

# The MacDowell Colony

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **NEW INITIATIVE SUPPORTS WRITERS ENGAGED IN LONG-FORM JOURNALISM**

*MacDowell Colony launches Art of Journalism Initiative dedicated to narrative reporting.*

PETERBOROUGH, N.H., March 5, 2015 – A new initiative at The MacDowell Colony, the nation’s first artist residency program, will double the number of fellowships for writers engaged in deep reporting and complex, long-form journalism. By giving journalists studio space and uninterrupted time in a stimulating and creative artistic community, MacDowell’s Art of Journalism Initiative will invest \$4.5 million in helping today’s groundbreaking writers develop their best work. In an era of fast news and free access, writers often struggle to support themselves while preparing stories that can take months, and sometimes years, to complete.

The Calderwood Charitable Foundation has committed a lead gift of \$1.5 million, including a \$1 million challenge grant, which – when matched by \$1 million in new funding over the next three years – will endow 10 new journalism fellowships, which will be awarded by a competitive application process. Stanford Calderwood, a newspaperman in his youth who later went on to establish an investment firm, was a lover of nonfiction and was a member of MacDowell’s Board of Directors.

Overall, the Art of Journalism Initiative will raise a total of \$4.5 million in support of creative nonfiction. This national program was begun when MacDowell’s Board of Directors designated three nonfiction fellowships in honor of long-time MacDowell Board Member Anne Cox Chambers, primary owner of media conglomerate Cox Enterprises that grew from the family owned newspaper business.

In addition, the Calderwood Fund for Project Grants to Journalism Fellows, supported by a grant of \$500,000, will provide participating writers with grants of up to \$2,500 based on financial need to fund travel, research, and other project-based work before or after the residency. These grants are designed to help the growing number of independent journalists and mitigate the impact of diminishing budgets for long-form journalism at media and publishing outlets.

“We believe that long-form journalism can and will survive in the new publishing era. With a global audience and journalism schools burgeoning with talented writers, long-form is undergoing a renaissance,” says MacDowell’s Executive Director Cheryl Young. “However, the reality is that this generation will have difficulty finding full-time employment.”

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“Until new commercial models are in place, residencies can help. We don’t want to lose what the best journalists can teach us about the world,” Young adds. “Well-written stories can inform how we view politics, new scientific discoveries, social justice, and the environment. We hope this new

support for journalists will help keep that profound exploration going and make the world a better place.”

The MacDowell Colony has supported some of the finest voices in non-fiction for decades, from the essays of **James Baldwin** to **Frances Fitzgerald**’s investigations into the Vietnam War. More recently, journalists such as **Sheri Fink**, **Ta-Nehisi Coates**, **Nicholas Dawidoff**, **William Finnegan**, and **Adrian Nicole LeBlanc** have worked at the Colony early in their careers. With the Art of Journalism Initiative, The MacDowell Colony plans to reach deeper into the nonfiction community by forming relationships with magazines, publishers, media outlets, and journalism schools.

Journalists are encouraged to apply for fellowships at [www.macdowellcolony.org/apply.html](http://www.macdowellcolony.org/apply.html) or by writing [admissions@macdowellcolony.org](mailto:admissions@macdowellcolony.org).

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*Composer Edward MacDowell and pianist Marian MacDowell, his wife, founded The MacDowell Colony in 1907 to nurture the arts by offering creative individuals of the highest talent an inspiring environment in which to produce enduring works of the imagination. Each year, MacDowell welcomes more than 275 architects, composers, filmmakers, interdisciplinary artists, theatre artists, visual artists, and writers from across the United States and around the globe. More than 7,000 artists have received Fellowships to work at MacDowell. These artists include **Milton Avery**, **James Baldwin**, **Heide Fasnacht**, **Oswaldo Golijov**, **Qin Feng**, **Glenn Ligon**, and **Wendy Wasserstein**. Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Michael Chabon** is the chairman of MacDowell’s Board of Directors.*

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