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Contact: Shauta Marsh

(317) 450-6630 | [shauta@bigcar.org](mailto:shauta@bigcar.org)

[powerplantgrant.org](http://powerplantgrant.org) • [bigcar.org](http://bigcar.org) • [warholfoundation.org](http://warholfoundation.org)

## Power Plant Grants fund \$60,000 for 10 innovative Indianapolis art projects, spaces

Indianapolis — The Indianapolis-based nonprofit arts organization, **Big Car Collaborative**, has regranted a total of \$60,000 to five artist collectives and five individual artists living and working in the Indianapolis area. These **Power Plant Grants** — made possible by **The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts** based in New York — fund visual artists and collectives producing public-facing work that’s experimental and brings new energy to the city’s arts community.

Big Car is one of 32 regional regranteeing organizations across the United States working to support artists via funds from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Art. This is the third round of Power Plant Grants in Indianapolis. The program started in 2020 as emergency grants distributed during the height of the pandemic. In 2021, Big Car also awarded \$60,000 in project grants to artists and artist-run spaces.

“Power Plant Grants energize the Indianapolis arts community and support visual artists by encouraging them to grow by taking chances, realizing untapped potential, trying experimental projects, collaborating with each other, and bringing work to unusual places,” said Big Car program director Shauta Marsh. “We’re excited by the quality, dedication, and innovation we see in the work of these artists in our city. We’re so glad to be able to support them and what they’re bringing to audiences in Indianapolis.”

Power Plant grants support visual artists who live, work, or run spaces in Indianapolis with project grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000. This year's awardees were selected by Amy Kligman, LaShawnda Crowe Storm and Ish Muhammad.

**These are the funded projects for 2022:**

**1000 Words Gallery** has created a safe space for artists to grow and flourish through our monthly residency program. The space has hosted over 10 black, emerging artists since the beginning of 2021. Its programs include artist development, art classes, art events, and community engagement. Also, 1000 Words plans to expand their residency with more funding and make it open to more artists.

**Kaila Austin: Reimagining the Hardrick Home: Public Art as Heritage Preservation** engages the little-known history of Indiana's first African American painter, John Wesley Hardrick, born 1891 in Norwood on the Southeast side of Indianapolis. Working with the recently identified Hardrick Family collection and in collaboration with his descendants, my end goal is to replicate a Lost Mural that was painted at Crispus Attucks High School in the 1930s to be installed in the Pride Park in Norwood at its re-opening celebration.

This grant will allow Austin to use the Hardrick Family Collection to do studies of his work, read his diaries, learn about his techniques, and research other artists working during the Harlem Renaissance. All of this to replicate a mural that was never seen and to which there are no known photos of.

**Boxx the Artist: The Women In Between** will be a new body of work that explores printing dark skin tone hues on canvas and amplifying detail with acrylics. This project will be featured in an exhibit upon completion for in-person exhibits, virtual exhibition, and developed as an NFT project for the digital blockchain. Historically, the chemicals used during this process were not adequate to capture a diversity of darker skin tones. Racial bias was systematically embedded through the color calibration process for printing with the use of "Shirley Cards" developed by Kodak as reference photos for technicians to balance hues that became an industry standard. This lacked range for dark skin, resulting in poorly printed photos. Despite advancements in technology, printing dark skinned hues still lacks details. Boxx the Artists' collection will focus on the diversity of dark skin tones through canvas printing capturing the details through print and explore this systematic bias within printmaking using acrylics as a solution.

**City Natives Gallery is curated by BRIDGE Collective.** Located on the second floor

of the Murphy Arts Center in Fountain Square, the gallery and shop features contemporary fine art, apparel, and more. BRIDGE works with both emerging and established artists, providing professional gallery space, and imparting our expertise in artist services, formed over the last 20 years working as artists, curators, and arts administrators.

**Landon Caldwell: Hidden World** is a spatial and interactive sound art collaborative exhibition series and residency focused on sound and its relation to ecology, community, and accessibility. This project builds on the work of Caldwell's previous project *Everything I hear will outlive me*, a spatial composition that was presented at Hidden World along with another work, an interactive sound sculpture titled *Touch me so I know I'm still here* at Gethsemane Green Space on the Eastside of Indianapolis.

**Philip Campbell: From Me to You** is a series of six handmade, art quilts (or security blankets) that will be exhibited in the Horizon House and then presented to patients at the Pedigo Clinic who are experiencing homelessness and in recovery from a substance use disorder. Each security blanket will be a unique combination of new fabrics combined with recycled textiles. Campbell deconstructs used clothing to make most of his work — using this as a metaphor for healing ourselves. He points out: Sometimes in the process of repairing things that have broken, we actually create something more unique, beautiful and resilient.

**Chromatic Collective** is an artist-run space in Broad Ripple that provides niche art supply and space for both emerging and established artists of all mediums to exhibit their work. We create connections between artists and act as a creative resource for the public to interact with the arts.

**Lauren Curry, Lukas Schooler, and Ventiko: Ontogenesis** is a new, multimedia, durational performance by Lauren Curry, Lukas Schooler, and Ventiko. Ontogenesis illustrates complicated emotions of a ritualistic homecoming where old connections are mourned and new connections are celebrated. The pilgrimage fosters interconnectedness through journeys of transformation by traveling the Canal Walk and engages the public.

**Healer DIY: Natural Infestation** is a continuation of installations in the outdoor space of Healer DIY, focusing on the transformation of two RVs and a van shrine. The green RV will house an immersive installation focused on natural infestations similar to Healer's interior, featuring vines, floral elements, interactive lighting, and animatronic sculptures.

The silver RV will feature a steampunk/post-apocalypse-themed installation in the vein of the Mad Max vehicles, featuring interactive elements such as wheels, periscopes, and large gears. Scrap metal and ornate elements will decorate the RV, as well as a quintessential steampunk interior aesthetic with several animatronic elements including a lifesize animatronic steampunk pilot.

**Silvia Vimos Suarez: Stitches of Presence** is a space for gathering, recognition, and offering through hand embroidery. Suarez will convene Latina women living in the East Side Indianapolis to get together. During the gathering time, the women will recognize the value of knowledge and wisdom and share this knowledge among themselves and with our community. The gatherings will take place at the Irvington Public Library. The library is a symbolic place par excellence where the knowledge generated by humanity converges and circulates. For this reason, the intention of this project is to build presence in this public place through diverse symbolic gestures, contributing to the convergence of knowledge.

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**About Power Plant Grants:** Organized and facilitated by Big Car Collaborative staff, Power Plant Grants support — on an annual basis — visual artists who live, work, or run spaces in Indianapolis with project or artist-run-spaces. Utilizing funding from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Power Plant grants range from \$2,000 to \$10,000. More information at [powerplantgrant.org](http://powerplantgrant.org).

**About The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts:** In accordance with Andy Warhol's will, the mission of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts is the advancement of the visual arts. The foundation manages an innovative and flexible grants program while also preserving Warhol's legacy through creative and responsible licensing policies and extensive scholarly research for ongoing catalogue raisonné projects. To date, the foundation has given over \$218 million in cash grants to over 1,000 arts organizations in 49 states and abroad and has donated 52,786 works of art to 322 institutions worldwide. More information at [warholfoundation.org](http://warholfoundation.org).

**About the Regional Regranting Program:** The Regional Regranting Program was established in 2007 to recognize and support the movement of independently organized, public-facing, artist-centered activity that animates local and regional art scenes but that lies beyond the reach of traditional funding sources. The program is administered by non-profit visual art centers across the United States that work in partnership with the Foundation to fund artists' experimental projects and collaborative

undertakings. The 32 regranting programs provide grants of up to \$10,000 for the creation and presentation of new work. Programs are developed and facilitated by organizations in Mobile (AL), Albuquerque (NM), Atlanta (GA), Baltimore (MD), Boston (MA), Chicago (IL), Cleveland (OH), Denver (CO), Detroit (MI), Houston (TX), Indianapolis (IN), Kansas City (MO), Los Angeles (CA), Miami (FL), Milwaukee (WI), Minneapolis (MN), Knoxville (TN), New Orleans (LA), Newark (NJ), Oklahoma (OK), Omaha (NE), Philadelphia (PA), Phoenix & Tucson (AZ), Portland (OR), Portland (ME), Providence (RI), Raleigh & Greensboro (NC), Saint Louis (MO), San Francisco (CA), San Juan, PR, Seattle (WA), and Washington D.C.

**About Big Car:** Big Car Collaborative brings art to people and people to art, sparking creativity in lives to support communities. As a nonprofit arts organization, we utilize tools of culture and creativity to build community and social cohesion — connecting people as a way to boost quality of life. Much of our work happens on a single block where we own or co-own more than 20 properties — including a long-term affordable housing program for artists and Tube Factory — a contemporary art museum with a cafe, studios, and community space. At our campus of adaptive reuse buildings and public greenspace, we host community and cultural programs to promote social connectivity, cooperation, and creativity. We also facilitate people-focused placemaking and place keeping projects across the city and beyond through Spark. Tune in to our experimental, community-focused radio station, WQRT 99.1 FM — also streaming at [wqrt.org](http://wqrt.org). More information at [bigcar.org](http://bigcar.org).