

# MOODY FUND FOR THE ARTS

For Immediate Release  
June 15, 2018

## MOODY FUND FOR THE ARTS AWARDS GRANTS TO 36 SMALL DALLAS ARTS GROUPS

### *Award Amount Boosted To \$150K in First Year*

**(DALLAS)** The Moody Fund for the Arts (MFA) today announced that, in its first year, the fund is awarding \$150,000 in grants to 36 small Dallas arts organizations. The fund also announced that the total award amount is a 50% increase over the previously announced \$100,000, allowing the MFA to provide more grants to cultural groups.

“These organizations and their proposals show what an exciting time this is for Dallas’ arts community, and the cultural impact these grants will have throughout the city,” said Francie Moody-Dahlberg, chair and executive director of The Moody Foundation. “We are honored to support this vibrant, dynamic cultural scene.”

The grants range in size from \$3,500 to the first-year maximum of \$7,500. They support a strong cross section of the many small and emerging organizations in the vibrant cultural ecosystem of the nation’s ninth-largest city. Some awards will help fund world premieres, commissions and diversity projects, and some will provide general operating support. The selected projects comprise a wide range of genres, as well as ethnic and culturally specific groups, many targeting culturally under-served communities. Performance venues include Moody Performance Hall, the City’s cultural centers, community spaces and neighborhoods across Dallas.

“These grants will be a shot in the arm to boost the health of these small organizations and our cultural ecosystem,” said Mayor Mike Rawlings. “It is exciting to see the wide range of groups and projects the Moody Fund for the Arts is helping, and that this visionary fund will be there to support them year after year.”

The award amount was *increased* this year from \$100,000 to \$150,000. This was made possible after The Moody Foundation surprised everyone last December by fully funding

the \$10 million gift establishing the MFA's endowment. It was originally to be paid out at \$1 million a year over ten years.

"We're grateful and excited that The Moody Foundation was able to accelerate their generous funding," said Gail Sachson, a member of the MFA Executive Committee. "We believe we've achieved the goal of providing support for impactful proposals, and from a diverse range of groups who serve many different parts of our city."

MFA was created to provide grants to small and emerging Dallas arts groups that are supported by the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs and have annual budgets of \$1 million or less.

### **2018 Moody Fund for the Arts Award Recipients**

- Academy of Bangla Arts and Culture
- Anita N. Martinez Ballet Folklórico
- Arga Nova Dance
- The Artist Outreach, Inc.
- Avant Chamber Ballet
- Bandan Koro African Drum and Dance Ensemble
- Bruce Wood Dance Project
- Cara Mía Theatre Co.
- Chamber Music International
- Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas
- Color Me Empowered
- Creative Arts Center of Dallas
- Dallas Chamber Symphony
- Dallas Film Society
- Dance Council of North Texas
- Dark Circles Contemporary Dance
- Echo Theatre
- Fine Arts Chamber Players
- Indian Cultural Heritage Foundation
- Kitchen Dog Theater Company
- Museum of Geometric and MADI Art
- New Texas Symphony Orchestra
- Sammons Center for the Arts
- Second Thought Theatre
- Shakespeare Dallas

- Soul Rep Theatre Company
- SPARK! Dallas
- Teatro Dallas
- Teatro Flor Candela
- Texas Winds Musical Outreach, Inc.
- The Writer's Garret
- Turtle Creek Chorale
- Undermain Theatre
- Uptown Players, Inc.
- USA Film Festival
- WordSpace

52 arts organizations applied for the flexible MFA grants. The awards came in five categories:

- New Works, Commissions, Unique Presentations (8 grants)
- General Program & Operating Cost Support (18 grants)
- Community Performance/Artist in Residency (3 grants)
- Capacity Building (5 grants)
- Cultural Equity/New Initiatives (non-performance) (2 grants)

The award decisions were made after an extensive peer review of all the applications, budgets and materials by the MFA Advisory Review Panel:

- **Kathleen Culebro** - artistic director, *Amphibian Stage Productions*
- **Danielle Georgiou** - artistic director & choreographer, *Danielle Georgiou Dance Group*
- **Terry Loftis** - vocal artist and Tony-nominated producer
- **Ginger Reeder** - former arts administrator and vice president of Neiman Marcus
- **James N. White** - Cultural Affairs Commissioner

The panel's recommendations were then reviewed by the MFA Executive Committee:

- **Roberto Cortez** - managing director, *Deloitte*
- **Gail Sachson** - arts advocate, writer, former chair of the Cultural Affairs Commission
- **Jennifer Scripps** - Office of Cultural Affairs Director

The Moody Fund for the Arts is a \$10 million endowment that is part of a \$22 million gift from the Moody Foundation to the arts in Dallas, including a \$12 million gift to the AT&T Performing Arts Center's capital campaign. In recognition of the generosity of the Galveston-based Moody Foundation, the City of Dallas renamed Dallas City Performance Hall in the Dallas Arts District to Moody Performance Hall. The Center's

staff provides administrative support for the fund. More information can be found on the MFA website, [moodyartsfund.org](http://moodyartsfund.org).

###

**PRESS INQUIRIES:**

Chris Heinbaugh  
Vice President of External Affairs  
AT&T Performing Arts Center  
214-978-2877  
[Chris.Heinbaugh@attpac.org](mailto:Chris.Heinbaugh@attpac.org)

**ABOUT THE MOODY FOUNDATION**

The Moody Foundation was established in 1942 by William L. Moody Jr. and his wife, Libbie Rice Shearn Moody to share their good fortune and make a difference in the lives of the people of Texas. Since then, the Moody Foundation has made more than \$1.5 billion in grants throughout the state to organizations that have educated, healed, nurtured and inspired generations of Texans. Learn more at [www.moodyf.org](http://www.moodyf.org).

**ABOUT THE MOODY FUND FOR THE ARTS**

The Moody Fund for the Arts (MFA) aspires to be a transformative fund that will raise the scope of engagement with the arts throughout the Dallas community. Through flexible grant making, MFA encourages enterprising and diverse cultural offerings and helps sustain the mission of Moody Performance Hall to provide a stage in the Dallas Arts District for small and mid-sized groups.

In 2017, the Texas-based Moody Foundation created and endowed the Moody Fund for the Arts to provide support for small and emerging arts organizations supported by the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs. An organization's budget may not exceed \$1 million. Through an annual competitive process, the \$10 million endowment provides flexible grants supporting a range of opportunities, including new works and commissions, general operating and rent support, capacity building, projects taking art into under-served areas, cultural equity programs and more.

The grant recipients are chosen through a multi-level process including a peer review panel. In 2018, MFA made its first awards totaling \$150,000 to 36 organizations. In recognition of the generosity of the Moody Foundation, on May 24, 2017 the City of Dallas changed the name of its 750-seat Dallas City Performance Hall in the Dallas Arts District to Moody Performance Hall

The Moody Fund for the Arts is held within the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts Endowment, a Texas nonprofit corporation. The nonprofit AT&T Performing Arts Center provides staff support to administer the fund and granting process. For more information: [www.moodyartsfund.org](http://www.moodyartsfund.org).