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● *GENERAL GRANT PROGRAM PRESS RELEASE*

MARCH 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Jerome Foundation Board of Directors met on February 22, 2008, to review 140 applications. Directors authorized 27 general program grants for a total commitment of \$699,730, as described below. Directors also authorized seven production grants totaling \$97,000 to New York City-based film and video artists.

Directors authorized \$8,500 for **CAVE CANEM**, New York City, in support of a workshop for emerging African American poets. Cave Canem is a home for the many voices of African American poetry and is committed to cultivating the artistic and professional development of African American poets. Jerome Foundation provides support for writing workshops based in New York City. The workshops are structured as 11 two-hour sessions that include instruction in craft, and the creation and critique of new poems, followed by public readings with poets presenting work produced while in the workshop. Noted African American poets who have strong teaching abilities lead the workshops. Outcomes are participants' increased self-confidence, a deepened appreciation of diverse aesthetics and a willingness to experiment with new strategies and forms.

MOMENTA ART, Brooklyn, New York, received a two-year grant of \$30,000 in support of the participation of emerging artists in the 2007-08 and 2008-09 Exhibition Programs, presenting six exhibitions each year. Momenta promotes the work of underrepresented and emerging artists, alternating between group shows and solo exhibitions. Exhibitions represent a wide range of artistic approaches and media. The curation of exhibitions is based on review of slide submissions and studio visits by the Director and Assistant Director. Artists selected must have a consistent body of thought-provoking work. The exhibitions bring together conceptual and aesthetic concerns presented by an ethnically diverse group of artists and a wide range of artistic approaches and media.

Directors authorized a grant of \$24,000 to **THE SOAP FACTORY**, Minneapolis, Minnesota, in support of the participation of emerging artists in the 2008 Exhibition Program. The Soap Factory is dedicated to the production, presentation and promotion of emerging contemporary practice across the visual arts. Committed to experimentation and risk-taking, it offers audiences an immediate experience of the arts and encourages a wider understanding of and appreciation for artists and their works. It presents large-scale group exhibitions, project and video room exhibitions, and events. Artists and independent curators may submit work samples and exhibition proposals in an open review structure

A grant of \$14,000 was authorized for the **DULUTH ART INSTITUTE**, Duluth, Minnesota, in support of the participation of emerging artists in the Exhibition Program. The mission of the Institute is to enrich daily life with dynamic, innovative arts programming. The Institute operates three program strands: exhibitions, education and artists' services. One of the primary purposes of the Exhibition Program is to nurture the careers of regional emerging artists. Individuals and groups may submit exhibition proposals and work samples to the

Institute. An Artist Search Committee aids in identifying artists. Some of the exhibitions are invitational and some are thematic. The Institute has a longstanding commitment to the artists of its region and a growing commitment to identifying emerging artists in that region whose works are a vibrant part of the Exhibition Program.

IFP MINNESOTA, St. Paul, Minnesota, on behalf of itself and consortium partners Walker Art Center Film/Video Program, Twin Cities Public Television and Intermedia Arts, received a two-year grant of \$66,000 in support of the television broadcast series MNTV. IFP Minnesota, a center for media art, advances a vibrant and diverse community of independent film and media artists through networking, education, funding and opportunities for showcasing their works. MNTV's mission is to provide a television broadcast venue for makers of film and video work, and to nurture an audience for this work. This series nurtures creativity, advances difficult issues, allows creative risks and represents non-mainstream point of views. Aired on Twin Cities Public Television, MNTV involves three hour-long episodes that highlight new and creative short films made within the last 18 months by Minnesota filmmakers. The curated programs are augmented by interstitial materials that feature interviews with the filmmakers and profiles of individuals, activities and organizations that contribute to a vibrant filmmaking community in Minnesota.

The Jerome Foundation Board of Directors reviewed recommendations from the independent panel in the **NEW YORK CITY FILM AND VIDEO GRANT PROGRAM**. Seven production grants were authorized. Information on those is available upon request from the Jerome Foundation office.

VOCAL ESSENCE, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received \$27,000 in support of the 2008 Essentially Choral Program. VocalEssence is recognized for its innovative exploration of music for voices and instruments. Its mission is to explore music for the human voices from spoken word to choral singing. Essentially Choral encourages emerging composers to create choral work and supports them as they develop it. VocalEssence partners with the American Composers Forum on the call for scores, the mechanics of the selection process and services offered to composers. Five composers are selected from applications submitted in response to an open call to have works-in-progress read by the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers, a 32-voice professional chorus directed by Philip Brunelle. This program encourages stylistically diverse and experimental composition. Rehearsals with the Ensemble Singers, professional development seminars, one-on-one coaching and reading rehearsals combine to make an intensive experience for the composers.

THE FIELD, New York City, as fiscal sponsor for choreographer **KIMBERLY BARTOSIK**, received \$8,000 in support of the creation, development and production of *Ecsterciority1&2*, a dance in two parts for four performers. In this work, Bartosik explores various kinds of wars, and delves into the deaths and chaos they breed. The work will premiere in the fall of 2008. Bartosik believes in the visceral possibilities of performance and the importance of critical social inquiry. Her choreography is a mixture of movement virtuosity and stripped-down, charged stillness.

The Directors authorized a grant of \$12,000 to **iLAND**, New York City, in support of the iLAB Artist-in-Residence Program. Founded in 2004 by choreographer Jennifer Monson, iLAND investigates the power of dance to illuminate a kinetic understanding of the world. It is a dance research organization with a fundamental commitment to environmental sustainability as it relates to art and the urban context, and cultivates cross-disciplinary research. iLAB supports the creative collaborative process between movement-based artists and scientists, environmentalists, landscape architects and others. The goals of the residency program are to encourage emerging/innovative artists, to invigorate and re-imagine relationships between the public and urban environment through kinetic experience; to

engage artists and practitioners across the disciplines of dance, art and the ecology of physical interrelationships; and to support the development of process over product such that process is itself a product for artistic and public action.

THE FIELD, New York City, acting as fiscal sponsor for **YOUNG JEAN LEE'S THEATER COMPANY**, received \$12,000 in support of the creation and production of a new work, *The Shipment*, which is designed to be a hip-hop African-American identity-politics show written and directed by a Korean-American, Young Jean Lee. The work is an uneasy exploration of ethnic appropriation that juxtaposes the spectacle of hip-hop virtuosity framed by genuine cultural cluelessness. It will have the feel of a show trying to destroy itself from within, offering up aesthetic maneuvers and narrative turns and ideas that are called into question and disrupted the moment everyone starts feeling sure of themselves. Her intent is to take apart the issues of appropriation and the realities and myths of representations of race.

PENUMBRA THEATRE COMPANY, St. Paul, Minnesota, received a grant of \$25,000 in support of the Readings Plus and the New Playground/Gym strands within Okra: African Diaspora Theatre Development process, a five-year project that provides a rigorous, yet nurturing, culturally-specific environment for the development of new works by artists from initial idea to production. Penumbra's mission is to create professional productions that are artistically excellent, thought provoking, relevant and illuminate the human condition through the prism of the African American experience. Readings Plus will bring New York City emerging playwrights to the Twin Cities for six days of development, culminating in public readings of their works. The New Playground/Gym will initially focus on Minnesota artists and serve as a testing ground and collaborative space for developing new works. Okra will operate under the direction of Associate Artistic Director Dominic Taylor.

Jerome Foundation Directors authorized a grant of \$24,000 to **THE FOUNDRY THEATRE**, New York City, in support of the creation and production of new works by emerging artists. Created in 1994, The Foundry Theatre is a cross between a producing theatre and an artists' think tank. It commissions, develops, premieres and tours theatre works in tandem with dialogue events that bring artists together with other public thinkers to investigate issues of contemporary resonance. Jerome subsidy is directed to the creation, development and production of works created by emerging artists. The Foundry's investment in works and artists outside of the theatrical mainstream; its commitment to emerging artists; its attentive, long-term developmental strategies and the breadth of its curatorial vision distinguish its work.

MU PERFORMING ARTS, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received two grants. The first, in the amount \$25,000, supports Phase Four of the Jerome New Performance Program. Mu Performing Arts creates theater and taiko from the heart of the Asian American experience. Now entering its 15th year, Mu blends Asian and Western theatrical forms in telling Asian American stories. A 2006 Jerome Foundation grant launched the New Performance Program. Theater Mu worked with seven emerging playwrights/performance artists to develop new works emphasizing risk-taking, experimentation and exposure to new forms. Phase Four funding will subsidize the mainstage production of two of the original seven projects. In addition, the Foundation approved a grant of \$8,000 in support of the 2008 National Asian American Theater Conference: Shaping Our Voice and Vision. Asian American theater company representatives and artists from around the country will participate in shaping the voice and vision of Asian American culture as expressed through theatrical performance. Participants will work together to imagine the future of Asian American theater based upon discussion, sharing of insights and ideas, and formulating strategies to support sustainable growth and expansion. Jerome support will subsidize three staged readings of new works by emerging playwrights from New York City and Minnesota, and provide some support for general conference operations.

CHERRY LANE THEATRE, New York City, received a grant of \$30,000 in continued support of the Mentor Project. The 83-year old Cherry Lane Theatre serves established and emerging playwrights in mainstage productions and developmental activities. Through the Mentor Project, Cherry Lane aims to develop the careers of three nascent playwrights each year, who've been identified through a highly selective process. Mentors, noted American playwrights, guide the emerging playwrights through an intensive six-phase developmental process, culminating in a showcase production. Cherry Lane transfers one play each season from the Mentor Project to the mainstage series for its world premiere.

MIXED BLOOD THEATRE, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received a two-year grant of \$16,500 in support of the commissioning, development and production of new works by emerging playwrights for its mainstage. Founded in 1976, Mixed Blood Theatre Company is a professional, multiracial theatre promoting cultural pluralism and individual equality through artistic excellence. It uses theater as a vehicle for artistry, entertainment, education and social change. Jerome support is directed to the New Plays Initiative in the current and 2008-09 seasons. Mixed Blood will use this support to commission and develop three new works.

Jerome Directors authorized a grant of \$15,000 to **THE KITCHEN**, New York City, in support of commissions for emerging creative artists. Founded in 1971, The Kitchen is a performance and exhibition space dedicated to supporting new work by innovative artists working within and across the fields of music, dance, theater, video and film, digital art and literature. It is known for its commitment to experimental new work and for providing instrumental support during the early years of artists' careers. The Kitchen will offer commissions to several emerging artists engaged in challenging, experimental practices and working in a broad spectrum of disciplines and media. These artists' works are then produced by The Kitchen.

A supplementary grant of \$10,000 was awarded to **THE PLAYWRIGHTS' CENTER**, Minneapolis, Minnesota, to raise the annual fellowship level in the Jerome Fellowship Program at the Center. The Playwrights' Center fuels the theater by providing services that support playwright and playwriting. Five emerging playwrights each year are chosen from open call submissions by an independent panel to be in residence in Minnesota for a year and receive support and services at the Center.

Jerome Foundation Directors authorized a commitment of \$113,000 to the 2008 **MINNESOTA FILM AND VIDEO PROGRAM**, operated by the Foundation. It offers production grants to emerging film and video artists living and working in the State of Minnesota. The program supports work in animation, documentary, and experimental film and video. It awards grants to emerging artists whose works show promise of excellence. Projects must be independent, which means that funded artists must exercise complete creative control over all aspects of production. Guidelines and application materials are available on the Foundation's website (www.jeromefdn.org) and by request to the Foundation office.

NEW YORK THEATRE WORKSHOP, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$38,000 in support of its Artist Development Activities. New York Theatre Workshop is a contemporary theater company committed to the development of innovative theatre by supporting theatre artists at all stages of their careers. It is dedicated to exploring and presenting theatrical experiences that reflect, respond to, and invigorate the world in which we live and work. The Artist Development Activities at New York Theatre Workshop include a wide range of creative learning opportunities such as fellowships, artist residencies, readings, small-scale studio productions and a cultural exchange program. The Workshop maintains a core commitment to the Usual Suspects, a community of more than 400 theatre artists who are at the heart of its developmental activities.

DANCE NEW AMSTERDAM, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$38,000 in support of commissioning and producing new works within the program *In the Company of Men*. Dance New Amsterdam is committed to providing a dynamic environment in support of contemporary dance education, creation and performance. It maintains a comprehensive, integrated approach that focuses on four objectives, one of which is fostering the creation and development of new works. *In the Company of Men*, created in 1994, gives voice to the unique and distinctive energy of men creating and dancing together. Jerome grant dollars support the development of new works by emerging male artists working in contemporary dance. They will be given performance and commissioning fees, subsidized rehearsal time in Dance New Amsterdam studios, subsidized production costs, front of house and production personnel and promotional support.

CLUBBED THUMB, New York City received \$15,000 in support of the production of new works by emerging New York City-based playwrights. Clubbed Thumb commissions, develops and produces funny, strange and provocative new plays by emerging writers. Since 1996, it has presented readings and workshops of over 100 plays and over 60 productions. Its works range in form and content. While it supports all emerging artists, it is particularly committed to providing opportunities for women. Support for emerging playwrights includes commissions, development and full productions.

PILLSBURY HOUSE THEATRE, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received \$34,500 in support of the 2008 *Non-English Speaking Spoken Here: The Late Nite Series*. Pillsbury House Theatre creates challenging theater to inspire choice, change and connection. The Theatre is committed to creating high quality art that engages diverse groups of people in productive interaction around tough issues. One of its several programs is the *Late Nite Series*, created by Laurie Carlos as a transformation of culture where text, music, spoken word, sounds and images weave together in a fearless celebration of new voices and new art. Emerging artists from the disciplines of dance, music, poetry and theatre explore the intersections of social change, community and identity and push the boundaries of their art form. *Late Nite* supports emerging artists by creating opportunities to develop and perform works-in-progress in front of audiences. There are three *Late Nite* series each year.

ANANYA DANCE THEATRE, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received \$12,000 in support of the creation and production of the new work *Daak, Call to Action*. Ananya Dance Theatre, under the direction of Artistic Director Ananya Chatterjea, is a company of women artists of color, diverse in age, race, nationality and sexual orientation, but uniformly committed to artistic excellence and passionate articulation of their dreams, hopes and desires. Choreographer Chatterjea incorporates the sculptural forms, strong foot work and emotional articulation of the Odissi classical style, with the purity of line and breath release of yoga, the abstract theatrical potential of Indian ritual practices, and the urgent energy of street theater. *Daak* responds to the aggressive land rights violations in agricultural communities for the purpose of establishing global industries. The project will share stories of women affected by such violations in Third World communities. The works will articulate the struggle over land rights through the innovative use of space and by imagining different relationships between bodies and land/ground.

HARLEM STAGE/AARON DAVIS HALL, New York City, received \$25,000 in support of emerging artists' commissions within the Fund for New Work. The mission of Harlem Stage is to foster the creation and development of new works by performing artists of color; provide a forum for culturally diverse artists, community-based performing organizations and regionally significant arts groups; present performances for the residents of Harlem at affordable prices; and institute educational initiatives for the metropolitan area's young people. Through the Fund for New Work, Harlem Stage provides direct support to emerging and established artists,

encompassing commissions, subsidized rehearsal space, technical and administrative assistance, mentorships and presentations. Jerome support is directed toward the development of new works by emerging artists, with 85% of its funding dedicated to commissioning.

The **LOWER EAST SIDE PRINTSHOP**, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$34,000 in support of Keyholder and Special Editions Residencies for emerging artists. The Printshop supports contemporary artists by enabling them to create new work in the printmaking medium. Its facility serves as a laboratory for experimentation and exploration. Jerome support allows emerging artists to participate in two residency programs within the Printshop's Artist Workspace Program. The Keyholder Program places emerging artists in a professional, productive and stimulating studio environment over a period of one year and enables them to grow artistically. Artists receive free 24-hour studio access and a range of exposure and career services. Jerome support is also directed to the Special Editions Residencies, which provide emerging visual artists opportunities to collaborate with master printers on new bodies of work over six-month periods.

THE STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$25,000 in support of the Artists-in-Residence Program. For over 40 years, the Studio Museum's exhibitions, programs and publications have defined historical themes and concepts, set scholarly standards and provided support for generations of artists excluded from the larger art world. The Museum's mission is to be the nexus for black artists locally, nationally and internationally, and for work that has been inspired and influenced by Black culture. It is a site for the dynamic exchange of ideas about art and society. The Artists-in-Residence Program offers studio space in the Museum to three emerging artists each year, with substantial stipends, funds for materials, professional mentoring and a culminating exhibition. The residency program is designed to support the creation of new work by emerging artists of African descent. It offers artists a rare opportunity for a year-long residency in New York City with studio space, financial assistance and professional development. They are free to work in all media and experiment with new forms.

The Jerome Foundation elected to renew its support of the **COUNCIL ON FOUNDATIONS**, Arlington, Virginia, in the amount of \$10,230. The Council on Foundations engages its members in a commitment to the public good and to their individual philanthropic purposes. The Council calls on its members to adhere to the highest standards of ethical behavior, stewardship, accountability and transparency, diversity and inclusiveness, sound governance and respect for applicants. Jerome Foundation has been a member since 1975.

For further information about these grants, please contact Jerome Foundation Senior Program Officer Robert Byrd, Program Officer Eleanor Savage or President Cynthia Gehrig at 651.224.9431 or 1.800.995.3766. Visit the Jerome Foundation on the Web at www.jeromefdn.org.

*The **JEROME FOUNDATION**, created by artist and philanthropist Jerome Hill (1905-1972), makes grants that support emerging artists in the creation, development and production of new works.*

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