

2017

# PROPELLER FUND

A Grant Administered by  
Gallery 400 & Threewalls  
Deadline: August 1, 2017  
[PROPELLERFUND.ORG](http://PROPELLERFUND.ORG)





## THE REGIONAL REGRANTING PROGRAM: A NATIONAL NETWORK

The Andy Warhol Foundation supports a growing national network of regional re-granting programs—including Alternative Exposure in San Francisco; The Idea Fund in Houston; Precipice Fund in Portland, Oregon; Rocket Grants in Kansas City, Missouri; WaveMaker Grants in Miami; The Kindling Fund in Portland, Maine; Platforms Fund in New Orleans; The Grit Fund in Baltimore; The Fulcrum Fund in Albuquerque; The Visual Arts Fund in Minneapolis; and Propeller Fund. The Warhol Foundation aims to support the independent creative activity of artists by partnering with leading artist-centered, visual arts organizations across the country.

Front: Crowd gathers in front of Amanda Williams' *Crown Royal Purple* billboard for public conversation between Williams and L. Anton Seals, Jr., Chicago, July 10, 2016, as part of *In the beginning, sometimes I left messages in the street*. Photo by Darius Jasper. Back: Floating Museum in Calumet Park, 2016. Photo by Faheem Majeed.

## ABOUT PROPELLER FUND

Launched in 2010, Propeller Fund is a grant administered jointly by Gallery 400 and Threewalls, and funded through the generosity of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Propeller Fund provides money directly to visual artists and groups living and working in Cook County, Illinois.

Propeller Fund exists to stimulate the growth of independent cultural production throughout Chicago; to encourage more varied models of art production and presentation; to spread artistic activity into more diverse areas of our city; to promote the public's interaction with and public recognition of such activities; and to spark ambitions beyond current formats.

Propeller Fund awards \$50,000 per year to artists and groups for collaborative, public-oriented, artist-led projects that are independent and self-organized. Monetary awards—in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$6,000—are disbursed in direct funds to projects. Applicants are encouraged to request the amount that is needed to accomplish their project, up to \$6,000.

## REVIEW PROCESS

Proposals to Propeller Fund are reviewed by a panel of jurors made up of five artists and arts professionals currently working in the visual arts field, including two previous Propeller grantees. Criteria for review include the excellence of the applicant's past work and the strength, impact, and feasibility of the proposed project.

### WHAT TYPE OF PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE?

ARTIST-LED



+ INDEPENDENT



+ SELF-ORGANIZED



+ COLLABORATIVE



+ PUBLIC



+ LONG OR SHORT-TERM



+ UNCONVENTIONAL

For more information on eligibility and FAQs, please visit: [propellerfund.org/eligibility](http://propellerfund.org/eligibility) and [propellerfund.org/faq](http://propellerfund.org/faq)

## **FUNDED ACTIVITIES MAY INCLUDE:**

- A public event, performance, or intervention
- A site-specific or public art project
- A new exhibition or exhibition series
- A screening, lecture, broadcast, or workshop series
- Publications, including printed matter and online writing
- Public programs of an artist residency
- Collaborative projects between the visual arts and other disciplines
- The ongoing work of an independent arts venue or collective

## **WHAT TYPE OF PROJECTS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE?**

- Projects not led by an artist or artist collective
- Projects that are not presented to the public
- Projects that are artworks authored by a single artist or single collective
- Projects proposed by a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
- Projects proposed by incorporated businesses
- Projects proposed by students
- Projects in which the lead artist/organizer lives outside of Cook County
- Projects in which all artists/organizers reside outside of Cook County
- Proposals for the express purpose of: renting studio space, professional development (classes, services), travel expenses, the purchase or rental of equipment, or hiring of services not otherwise associated with a public project that meets the above criteria

## **APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT:**

- 500 word Project Description
- 200 word Bio/Resume/CV
- Budget including expenses and income
- Timeline including milestones relevant to your project
- Examples of past work by the applicant or proposed contributors and/or mock-ups that inform the planned project

# WORKSHOPS

A series of workshops are held to explain how to write effective proposals, craft budgets, and navigate the online submission for Propeller Fund. Throughout the year, Propeller Fund also offers professional development and networking opportunities to its grantees, including social gatherings and thematic programming.

## APPLICATION WORKSHOP

**Saturday, June 3 | 1-4pm**

Gallery 400  
400 S. Peoria St.

### **1-3pm | Applying to Propeller**

Introduction to and tips on writing a compelling proposal, budgeting, navigating the online system, and the juror's point of view. Presenters include previous Propeller Fund awardees and jurors.

### **3-4pm | Breakout Sessions with Propeller Grantees**

Focused sessions with Propeller grantees and staff on specialized topics: producing media projects, partnering with communities, websites and publications, and programming in public spaces.

## INFORMATION SESSIONS

**Wednesday, June 21 | 6pm**

Roman Susan  
1224 W. Loyola Ave.

**Tuesday, July 11 | 6pm**

Produce Model Gallery  
1007 W. 19th St.

*Propeller Fund workshop and information sessions are free and open to all.*

**DEADLINE TO APPLY: AUGUST 1, 2017**  
**Applications must be submitted online at:**  
**[propellerfund.submittable.com](http://propellerfund.submittable.com)**

Have a question about applying? Staff members will be available for one-on-one meetings in June and July, Tuesday – Friday from 11am-5pm and are subject to availability. Please email [info@propellerfund.org](mailto:info@propellerfund.org) to set up a meeting time.

## PAST PROPELLER FUND AWARDEES

### 2ND FLOOR REAR

2nd Floor Rear is an annual DIY festival of art in experimental contexts, apartment galleries, and ephemeral and migrant projects, celebrating Chicago's vibrant community of alternative art spaces.



“Receiving the Propeller Fund grant was crucial in maintaining the festival’s sustainability and growth. We’ve developed a base of supporters, increased our visibility, acquired fiscal sponsorship, and experimented with new programming and organizational structures. The Propeller Fund gave 2nd Floor Rear the financial support and validation it needed when it was most vulnerable to dissolution, stewarding it from fledgling project to sustainable annual event.”

— Katie Waddell, 2nd Floor Rear



### BRUJOS

Brujos is a queer-of-color, radically politicized web series following four gay Latino doctoral candidates—that are also witches. They navigate magic, sexuality, and surviving a witch-hunt led by a secret society of white heteronormative male descendants of the first new world colonizers.

“It was helpful to have the backing of an organization that I respect and that I believe is sincerely committed to social change and providing resources for artists instrumentalizing art in meaningful ways. It’s about carving out a world where art matters. Beyond putting us in good company, the grant from the Propeller helped us shoot our teaser scenes that were crucial to generating more resources and interest for the project. Our Propeller money went directly to the pockets of queer and people of color collaborators.”

— Riccardo Gamboa, Brujos



“Propeller Fund gave us the funds and support we needed to bring on a professional programmer to our site. Our website was previously designed and coded with extremely limited resources, but by securing the grant in 2014, we were able to push the site into a more sustainable, visually grabbing, and achievable web-based platform.”

—Kate Sierzputowski,  
Inside\Within

## INSIDE\WITHIN

Inside\Within is a constantly updating web archive devoted to physically exploring the creative spaces of Chicago’s emerging and established artists.



“Receiving the Propeller grant was a signal boost that made new audiences aware of the work, but also enabled us to approach venues with a sense of credibility. The money itself allowed LMO to produce and publish this work outside of the gallery context without tremendous cost to us and opened up the level of public engagement. The number of opportunities we’re offered has tripled, and with each successive event, public interest has increased.”

—Angela Davis Fegan  
Lavender Menace Occupation

## LAVENDER MENACE OCCUPATION

The Lavender Menace Occupation (LMO) started as a means of queering public space and expanding the number of public/private spaces that hold room for specifically targeted and marginalized populations. Through the development of communally generative installations, LMO hopes to contribute to growing a movement to subvert the status quo.

# PROPELLER FUND

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