ARTS & CULTURE

MacArthur’s support for over 200 arts and cultural organizations in Chicago and the region is an expression of its civic commitment to the community where the Foundation is headquartered and John and Catherine MacArthur made their home. Grants are designed to help sustain the cultural life of the city and region.

Pulitzer-Prize winning August: Osage County, written by Steppenwolf Theater ensemble member Tracy Letts.

AT A GLANCE

• The MacArthur Foundation makes grants totaling $7 million each year to more than 200 arts and culture organizations in the Chicago area, including theaters, dance groups, music organizations, visual art programs, film centers, museums, and libraries.

• These grants reflect the Foundation’s civic commitment to its hometown and are designed to sustain and strengthen the cultural fabric of Chicago.

• Most of MacArthur’s arts and culture grants are for general operations to provide the flexible support organizations need most.

• The Foundation also provides support for special time-limited efforts to respond to particular needs in the arts community.
BACKGROUND

Each year MacArthur provides $7 million in grants to more than 200 arts and culture groups in the Chicago region, including theaters, dance groups, music organizations, visual art programs, film centers, museums, and libraries. This support is an expression of the Foundation's civic commitment to Chicago and is designed to help strengthen the cultural life of the city. The majority of MacArthur support is in the form of multi-year, general operating support, which provides organizations the necessary flexibility to take creative risks and fund ongoing work. This grantmaking is carried out in partnership with the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation and the Prince Charitable Trusts, which administer grants from MacArthur Funds established at their foundations to small (those with budgets of less than $500,000) and mid-sized (those with budgets between $500,000 – $2 million) arts and culture groups. MacArthur also supports the Small Theater and Dance Fund at the Driehaus Foundation, which provides general operating support to organizations with annual budgets under $150,000. These partnerships not only allow MacArthur to sustain its support across all sizes of arts organizations in Chicago, but they also leverage the experience and wisdom of Prince and Driehaus, which have expertise both in funding small arts groups and providing technical assistance to strengthen these organizations administratively and artistically. MacArthur makes grants directly to those groups with budgets greater than $2 million.

In reviewing proposals from arts groups, the Foundation considers:

- quality of the organization’s artistic programs;
- strength of its board and staff leadership;
- impact on the surrounding neighborhood, the city or the region;
- sizes and types of audiences served; and
- community and educational outreach activities.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

From time to time MacArthur supports projects and initiatives to benefit the sector or to respond to particular needs in the community. Examples include the Cultural Data Project, which allows arts organizations to better manage and analyze their financial and organizational data in a user-friendly, online format; the expansion of the Arts and Business Council of Chicago’s On BOARD program to identify, train and place professionals on the boards of small and mid-sized arts and culture organizations; and the subsidy rental program at the Harris Theatre for Music and Dance, which makes it financially feasible for the Foundation’s small and mid-sized arts organizations to use the theatre’s space for rehearsals and performances.

Arts Opportunity Fund

In 2009 MacArthur launched the $1 million, time-limited Arts Opportunity Fund to support the strengthening of African American, Latino, Native American or Asian arts and culture groups. It is designed to help qualifying organizations broaden audiences; cultivate a new generation of management talent; expand and develop boards; and tap into new sources of financial support. To qualify, arts organizations must be led by professionals from these cultural communities and have a mission to communicate the experiences of these cultures through the arts.

Working Capital Loan Fund

To provide needed capital to arts organizations, which often experience cyclical cash flow gaps, MacArthur established the $1 million Working Capital Loan Fund. The Fund is housed and managed by ShoreBank, a commercial bank with a community development mission, and provides both short-term loans and longer-term lines of credit at competitive terms. The program is designed to help organizations improve their financial management and establish banking relationships, sometimes for the first time. To apply for a loan, organizations first contact the Executive Service Corps of Chicago, which conducts an initial assessment of the organization’s eligibility and supports the organization as it prepares to apply for loans from ShoreBank.
General Operating Support Grants

Direct Funding

The 48 arts and culture grantees listed below receive funding directly from the MacArthur Foundation. The amount of support for each of these groups is based on its budget size: organizations with budgets of $2 to $5 million receive $50,000 per year; those with budgets of $5 to $10 million receive $60,000 per year; groups with budgets of $10 to $20 million receive $75,000 per year; and the largest organizations, with budgets over $20 million, receive $100,000 per year.

Adler Planetarium
Art Institute
After School Matters
Chicago Academy of Sciences, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
Chicago Architecture Foundation
Chicago Botanic Garden
Chicago Children’s Choir
Chicago Children’s Museum
Chicago History Museum
Chicago Humanities Festival
Chicago Opera Theater
Chicago Shakespeare Theater
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Chicago Zoological Society, Brookfield Zoo
Court Theatre
DuSable Museum of African American History
Facets Multimedia
Field Museum
Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust
Goodman Theatre
Grant Park Orchestral Association
Hubbard Street Dance Chicago
John G. Shedd Aquarium
Kohls Children’s Museum of Greater Chicago
Illinois’ Humanities Council
League of Chicago Theatres
Lincoln Park Zoo
Lookingglass Theatre Company
Lyric Opera
Merit School of Music
Morton Arboretum
Museum of Contemporary Art
Museum of Science and Industry
National Museum of Mexican Art
Newberry Library
Northlight Theatre
Old Town School of Folk Music
Ravinia Festival
Sherwood Conservatory of Music, Columbia College
Steppenwolf Theatre Company
The Joffrey Ballet
The Smart Museum of Art, The University of Chicago
Urban Gateways
Victory Gardens Theater
WBEZ Alliance
Writers’ Theatre
WTTW Channel 11
WYCC-TV Channel 20, City Colleges of Chicago

MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at the Prince Charitable Trusts

Through the MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture, the Prince Charitable Trusts supports a total of 41 organizations with general operating funds. In 2008, this fund awarded 41 grants totaling over $1 million in new or renewed support to the mid-sized arts and cultural organizations listed below.

About Face Theatre
American Theater Company
ANIMA—Young Singers of Greater Chicago
Apple Tree Theatre
Arts & Business Council of Chicago
Beverly Arts Center
Black Ensemble Theater
The Chicago Chamber Musicians
Chicago Children’s Theatre
The Chicago Classical Recording Foundation
Chicago Human Rhythm Project
Chicago Jazz Ensemble
Chicago Public Art Group
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Chicago Sinfonietta
Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras
Child’s Play Touring Theatre
Congo Square Theatre Company
The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago
ETA Creative Arts Foundation, Inc.
Gene Siskel Film Center of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Hyde Park Art Center
Illinois Arts Alliance Foundation
International Latino Cultural Center of Chicago
Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art
Lifeline Productions, Inc.
Light Opera Works
Luna Negra Dance Theater
Marwen
Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago
Music of the Baroque
Next Theatre Company
Pegasus Players
Puerto Rican Arts Alliance
Redmoon Theater
Remy Bumppo Theatre Company
The Renaissance Society
River North Chicago Dance Company
SCT Productions
Street-Level Youth Media
Swedish American Museum of Chicago
TimeLine Theatre Company

MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
Through the MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture, the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation currently supports 74 organizations with general operating funds. Between 2008 and 2009, this Fund awarded 52 grants totaling over $900,000 in new or renewed support to small arts and cultural organizations. Below is a list of organizations that received supported through this fund in 2008 and 2009.

500 Clown
Actors Gymnasium
Adventure Stage Chicago
Albany Park Theater Project
Archeworks
Artistic Home
Asian Improv aRts Midwest
Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council
Barrel of Monkeys Productions
Blair Thomas & Company
Bronzeville Children’s Museum
Chicago a cappella
Chicago Artists’ Coalition
Chicago Community Chorus
Chicago Dance and Music Alliance
Chicago Dancemakers Forum
Chicago Dramatists
Chicago Film Archives
Chicago Filmmakers
Chicago Jazz Philharmonic
Chicago Moving Company
Circle Theatre of Forest Park
Collaboraction
DanceWorks Chicago
Deeply Rooted Productions
eighth blackbird Performing Arts Association
Experimental Sound Studio

Dancers practice in the Joffrey Ballet’s new facility in downtown Chicago.
Fifth House Ensemble
Free Street Theater
Fulcrum Point New Music Project
Fund for Innovative TV
Global Girls
Griffin Theatre Company
Guild Complex
Gwendolyn Brooks Center for Black Literature
Hedwig Dances
Hoperaworld
House Theatre of Chicago
The Hypocrites
International Contemporary Ensemble
International Music Foundation
Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art
Jazz Institute of Chicago
Jump Rhythm Jazz Project
Korean American Resource & Cultural Center
Lampo
Links Hall
Live Bait Theater
MOMENTA Performing Arts Company
MPAACT
National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum
Natya Dance Theatre
Neighborhood Writing Alliance
Neo-Futurists
Norton Building Concert Series
Open Studio Project
Orion Chamber Ensemble
Poetry Center of Chicago
Porchlight Music Theatre Chicago
Raven Theatre Company
Rembrandt Chamber Players
Rush Hour Concerts at St. James Cathedral
Salt Creek Ballet
Shattered Globe Theatre
ShawChicago Theater Company
Silk Road Theatre Project
Skokie Theatre Music Foundation
South Suburban Archaeological Society
Split Pillow
Stage Left
Teatro Americano
Teatro Vista
Third Coast Percussion
Thodos Dance Chicago
ThreeWalls
Unity Temple Restoration Foundation
Wonderworks: Children’s Museum of Oak Park
Young Chicago Authors
Youth Choral Theatre of Chicago

Small Theater and Dance Fund at the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
Each year, MacArthur contributes $180,000 to the Small Theater and Dance Fund at Driehaus, which currently supports 47 companies with budgets less than $150,000. In 2008, this Fund awarded 40 new or renewed grants to the smallest theatre and dance organizations. Below is a list of organizations that received support through this fund in 2008.

500 Clown
A Red Orchid Theatre
Aguijon Theater Company
Attic Playhouse
BackStage Theatre Company
Black Sheep Productions
Bohemian Theatre Ensemble
Breakbone Dance Company
Bruised Orange Theater Company
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble
The Building Stage
City Lit Theater Company
Clinard Dance Theatre
Corn Productions
Curious Theatre Branch
The Dance Collective
Dream Theatre Company
Eclipse Theatre Company
EP Theatre
The Gift Theatre Company
Infamous Commonwealth Theatre
Kalapriya Foundation
Khecari Dance Theatre
The Lira Dancers
Lucky Plush Productions
Mary-Arrchie Theatre Company
Molly Shanahan/Mad Shak
Mordine & Company
The Moving Architects
MPAACT
New Millennium Theatre Company
New World Repertory Theater
Oak Park Festival Theatre
Piven Theatre Workshop
Redtwist Theatre
Rivendell Theatre Ensemble
Same Planet Different World
Sanscullottes Theater Company
The Seldoms
Serendipity Theatre Collective
Still Point Theatre Collective
Tamboula Ethnic Dance Corporation
Teatro Luna
Arts & Culture

Theater Oobleck
Theo Ubique Theatre Company
Trap Door Theatre
Walkabout Theater Company

Special Time-Limited Initiatives and Projects

ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM
$125,000 in support of the Four Score and Seven Project in honor of Lincoln’s Bicentennial birthday (over one year)

ARTS AND BUSINESS COUNCIL OF CHICAGO
$225,000 in support of expanding the On BOARD Program, which helps to identify, train and place Chicago professionals on the boards of nonprofit program (over three years)

CHICAGO COUNCIL ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (C2ST)
$125,000 in support of start-up and general operations (over one year)

CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER FOUNDATION
$225,000 to update and expand the Chicago Artists’ Resource website (over three years)

CHICAGO SINFONIETTA
$75,000 to support the expansion of www.chicagoclassicalmusic.org, a website run by a consortium of classical music groups (over three years)

EXECUTIVE SERVICE CORPS OF CHICAGO
$100,000 in support of technical assistance for the Foundation’s Working Capital Loan Fund established in cooperation with ShoreBank (over two years)

GRANTMAKERS IN THE ARTS
$35,000 in support of database infrastructure strengthening and the 2010 conference to be held in Chicago (over two years)

JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
$100,000 in support of in support of Capacity Building: Midwest (over two years)

HARRIS THEATER FOR MUSIC AND DANCE
$150,000 in support of a subsidized usage program for smaller arts organizations (over three years)

MAYOR’S OFFICE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS, CITY OF CHICAGO
$50,000 in support of the 2008 Chicago Jazz Festival (over one year)

PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS
$150,000 in support of the Illinois Cultural Data Project (over three years)

THEATRE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP
$30,000 in support of scholarships that will allow twenty small and mid-sized arts organizations to attend the 2010 TCG conference in Chicago (over one year)

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO CULTURAL POLICY CENTER
$150,000 in support of the Cultural Infrastructure Project to study the impact of capital campaigns on arts organizations undertaking building projects and on the arts communities where they reside (over one year)

URBAN GATEWAYS
$20,000 in support of technology upgrades (over one year)

Arts Opportunity Fund Grants

BLACK ENSEMBLE THEATER
$80,000 in support of succession planning and technology upgrades (over two years)

KOREAN AMERICAN RESOURCE & CULTURAL CENTER
$75,000 in support of the development and expansion of its Culture Program (over three years)

M’AAT PRODUCTION ASSOCIATION OF AFRIKAN CENTERED THEATRE (MPAACT)
$60,000 in support of its New Play Development Program (over three years)

NAYA DANCE THEATRE
$47,000 to support the development of its marketing and fundraising capacities (over three years)

PUERTO RICAN ARTS ALLIANCE
$75,000 in support of board development, technology upgrades and program development related to its move to a permanent new facility in 2010 (over three years)

SILK ROAD THEATRE PROJECT
$75,000 in support of Silk Road Sojourns, its audience engagement strategy (over two years)

TEATRO LUNA: CHICAGO’S ALL LATINA THEATRE
$47,500 to support the strengthening of its marketing and fundraising functions (over two years)

Civic Grants

BLACK METROPOLIS RESEARCH COUNCIL
$150,000 in special start-up support (over two years)
CHICAGO METROPOLIS 20/20
$300,000 in support of a project to reform Illinois’ transportation system, as part of Chicago’s Burnham Plan Centennial celebration (over one year)

CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION
$50,000 in support of a Science Chicago lecture series featuring MacArthur Fellows at the Chicago Public Library (over one year)

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO
$35,000 in support of the annual Richard J. Daley Urban Forum (over two years)

Puppets from the Redmoon Theater production of The Cabinet, based on the silent film The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari.
ADDIITIONAL RESOURCES

Prince Charitable Trusts: www.foundationcenter.org/grantmaker/prince/chicago.html

The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation: www.driehausfoundation.org/

ShoreBank: www.shorebankcorp.com

Americans for the Arts: www.americansforthearts.org

The Arts & Business Council: www.artsbiz-chicago.org

Chicago Artists Resource: www.chicagoartistsresource.org

The Chicago Jazz Partnership: chicagojazzpartnership.org

The Executive Service Corps of Chicago: www.esc-chicago.org

Grantmakers in the Arts: www.giarts.org

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: www.kennedy-center.org/education

National Endowment for the Arts: www.nea.gov

Theatre Communications Group: www.tcg.org

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About The MacArthur Foundation
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation supports creative people and effective institutions committed to building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. In addition to selecting the MacArthur Fellows, the Foundation works to defend human rights, advance global conservation and security, make cities better places, and understand how technology is affecting children and society. More information is available at www.macfound.org.

For more information or to sign-up for our free electronic newsletter, please visit www.macfound.org.

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