



## GREATER BALTIMORE CULTURAL ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES 2018 RUBYS GRANTS IN MEDIA AND PERFORMING ARTS

*Baltimore, May 8, 2018* – The Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance (GBCA) is thrilled to announce the seven artists selected for 2018 Rubys Artist Project Grants in media arts and performing arts. This grantee cohort represents innovative artistic exploration in electronic music, immersive sound, dance, video art, short film, and a multimedia variety show. Now celebrating its fifth year of grantmaking, the Rubys Artist Project Grants were conceived in 2013, initiated with start-up funding from the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation, and are a program of the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance.

### The 2018 Rubys grantees in Media Arts and Performing Arts are:



**Abdu Ali** (Baltimore): to support the composing of music for *FIYA!!!*, an album that will explore narratives surrounding the Black queer experience through a fusion of electronic music, digital soundscapes, and analog instruments.



**Pierre Bennu** (Baltimore): to support the development of *The Inner Children's Show*, a multimedia variety show that utilizes the format of classic children's television programming to tackle tough issues for grownups using humor, satire, and music.



**Alexandra Gardner** (Baltimore): to compose *Tides*, a four-movement work for saxophone quartet and electronics that is inspired by the notion of tidal shifts from both an environmental and cultural standpoint.



**Bonnie Jones** (Baltimore): to support *10 Siberian Tigers, 1500 Red-crowned Cranes*, an immersive sound and video art project that will use found sounds, field recordings, and text-based video interviews to explore themes of migration, borders, and the wild nature that can grow within in-between spaces, specifically that of the Korean Demilitarized Zone.



**A. Moon** (Baltimore): to support *Hapaxes*, an experimental non-fiction video which uses reenactments and voice-over commentary to mine meaning from a previously-hidden trove of personal photos in an effort to understand a suppressed family history as well as the denotative limits of visual representation.



**Gianna Rodriguez** (Baltimore): to support *I Know I Can't Do This Forever*, a dance theater piece inspired by the impact of living with multiple sclerosis and which explores concepts of losing control, giving in, and adapting life through objects, bodies, and figures.

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**Jules Roskam** (Baltimore): to support *Dance, Dance, Evolution*, a short documentary film that explores transgender people's relationship to dance.

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"Baltimore's creatives make our city a rich, diverse, and amazing place to live and work. We started the Rubys in 2013 to support and empower all types of artists to set ambitious goals and to receive the resources necessary to bring them to life. Our city benefits as a whole when arts and culture, and those who make it, are able to succeed," says Jane Brown, president and executive director of the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation.

"Over the past five years, the Rubys have had a transformational impact on Baltimore-area artists. We, and our community, are all the better for it!" says Jeannie Howe, executive director of the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance. "GBCA is grateful to its talented and thoughtful jurors and to the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation for their vision and support of this program."

The 2018 Rubys jury panels for media arts and performing arts were comprised of the following esteemed professionals:

- Iyabo Boyd, producer, writer/director, founder of Feedback Loop (NYC)
- Shaun Clarke, cinematographer, assistant professor, Emerson College (Boston)
- Leena Jayaswal, filmmaker, photographer, professor, American University (D.C.)
- Elizabeth McCloskey Miller, arts consultant, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Philadelphia)
- Shayla Roland, associate producer, Penumbra Theatre Company (Minneapolis)
- Margaret Rorison, filmmaker, curator (Baltimore)
- Sixto Wagan, director, Center for Art and Social Engagement, University of Houston
- André Zachery, artistic director, Renegade Performance Group (NYC)

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**The Rubys Artist Project Grant** program was established in 2013 to support the region's gems - the local creative community of performing, visual, media and literary artists. Created with the vision and initial funding from the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation, the Rubys provide meaningful project support directly to artists. The Rubys were inspired in part by Ruby Lerner, the visionary founder of Creative Capital in New York City. <http://baltimoreculture.org/rubys>

**The Robert W. Deutsch Foundation** invests in innovative people, programs and ideas that promote arts and culture, economic and community development, and social justice, with a primary focus on the City of Baltimore. [www.rwdfoundation.org/](http://www.rwdfoundation.org/)

**The Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance (GBCA)** nurtures and promotes a vibrant, diverse, and sustainable arts and cultural community essential to the region's quality of life. GBCA aims to promote the region's creative sector and significantly increase artists' and organizations' capacity to do great work. <http://baltimoreculture.org/>

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