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3Arts celebrates 10th anniversary with unprecedented peer-to-peer giving program *MAKE A WAVE*, honoring more than 80 Chicago artists

STARZ *Pour Vida* showrunner Tanya Saracho, international opera star Nicole Cabell, and ABC's *Private Practice* actor Michael Patrick Thornton among past 3Arts awardees selecting Chicago artists to receive *Make a Wave* awards

Allstate is Presenting Sponsor for 10th Anniversary 3Arts Awards celebration

CHICAGO (February 27, 2017)—The Board of Directors of **3Arts**, the Chicago-based non-profit grantmaking organization, is honored to unveil *Make a Wave*, an unprecedented peer-to-peer giving program in celebration of its 10th anniversary in 2017. This one-time initiative invites all 86 of the past 3Arts awardees to select other Chicagoland women artists, artists of color, and/or artists with disabilities to receive surprise \$1,000 awards, for a total of up to \$86,000 in support.

Make a Wave launches this year in addition to the annual 3Arts Awards—which provide unrestricted \$25,000 awards to ten Chicago artists—bringing the total amount of 3Arts artist awards this year to more than \$330,000. In the past nine years, 3Arts has distributed more than \$2.4 million in total funding to nearly 500 Chicago artists.

3Arts Awards alumni participating in *Make a Wave* include: international opera star **Nicole Cabell**; President and CEO of the Chicago Children's Choir **Josephine Lee**; ABC's *How to Get Away With Murder* writer and STARZ *Pour Vida* showrunner **Tanya Saracho**; 2017 Whitney Biennial artist **Cauleen Smith**; artistic director of Chicago's The Gift Theatre and ABC's *Private Practice* actor **Michael Patrick Thornton**; SXSW featured participants **Fawzia Mirza** and **Frank Waln**; and visual artist **Amanda Williams**, who has a forthcoming solo show at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and will be creative collaborator on the Obama Presidential Center's museum.

"*Make a Wave* magnifies the mission of 3Arts, sending a wave from one artist to another through Chicago's cultural core," says 3Arts Executive Director **Esther Grimm**. "Just in terms of our 3Arts awards programs alone, we will support more artists in this single year—more than 90—than we have in all the previous years combined."

"Receiving a 3Arts Award was a complete game changer for me and my career," says past awardee **Tanya Saracho**. "I am absolutely thrilled that 3Arts has decided to celebrate its 10th anniversary year by doing even more for Chicago artists. That's a real testament to the organization's commitment to the city and its creative spirit."

Recipients of *Make a Wave* awards will be announced in September 2017. The 10th Anniversary 3Arts Awards celebration will take place on November 6, 2017 at the Mid-America Club in Chicago's Aon Center, during which the 2017 3Arts Awards recipients will be announced, and *Make a Wave* awardees will be publicly honored.

Allstate is the Presenting Sponsor for the 10th Anniversary 3Arts Awards celebration. *Make a Wave* is supported by the "10 x 10 Campaign," in which ten individuals, circles of individuals, and organizations each contribute \$10,000.

Past 3Arts Awardees include:

DANCE

Barak adé Soleil makes dance, theater and performance art that utilizes techniques drawn from the African diaspora, disability and queer culture, and postmodern and conceptual forms. (2016 3Arts/Denise & Gary Gardner Awardee)

Michel Rodriguez Cintra is a dancer originally from Havana, Cuba, who performs as an ensemble member of Lucky Plush and The Cambrians. (2013 3Arts/McCormick Family Foundation Awardee)

Monique Haley is a performer, teacher, and choreographer specializing in jazz dance and currently working as an instructor at Western Michigan University. (2012 3Arts/McCormick Family Foundation Awardee)

Darrell Jones is a dancer and choreographer who has performed with Bebe Miller, Urban Bush Women, Ronald K. Brown, Ralph Lemon, and KOKUMA Dance Theater, among others. (2014 3Arts/Denise & Gary Gardner Awardee)

Ayako Kato makes and performs dance work that is influenced by a Japanese view of nature and the philosophy of Tao. (2016 3Arts/Reva & David Logan Foundation Awardee)

Kris Lenzo is a former wheelchair athlete who made the transition to dance nearly fifteen years ago and now performs regularly as well as conducts workshops for dancers with and without disabilities. (2015 3Arts/David Pinkerton Awardee)

Stephanie Martinez is an award-winning dance artist who has been choreographing and developing new commissioned works since 2009. (2015 3Arts/RH, Restoration Hardware Awardee)

Erica Mott is a multi-media artist, cultural organizer, and deviser of performance—a meticulous inquisitor and poetic demolitionist who creates performance experiences where mediums and ideas are created in relationship to one another. (2014 3Arts/McCormick Family Foundation Awardee)

Vershawn Sanders-Ward is a choreographer, performer, and founding Artistic Director of Red Clay Dance Company, whose work is rooted deeply in her identity as a black woman and in the rich history of Africa and the African Diaspora. (2013 3Arts/Southwest Airlines Awardee)

Nejla Yatkin draws upon diverse traditions of dance as she explores the beauty as well as complexity of memory, migration, transformation, identity, and multiculturalism through movement. (2012 3Arts Awardee)

MUSIC

Dee Alexander is a vocalist and songwriter whose heart belongs to jazz, but whose talents also span every musical genre related to the African diaspora, including gospel, blues, neosoul, R&B, and world music. (2012 3Arts/Southwest Airlines Awardee)

Tatsu Aoki is a prolific artist, composer, musician, educator, and consummate bassist and Shamisen Lute player who works in a variety of musical genres including traditional Japanese music, jazz, experimental, and creative music. (2010 3Arts/Awardee)

Regina Harris Baiocchi is a composer and author whose music has been performed by world-class orchestras in Detroit and Chicago among others, as well as by the United States Army Band and internationally-acclaimed artists. (2011 3Arts Awardee)

Lurrie Bell is widely considered one of the greatest living Chicago blues guitarists whose performances have made him a favorite at clubs and festivals around the world and earned him a reputation as one of the “leading lights” in the future of the blues. (2009 3Arts Awardee)

Brandi Berry is a classical violinist and traditional fiddler who has appeared with numerous ensembles, while currently leading the Bach & Beethoven Ensemble and teaching regularly at the DePaul University School of Music and Old Town School of Folk Music. (2014 3Arts/Gertrude E. Grisham Awardee)

Amy Briggs is a pianist who has worked as a featured soloist and chamber musician for numerous groups throughout the United States and internationally. (2008 3Arts Awardee)

Nicole Cabell is one of the most sought-after lyric sopranos of today who performs regularly with internationally-renowned opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, and the Royal Opera House, among others. (2010 3Arts/Northern Trust Awardee)

Leslie B. Dunner is a composer, instrumentalist, and conductor as well as the music director for the South Shore Opera Company of Chicago. (2009 3Arts/Northern Trust Awardee)

Jess Godwin is a singer/songwriter bridging pop, soul, and R&B, who started the “Muses” song series based on conversations with friends, which recently had a sold-out show at Steppenwolf Theatre Company. (2016 3Arts/RH, Restoration Hardware Awardee)

Lisa Kaplan is a pianist specializing in the performance of new work by living composers, as well as a founding member of the four-time Grammy Award-winning sextet Eighth Blackbird. (2013 3Arts Awardee)

Ronnie Kuller is a composer, instrumentalist, and artistic director of the interdisciplinary music and performance ensemble Mucca Pazza. (2013 3Arts Awardee)

Josephine Lee is an award-winning conductor and President and Artistic Director of the Chicago Children's Choir where she has revolutionized the field of youth choral music through cutting-edge performances of diverse repertoire and innovative collaborations with world-class artists. (2008 3Arts Awardee)

Lanialoha Lee is a native Hawaiian and musician specializing in the 'ukulele who also performs chanting, vocal work, and other instrumentation that are characteristic of the cultural arts of the Pacific Islands. (2012 3Arts Awardee)

Carlos Mejia is a master musician, mentor of young musicians, and an activist specializing in Mayan culture, the Guatemalan marimba, and other instruments. (2014 3Arts Awardee)

Nicole Mitchell is a creative flutist, composer, and founder of the Black Earth Ensemble whose music celebrates African American culture while reaching across genres and integrating new ideas with moments in the legacy of jazz, gospel, experimentalism, pop, and African percussion. (2011 3Arts Awardee)

Tomeka Reid is a cellist and composer who has emerged as one of the most original and versatile musicians in Chicago's jazz and improvised music community. (2016 3Arts/Southwest Airlines Awardee)

Rachel Ries, hailing from the prairies of Middle America, crafts sly and passionate songs for the crooked-hearted. (2010 3Arts Awardee)

Ami Saraiya is a singer/songwriter who makes music that is often described as magically surrealist in flavor and uniquely combining elements of chamber pop, blues, and gritty soul. (2011 3Arts Awardee)

Frank Waln is an award-winning Sicangu Lakota Hip Hop artist and music producer originally from the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. (2015 3Arts/Reva & David Logan Foundation Awardee)

Chihsuan Yang is an eclectic and versatile violinist actively engaged in the Chicago music scene, who also specializes in playing the traditional *erhu* in an array of musical genres ranging from classical, blues, flamenco, free-improvisation, rock, electronic-acoustic, and world music. (2015 3Arts/Southwest Airlines Awardee)

TEACHING ARTS

Miguel Aguilar is an artist, educator, researcher, and founder of the Graffiti Institute, who has been painting graffiti in Chicago since 1989. (2012 3Arts/Siragusa Foundation Awardee)

Sophia Nahli Allison is a visual journalist and a media arts educator currently based in Los Angeles where she works as a cinematographer/editor for Fusion media. (2014 3Arts/Southwest Airlines Awardee)

JoVia Armstrong is a percussionist, composer, and educator who recently created a music school called Sounds About Write for adults and youth on the south side of Chicago. (2011 3Arts/Siragusa Foundation Awardee)

Alexandria Eregbu is a conceptual artist and disciplinary deviant whose practice often takes the form of maker, performer, curator, educator, and programmer influenced by artifacts, material culture, and an attention to current and historical events. (2016 3Arts/Allstate Awardee)

William Estrada is a teaching artist whose artmaking practice focuses on exploring inequality, migration, historical passivity, cultural recognition, self-preservation, and media representation in marginalized communities. (2016 3Arts Community Awardee)

Marta Garcia is a photographer, photojournalist, and teaching artist who tells stories with her camera and mentors young people at Marwen and other arts education organizations. (2013 3Arts/Stan Lipkin & Evelyn Appell Lipkin Awardee)

Benji Hart is an activist, artist, and youth worker dedicated to radical education, often focusing on using the dance form of vogue to empower poor and disenfranchised queer communities in creative and celebratory ways. (2015 3Arts/Irene Siragusa Phelps Awardee)

Jessica Hudson is a theater maker and artist who blends vocabularies of performance, photography, and physical theater into work that often involves collaboration on stage and in the classroom. (2010 3Arts Awardee)

Regin Igloria is a multidisciplinary artist who combines movement, materials, and space to speak about the human condition. (2011 3Arts Awardee)

Cecil McDonald Jr. uses photography, video, and text to explore the intersections of masculinity, familial relations, and the artistic and intellectual pursuits of Black culture. (2010 3Arts Awardee)

Samuel Roberson is an actor, director, and educator, and currently Artistic Director of Congo Square Theatre Company. (2014 3Arts/Siragusa Foundation Awardee)

Robert Schleifer is an actor and teaching artist, who recently adapted Yasmin Reza's play *ART* into American Sign Language for a staged reading at Steppenwolf Theatre. (2013 3Arts/Siragusa Foundation Awardee)

Chris Silva is a visual artist, educator, and innovative figure in Chicago's "street art" scene who produces large-scale commissions and leads youth-involved public art projects. (2015 3Arts/Chandler Family Awardee)

Jamie Topper is an artist whose practice spans public sculpture, ecological design, and music, often working to create and build museum exhibits and installations that engage the public in appreciating environmental phenomena and sound. (2010 3Arts Awardee)

avery r. young is a poet, songwriter, performer, and multidisciplinary artist who mentors youth in the crafts of creative writing, poetry, and theater. (2012 3Arts/Merrill Lynch Awardee)

Mirtes Zwierzynski is a visual artist, muralist, and teaching artist born in Brazil who has produced numerous mosaics, painted murals, and artist-residency programs for Chicago schools. (2011 3Arts Awardee)

THEATER

Alana Arenas is an actor and ensemble member at Steppenwolf Theatre where she recently appeared in *The Fundamentals*, after earning a 2016 Lucille Lortel Award for her role in *Head of Passes* at the Public Theater in New York City. (2008 3Arts Awardee)

Kareem Bandealy is an actor and ensemble member at American Theater Company and Lookingglass Theatre Company, as well as an Artistic Associate at Silk Road Rising. (2011 3Arts Awardee)

Cheryl Lynn Bruce has performed and directed on stages across the country, as well as in Europe and Mexico, including originating the role of Elizabeth Sandry for Steppenwolf Theatre's Tony Award-winning production of "The Grapes of Wrath." (2010 3Arts Awardee)

Jo Cattell is a theater maker originally from the United Kingdom who develops new work as a director, collaborator, and community-builder. (2016 3Arts/Perkins Coie Awardee)

Heather Gilbert is an award-winning lighting designer whose work has been seen on numerous local and national stages, including the record-breaking production of *Our Town*, which had a 19-month run on Broadway after its Chicago debut. (2012 3Arts Awardee)

Allen Gilmore is a professionally trained actor who has had leading roles in a wide variety of local and national productions, from classical Shakespeare to new works by contemporary playwrights. (2015 3Arts/Denise & Gary Gardner Awardee)

Mierka Girten is an actor and ensemble member of A Red Orchid Theatre, as well as founder of The Mookie Jam Foundation benefiting artists with multiple sclerosis. (2013 3Arts Awardee)

Sylvia Hernandez-DiStasi is a second-generation circus acrobat who is now co-founder and Artistic Director of The Actors Gymnasium and one of the leading teachers and choreographers of circus arts for local and national stages. (2014 3Arts Awardee)

Halena Kays is a Chicago and Nashville based theater director, performer, and professor of directing at Middle Tennessee State University. (2012 3Arts Awardee)

Jamil Khoury is a theater producer, playwright, essayist, and filmmaker, and the Founding Artistic Director of Silk Road Rising, which creates live theatre and online videos that tell stories through primarily Asian American and Middle Eastern American lenses. (2010 3Arts Awardee)

Tekki Lomnicki is a solo performer, director, and educator, as well as the founding Artistic Director of Tellin' Tales Theatre dedicated to shattering the barriers between the disabled and able-bodied worlds. (2008 3Arts Awardee)

Fawzia Mirza is an award-winning actor, comedian, producer, and writer who has performed on numerous stages through her one-woman plays and appeared in short film projects and feature films. (2015 3Arts Community Awardee)

Maggie Popadiak is a theater artist and Associate Director of Albany Park Theater Project, where she works with diverse youth to create new theatrical works based on lived experiences. (2016 3Arts/Reva & David Logan Foundation Awardee)

Tanya Saracho is a playwright and television writer (HBO's "Looking" and "Girls" and ABC's "How to Get Away with Murder") whose play *Fade* recently made its New York premiere at Primary Stages. (2009 3Arts Awardee)

Kelli Simpkins is an actor and artistic associate of About Face Theatre and one of the original creators/performers of *The Laramie Project*. (2013 3Arts/Merrill Lynch Awardee)

Alison Siple is a freelance costume designer who has produced award-winning work on Chicago stages and is an Artistic Associate with Lookingglass Theatre Company and Steep Theatre. (2011 3Arts/Merrill Lynch Awardee)

Michael Patrick Thornton is an actor, director, and co-founder/Artistic Director of The Gift Theatre in Jefferson Park. (2009 3Arts Awardee)

Eddie Torres is a theater director who co-founded Teatro Vista in 1990 and whose recent theater credits include the world premiere of *Mosque Alert* at Silk Road Rising in 2016. (2010 3Arts Awardee)

Calamity West is an award-winning playwright who has been a member of the Goodman Theatre's Playwright's Unit and Timeline Theatre Company's Playwright's Collective, and developed work for Jackalope Theatre Company, Steep Theatre, and Sideshow Theatre Company. (2014 3Arts/Merrill Lynch Awardee)

Jacqueline Williams is a Chicago-based actor who works in theater, film, television, and voice-over and is a recipient of a 2016 Equity Jeff Award for her role in *The House that Will Not Stand* at Victory Gardens Theater. (2011 3Arts Awardee)

VISUAL ARTS

Alberto Aguilar bridges media from painting and sculpture to video, installation, performance, and sound, making work that often incorporates whatever materials are at hand as well as exchanges with those around him or people that encounter his artwork. (2011 3Arts Awardee)

Irina Botea, originally from Romania, uses multiple media to inspect socio-political dynamics and the possibility of transformation. (2014 3Arts/Chandler Family Awardee)

Sara Black is an artist, educator, arts organizer, and curator whose work uses conscious processes of carpentry, woodworking, and repair to expose the complex ways in which things and people are suspended in worlds together. (2009 3Arts/Chandler Family Awardee)

Juan Angel Chavez is a Mexican-born, Chicago-based artist best known for creating interactive, larger-than-life assemblages, sculptures, and installations of found materials, light, and sound. (2008 3Arts Awardee)

Robin Hewlett has worked as an artist/organizer at the intersection of art and social practice with a focus on community-based initiatives and health practices. (2010 3Arts Awardee)

Candace Hunter creates collages, paintings, and installations, often weaving text into the work to tell stories that offer the viewer a sense of history and admiration of the beautiful. (2016 3Arts/Chandler Family Awardee)

Irena Knezevic is a Serbian-born artist active in various visual art formats, music, and architecture, whose work will be on view in the 2017 Whitney Biennial. (2013 3Arts/Chandler Family Awardee)

Larry Lee remakes high/low culture as multimedia "orientalia" through video installations, conceptual objects, and sculpture that operate as stylized reproductions fitting a stereotype, perspective, or aesthetic often associated with anything Asian to explore how the production of culture and its byproducts constructs or typecasts the discourse of Self versus Other. (2010 3Arts Chandler Family Awardee)

David Leggett is a visual artist working in painting, drawing, printmaking, bookmaking, and installation, heavily influenced by popular culture and both personal and cultural relationships. (2009 3Arts Awardee)

Riva Lehrer is an artist, writer, and curator whose work focuses on issues of physical identity and the socially challenged body, who is best known for representations of people with impairments and those whose sexuality or gender identity have long been stigmatized. (2008 3Arts Awardee)

Lisa Lindvay is a photographer whose work often focuses on the complexity of family and explodes the myth of domestic bliss. (2011 3Arts/Chandler Family Awardee)

Norman Long is a sound artist, designer, and composer born on the South Side of Chicago whose current work focuses on sound art production within the larger context of landscape. (2011 3Arts Awardee)

Harold Mendez, selected for the 2017 Whitney Biennial, uses installation, photography, sculpture, and text to reference reconstructions of place and identity. (2012 3Arts/Stan Lipkin & Evelyn Appell Lipkin Awardee)

Cheryl Pope is a visual artist incorporating sculpture, installation, and performance whose work questions and responds to issues of identity as it relates to the individual and the community, specifically in regards to race, gender, class, history, power, and place. (2015 3Arts/Stan Lipkin & Evelyn Appell Lipkin Awardee)

Luis Romero is a Chicago-based visual artist, born in Mexico and raised in Puerto Rico, whose work consists of three-dimensional layered drawings that suggest a surface as well as an area that is not visible. (2010 3Arts Awardee)

Aram Han Sifuentes uses a needle and thread as tools to speak of her experiences as a first-generation immigrant and to address issues of labor and identity politics. (2016 3Arts/Stan Lipkin & Evelyn Appell Lipkin Awardee)

Cauleen Smith, selected for the 2017 Whitney Biennial, is an interdisciplinary artist whose work is rooted in the discourse of experimental film, third world cinema, and science fiction. (2013 3Arts/Lydia Yun Lee & Lisa Yun Lee Awardee)

Maria Vergara is a painter attracted to a wide range of subject matter, often documenting important contemporary and historical moments in history. (2012 3Arts Awardee)

Amanda Williams is a visual artist, originally trained as an architect, who is interested in how combining these two disciplines might help make all parts of cities thrive. (2014 3Arts/Stan Lipkin & Evelyn Appell Lipkin Awardee)

Fo Wilson is an artist/maker, educator, independent curator, and writer who uses constructed space and furniture forms to create experiences that reposition historical objects and/or aesthetics in a contemporary context. (2015 3Arts/Allstate Awardee)

About 3Arts

3Arts is a Chicago-based nonprofit organization that advocates for Chicago's women artists, artists of color, and artists with disabilities who work in the performing, teaching, and visual arts. By providing cash awards, project funding, residency fellowships, professional development, and promotion, 3Arts helps artists take risks, experiment, and build momentum in their careers. For more information about 3Arts, please visit www.3arts.org.