

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOTS ALIVE GRANT AWARDEES ANNOUNCED

Program offers up to \$10,000 to support public art projects in vacant lots

The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts and Baltimore City's Growing Green Initiative are excited to announce the awardees of their new grant program, **Lots Alive**. Lots Alive supports the creation of temporary public art projects sited on vacant lots within the Baltimore City limits. Artists were invited to submit proposals for artworks with lifespans ranging from one day to one year that actively engaged residents and community members in the design of the project.

Designed in partnership with Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake's Growing Green Initiative, Lots Alive aims to breathe life into underutilized vacant spaces through creative interventions.

The awardees are:

3-Story Stories - Stewart Watson

Award amount: \$7,705

Stewart Watson will create a portable outdoor reading room at the Wunderground lot in the heart of the Greenmount West neighborhood. "3-Story Stories" will feature a bookshelf that looks like tiny 3-story rowhouses, a warehouse that doubles as a table for the readers, and soft stoops and curbs made of foam and vinyl. Citizens of all ages can read or hear their favorite stories through scheduled readings or on their own in this open-air mini-library.

About the Artist

Stewart Watson received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from The Pennsylvania State University and her Master of Fine Arts degree from The University of Maryland. She is a 2014 Sondheim Prize Finalist exhibiting recently at The Walters Art Museum, The Contemporary Museum Baltimore, Randall Scott Projects, and Marianne Boesky Gallery, NY. Watson has received Individual Artist Grants from Maryland State Arts Council in 2011, 2007, and 2001. She is the winner of the 2010 Sadat Art for Peace Prize, and the recipient of two special honors for her work in The Station North Arts and Entertainment District.

DIY Sign Making - Gary Mullen and the Parks & People Foundation

Award amount: \$8,420

The Parks & People Foundation, partnering with Jubilee Arts and artist Gary Mullen, will host and organize a DIY sign making workshop for 10 community groups working to beautify 10 vacant lots through the city's adopt-a-lot program. Working in partnership with Gary Mullen, each community group will create personalized artist-designed signage for their new community spaces.

About the Artist

A resident of Baltimore, Gary Mullen is an award-winning artist who received a degree in graphic design from Morgan State University. He has studied the genius works of Pablo Picasso and fell in love with his style of art called Synthetic Cubism. Gary has painted murals in Baltimore City and his works have appeared in magazines, newspapers and television.

Dwelling/s - Sarah Doherty

Award amount: \$2,012.50

"Dwelling/s" is a temporary sculptural project in the Old Goucher neighborhood that explores a sense of place and home through the lens of the word 'dwelling'. As a verb, dwelling supposes a state of mind and as a noun, an architectural structure. A sense of home or place usually resides at the nexus of these two conditions. Three iconic house frames will be constructed out of 2" square tube steel pipe. These frames then become the site of interior art installations responding to the concept of dwelling. A variety of artists and community members will be solicited to create works in these spaces. In a neighborhood experiencing a great deal of transition and gentrification, it becomes even more poignant that the community is able to explore and articulate what makes a sense of home and place.

About the Artist

Sarah Doherty is an artist whose work explores the intersections of art, architecture, urban spaces and technology through installation art and urban intervention projects. Her work explores the transformation of space to place utilizing creative agency as a strategy of place making often revealing or transforming vacant and interstitial spaces into cultural assets. In addition to gallery and museum exhibitions, Sarah has developed numerous public projects and unique exhibition venues for artists.

Magic Garden Portal - Kim Loper and Jubilee Arts

Award amount: \$9,925.92

The "Magic Garden Portal" sited on the four vacant lots at the intersection of Gold and Division streets in Druid Heights symbolizes the revitalization and rebuilding of Druid Heights and West Baltimore through sculptural design. The "portal" will feature an archway tunnel made of reclaimed wood, inviting residents to step away from their everyday worlds and move through seating areas, wooden sculptures, and a mural. Working with the artist, youth from Jubilee Arts will be hired to engage local churches and residents in design, installation and flower bouquet art-making for the sculptures and programmatic activation throughout the summer.

About the Artist

Kim Loper is a mixed media visual artist and educator with a focus on youth workforce development through the arts. She has taught and managed innovative arts programs in parks, schools, community centers and non-profit organizations for over 10 years. Loper has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art and American Studies from the University of Minnesota and lives in Baltimore where she is a Master of Fine Arts Candidate in Community Arts at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). She is currently Jubilee Arts' Artist-in-Residence through the Americorp Community Arts Collaborative program. Jubilee Arts is a community program providing arts classes to the residents of the Sandtown-Winchester, Upton, and surrounding neighborhoods in Baltimore.

SOWEBO Live! - Juliannah Francina, Roderick Handy, and the Hollins Creative Placemaking Committee

Award amount: \$6,095

Inspired by the culture of Southwest Baltimore (SOWEBO), local artists will create new works depicting the people and scenes of SOWEBO, as observed through community barbeques throughout the summer. The artworks created will be shown in a temporary outdoor art gallery exhibition on the vacant lot located at 101 N. Schroeder Street in October 2016. The event will feature live music, food, and the faces and places of SOWEBO.

About the Artists

The event is coordinated by Hollins Creative Placemaking Committee, a Southwest Baltimore arts and justice collaborative which seeks to avoid cultural and economic displacement through empowering local artists. The lead artists are Juliannah Francina, a MICA graduate with a strong tie to the community whose most recent focus has been portrait work, and Roderick Handy, a local self-taught artist.

Upresting - Adam Holofcener

Award amount - \$4,551.61

"Upresting" is a quadrophonic (4 speaker) sound installation that brings the highly charged sonic effects of a protest/rally/demonstration to individuals in a fixed place at 1401 N. Fremont Avenue in the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood. The installation gives everyone with a voice the opportunity to wield the awesome power of a protest by speaking into a microphone and hearing an invisible chorus around them. "The Uprising offered everyone who was willing to walk down the street a chance to chant/scream/sing with one another to sound a powerful voice for our city and its long suffering people," said artist Adam Holofcener. Now, through a series of workshops and performances, the public and performers alike will get another chance to wield this power in a controlled space, where those heard less often can again express themselves with the force of many.

About the Artist

Adam Holofcener grew up in Baltimore County and now lives in Baltimore City. As of late, his work has focused on building electro-acoustic environments with Max/MSP, improvisation on the electric and nylon string guitar, dipping his toe into hip-hop/club/r&b, and peddling pop music in the ABAB format.

About the Growing Green Initiative (GGI)

Managed by the Department of Planning's Office of Sustainability, GGI is a city-led effort to use sustainable, innovative, and cost-effective practices for stabilizing and holding land for redevelopment, and reusing vacant land to green neighborhoods, reduce storm water runoff, grow food, and create community spaces.

About the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA)

The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization which serves as Baltimore City's arts council, film office, and events agency. By producing large-scale events such as Artscape, America's largest free arts festival, and offering funding and support to arts programs across the city, BOPA's goal is to make Baltimore a more vibrant and creative city.

For more information on the **Lots Alive** program, call 410-752-8632 or visit www.promotionandarts.org.

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