

Inspiring creativity and cultural stewardship in the next generation of Great Lakes residents and strengthening the role of artists and arts organizations in building culturally vibrant, equitable, and sustainable communities

CULTURE

By exposing society's fault lines, artists and arts organizations are often catalysts for social justice and racial equity.

The Joy Foundation's Culture Program invests in organizational and community capacity in the arts through a commitment to racial equity, diversity, and inclusion.

We focus on three areas that put the next generation of artists, arts leaders, and audiences at the center of this work:

- Arts Access & Participation
- Arts Leadership & Workforce
- Creativity & Cultural Production

FOCUS AREAS

Arts Access & Participation

We invest in expanding access to high-quality arts programming and artistic development in communities where limited opportunities exist. This could mean eliminating or reducing cost as a barrier to arts experiences, or expanding the operational and presenting capacities of neighborhood-based organizations.

Arts Leadership & Workforce

Towards the goal of increasing racial equity, diversity, and inclusion across the range of roles in the creative sector, we invest in initiatives that support the education and preparation of African, Latino, Asian, Arab, and Native Americans who are underrepresented in the field as administrators, board members, funders, stewards, technical and production staff. As well, we seek to expand opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship in the creative economy for low-income adults, self-employed artists, and artisans. We are especially interested in partnerships that explore the unique roles that artists can play as civic leaders and community change agents.

Creativity & Cultural Production

Chicago and the Great Lakes region should be recognized for their long histories of incubating world-class talent, and for fostering communities where active and aspiring artists and makers flourish. To support this goal, we seek to underwrite exhibitions, performances, programs, and initiatives that raise the visibility of ALAANA and other under-represented artists whose works and creative output warrant wider audience, critical attention, scholarship, and documentation.

Our marquee program in this area, the Joyce Awards, funds the commissioning of artists of color at pivotal points in their careers by cultural and community organizations in Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee and Minneapolis-St. Paul. An award of \$50,000 is intended to underwrite in whole or part, the creation and production of a new work, and to aid in the development of a robust plan for engaging potential audiences, new partners, and the surrounding community throughout the creative process as well as in the culminating artistic production.

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