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## Nearly 100 Chicago artists receive \$330,000 in unrestricted awards at 10<sup>th</sup> annual 3Arts Awards

*Anniversary celebration honored 10 artists with \$25,000 cash grants along with \$1,000 awards given to 83 artists as part of a peer-to-peer giving program, Make A Wave*



CHICAGO, IL (November 6, 2017)—**3Arts**, the Chicago-based nonprofit grantmaking organization, is honored to announce the nearly 100 Chicago artists who received unrestricted grants at the **10<sup>th</sup> annual 3Arts Awards celebration** on Monday, November 6 at The Mid-America Club. The celebration recognized the ten annual 3Arts Awards recipients along with the 83 recipients of *Make a Wave*—an unprecedented artist-to-artist giving initiative launched in recognition of the organization’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

3Arts has distributed more than \$2.5 million in total funding to nearly 500 Chicago artists over the past ten years, and will award \$330,000 tonight alone.

“To say it is a privilege to award this many artists in a single year is a woeful understatement; it’s really a dream come true,” said **Esther Grisham Grimm**, Executive Director of 3Arts. “Ten years ago, we hoped that one day we would be able to do something like *Make a Wave*, and we kept that idea afloat until we could figure out how to make it happen. I can’t tell you how excited we are to have turned the reins over to all of the past 3Arts awardees to select the *Make a Wave* artists and to make that early dream of ours a reality in our anniversary year. I think doing more of what we do is the best possible way to celebrate ten years of supporting Chicago artists.”

Each year, 3Arts honors ten Chicago-based women artists, artists of color, and artists with disabilities working in the performing, teaching, and visual arts sectors. Each 3Arts awardee receives an unrestricted \$25,000 grant to use according to their individual needs and priorities.

The 2017 recipients are: dancers/choreographers **Ginger Lane** and **Meida Teresa McNeal**; pianist **Mabel Kwan** and operatic baritone **Will Liverman**; teaching artists **Ayriole Frost** and **Juan-Carlos Perez**; actors/directors **Tara Mallen** and **Marcela Muñoz**; and visual artists **Alejandro T. Acierto** and **Tirtza Even**.

The 2017 awards celebration additionally honored recipients of *Make a Wave*, a peer-to-peer giving initiative in which 83 past 3Arts Awards recipients—including STARZ *Pour Vida* showrunner **Tanya Saracho**, artistic director of Chicago's The Gift Theatre **Michael Patrick Thornton**, and Obama Presidential Center collaborator **Amanda Williams**—selected another 83 Chicago artists to receive \$1,000 awards. This anniversary initiative was supported by the 10 x 10 Campaign, in which ten individuals, circles of individuals, and organizations each contributed \$10,000. [Click here to learn more about the recipients of Make a Wave.](#)

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual 3Arts Awards celebration was presented on Monday, November 6, by the 3Arts Board of Directors and Event Host Committee in a celebratory gathering at The Mid-America Club at the Aon Center. The event also featured performances by past 3Arts awardees including bassist **Tatsu Aoki**, blues guitarist/singer **Lurrie Bell**, singer/songwriter **Jess Godwin**, and President and CEO of the Chicago Children's Choir **Josephine Lee**.

One of the ten 3Arts Awards, designated as the **3Arts Community Award**, is named in honor of the Chicago community and was supported by 118 donors who contributed to a board-led crowdfunding campaign that was also supported by a one-third match from 3Arts. This year's 3Arts Community Award recipient is **Ginger Lane**, a dance artist dedicated to creating movement that incorporates dancers with and without disabilities to confront misperceptions and stereotypes of disabled bodies.

The recipients of the 2017 3Arts Awards are:

### Dance:



#### **[Ginger Lane](#)**, *Dancer/Choreographer, 3Arts Community Awardee*

Ginger Lane began her dance training in Chicago with Edna McRae, Erik Braun, John Kriza, Bentley-Stone, and Walter Camryn. She was awarded a dance scholarship at the Interlochen Center for the Arts to study with Sheila Reilly, Maxine Munt/Alfred Brooks, Chester Wolenski, and Joseph Gifford, from whom she learned the Doris Humphrey technique. Using a wheelchair since 1984, Lane has collaborated and performed with The Joffrey Ballet and for ten years was a member of Dance>Detour, a company of dancers with and without disabilities. She has been performing and choreographing with MOMENTA since 2003. Lane has performed at the St. Louis

Spring to Dance Festival for several years, at Chicago's Bodies of Work Festival of Disability Arts & Culture in 2006 and 2013, and at the Chicago Disability Pride Parade. Since 2008, as Coordinator of the Arts & Culture Project at Access Living, Lane has produced the physically integrated dance concert *Counter Balance*.



#### **[Meida Teresa McNeal](#)**, *Dancer/Choreographer, 2017 3Arts Awardee*

Meida Teresa McNeal has been making multidisciplinary collaborative performance works for more than 20 years. She has produced creative projects as both a solo artist and with Honey Pot Performance, for which she is the Artistic and Managing Director. Recognitions over her career include awards and support from the Chicago Community Trust, Chicago Dancemakers Forum, Crossroads Fund, The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, Fulbright Award, High Concept Laboratories, Illinois Humanities, Links Hall, Propeller Fund, Puffin Foundation, and Washington Park Arts Incubator. McNeal received her Ph.D. in Performance Studies from Northwestern

University, her MFA in Choreography & Dance History from The Ohio State University, and her BA from Kenyon College in Cultural Anthropology, Dance, and Theater. She also works with the Chicago Park District as Arts & Culture Manager supporting community arts partnerships, youth arts, cultural stewardship, and civic engagement initiatives across the city's parks and cultural centers. In all of her work, McNeal's focus is on the merging of theory and practice into lived applications that cultivate dialogue, decolonize knowledge, and shift consciousness.

## Music:



### Mabel Kwan, Pianist, 2017 3Arts/RH, Restoration Hardware Awardee

Pianist Mabel Kwan performs with the new music collective Ensemble Dal Niente, the improvising group Restroy, and as one half of the synth duo Mega Laverne and Shirley. She has commissioned and premiered new works for piano and clavichord which can be heard on her solo albums *one poetic switch* (Milk Factory Productions) and *Inventions* (Parlour Tapes+). Mabel has toured nationally and internationally, including concerts at Ravinia, Millennium Park, Library of Congress, and the Darmstadt Summer Courses for New Music. She appears on Ensemble Dal Niente's collaborative albums *Balter/Saunier* (New Amsterdam) with Deerhoof and *Assemblage* (New World) featuring chamber music of George Lewis. Mabel received

piano performance degrees from Rice University and Northern Illinois University. Lately she has been improvising and experimenting with synthesizers, playing on the Option series at Experimental Sound Studio and the Charlottesville Jazz Society series. She is fascinated by sound, contradictions, and what we perceive to be familiar or strange. With a style that is detached and objective but highly personal, Mabel brings a quiet intensity and playfulness to her live performances.



### Will Liverman, Operatic Baritone, 3Arts/Stan Lipkin & Evelyn Appell Lipkin Awardee

Will Liverman is quickly gaining a reputation for his compelling performances, while making significant debuts at opera houses across the country. He is a recipient of a George London Award, a winner of the Stella Maris International Vocal Competition, and a recipient of a Gerda Lissner Charitable Fund Award, in addition to a grand finalist in the 2012 Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions. Previously, he was a member of the Ryan Opera Center at the Lyric Opera of Chicago and a Young Artist at the Glimmerglass Festival. Liverman's recent highlights also include performances as Dizzy

Gillespie in the world premiere of *Charlie Parker's Yardbird* with Opera Philadelphia and his role debut as Marcello in *La Bohème* with Portland Opera. This year, Liverman will perform the leading role of Figaro in Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at the Seattle Opera and Kentucky Opera. He holds his Master of Music degree from The Juilliard School and a Bachelor of Music degree from Wheaton College.

## Teaching Arts:



### Ayriole Frost, Musician/Educator, 3Arts/Samuel G. Roberson Jr. Awardee

Ayriole Frost is an active composer, performer and teacher. She co-founded and currently serves as the Executive Director of Shift: Englewood Youth Orchestra, an El Sistema-inspired youth development program on Chicago's Southwest side. She is a sought-after workshop leader for creative music projects around the country, including a program of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra called OrchKids. Her history of working with music programs focused on social justice, including The People's Music School Youth Orchestras and Chicago Metamorphosis Orchestra Project, as well as her own program in Englewood, led to her joining North Park University's faculty as part of their

Certificate in Music for Social Change and Human Values. Frost received her Bachelor of Music from Ball State University where she studied composition, viola, and voice. She holds a Master of Music in Composition and teaching certification from Carnegie Mellon University. She completed the esteemed Sistema Fellows Program at New England Conservatory in 2014.



### Juan-Carlos Perez, Visual Artist/Educator, 3Arts/Chandler Family Awardee

Juan-Carlos Perez is a visual artist who was born in Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico and immigrated to Los Angeles, California at an early age. He later moved to Chicago to pursue a degree in Fine Arts at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. As an independent teaching artist, Perez partners with arts organizations such as Chicago Arts Partnerships in Education, Chicago Park District, Chicago Public Schools and more, teaching a variety of visual arts including arts education integration, cultural arts, public art, and mural making. His role as an arts educator has given him the opportunity

to work with many diverse communities within the city of Chicago, as well as in Detroit and West Africa. Perez is

part of The Chicago Act Collective, a group of local artists creating work to support movements, struggles, and communities in Chicago.

## Theater:



**[Tara Mallen](#)**, Actor/Director/Producer, 3Arts/William Franklin Grisham Awardee

Tara Mallen is the founder and Artistic Director of Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, Chicago's only professional theater dedicated to producing work with women at the core. An actor, director, and producer, she was most recently on stage in Rivendell's world premiere production of *The Firebirds Take the Field*. Prior to that she appeared in Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Sweat* at Arena Stage and Steppenwolf Theatre's *How Long Will I Cry: Stories of Youth Violence*. Mallen has produced and acted in more than thirty productions at Rivendell. She received a Joseph Jefferson award for *WRENS* and was part of that production's Jeff-winning "Best Ensemble."

Mallen co-conceived and directed the critically-acclaimed world premiere of *Women at War*, a theatrical exploration of women in today's military that played to sold-out houses in the fall of 2014 and is now touring throughout the Midwest. Her screen credits include Steven Soderbergh's film *Contagion*, as well as *Boss*, *Chicago Fire*, *Chicago P.D.*, *Sense8*, the CBS/Sony pilot *Doubt*, the FOX pilot *Controversy* and the independent feature film *Fools*.



**[Marcela Muñoz](#)**, Actor/Director, 3Arts/Southwest Airlines Awardee

Marcela Muñoz is the Co-Artistic Director and Managing Director of Aguijón Theater, Chicago's oldest Spanish-language theater company. Marcela is a director, actress, acting teacher, and translator of dramatic works. Besides regular gigs at Aguijón, her acting credits include works with other Chicago companies such as Teatro Luna, Teatro Vista, Victory Gardens Theatre, and Goodman Theatre. Her directing credits with Aguijón include *Yerma*; *The House of Bernarda Alba*; *Blood Wedding*; *Johnny Tenorio*; *Perversions*; *Even a Sparrow Leaves its Nest*; *Monday Falls on Leon Rodriguez*; *Antigone*; *The Passion of Antígona Pérez*; *Dear Voyeur*; *Blowout*; and *La*

*Chunga*; among others. Some of her other Chicago directing credits include *Kita y Fernanda* for Teatro Luna; *Ferdinand the Bull* for Goodman Theatre; *La Posada Mágica* for Teatro Vista; and *Lolita de Lares* for Urban Theater Company. As an actress and director, she has participated in international theater festivals in Peru, Argentina, and Colombia. She is a graduate of The School at Steppenwolf Theatre.

## Visual Arts:



**[Alejandro T. Acierto](#)**, Visual Artist, 3Arts/Denise & Gary Gardner Awardee

Alejandro T. Acierto is an artist and musician whose work is largely informed by the breath, the voice, and the processes that enable them. He has exhibited artworks at the Film Society of Lincoln Center, Issue Project Room, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois State University Galleries, and SOMArts, in addition to presenting performance works at Rapid Pulse Performance Art Festival, the Brooklyn International Performance Art Festival, Center for Performance Research, and Center for New Music and Technology. He has held residencies at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts,

Banff Centre, High Concept Laboratories, Chicago Artists Coalition, and was an FT/FN/FG Consortium Fellow and a Center Program Artist at the Hyde Park Art Center. He received his undergraduate degree from DePaul University, a Masters of Music from Manhattan School of Music, and an MFA in New Media Arts from the University of Illinois at Chicago.



**Tirtza Even**, *Visual Artist, 3Arts/Reva & David Logan Foundation Awardee*

A practicing documentary-maker and video artist, Tirtza Even has produced both linear and interactive video work that has been shown at the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Biennial, the Johannesburg Biennial, and in many galleries, museums, and festivals in the U.S., Israel and Europe. She has won numerous grants and awards, including Artadia Award Chicago, Golden Gate Awards Certificate-of-Merit at the San Francisco International Film Festival, and an Individual Artists Program Award from The Jerome Foundation, among others. Her work has been purchased for the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Jewish Museum, and the Israel Museum. Even has been an invited guest and speaker at conferences,

including the Whitney Museum Seminar series, the Digital Flaherty Seminar, SXSW Interactive Conference, Art Pace, ACM Multimedia, the Performance Studies International conference, the Society for Literature, Science and the Arts conference, and others. She is currently an Associate Professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago's Film, Video, New Media and Animation department.

**About 3Arts**

3Arts is a 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.

3Arts extends a special thanks to its **Award Partners**: The Chandler Family, Denise & Gary Gardner, Esther Grisham Grimm & Heidi O'Neill, Stan Lipkin & Evelyn Appell Lipkin, The Reva & David Logan Foundation, RH, and Southwest Airlines.

3Arts also gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the 3Arts Awards **Presenting Sponsor Allstate**; **Lead Sponsors**: BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois, Kimpton Gray Hotel, Lakeside Bank, Perkins Coie LLP, Wolfgang Puck Catering; and **Corporate Friends**: Boleo, Comcast, GCM Grosvenor, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, and Northern Trust.

The **10x10 Campaign** is generously supported by contributions from The Field Foundation of Illinois, The Joyce Foundation, Rose Parisi & Donald James Meckley, Sydney Sidwell & the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, and the Siragusa Family Foundation, as well as donor circles hosted by Lisa Yun Lee, Cat & Gregg Tager, Antonia Contro & Rose Parisi, and Laurel Appell Lipkin & Phoebe Chandler Turner.

For more information about 3Arts, please visit [www.3arts.org](http://www.3arts.org).

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