Over $30,000 has been awarded to local artists this year so far. Two Artist Support Grants, 1 Public Impact Grant, 13 Micro Grants, and 4 Generator Grants. (Our favorite thing to do is give money to local artists!)

We started off the year in a serendipitous way by acquiring the gallery space at 1804 Vinton Street, formerly known as Darger HQ. The since renamed Generator Space has hosted 5 Generator Grant exhibitions this year. Hopefully you were able to make it down on 2nd Fridays to check out Young Adult Living, curated by Kelsey Magnuson, Invisible Synonyms, curated by Ella Weber, Power Colors, curated by Amanda Smith and Angela Zonunpari, OOOze, curated by Angie Seykora, and Trope Honor, curated by Ameen Wahba. **Keep in mind that our gallery hours are 12-5pm every Thursday and Friday.

Internally, we are fortunate to have welcomed 3 powerhouse community members and artists to our Board of Directors: Manne Cook, Neighborhood Planner with the City of Omaha, Shaun Ilahi, General Counsel for Habitat for Humanity Omaha, and Jack Zerbe, Director of the School of the Arts at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Most recently we launched our newest program, Alternate Currents. Alternate Currents provides both on- and off-line space for conversation, ideation, and action around national and international discussions in the arts that have a profound impact at the local level. We hope you’ll join us in these critical discussions! Click here to learn more.

slowdown, Alyce Carrier, 2018. From Young Adult Living, curated by Kelsey Magnuson.
WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FORWARD TO?

In the near future we are looking forward to celebrating 11 years of Amplify Arts with you at our annual costume party fundraiser. Save the date for GRAVE 2: Back from the Grave, which is happening Friday, October 18th at the historic 40th Street Theatre.

Our 2019-2020 Public Impact Grant Recipients Holly Kranker and John Cohorst will be bringing their community project CAR>GO (Community Activated Resource on the GO) to life. CAR>GO, a modified cargo container powered by renewable energy and biofuels, will be designed as flexible workspace for artists and creatives to exchange ideas, have conversations around issues of infrastructure, and collaborate on neighborhood projects.

Our partnership with the Millwork Commons neighborhood to activate old shipping containers for a mural project. The jury has selected 3 artists who will collaborate to complete the project: Reggie LeFlore, Nick Miller, and norm4eva. Each artist will receive a $6,000 stipend.

This fall we will embark on a strategic planning process to guide our work for the next 3-5 years. Our current strategic plan will expire at the end of 2019. We have made a lot of positive changes in the past couple of years, and our new plan will reflect that change, as well as factoring in data we've collected and input from the local arts community.
As a 2018 Union Fellow, Pamela focused her time on a community engagement project, which showed itself in its final form as Expressions of Black Heritage Through 50 Faces. “I ended up with 50 plaster molds of 50 people. Some had beards, there was one guy with gap teeth, that one was interesting, trying not to get the plaster in there…I went into it as a learning thing, looking to study ancestral features, but it became a storytelling project too.”

After her time at the Union was complete, Pamela had 50 molds, and 50 works of art, and nowhere to store them. She applied for a Micro Grant from Amplify Arts in December 2018 and was awarded $350 to construct storage space in her basement studio. “Things on the walls take up space, and I needed something functional. So I built a mobile, double-sided wall, six by eight feet on wheels. Then behind I put in some stainless steel shelves. Now everything is up off the floor...perfect timing with the flooding in March! I’m proud because I built it myself.” The mobile wall functions as a door for the storage behind, but also as a display for studio visits and to display works in progress.

“The Micro Grant gave me the opportunity to make this happen! This grant really, really helped.”

To learn more about Pamela and her work, visit her website.

**MICRO GRANT IMPACT STORY**

**“I’m proud because I built it myself”**

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**GENERATOR GRANT: CURATOR REFLECTION**

Our most recent Generator Grant exhibition 000ze, curated by Angie Seykora, brought together work by artists Barber, Adam Roberts, and Angie Seykora. These artists share a common approach to manipulating material that mirrors the ways in which our increasingly hybridized human bodies adapt to living on a damaged planet. Through processes that mutate, suspend, and accumulate the material stuff making up more and more of our breath, blood, and tissue, these three artists looked at the 21st century plastic body inside and out.

We asked curator Angie Seykora to reflect on the exhibition:

1. **What is an artist’s role in this discussion on plastics and climate justice more broadly?**

   “Artists share a responsibility in a conscious awareness of how their work may impact their audience. Impact may be through narrative, process, material acquisition, or simply sharing the joy of the human spirit and potential of what we are all capable of through the act of creation. We live in a time when there can be a lot of pressure on artists to make within specific social justice or environmental justice narratives. However, I believe more so than ever, we need the artist as a vehicle to facilitate change, increase awareness, and to build up courage to be the best versions of our individual and unique selves through making and sharing of the arts.”

2. **Do you have any reflections after the show has ended (on collaboration, theme, impact, etc.)?**

   “The Generator Grant award and process, which allowed me to facilitate and realize the three-person exhibition 000ze, has been an exciting and rewarding experience. While the works between myself, Barber and Adam Roberts are quite different, the collaboration allowed for a conversation to organically unfold addressing common themes and approaches to making within our works. I believe this exhibition and theme will continue to impact future works within each of our practices including awareness of material sourcing, processes, and narratives that emerge. The Clothing Swap public program that coincided with the exhibition was a fun and exciting way to see items generously shared with the potential of being meaningfully repurposed. I believe this impacted community members who participated and I hope similar approaches to sharing continue in the future.”
BECOME A PATRON

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$75/Individual or $125/Household

Purchase yours here

MORE WAYS TO SUPPORT:

- Make a one-time or monthly gift
- Ask your employer if they have a matching gift program
- Add your voice to the discussion on social media

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT. 10
AN EVENING WITH SARAH MCKINSTRY BROWN

OCT. 11
PANEL DISCUSSION: ARTS & URBAN DEVELOPMENT

OCT. 18
GRAVE 2: BACK FROM THE GRAVE

NOV 8:
I BORROW MY COMPARISONS FROM CLAY, BEING CLAY MYSELF.

DEC 13:
MEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

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AUTUMN 2019