



## **Artist Communities Alliance Awarded \$3 Million Grant from Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**

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PROVIDENCE, R.I.— Artist Communities Alliance (ACA) is pleased to announce it has been awarded a grant award of \$3 million over three years from the Mellon Foundation.

“This award advances ACA’s unique leadership and vision for artist residencies where people have the freedom to unleash their creative potential and prosper in inclusive, just, joyful, and accessible environments,” says Lisa Funderburke (Hoffman), ACA President and CEO. “It affirms ACA’s position as the global authority on artist residency culture and operations, as well as a trusted intermediary and resource for artists and the people who power residencies. We are grateful for Mellon’s continued investment and belief in ACA as a vital contributor to the arts sector and an advocate for equitable systems that support the whole life of an artist.”

This grant from the Mellon Foundation will enable ACA to increase its internal capacity and develop an award system that recognizes artist residency programs committed to actively building their equitable capacity while augmenting our research efforts to advance restorative work and cultural shifts in the arts sector.

“ACA is a transformative instrument of change that is dedicated to nurturing diverse creative practitioners and the organizations that support them,” says Sanjit Sethi, ACA Board Chair and President of the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. “This incredible support from the Mellon Foundation will allow ACA to create systems of support, policies and articulated insights that will be felt for generations to come.”

For the past several years, ACA has focused on field-strengthening activities for the artist residency field. This encompasses research, advocacy, professional development, and program promotion. ACA believes that fair and just practices, honoring the people who power residencies, must be at the core of all these activities.

“Residencies serve as community builders for artists and introduce them to lifelong collaborators, friends, and professional networks,” says Emil Kang, Program Director of Arts and Culture. “The Mellon Foundation is pleased to partner with Artist Communities Alliance on our mutual commitment to supporting artists and the organizations they rely on directly.”

**ABOUT ARTIST COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE** Artist Communities Alliance (ACA) is the international service organization for artist residency programs and artist-centered organizations. ACA's mission is to advocate for and support artist residency programs as a means of advancing the endeavors of all artists. Founded in 1991, ACA currently has more than 300 members in 50 U.S. states and 20 countries, and works on behalf of thousands of residency programs worldwide. In recent years, ACA has provided more than \$6 million in direct grant funding to artists and artist residency centers. Learn more at [artistcommunities.org](http://artistcommunities.org).

**ABOUT THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION** The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is the nation's largest supporter of the arts and humanities. Since 1969, the Foundation has been guided by its core belief that the humanities and arts are essential to human understanding. The Foundation believes that the arts and humanities are where we express our complex humanity, and that everyone deserves the beauty, transcendence, and freedom that can be found there. Through our grants, we seek to build just communities enriched by meaning and empowered by critical thinking, where ideas and imagination can thrive. Learn more at [mellon.org](http://mellon.org).