



Ruth Foundation for the Arts Announces Wisconsin Regranting Program

*New Initiative Awarding Three Milwaukee-Centric Arts Organizations \$240k in
Funding Annually To Establish Individual Artist Grants Across the Region*

Milwaukee, WI — April 18, 2023 — The **Ruth Foundation for the Arts (Ruth Arts)** is pleased to announce its inaugural **Wisconsin Grants to Artists**—a new grant program supporting three Milwaukee-based arts organizations to offer individual grants to artists in the region. In this funding cycle, Ruth Arts will award **Milwaukee Institute for Art and Design (MIAD)**, **Lynden Sculpture Garden**, and **The Open Fund** on an annual basis in partnership to provide individual grants to artists in their communities.

“Since the launch of Ruth Foundation for the Arts, we’ve centered artists in our decision making. It was important to us to round out our fiscal year with support for artists and creative practitioners in Milwaukee,” said Ruth Arts **Executive Director Karen Patterson**. “To inaugurate this re-granting program, we selected three organizations with the infrastructure and expertise to connect with artists in the city. We are grateful to these organizations for piloting this program with us and are so pleased that they can now augment their already existing support for artists in the city.”

Launched in 2022, Ruth Arts has continued to expand its grantmaking and outreach across the country, while retaining a focus on its home in Wisconsin. In its first year, the Foundation has supported arts organizations across the state with a total of \$1.6 million, with additional funding to the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, where Ruth DeYoung Kohler II served as director.

The three inaugural recipients of Wisconsin Grants to Artists include:

Lynden Sculpture Garden

The [Lynden Sculpture Garden](#) offers a unique experience of art in nature through its collection of more than 50 monumental sculptures sited across 40 acres of park, lake and woodland. In 2022, the organization was also announced in Ruth Arts Fall Programming as a Core Grant recipient.

With support from Ruth Arts, the Lynden Sculpture Garden will expand its [Mary L. Nohl Fund Fellowship Program](#), one of the longest standing and most prominent grants for individuals in Milwaukee that provides unrestricted funds for established and emerging artists. Through the new support from the new program, Lynden Sculpture Garden will increase the program on an annual cycle by funding alumni artists with \$25,000 grants.

Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design (MIAD)

The [Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design \(MIAD\)](#) is Wisconsin's only four-year, private college of visual art and design, offering a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Communication Design, Illustration, Industrial Design, Interior Architecture and Design, and New Studio Practice: Fine Arts. Announced in 2022, MIAD is also a recipient of the Foundation's RDK Legacy Fund—a unique program dedicated to honoring and continuing Ruth DeYoung Kohler's steadfast support of regional and craft-based organizations and artist-built environments.

Through the support of the regranting program, MIAD has partnered with Ruth Arts to create the **Faculty and Staff Fine Arts Grant**—a program that will support up to 15 artists with \$75,000 in funding. This new program will aim to support MIAD Art faculty and staff for the research and development of new work.

The Open Fund

The [Open Fund](#) supports visual artist initiatives that are public oriented and experimental, with support from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts Regional Re-granting Program. Examples of the 2022 grantees include the presentation of creative and experimental work via film screenings, exhibition series, pop-up presentations, zines and media, educational models, civic sites in addition to other inventive models of artistic engagements.

The Open Fund is administered by two Wisconsin artist-run spaces: The Poor Farm and The Open. With the help of Ruth Arts, the organization plans to double the amount of funding distributed in their Artist Project Grant, which provided \$65,000 in funds to 12 individual artist projects in the last year.

For more information about Ruth Arts' programming, or the awarded organizations, please visit the Foundation's [website](#).

ABOUT THE RUTH FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS

The Ruth Foundation for the Arts (Ruth Arts) is a new grantmaker based in the Midwest and dedicated to meeting the evolving needs and lived experiences of artists, communities, and arts organizations whose work is anchored by visual arts, performing arts, and arts education. Based in Milwaukee and national in scope, the Foundation reflects the culture and spirit of the Midwest, which long inspired its namesake and benefactor Ruth DeYoung Kohler II. Led by Executive Director Karen Patterson, the Foundation is a responsive and adventurous new force in the realm of arts philanthropy.

ABOUT RUTH DEYOUNG KOHLER II

A lifetime supporter of the arts, Ruth DeYoung Kohler II (1941-2020) was deeply committed to artists and consequently, broke down hierarchies and categories within the art world to center artists, support communities, and engage with overlooked art forms. She made significant contributions to the arts across the U.S., including serving as Chairman and member of the Wisconsin Arts Board, acting as a National Endowment for the Arts Visual Artists Organization

panel member and past site evaluator, as founder of the Preservation Committee of Kohler Foundation, Inc., and Director of the John Michael Kohler Arts Center for more than forty years.

Among the many awards and honors Ruth received are the Governor's Award for the Arts, Wisconsin; Visionary Award, American Craft Museum; Visionary Leadership Award, Center for Intuitive and Outside Art; Visionary Lifetime Achievement Award, Museum of Art and Design; and honorary doctorates from various institutions of higher learning.

She believed passionately that the arts reveal who we are as a people: past, present and future. She promoted equitable and inclusive access to the arts in her local community, her home state of Wisconsin, and on national and international levels.

PRESS CONTACTS

Ed Winstead

Vice President, Cultural Counsel

ed@culturalcounsel.com

Allison Brainard

Account Executive, Cultural Counsel

allison@culturalcounsel.com

Rachel Roberts

Account Executive, Cultural Counsel

rachel@culturalcounsel.com