



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Hosts Grantees on Its Captiva Campus**

*Eighty-five nonprofit professionals from across the country join together at historic island residence*

FORT MYERS, Fla. (Nov. 18, 2014) – Two years ago, the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation transformed the artist’s former home and studio on Captiva Island, Florida, into a dynamic artists’ residency. Since the Rauschenberg Residency program was launched, the foundation has offered seven month-long residencies each year. Program alumni boast dancers, writers, curators, filmmakers, fine artists, and photographers alike. Typically, ten artists are hosted at one time.

Earlier this month, the foundation tried something new.

It used its Captiva campus to host eight-five artists, entrepreneurs, community organizers, and social innovators from across the United States, and who have received support through the foundation’s SEED Grant program. The inaugural SEED Summit, which is intended to become an annual event at Captiva, brought these arts professionals together for a one week meeting to build skills, share knowledge, and form ongoing relationships.

“Bringing so many of our country’s grassroots cultural leaders to Southwest Florida is truly an honor,” said Christy MacLear, Executive Director of the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation. “In a span of five days, eighty-five people became a single cohort that is prepared to support one another’s work locally and nationally.”

“What an experience for all these artists to be here together,” said Tere Mathern, Artistic and Managing Director of Conduit Dance in Portland, Oregon, and one of this year’s SEED Summit participants. “To be selected by the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation to join other artists to learn and grow from one another is invaluable.”

Conduit Dance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization that serves as an incubator for independent contemporary dance in the Portland region. It is also one of thirty-six organizations supported by the SEED program, and now, thanks to last week’s meeting, it is part of a national network of art innovators from every genre—experimental film to public art, to “do-it-yourself”-maker spaces. Each grantee comes from one of ten cities in the United States such as Atlanta, Boise, Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit, Kansas City, New Orleans, Phoenix, Portland, and Providence, Rhode Island, and which is rich in culture but may not have a large, local, philanthropic base.

“It is not easy to work in unconventional ways, especially when you are operating outside of New York and California,” said Risë Wilson, Director of Philanthropy at the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation. “Giving these artists and administrators time and space to reflect on their day-to-day work is useful. But to do so in a way that builds lasting relationships is transformational.”

It makes sense to organize the SEED Summit on the Rauschenberg Residency’s twenty-acre estate. The Rauschenberg Residency program is inspired by Rauschenberg’s early years at Black Mountain College,

near Asheville, North Carolina, where an artistic community taught him the importance of learning from and working with others to break new ground. Building on this ethos of collaboration, the SEED Summit is the product of the foundation's philanthropy and residency programs, working together to ensure its grantees are well poised to succeed by leveraging one another's expertise. This same value of cooperation is also at the heart of the recent call for proposals that the foundation has launched in partnership with the Southwest Florida Community Foundation. The grant opportunity invites nonprofits, which are working to improve the quality of life in Southwest Florida, to work in partnership with other agencies. Interested organizations should visit [www.floridacommunity.com](http://www.floridacommunity.com) to learn how to apply.

For more information about the Rauschenberg Residency program, the SEED Grant program, and the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation in general, visit [www.rauschenbergfoundation.org](http://www.rauschenbergfoundation.org).

## **SEED Grantees by Year**

### **2013**

Boise, ID  
Buffalo  
Cleveland  
Kansas City  
Phoenix

Black House Collective (Kansas City)  
Black Poet Ventures (Phoenix)  
Cattle Track Arts and Preservation Society (Phoenix)  
convergence-continuum (Cleveland)  
Emerging Leaders in the Arts Buffalo (Buffalo)  
Ensemble Theater (Cleveland)  
FiveOne Experimental Orchestra (Cleveland)  
FOKL (Kansas City, KS)  
Front/Space (Kansas City, MO)  
MorrisonDance (Cleveland)  
Off Center Dance (Boise, ID)  
Signal Culture (Owego, NY)  
Story Story Night (Boise, ID)  
Sugar City (Buffalo)  
Fishtank Performance Studio (Kansas City, MO)  
Visual Arts Collective (Garden City, ID)

### **2012**

Atlanta  
Detroit  
New Orleans  
Portland  
Providence, RI

Allied Media Projects (Detroit)  
The Avenue Concept (Providence, RI)  
Conduit Dance (Portland, OR)  
Congo Square Preservation Society (New Orleans)

Dashboard Co-Op (Atlanta)  
Dirt Palace (Providence, RI)  
Eyedrum (Atlanta)  
glo (Atlanta)  
The Heidelberg Project (Detroit)  
Living Walls (Atlanta)  
The Lucky Penny (Atlanta)  
Magic Lantern Cinema (Providence, RI)  
Mondo Bizarro (New Orleans)  
New Orleans Fringe Festival (New Orleans)  
Performance Works NorthWest (Portland, OR)  
Power House Productions (Detroit)  
Press Street (New Orleans)  
RK Projects (Providence, RI)  
Shaking the Tree Theatre and Studio (Portland, OR)  
Umoja Committee (New Orleans)

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