

The MacDowell Colony

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HEINZ ENDOWMENTS OPENING A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES FOR PITTSBURGH ARTISTS AT THE MACDOWELL COLONY

Fellowships to support artist residencies of up to two months for two Pittsburgh-area artists.

Peterborough, NH... A new fellowship program supported by The Heinz Endowments is giving Pittsburgh-area artists the opportunity to work and engage in an international artist community at The MacDowell Colony this year.

The Heinz Endowments Fellowships will cover all residency costs for two artists of any discipline to work for up to two months in studios on the famed artist colony's 450 acres in Peterborough, New Hampshire. Artists who receive the Fellowships will join a storied legacy of others who have worked there, including Michael Chabon, Aaron Copland, Glenn Ligon, Suzan-Lori Parks, and Anna Schuleit.

MacDowell cultivates a vibrant creative community in which more than 250 artists from the United States and abroad come to work each year. At MacDowell, artists receive use of a private studio, all meals and accommodations, and opportunities for creative exchanges with fellow artists from all over the world. Applications are encouraged in seven disciplines: architecture, film/video, interdisciplinary art, music composition, theatre, visual art, and literature. In addition to residency support, MacDowell offers financial aid for artists of demonstrated need to cover ongoing costs associated with taking time off for a residency.

The Heinz Endowments support efforts to make southwestern Pennsylvania a premier place to both live and work, a center for learning and educational excellence, and a region that embraces diversity and inclusion. By providing Pittsburgh artists with access to a program that is global in scope, the Endowments aim to foster new ideas and exchanges that, combined with the work the artists bring back with them, will enrich the Pittsburgh arts community as a whole.

"We believe that we need to do much more to recognize and support the region's artists," says Endowments Arts & Culture Senior Program Director Janet Sarbaugh. "The region has identified its outstanding cultural life as one of our most important strengths, but too often we lose sight of the

fact that this asset would not exist without the individual artist. Through grants such as this one to The MacDowell Colony, we seek to provide opportunities for professional development and recognition for our artists as the important community assets that they are.”

This will be the second year that Pittsburgh-area artists will benefit from The Heinz Endowments Fellowships at MacDowell. During the program’s inaugural year in 2010–2011, these Fellowships were awarded to visual artist Kim Beck and poet Joy KMT. Beck, an assistant professor of art at Carnegie Mellon University, completed a series of drawings during her residency related to her current installation of billboard structures along the High Line — a public park following a raised railway bed on New York City’s west side. KMT, who will be in residence at MacDowell this summer, plans to work on a collection of poetry that examines the spiritual heritage and psychological landscape of the black female Pittsburgher.

“The other Fellows were fantastic,” Beck remarked of her residency. “I loved the diversity of people at MacDowell as represented by media, discipline, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, and geography. This helped create an environment that was open and embracing. I made friends and connections that I know will be enduring both personally and professionally.”

The Heinz Endowments Fellowships are open to artists who reside in Pittsburgh or the following surrounding counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington, and Westmoreland. To be considered for the Fellowships, artists must first apply to MacDowell and be accepted for a residency by following the standard application process.

While Fellowships at MacDowell are not monetary awards, they carry prestige for the recipients and help the Colony fund residencies for all artists who work at MacDowell. Through partnerships with funders and arts patrons, the Colony raises not only critical funds but also visibility to attract artists who may not know about residency opportunities.

Application deadlines for MacDowell’s three residency periods are September 15, January 15, and April 15 of each year. The sole criterion for acceptance is talent; a panel of experts in each discipline determines which applicants receive Fellowships and residencies at the Colony. Applications are available on MacDowell’s Web site at www.macdowellcolony.org/apply.

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