

Anonymous Was A Woman

Anonymous Was A Woman introduces Emergency Relief Grant in response to Covid-19 crisis

Program provides \$250,000 in aid for women artists over the age of 40, administered in partnership with the New York Foundation for the Arts

March 30, 2020—Anonymous Was A Woman (AWAW) has introduced an emergency relief grant program to support artists impacted by the Covid-19 crisis. The program will distribute \$250,000 in grants, up to \$2,500 apiece, to artists who have experienced financial hardship from loss of income or opportunity as a direct result of the crisis. As with AWAW's annual award, the program is open to women-identifying visual artists over the age of 40 in the United States and territories, and aims to address the unique challenges faced by artists in middle age or older, particularly at this critical time.

Anonymous Was A Woman has partnered with the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) to administer the grant. Like AWAW's annual award, the emergency relief grant has no strings attached, and the recipient may use the funds however they see fit. While the annual AWAW award is nomination-only and chosen by a panel in recognition of artistic accomplishments and potential, artists may apply directly for the emergency relief grant, which is awarded based solely on documented loss. **The application is open from April 6 through April 8, with funds awarded to eligible applicants in the order in which applications are received. The application and detailed information on the Anonymous Was A Woman Emergency Relief Grant can be found on [NYFA's website](#).**

The \$250,000 emergency relief grant program represents the equivalent of AWAW's entire annual award, an unrestricted grant of \$25,000 given to ten artists each year. AWAW will present its 2020 award as previously planned in the fall.

While the AWAW award has historically been funded solely by founder Susan Unterberg, motivated donors may contribute funds to expand the AWAW Emergency Relief Grant via Anonymous Was A Woman's [website](#).

“At this moment of unprecedented uncertainty, I am acutely aware that artists—many of whom are self-employed or rely on multiple sources of income—face significant challenges. In many cases, women over the age of 40 carry additional stress as caregivers for both children and parents. I am pleased to partner with NYFA to launch this program, and to expand the parameters of Anonymous Was A Woman's philanthropic mission to respond to this difficult moment and provide immediate aid to fellow artists,” said Susan Unterberg, founder of Anonymous Was A Woman.

“Susan is an inspiration as both an artist and a philanthropist. This fund will not only provide much needed financial support for artists, but, just as importantly, it will be an incredible source of hope. NYFA is honored to be administering this fund on behalf of Anonymous Was A Woman,” said Michael L. Royce, Executive Director of the New York Foundation for the Arts.

Anonymous Was A Woman

Anonymous Was A Woman is an unrestricted grant of \$25,000 that enables women artists over 40 years of age and at a significant junction in their lives or careers, to continue to grow and pursue their work. The Award is given to ten artists a year in recognition of an artist's accomplishments, artistic growth, originality, and potential. It is not need-based. The Award is by nomination only. The name of the grant program, Anonymous Was A Woman, refers to a line in Virginia Woolf's "A Room of One's Own". As the name implies, nominators and those associated with the program have, until this point, been unnamed. Artist Susan Unterberg created the Award in 1996, partly in response to the decision of the National Endowment for the Arts to cease support of individual artists. Each year, an outstanding group of distinguished women—art historians, curators, writers, and previous winners from across the country—serve as nominators. To date, over 600 notable women have participated as nominators and panelists, and the Award has been given to 240 artists, representing more than \$6 million in funds.

For more information on Anonymous Was A Woman, please visit anonymouswasawoman.org.

About the New York Foundation for the Arts

[The New York Foundation for the Arts \(NYFA\)](http://nyfa.org) was established in 1971 to empower artists at critical stages in their creative lives. Today, the nonprofit organization's programs and services are far-reaching and are rooted in a wealth of physical and online resources. Each year, NYFA awards \$3 million in cash grants to individual visual, performing, and literary artists based in New York State. NYFA's Fiscal Sponsorship program, one of the oldest and most reputable in the country, helps national artists and arts organizations raise and manage an average of \$4 million annually. NYFA's Learning programs, including its Artist as Entrepreneur Boot Camp and Immigrant Artist Mentoring Program, provide thousands of artists with professional development training and support. NYFA's website, [NYFA.org](http://nyfa.org), is used by more than 1 million people and features more than 20,000 opportunities and resources available to artists in all disciplines.

For more information on the Anonymous Was A Woman Emergency Relief Grant, and to apply, please visit [NYFA](http://nyfa.org). All questions from applicants should be directed to AWAW@nyfa.org.

Press contact:

Sarah Goulet, sarah@sarahgoulet.com / 303-918-0393

Amy Aronoff, aaronoff@nyfa.org