



Annual Report 2015
Looking Back, Moving Forward

In its fiscal year 2015 (October 1, 2014-September 03, 2015), the Stockton Rush Bartol Foundation supported arts and culture in Philadelphia through grants, programs and advocacy. The Foundation maintained its focus on in-depth arts education and community-based arts programs, while investigating new ways to engage with cultural organizations, artists and the broader community.

GRANTMAKING



An improving economy and strategically decreased operating expenses enabled the Foundation to make \$165,000 in grants to 28 organizations, an increase from \$140,000 in FY 2014. Two first time grantees, LiveConnections and the Tibetan Association of Philadelphia, show the range of experiences offered by Bartol grantees from contemporary music-making to preserving traditional cultures. Bartol board and staff made 60 site visits to personally connect with applicants. Site visits are now required prior to an application, enabling equal assessment of each application against a thorough rubric that includes artistic and teaching practice, community support, forward thinking, and the quality and support of teaching artists.

These grants included \$5,000 to [ArtWell](#) as the 2015 recipient of the George Bartol Arts Education Award.

...and what's next

In the coming year, we will be more mindful of the range and reach of the grants we make. Balancing grants among disciplines, audiences served, settings, and neighborhoods will require a more nuanced grant review for us and more structured (yet manageable) final reports for grantees.

We also hope to reach out to organizations working in areas for which we have had fewer applications such as programs for seniors or youth media. While all applications are held to the same standard, we also want to make sure that potentially competitive programs know about our grants so we can support the widest range of programs in the City.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHING ARTISTS



The Bartol Foundation continues to invest significant resources of staff and funds to present free professional development workshops for artists who teach. As the most direct way to improve the scope and quality of arts education, we offer these workshops to enhance the expertise of teaching artists and the viability of teaching artistry as a profession.

In FY 2015, we presented 31 workshops to over 500 artists, an increase of almost 40% in participation. This was due in large part to partnerships with the Scattergood Foundation for Behavioral Health, the City of Philadelphia's Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy, and the CHG Trust, that enabled us to engage national presenters and draw more artists to our programs. In addition, we initiated a new Music TAG (Teaching Artist Group) and presented online programs through our new *Bartol On Demand* series.

We disseminated results of our first TA Pay Rate survey to provide local artists with benchmarks for hourly rates that take into account discipline, length of program, and experience of the teaching artist. This survey garnered national recognition and is now part of a larger, national conversation about pay rates for artists.

...and what's next

In 2016, the Bartol Foundation will dive deep into the national movement for teaching artistry that gathered momentum at the Conference for Community Arts Education in Philadelphia in November 2015. This will include work using digital strategies to reach more artists including spearheading the creation of a national video library of tips for teaching artists. We will also be engaged with other initiatives including developing national pay rate benchmarks, investigating the role of the arts in social justice, and sharing true innovation in arts education.

We are also developing partnerships and conversations that build bridges between teaching artists and the fields of behavioral health, community development, and community/youth development organizations who hire (or should hire) artists.

ARTS ADVOCACY



We seek to use our role to advocate particularly for arts education, community-based arts organizations and teaching artists. This takes many forms. Beth Feldman Brandt, Executive Director, has been a resource for not only our grantees but in conversations among such organizations as the Guild for Community Arts Education, the Philadelphia Cultural Fund, Partners for Sacred Places, the Greater Philadelphia STEAM Initiative, the Greater Philadelphia Culture Alliance’s Groundswell efforts, LISC, and innumerable informal conversations to promote the role of the arts across communities. Beth serves as Chair of the Poet Laureate Governing Committee of the City of Philadelphia.

Michelle Ortiz, Program Manager, is a valuable resource to artists and organizations. She brings her experience in this work through her artistic practice locally with organizations like Juntos and the Mural Arts Program and internationally through the Cultural Envoy program of the US Department of State. She serves on the Board of the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture..

...and what’s next

We are always looking for ways to deepen our work through new partnerships and to respond to the most pressing needs of our grantees and teaching artists. In the coming year, in addition to playing a leadership role in the national conversation around teaching artistry, we are going to find the best ways to use digital technology to support our work. This includes a revamped website, raising the visibility of our grantees by posting videos of our site visits, creating a more robust way to provide resources for teaching artists and sharing the wisdom of our board members through our new blog.

Our goal is to use technology as a tool to gather and disseminate information, crowd-source resources in text and video, and provide more opportunities for people to connect around common goals.

Stay tuned.