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Chicago non-profit 3Arts increases individual 3Arts Awards by 67% Unrestricted grants now \$25,000 with ten artists named in 2014

**Nearly \$1.5 million to date in direct support of women artists,
artists of color, and artists with disabilities**

CHICAGO, IL (October 6, 2014)—Chicago nonprofit **3Arts** has increased the amount of its annual unrestricted awards for women artists, artists of color, and artists with disabilities to **\$25,000**, effective with the 7th annual 3Arts Awards tonight, Oct. 6, 2014. Ten Chicago-area artists working in the performing, teaching, and visual arts will receive a total of **\$250,000** in a celebratory gathering at the Museum of Contemporary Art. Previously, 3Arts presented annual awards of \$15,000.

The amplified annual 3Arts Awards mark the beginning of a long-term increased commitment from 3Arts in support of Chicago's diverse artistic community. To date, 3Arts has awarded nearly \$1.5 million in direct support for Chicago artists. This year's 3Arts Award recipients are: dancer **Darrell Jones** and choreographer **Erica Mott**; circus choreographer **Sylvia Hernandez-DiStasi** and playwright **Calamity West**; instrumentalists **Brandi Berry** and **Carlos Mejía**; visual artists **Irina Botea** and **Amanda Williams**; and teaching artists **Sophia Nahli Allison** and **Samuel Roberson**. See 3Arts.org for full bios and images of the 2014 awardees.

"Over the past seven years, we've listened to what artists tell us they need and want to help them make their work and build sustainable careers. In response, we have deepened and expanded our programs so that in addition to the cash grant, our awardees are now offered residency fellowships, project support, professional development and promotion. The time has come to raise the bar again—to raise the amount of our award so that Chicago artists can gain that extra bit of freedom to pursue whatever really matters to them," said **3Arts Executive Director Esther Grisham Grimm**.

"Thanks to everyone who has stepped up in support of our efforts, from major funders to hundreds of individual contributors, we are confident our increased financial commitment is sustainable and will resonate throughout Chicago's artistic community for years to come," said **3Arts Board Chair Irene Siragusa Phelps**.

Driven by the belief that the vitality and creative spirit of Chicago is reliant upon a diverse spectrum of artistic voices, **3Arts** advocates for women artists, artists of color, and artists with disabilities working in the performing (dance, music and theater), teaching, and visual arts. For more information on 3Arts, please visit www.3arts.org.

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