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## GREATER BALTIMORE CULTURAL ALLIANCE GRANTS \$120,000 IN RUBYS TO AREA ARTISTS

*Baltimore, April 22, 2014* – The Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance (GBCA) is pleased to announce the 13 artists selected for the inaugural Rubys Artist Project Grants. Awards from \$2,000 to \$10,000 were made to support artists that reflect a diversity of talent and creativity for projects including immersive theater, interactive media experiences, documentary film and musical composition.

### The 2014 Rubys grantees in Performing and Media Arts are:

**Carla Brown, Catonsville:** to support the documentary film about her grandparents, *Everyone But Two: The Life, Love and Travel of Benjamin and Frances Graham*, which traces the cross-country travel experiences of an African American couple in the 1960s and 1970s.

**Lynn Cazabon, Baltimore:** to realize *Portrait Garden*, a multi-part project based on work with long-term inmates at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women and presented via interactive posters located throughout Baltimore-area commercial display spaces.

**Graham Coreil-Allen, Baltimore:** to create *SiteLines*, a series of sharable videos that explores the invisible sites and overlooked features of our everyday urban environment, and which will present a compelling portrait of Baltimore and its civic space potential.

**Eric Dyer, Baltimore:** to support the creation of *The Zoetrope Tunnel*, a 9-foot tall by 20-foot long working walk-through sculpture whose interior animation describes the evolution of the bicycle, both in mechanical development as well as in social impact.

**Rich Espey, Towson:** for research and development of a new play, *Tea with Nelson and Betsie*, which explores the moment in 1995 when Nelson Mandela had tea with the widow of Prime Minister Hendrick Verwoerd (the “architect of apartheid”) in the all-white enclave of Orania, South Africa.

**Carl Grubbs, Baltimore:** to write and arrange new compositions for *The Inner Harbor Suite: Revisited*, an audio tribute to Baltimore featuring saxophones, strings, group improvisation and ensemble performance.

**Kel Millionie, Baltimore:** to create an aerial theater production, *Fight or Flight*, that examines this human condition through the use of aerial movement, invented structures, intense choreography, soundscapes, sampled music and video projections.

**Pat Montley, Lutherville:** to expand a one-act script into a full length play – *Pope Joan II* – which tells the story of an American nun who becomes pope and tries to transform the church into a liberal democracy.

**Kwame Opore, Baltimore:** to choreograph, develop and produce the theatrical dance performance *Triumph of Disruption*, working in conjunction with and featuring students from a local arts secondary school.

**Matthew Porterfield, Baltimore:** to support the development of *Sollers Point*, a feature film about one Baltimore man’s return to society after a period of incarceration.

**Glenn Ricci, Baltimore:** to produce *The Mesmeric Revelations! of Edgar Allan Poe*, an immersive, interactive theater experience that focuses on the women in Poe's life and their influence on his fiction.

**Olivia Robinson, Baltimore:** to support the creation of *Near and Far Enemies*, a media installation of large-scale electronic textile circuits that describes the relationship between racism, wealth and science.

**David Smooke, Baltimore:** to compose *A Baby Bigger Grows Than Up Was*, an ensemble piece for a baritone singer, bass clarinet, trumpet and trombone that uses an alphabetical tale by the Baltimore writer Michael Kimball as inspiration.

All of the artist projects begin immediately or are already underway and they will be developed over the course of the next 12 months. Each project includes opportunities for public engagement such as a performance, exhibition, reading or screening. Information on attending a public component of a project will be announced here: <http://baltimoreculture.org/programs/rubys/spring2014grantees/>.

“These artists reflect the depth of talent in the Baltimore region’s creative community. GBCA is thrilled to launch the first Rubys grants with such extraordinary projects,” says Jeannie Howe, executive director of the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance. “GBCA is grateful to the jurors and to the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation for their support. We can’t wait to see the final scripts, films and installations, and experience the impact of the Rubys on the artists and the community.”

**The 2014 Rubys jury panels for the Performing and Media Arts were comprised of the following noted professionals:**

- Jenny Bilfield, President and CEO, Washington Performing Arts Society
- Krista Bradley, Executive Director, Black Rock Center for the Arts
- Ramona S. Diaz, documentary filmmaker and founder, CineDiaz, Inc
- Adriel Luis, Curator of Digital and Emerging Media, Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center
- O.F. Makarah, founder, Heritage Film Festival and co-founder, Freewaves film and media festival
- Gesel Mason, Artistic Director for Gesel Mason Performance Projects and Assistant Professor of Dance, University of Colorado, Boulder
- Sky Sitney, Festival Director, AFI Docs
- Karen Strittmatter Galvin, Assistant Concertmaster, North Carolina Symphony and co-founder, New Music Raleigh
- Elena Widder, arts consultant and Vice President of Public Awareness, VSA

**The Rubys Artist Project Grant** program was established by GBCA in 2013 to support the region's gems - the local creative community of performing, visual, media and literary artists. Supported by the vision and initial funding from the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation, the Rubys provide meaningful support directly to artists. The Rubys also usher in a new era of arts grantmaking in Baltimore by offering citizens, philanthropists and foundations the opportunity to support individual artists. The Rubys were inspired in part by Ruby Lerner, the visionary founder and leader of Creative Capital in New York City.

**The next round of Rubys grants focuses on the Visual Arts and Literary Arts and opens for applications on May 1, 2014.** Details on the application process as well as downloadable grant guidelines are available at <http://baltimoreculture.org/programs/rubys/>. Additionally, GBCA is hosting multiple grant information sessions throughout the region. To attend a session, artists can RSVP on the website. The deadline to apply for a Ruby grant in the Visual Arts or Literary Arts is June 30, 2014.

**The Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance (GBCA)** nurtures and promotes a vibrant, diverse and sustainable arts and cultural community embraced by all as accessible, relevant and essential to the region's quality of life. GBCA connects artists and groups to one another and to resources; and advocates for the continued visibility and financial strength of the sector while addressing strategic issues facing the cultural community.

**Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance**

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**Full project descriptions, artist bios, headshots and project images are available.**

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