



The Kentucky
Foundation For
Women

ANNUAL REPORT

*30 Years Of Feminist Art For Social Change:
A Legacy Of Change, A Future Of Opportunity.*

Kentucky Foundation for Women is pleased to present our annual report for 2014-2015. In celebration of our 30th anniversary, our theme, *A Legacy of Change, A Future of Opportunity*, honored our firmly rooted past to gain clarity and direction for the future. We developed several new opportunities to support the artists and activists who have been at the forefront of creating feminist art for social change in Kentucky. These shared creative opportunities weave the connections that lead to something bold and courageous that will foster lasting social change for a just and inclusive society. Enjoy!

— Sharon LaRue, Executive Director, KFW

Dear KFW Community,

This year, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Kentucky Foundation for Women. What an amazing accomplishment and testament to the community of feminist social change makers in Kentucky. We feel the community is stronger and more vibrant each year!

As a board, we have strengthened our capacity to work with a team-based model which allows for greater collaboration on projects and a more focused understanding of the needs of the Foundation. Our current teams include a Communications Team, Board Development Team and Finances Team. This year, we focused on updating internal structures and supporting the KFW staff initiatives. Some of the highlights include:

- Updated board policies and by-laws.
- Recruited new board members to create a diverse board that is reflective of the KFW community.
- Strengthened our commitment to consensus based decision making.
- Supporting the leadership transition of the Foundation.

The KFW Board serves a dynamic community of artists and social change makers. Just as our community is constantly shifting, our board is shifting as well. This year, three board members have transitioned out of their board terms: Candace Chaney of Lexington, Adriana Dame of Louisville and Carolyn Ballinger of Florence. We thank these powerful and dynamic women for their years of service. We are so appreciative that they will continue to be part of our broader KFW Community.

In Peace and Power, The KFW Board

MISSION

The mission of the Kentucky Foundation for Women is to promote positive social change by supporting varied feminist expression in the arts.

KFW supports a wide variety of individual artists and organizations committed to building on the power of art to increase awareness about feminist issues, alter perceptions, stimulate dialogue, open space for civic participation, and imagine new ways to create a more just and equitable Kentucky.

Our program fosters success among artists by offering seed money in the form of grants, time and space to create through our retreat and residency programs, and opportunities to build community through our network of artists and arts organizations.

Our aim is a transformed society where all people are free to embrace their full potential, where artmaking and creativity are central to individual and community lives, and where the diversity and complexity of our stories are valued and celebrated.



KFW awarded over **\$245,000** to feminist artists and allied organizations in Kentucky through three grant programs: Artist Enrichment (AE) and Art Meets Activism (AMA), and the 30th Anniversary Grant (30th). A total of **79 grants** were awarded in FY 2014-15: 24 Literary, 11 Media, 17 Performing, and 27 Visual.

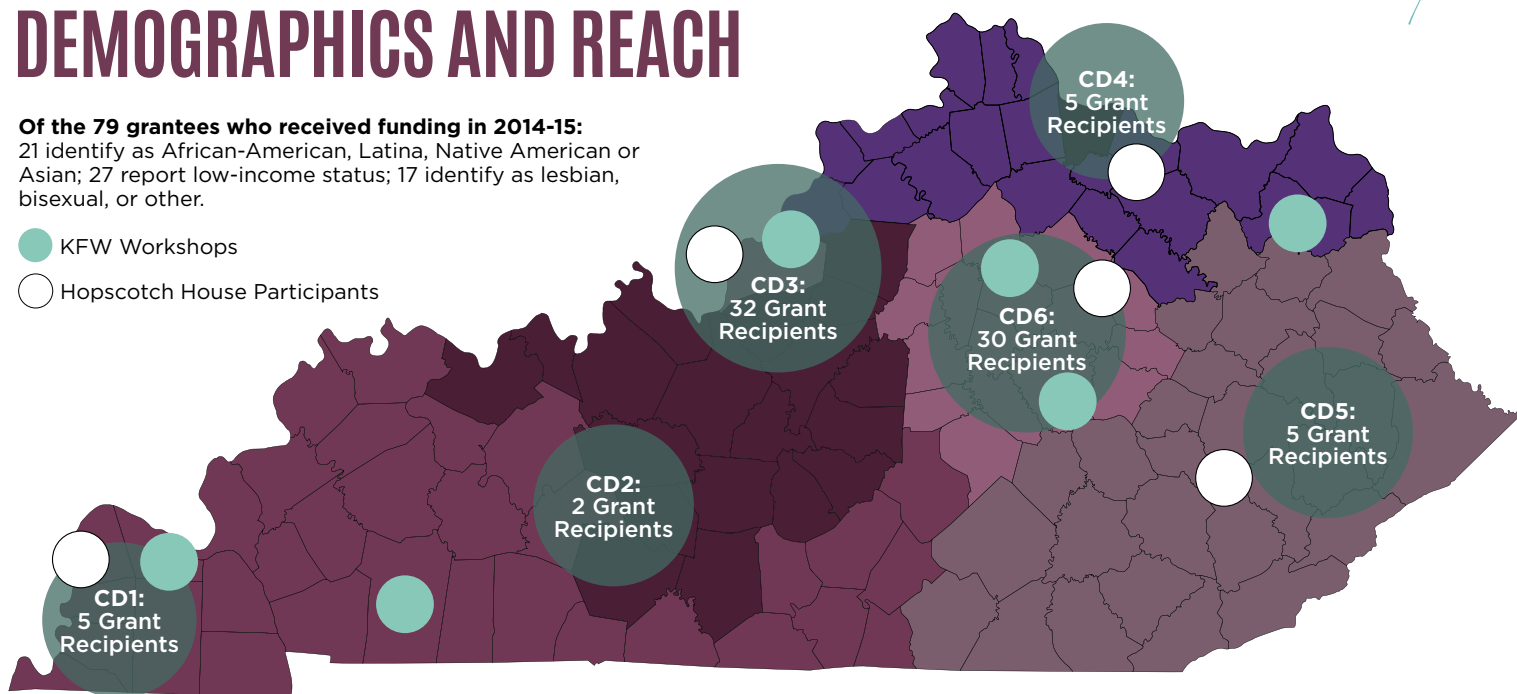
DEMOGRAPHICS AND REACH

Of the 79 grantees who received funding in 2014-15:

21 identify as African-American, Latina, Native American or Asian; 27 report low-income status; 17 identify as lesbian, bisexual, or other.

 KFW Workshops

 Hopscotch House Participants



As a state-wide organization, KFW is proud that grants were awarded in all six of Kentucky's congressional districts (CDs) in FY 2014-15

GRANT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT, FY 2013-14

An impact survey was sent to grantees from FY 2013-14 who completed their projects in 2014-15. Their responses are summarized below.

32 out of 38 respondents reported that they had personally witnessed a shift in attitudes among participants and/ or audience members as a result of their activities.

20 out of 38 respondents indicated that they had witnessed shifts in behavior among participants over the course of the grant period. This outcome was most prevalent among Art Meets Activism grants, due to the community engagement component of that program.

10,712 Audience members reached

1113 Community members engaged directly in art making

814 New works of art created

44 New artistic skills or techniques learned

27 Mentoring opportunities created

222 Participants benefiting from mentoring opportunities

50 New collaborations with artists/ arts organizations

90 New connections with artists or social change agents

Besides the monetary outcomes, artists were able to create new works, learn new skills and explore new techniques, build new connections with other artists and social justice organizations, facilitate mentoring opportunities, hone their craft, deepen their understanding of social change, and engage community members in a wide range of artmaking activities as a result of the grants they received. All of these outcomes contribute to social change impact by increasing the connections and infrastructure available for feminist artists and organizations in Kentucky.

“LFL continues to see the impact of our AMA 2013 grant in our relationship with Latina communities. These relationships have had a direct impact on the company: one of the performers is now on our board; we have an ongoing relationship with La Casita Center, frequently offering programming there in exchange for participant scholarships for their community; we have begun a program with Spanish speaking immigrant women in Eastern Jefferson County; and we have a Spanish-speaking cast available for our cyber-bullying program.”

—Looking for Lilith Theatre Company,
Louisville KY



Step By Step Performance

“Our community got bigger through the personal connections of five high school girls and seven local artists; for the students the possibilities of opportunities in the arts grew dramatically and for the artists, the mentoring partnerships inspired future collaborations.”

— Murray Art Guild, Murray KY

“My 2013 Artist Enrichment grant made it possible to further research on the narratives of thirteen Black women and girls lynched in Kentucky, making their collective story available to a wide spectrum of audiences as part of our shared state and national history.”

— Bianca Spriggs, Lexington KY



Ebony Marshman



“Because a novel requires an imaginative portrayal of everyday life, it was crucial for me to be able to see how Catherine Blake went about her daily work as her husband’s assistant. Printing is so hands-on, it would have been difficult to replicate the smell of the ink, the tapping of the dauber without this wonderful grant enabling me to work with someone who recreated Blake’s copper plates to scale, mixed his own inks with period pigments, and allowed me to participate in the making of the prints, just as Catherine would have.”

— Wanda Fries, Somerset KY



Beaded Treasures Project



University of Louisville Story Catcher Project

RETREAT PROGRAM:

15 INDIVIDUAL
ARTIST
RETREATS

30 GROUP
RETREATS

490

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

ETHNIC BACKGROUND: Caucasian, African American, Latina, Asian, Middle Eastern.

ART MAKING: Literary, Fiber, Painting, Drawing, Collage; Theater, Dance, Music

THEMES: Feminism, Spirituality, Empowerment, Mentoring, Social Justice

Participants commented that Hopscotch House provides a safe space to grow artistically and professionally. The Spirit of the house and surrounding land empowers them to explore and nurture creativity from their unique feminist perspective. The resulting work has had local (KY), national and international reach.



SUMMER RESIDENCY PROGRAM:

7 DAYS
6 RESIDENTS

A dynamic group of women grew as writers, created a nurturing communal experience and forged connections that have extended beyond the residency.

“The opportunity to have time on retreat has been pivotal to the publication of both my chapbook *Another Offering*, and my full-length collection *Mother May I*. Hopscotch House has provided a space for me to nurture my writing, and paved the way for me to make an impact on my community.”

— Tina Parker, Retreat Participant

“Because of the encouragement of participants and Crystal Wilkinson, I have submitted two of the many writings (from the residency) to leading literary journals and one women’s studies anthology and reader.”

— DaMaris Hill, SRP 2015



“Living the Ink” with Writer-in-Residence Crystal Wilkinson

COMMUNITY
WRITING WORKSHOP

14

PARTICIPANTS

Creative writers explored the spirit and power of writing about women-centered issues, memories and the land.

HOPSCOTCH HOUSE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The annual **KFW Day** honors the accomplishments of the KFW community. Our 2014 theme focused on fostering connections and building our collective capacity for social change. We planned a “learning from the field” day with:

- A survey and listening dialogue sessions
- A Connect Board with artist profiles
- A KFW video and photos with impact statements
- Networking time with other artists.

Participants indicated enthusiasm for networking and sharing impact, a desire for more interaction, both online and in person, and a passion for the power of art to affect change. These results helped us design new opportunities in 2015 to encourage creative exchange and motivational synergy for collaborative impact.



Projects

KFW partnered with Arts and Democracy and Alternate Roots to plan the **4th Annual Cultural Organizing Workshop** to change the narrative about race in this place-based and predominantly white state. Forty-three cultural organizers from across the state identified common concerns and acquired new organizing skills within a Racial Inclusion Framework.

The Special Project, fiscally sponsored by KFW in partnership with the Second Chance Act, provided art activities for over 520 children and caregivers this year to strengthen family bonding in a jail setting.

New this year!

- A redesigned KFW HotFlash: E-News for Everyone format with website links, pictures, and analytics capacities to share artists' awards, accomplishments and events.
- A user friendly website with pictures, videos, community member profiles and online mentoring and networking.
- A one-time grant to honor 30 years of feminist art for social change in Kentucky.
- A toolkit to help promote 30th anniversary special grant projects, including a KFW history timeline.
- A social media strategy that began with a Facebook page.
- A graphic identity that incorporates KFW's strong history and moves it into a new era.



• The Digital Storytelling

Project (DSP) uses digital media to tell the story of how KFW grew from a seed planted by founder Sallie Bingham into a sustainable organization deeply rooted in feminist thought and practice.

The DSP includes the stories of the artists, activists and allies past and present who have worked to construct the art and social justice movement that is uniquely Kentucky. We will include the innovative voices of the next generation of feminist artists who are kindling the fires of the future. In 2015 we launched the project with:

- A sampler video with Ann Stewart Anderson, George Ella Lyon, Bianca Spriggs, Red Biddix and more
- An oral history of Sallie Bingham and Wren Smith
- A podcast and written transcript



Founder Sallie Bingham with KFW Staff



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For the full Kentucky Foundation for Women Annual Report please visit our website at kfw.org.

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