

Four Decades Supporting Cultural Activism

Astraea's Global Arts Fund showcases and connects art by LGBTQI people and organizations globally who are using art as a tool for social transformation. The fund is committed to supporting art by LGBTQI people with the least access to resources. In our nearly 40-year history we have granted over \$4 million to more than 200 individuals and 300 organizations, supporting writers like *Audre Lorde* and *Cheryl Clark* and new honorees such as singer-songwriter *Be Steadwell* and arts collective *East African Visual Artists*.

“Creativity is essential to organizing. Activists boldly imagine new tactics, strategies and visions for a world we strive to bring into being.”

J. Bob Alotta Executive Director, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice

2017 Global Arts Fund Recipients

Akwaeke Emezi - New York, USA
Annie Gonzaga - Salvador Bahia, Brazil
awQward - Seattle, Washington, USA
Be Steadwell - Washington, DC, USA
Cyrée Johnson - New York, USA
East African Visual Artists - Uganda
India Davis - Bay Area, California, USA
Jova Lynne - Detroit, MI, USA
Kiyan Williams - New York, USA
Las Nietas de Nonó - San José, Puerto Rico
Shaylanna Luvme - Boston, MA, USA
Sokari Ekine & Gathoni Blessol - Brooklyn, NY, USA
Tiona Nekkia McClodden - Philadelphia, PA, USA
UCT: The Trans Collective - Cape Town, South Africa
Yaneri González Gómez - Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

#GlobalArtsFund
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ASTRAEA LESBIAN FOUNDATION FOR JUSTICE

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GLOBAL ARTS FUND

In 2017, fifteen artists and arts collectives were selected based on their work, which interrogates and explores the construct, concept and culture of Black identity. Worldwide, artists are producing work not solely in response to the myriad histories of violences Black bodies have incurred but also from places of incredible joy and celebration. Over \$100k in grants were made to recipients selected by members of the Community Arts Panel composed of renowned Black artists, curators, organizers and academics.



ASTRAEA LESBIAN FOUNDATION FOR JUSTICE

ASTRAEA GLOBAL ARTS FUND SPOTLIGHT

Be Steadwell

Washington, DC

Be Steadwell is a singer-songwriter and filmmaker from Washington, DC. In her live performances, Be utilizes loop pedal vocal layering and beat boxing to compose her songs on stage. Be is producing *Queer Love Songs Mixtape*, a two-sided album including six of Be Steadwell's previously recorded songs and six new original songs. The album will feature other queer musicians and poets who are part of Be's national and international communities.



East African Visual Artists

Uganda

East African Visual Artists is an LGBTI organization based in Uganda fully committed to the multimedia documentation and presentation of LGBTI and sex workers' activities and real life stories from individuals and organizations. They will work on *Resilience Dairies: Stories of Transgender Persons*, a one-hour documentary film and series of three short ten-minute documentaries focusing on the legal challenges, policies, health and personal resilience stories of transgender people in Uganda.



**East African
Visual Artists**



Shaylanna Luvme

Incarcerated in New York

Shaylanna Luvme is an artist and member of Black and Pink. She's currently incarcerated in Auburn, New York. Her work depicts the realities that queer and trans people experience on the inside. Shaylanna will continue to draw as a way to resist from the inside. In her words, "We must stand together in our fight for TQQQLB rights and also end prison sexual violence, gender and sexual oppression, institutional oppression and unlawful acts by the prison authorities."

Photo by Infinite Imagery
(Anaka Morris)



India Davis

San Francisco

India Davis is a choreographer, trained acrobat, aerialist and pole dancer who combines physical feats with multidisciplinary art forms to illustrate the breadth of her inspirations. Her visionary work has been shown both nationwide and internationally and is guided by themes of spirit and the link between legacy, timelessness and the body. She is the Artistic Director and co-founder of *Topsy-Turvy Queer Circus*, presenting its 5th annual production *PARADISE2* - an explicitly Black and queer, afro-surreal, fantasy, multidisciplinary circus production.