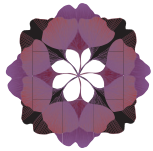


Annual Report

radical
timely
urgent



The Kentucky
Foundation For
Women



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

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Kentucky Foundation for Women is pleased to present our annual report for 2015-2016, a year of paying attention to issues that are present in our hearts and minds, and improving ways to support the artists working on the frontlines.

- We believe that feminist art for change can produce a radical transformation of current societal issues that affect women and girls. Our theme for our 2016 special grant and residency, "radical, timely and urgent" created space for artists to challenge these issues with an energized focus. We asked our community to speak their truth and to claim their power to act. We continue to be inspired by the depth and breadth of all of our artists' responses and their influence on social issues.
- We developed a Comprehensive Communications Plan (CCP) to support our mission to interact with new audiences, connect in deeper ways with the KFW Community, make KFW more accessible, and effectively communicate the impact of grants and residencies on the lives of women and girls in Kentucky.
- Drawing upon national industry standards, we increased our methods of capturing change using a feminist approach to program evaluation and learning from the field. Our overall goal is to strengthen our participants' ability to sustain and expand change, to build credibility, and activate broader support.
- KFW received The Center for Non Profit Excellence 2015 Pyramid Award of Excellence for **Art of Inclusion** for our work that has improved statewide multicultural participation in our grant making and residency process. As part of this award, KFW summarized our efforts to operationalize a feminist perspective through collective governance, service that begins with compassion, and our commitment to learn from the tenacity of our community.

Our KFW community could be seen as a vast work of art, continually evolving, that follows the circular flow of nature's cycles. Each of us brings our gifts, talents and resources to the piece, weaving together a movement that strengthens the artist within for the vital work to be done. KFW will follow the rhythm of the cycles. We will build on the energy of those who have gone before us, expand our circles and make room to advance new growth in our collective quest toward justice and equality.

In Joy,
Sharon LaRue
Executive Director

2015-16

was an innovative and vibrant year for the arts in Kentucky.

Our special grant and residency opportunity asked all of us to think BIG and the KFW community delivered in full! KFW artists are making waves, creating conversations, challenging the status-quo, and leading social change in our state. The KFW Board is inspired by the talent, vision, and passion of all of our feminist artists. We are thankful to be able to serve this dynamic community of artists.

This year we supported the communications goals of the Foundation by integrating social media and digital outreach to increase the visibility and accessibility of the Foundation. We strengthened our Board processes and implemented policies that promote financial health for the Foundation. We implemented an orientation procedure with an intentional focus on the recommendations from the Council on Foundations for transparency and accountability, and a new Conflict of Interest Policy and Annual Disclosure form.

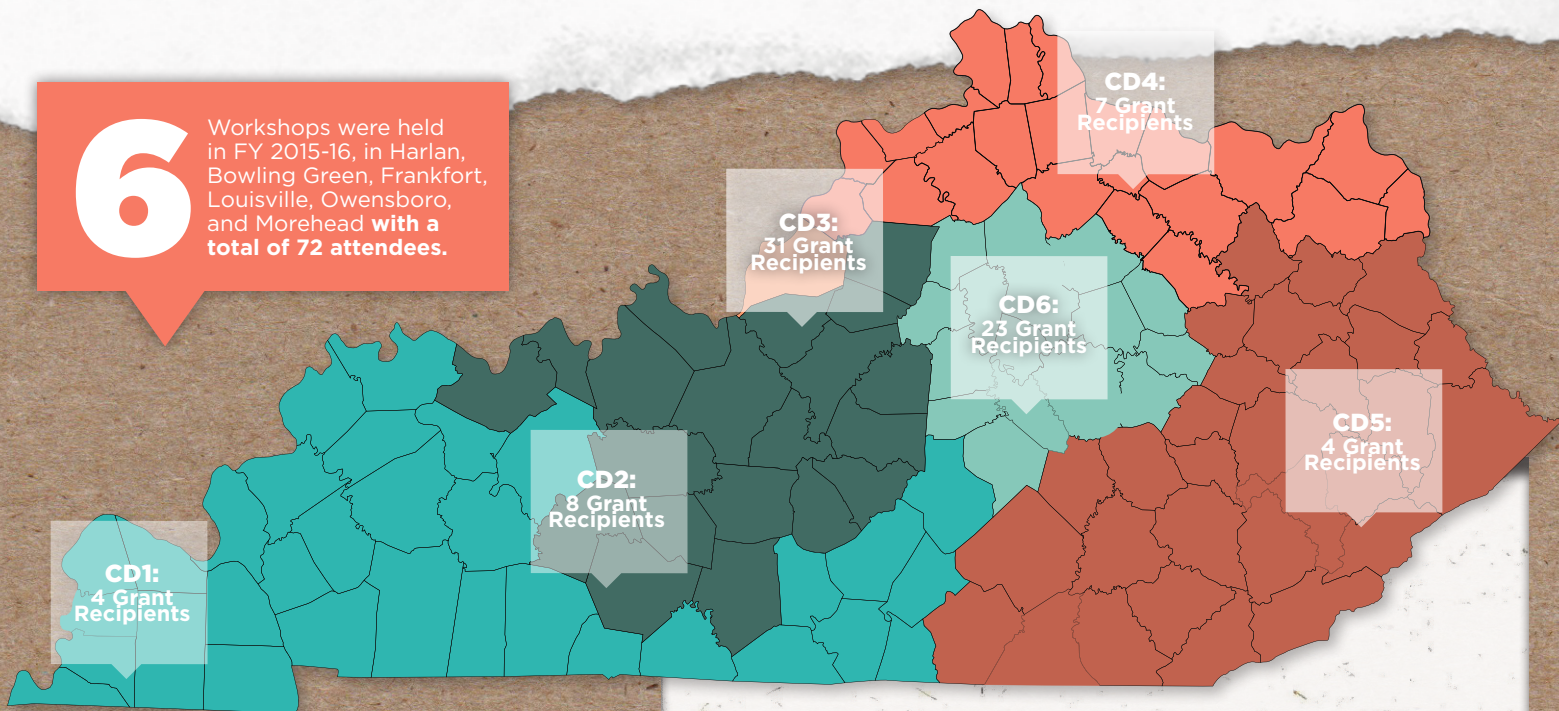
We welcomed new board members, Judy Nichols, Shayla Johnson, Journey McAndrews, Nancy Jones, Nisha Gupta, and Rebecca Amsler. Four board members have transitioned out of their board terms: Ondine Miranda Quinn, Rosie Moosnick, and Nzingha Beverly Sweeney-Sheppard. We thank these powerful and wise women for their years of service. We are so appreciative that they will continue to be part of our KFW Community.

These past few years have brought significant change for KFW. With change comes new energy and drive along with recognition that cultural change is a long-term commitment. KFW is here for the long haul! We will continue our work to create the Kentucky that works for all of us by building a solid foundation that will open the way to a vibrant future.

In Peace and Power,
THE KFW BOARD

KFW awarded over \$289,292 to feminist artists and allied organizations in Kentucky through three grant programs: *Artist Enrichment (AE) and Art Meets Activism (AMA), and the 2016 Special Grant.*

77 grants were awarded by KFW in FY 2015-16: *20 Literary, 8 Media, 16 Performing, and 33 Visual* *Out of 128 applications received.*



Grantee Diversity

Of the 77 grantees who received funding in 2015-16: 29 identify as African American, Latina, Native American, or Asian; 23 report low-income status; 16 identify as lesbian, bisexual, or other; and 32 are first-time grantees.



Frankfort artist Travis Kelley being interviewed by KSU students, under the mentorship of Anna Barnard and Joanna Hay Productions.

Grant Outcomes & Impact 2014-15

An impact survey was sent to grantees from FY 2014-15 who completed their projects in 2015-16. Their responses are summarized below.

1871 works of art created (included work created by community participants)

49 out of 61 reported that new mentoring opportunities were created, with a total of 761 benefiting from these opportunities.

55 out of 61 reported new collaborations, with 294 people directly impacted by those collaborations.

46 out of 61 reported new connections with artists or social change agents, with a total of 252 new connections made.

48 out of 61 respondents reported that they had personally witnessed a shift in attitudes among participants and/or audience members as a result of their activities.

45 out of 61 respondents reported that they had personally witnessed a shift in behavior among participants and/or audience members as a result of their activities. These impacts were most prevalent among Art Meets Activism projects, due to the community engagement component of that program.

grantee gallery



"Alice (Terrell 1904)" - Leslie Nichols

"My 2016 grant activities continue to expand on the series Textual Portraits, the first creative body of visual work I created with a conscientious feminist viewpoint. I am creating large-scale portraits of women who are working for social change in my home community. Finding new materials and processes to translate my ideas at this scale has invigorated my work."

Leslie Nichols
Bowling Green



Clear Creek Festival Song Circle (photo: Samuel X. Parent)

"Participants were more open and willing to take risks and engage in art making. the jailer reported a huge boost in morale. Several participants reported that they discovered different ways to relate to each other and be more supportive of one another."

- Judy Sizemore,
Annville

"This grant has given marginalized women in our community a 'safe space' in which they can create art and express themselves. We are so thankful and grateful to KFW for making this possible."

- Central Region Migrant Center, Glasgow



Las Pantomimas Workshop



Amber Burns at Lipstick Wars Poetry Slam



Project Living Archway

"When we started working with LGBTQ youth, there were people that questioned if we had abandoned our feminist roots. The tension was healthy. It allowed us to advocate for a broader perspective on feminism and push to further expand who the movement is working to empower and uplift."

- ArtThrust, Louisville

Hopscotch HOUSE

"Two publications, in these cups (dancing girl press, 2016) and how wild and soft you are (Hermeneutic Chaos Press, 2016) are the products of KFW's beautiful and vital retreats."

Hilda Weaver of Wild Soft
—Group Retreat Participant

"KFW's retreat program has been pivotal to my growth as an artist. The retreat gave me time and space to clarify my goals and to make creating art a priority even after I returned home. I feel like all the small steps I take are part of a bigger journey shared with all the women who have stayed in the house."

Rachel Dorroh

—Individual Retreat Participant

"West Louisville Women's Collaborative gathered at Hopscotch House to create our organization's vision and goals. The time and space at Hopscotch House has been invaluable for our members to gather, rest, create, and become renewed in our commitment to use art to bring about peace and positivity in our community."

Chenoweth Allen

—West Louisville Women's Collaborative - Group Retreat



Members of West Louisville Women's Collaborative

Retreat Program

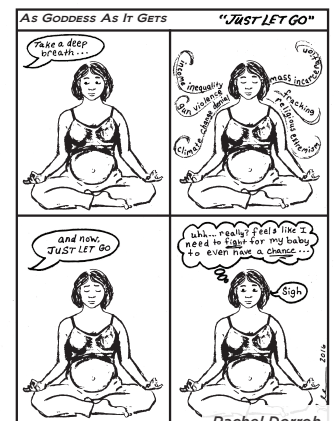
The primary focus of retreats was arts, deepening understanding of feminism and respite. Artists created fiber art, painting, drawing, collage, sculpture, media arts/photography, crafts, mixed visual media, fiction, nonfiction, creative fiction, poetry, screenwriting, cooking/culinary, dance, and performing arts.

8 individuals & **29** groups
SCHEDULED RETREATS

455

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

Participants ranged in age from teenage through over 80, and came from across the state. Participants included women who identified as Caucasian, African American, Latina, Asian, Middle Eastern and Native American.



Alexis "Stix" Brown, Sandra Charles, Lindsey Windland

SUMMER RESIDENCY program

The call went out to visual, media and performance artists whose work is radical, timely, and urgent. Participants received a weeklong stay at Hopscotch House, \$1,500 project funds, \$500 presentation funds, and a featured spot in a KFW sponsored show to take place in 2017.

After a week long stay at the Hopscotch House, each artist expressed a renewed sense of self and a clarified direction of the work she is to do in this world.



2016 Residents

New This Year



Data Collection and Upgrades

KFW explored **tools for measuring the impact** of feminist art for social change by attending workshops on data collection, taxonomy, evaluation, and impact.

- Updates were made to data collection through dialogues, surveys, video statements, qualitative and quantitative evaluations, analytics, and existing Changemaker system.
- An archival search was added to our website, as well as an online community called KFW CONNECT.
- AE 2015 was our first effort to email digital final reports and our Hopscotch House retreat process was our first online application system.
- The criteria for our Special Grant 2016 included a measuring impact section with information from Animating Democracy.

Kentucky-Focused Media Attention Through Radio and Print Media

KFW Increased **media outreach** to Kentucky media outlets across the state through stories about individual grantees on WFPL, public service announcements on WXOX 97.1 FM ARTx FM, the Lexington Herald Leader, LEO, Louisville Magazine, Murray State News, The Shepherdsville Pioneer News, The Frankfort State Journal, The East Tennessean, Henry County Local, and other newspapers across the commonwealth.

A New Presence on Social Media

As part of the KFW Communications Plan, we heightened our **presence on social media**, adding Twitter and Instagram to the list of platforms to engage other feminist communities in Kentucky, particularly the Millennial generation. We are using data and analytics to make informed decisions. We are building an organic, engaged following on Twitter. In addition to reaching a new demographic, the new social media initiatives have provided a way to celebrate successes, and share the work of Kentucky artists who seek progressive change.

The KFW HotFlash Fan

The KFW HotFlash Fan, a fiber art piece which depicts the myths and realities of menopause, was created in 1985 by artist Ann Stewart Anderson and facilitated by Judy Chicago in collaboration with more than fifty contributing Kentucky artists. The piece was displayed at the UofL Hite Art Institute as part of their exhibit **Capturing Women's History: Quilts, Activism, and Storytelling**. A new generation of feminists and community members have access to a historic collaborative piece of Kentucky history. Plans are being considered for the Hot Flash Fan to travel with the International Honor Quilt across the U.S.

KFW Blog

The KFW website now features a **blog forum** that allows young feminists and artists in Kentucky to share their musings on art and social change. As part of this project, KFW penned a statement that asked the question "what is feminism?" Our goal was to start a dialogue about this question, rather than answer it with an umbrella definition. Young women under age the 25 now have another platform to share their views about feminism, art, and social change in their own voice. We expect to hear from a range of voices and different points of view from across KY.

American Voice Donations

Shared sets of the **American Voice** volumes were donated to St. Vincent Du Paul, the Louisville Public Library, La-Grange Women's Prison, Wayside Mission, and retirement communities. The American Voice had been published for many years and showcased the work of several Kentucky writers—many of whom became literary icons. The American Voice will now reach a new audience and enrich lives as a teaching tool and a journal for inspiration.

The Digital Storytelling Project (DSP)

The Digital Storytelling Project (DSP) **uses digital media to tell 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. In 2015/16 we:

- Created a video of the 2015 Summer Residency participants stories
- Created a video to launch the Special Grant and 2016 Residency Special topic
- Captured and posted images of state-wide workshops on the website, Hot Flash and Facebook
- Filmed oral histories of Ann Stewart Anderson and Elmer Lucille Allen
- Edited oral histories for archiving

We will include the innovative voices of the next generation of feminist artists who are kindling the feminist fires of the future.

Projects



KFW Day Winners



Elmer Lucille Allen



Girls Rock Louisville campers rehearse guitar parts for their own original songs.

"Thank you, KFW, for all that you have done over the past three decades. Thousands of Kentucky women are ever grateful. We know how rare and valuable you are — a gift to our culture and a jewel in the Commonwealth. KFW stands as a brilliant example to all the other states in the U.S."

Kate Larken

Annual KFW Day

The annual KFW Day honors the accomplishments of the KFW community. Our 2015 theme focused on celebrating the **30th anniversary of KFW** with:

- *An example of our Digital Storytelling project with impact statements from residency participants.*
- *A review of the annual report, poster, and new communications package.*
- *Presenting our Sallie Bingham Award to long time board member and elder Nzingha Beverly Sweeney-Sheppard.*
- *Presenting our first ever FireStarter Award to a developing artist under 30, Alexis Meza, after nominations from our community.*
- *Announcement of our Radical, Timely, and Urgent Theme for 2015-16.*

The Cultural Organizing Alliance

KFW partnered with "The Kentucky Cultural Organizing Alliance" (KCOA) to plan a learning exchange. ***This alliance represents an expanding coalition of partners including:*** Appalshop, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, The Kentucky Urban Rural Exchange, The Hispanic and Latino Initiative at the University of Louisville, and Louisville SURJ, Standing Up for Racial Justice.

This Learning Exchange provided tools to ***uplift the culture and creativity*** that already exists within KY communities through artist success stories and cultivated intersectional connections among participants to explore barriers to advancing social change, especially racial justice, in KY. Regional organizations combined with community-based partners to engage 39 cultural organizers. The KCOA has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. KFW staff will co-direct the 2017 event.