Alison Croney Moses
Boston, MA

Jovencio de la Paz
Eugene, OR

Sharif Farrag
Los Angeles, CA

Jordan Nassar
New York, NY

Dance

Luciana Achugar
Brooklyn, NY

T. Ayo Alston
Chicago, IL

Jenn Freeman I
Po’Chop
Chicago, IL

Rosy Simas
Mni Sota Makoce, MN

Pramila Vasudevan
St. Paul, MN

Viveca Vázquez
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Netta Yerushalmy
New York, NY

Wondertwins
Boston, MA

Film

Assia Boundaoui
Bridgeview, IL & Chicago, IL

Elegance Bratton
Baltimore, MD

Ekwa Msangi
Brooklyn, NY

Diane Paragas
Brooklyn, NY

Keisha Rae Witherspoon
Miami, FL



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Media

American Artist
New York, NY

Salome Asega
New York, NY

Critical Design Lab
Nashville, TN, Troy,
NY, & Lenapehoking
(Brooklyn, NY)

Andy Slater
Berwyn, IL

Music

JJJJerome Ellis
Virginia Beach, VA

Kenny Endo
Honolulu, HI

Jin Hi Kim
Bridgeport, CT

Laura Ortman
Brooklyn, NY

Jeff Parker
Altadena, CA

Qacung
Bethel, AK

Martha Redbone
Brooklyn, NY

Craig Taborn
Brooklyn, NY

Theater & Performance

Nataki Garrett
Ashland, OR

Marga Gomez
San Francisco, CA

Lars America Jan
Los Angeles, CA

Machine Dazzle
New York, NY

DeLanna Studi
Cherokee Nation, OK

Traditional Arts

César Castro
Los Angeles, CA

Peggie L Hartwell
Summerville, SC

Karen Ann Hoffman
Stevens Point, WI

Las Imaginistas
Rio Grande Delta
Carrizo Comecrudo
Territory Maiza,
Brownsville, TX

Brett Ratliff
Lexington, KY

Marty Two Bulls Jr.
Rapid City, SD

Peter Williams
Sitka, AK

Visual Art

Andrea Carlson
Chicago, IL

Robert Andy
Coombs
Miami, FL

Jorge González
Santos
Borikén, Puerto Rico

Lonnie Holley
Atlanta, GA

Nicole Marroquin
Chicago, IL

Olu Oguibe
Vernon Rockville, CT

Jordan Weber
Cambridge, MA &
Des Moines, IA

Peter Williams
Wilmington, DE

Writing

Chen Chen
Waltham, MA

Kiese Laymon
Oxford, MS

Dawn Lundy Martin
Pittsburgh, PA

Leroy F. Moore Jr.
Los Angeles, CA

Emmy Pérez
McAllen, TX

Grace Talusan
Boston, MA



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About United States Artists

United States Artists is a national arts funding organization based in Chicago, IL. We raise money and redistribute it in the form of unrestricted awards to the country's most compelling artists and cultural practitioners. Since our founding in 2006, we have awarded more than 750 individuals with over \$36 million of direct support.

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