

**Kentucky Foundation for Women**  
**30 years of Feminist Art for Social Change:**  
**A Legacy of Change, A Future of Opportunity**

1985

Sallie Bingham establishes the Kentucky Foundation for Women to affect feminist art and social change across Kentucky with a \$10 million endowment, one of the largest ever made to any women's fund in the US. KFW's first grants were \$1 million each to Ms. Foundation and Women's Project of American Place Theatre.

KFW supports Kentucky women artists who use the arts for social change—specifically, for equality for all women regardless of class, age, sexual preference or color. KFW's mission of “illuminating the plight of women and serving as a catalyst for change primarily through the arts and humanities” is enacted through grants to women artists in Kentucky and contiguous states, and *The American Voice*, an award-winning international literary journal devoted to feminist writers.

*I believe the shortest—possibly the only—route to any form of social change is through the work of the artist: shapes, colors, sounds and words may upset prejudices, illumine what we share, and risk effrontery by calling every form of inequality into question.... Our first aim, then, is to put money directly into the hands of women who are using their art for social change.* —Sallie Bingham, from Statement of a Vision for the Kentucky Foundation for Women, 1998

1986

The first round of 53 grants is given to women artists and groups of women in Kentucky and contiguous states. In odd-numbered years, proposals are considered for visual and performance arts, and in even-numbered years, proposals are considered for writers, scholars, filmmakers, playwrights, composers and choreographers until the year 2000, when the grant program evolves.

KFW purchases the *Hot Flash Fan*, a large (8' x 16') semi-circular fiber art piece, which depicts the myths and realities of menopause. Created in 1985 by Ann Stewart Anderson, principal coordinating artist, and facilitated by Judy Chicago in collaboration with more than fifty contributing artists, the piece went on permanent loan to the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, DC in 1988.

1987

KFW purchases Hopscotch House and four surrounding acres. Hopscotch House is named for one of Sallie's plays. KFW's first use of the house from 1998-1990 was for The Wolf Pen Writers Colony, a six-week residency for feminist women writers. Beginning in 1989, retreats at Hopscotch House give individual women artists

and groups of women a place to meet, free of charge, to develop their work surrounded by a beautiful, natural setting.

1991: “Founder’s Day” is held at Hopscotch House for the first time to honor Sallie Bingham and give grantees a chance to have a picnic and get to know one another. The day was established for grant recipients only. It later evolved into *KFW Day*, and the focus shifted from celebrating the founder to celebrating feminist social change artists—the KFW community.

1996

The *Sallie Bingham Award* is established, which recognizes Kentucky women who are leaders in changing the lives of women and girls across the state by supporting feminist expression in the arts.

*In its first decade, the KFW was remarkable in that it told women in Kentucky that the art, the poetry, the music they created was valuable-- so valuable that the Foundation had been established to support financially and encourage female voices which had often been too quiet to be heard in our state. For many, it was the beginning of big dreams realized and significant change became possible. – Ann Stewart Anderson, Director 1991-1997*

1999

KFW mission changes to: “*to promote positive social change through varied feminist expression in the arts.*”

*The American Voice*, a quarterly feminist magazine of writing, is retired after 50 issues. During its tenure, *The American Voice* received multiple awards and published many new women writers as well as the more radical work of established writers in an effort to broaden the American literary mainstream.

2000

*Special Initiative on Women, Art, and Social Change* is launched, a one-time grant program designed to explore the new and evolving ways in which Kentucky artists are defining and practicing art related to social change for women. \$75,000 is awarded to 31 artists throughout Kentucky who work for social change. The initiative focused on artists whose art directly engage people and affects change and provides a unique opportunity to foster artistic activity of quality and significance.

2001

Two separate grant programs established, *Artist Enrichment* and *Art Meets Activism*. KFW awards \$200,000 per year, divided equally between the two grant programs.

*Artist Enrichment* grants support artistic development to create art for positive social change.

*Art Meets Activism* grants support feminist artists and organizations in Kentucky to engage individuals and communities in

artmaking that directly advances positive social change.

*The Kentucky Foundation for Women has been a saving grace to me as an advocate and activist in the movement to end violence against women and girls. During my tenure at the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association, it was KFW that made it possible to use art to broaden the circle and tell stories of pain, resilience, and community. For 30 years, KFW has been a gem that has allowed the voices of women in Kentucky to come alive and we are better because of it.* –LeTonia Jones, Frankfort, KY, about KDVA's AMA Grants, 2011-2013 for *The SwallowTale Project*, workshops and a book for incarcerated women to write about how violence affected their lives.

*KFW has empowered me to become the artist feminist that was always inside of me and to provide an outlet for other female artists in this area to share their work. KFW has given me a voice that I can use for social change in regards to how African-American women and girls are portrayed in the media and our society.* – Betty Dobson, Paducah, KY; Upper Town Heritage Foundation, AMA 2013

*KFW's grant funding has enabled Grayson Gallery & Art Center to reach feminist artists in Eastern Kentucky and all across Kentucky. As an organization, the involvement with KFW has expanded our vision as a community art gallery, and helped us to become a "hub" in our region for artists who strive to have an impact on social change through various artistic mediums.* –Dan and Mindy Click, Grayson, KY; Grayson Gallery AE Grant 2013

2006

*Summer Residency Program* established at Hopscotch House to encourage artists to focus on artistic development during an extended stay in an environment of community-building.

*I was lucky enough to stay at Hopscotch House ... along with several other feminist artists, and the experience transformed my life—as a writer, as a woman, as a feminist. I simply cannot express to you what Hopscotch House meant to me. The landscape was enchanting, my fellow residents were nourishing, and I was humbled that someone had created such a place just for women.... It seems almost impossible to calculate the significance of The Kentucky Foundation for Women and Hopscotch House.* –Journey McAndrews, Lexington, KY; Summer Resident at Hopscotch House 2011

KFW Board develops statement on feminism: *Feminism is a conceptual framework based on a radical transformation of society and self. Feminism challenges socially and politically defined gender roles and fosters greater opportunity, choice, and independence. Feminism creates economic equality, a violence-free society, and racial and ethnic justice. Feminism is an evolving process, which requires courage and advocacy.*

Special Project at the Jefferson County jail is initiated, including the creation of a

community mural in the exit lobby, a painting of the police badge and ongoing art activities for children of incarcerated parents in the visitor's lobby.

2008

The *Hot Flash Fan* returns to Kentucky and is exhibited at the Huff Gallery at Spalding University. The exhibit includes a special reception for contributing artists and an interactive Feminist Timeline celebrating 160 years of important achievements of women throughout history. This year and into 2016, the *Hot Flash Fan* will be exhibited at the University of Louisville, along with the Judy Chicago International Honor Quilt.

2012

First Cultural Organizing workshop in Kentucky, presented by Arts & Democracy, is held at Hopscotch House. Cultural Organizing workshops continue each year in different locations in Kentucky, creating networks of artists and activists, fostering dialogue and enhancing storytelling for social change.

*I believe that KFW will always shine a light on the power of feminist artists to challenge stereotypes, celebrate women and girls and create a better future for Kentucky. Feminist artists and activists will never stop creating new work that sparks discussions, challenges assumptions and inspires social change throughout our state.* –Judi Jennings, Executive Director 1998-2014

2015

KFW CELEBRATES 30 YEARS with a special grant program, residency opportunity and updated graphic identity and website designed to increase connection and broaden community impact.

Our new graphic identity honors a 30-year solid foundation that is firmly rooted in both cherished traditions and newer practices. It symbolizes bridging the past and present to gain clarity and direction for the future. Taken as a whole, our graphic identity represents resilience, creativity, unity, stability, movement and change. It continues our radical commitment to the power of art to create change for women and girls in Kentucky.

*For 30 years, the feminist artists that comprise the KFW community have been change makers - creating their legacy and leaving their imprint on the world. They are grounded in power, self-defined, self determined, and assured in the impact of their creativity. They know that art gives life meaning, arouses passion, and inspires new ways of thinking.*

*An innovative time in history is unfolding, when generations of feminists can join together to explore and expand the powerful influence that artists command. Our sisters are calling for deeper, authentic connections that lead to confidence in taking action that transforms our world. We need MORE - more visionaries, more truth telling, more entry points, more vibrancy, and more art making. Together, we will create more space in the*

*circle to nurture each other's unfolding. We are the ones. The future is ours!* -- Sharon LaRue, Executive Director 2014-present

*"We should never forget how far we have come and how far we need to go."* – Carolyn Ballinger, Florence, KY; KFW Board Member, 2006-2015.

**In the past 30 years:**

**KFW has given over \$9 million in grants to individual artists and organizations.**

- **Approximately 1800 grants have been given.**
- **About 30 Art Meets Activism and 40 Artist Enrichment grants are given each year to individual artists and organizations in Kentucky, and touch the lives of hundreds of people.**
- **More than 1000 Kentucky individuals and organizations have received KFW grants.**

**Retreats and Residencies at Hopscotch House has served approximately 4,500 participants, primarily women and girls.**

- **Over 1000 retreats have taken place at Hopscotch House.**
- **70 women have participated in the Summer Residency Program to date.**
- **Approximately 30 Individual Artists and 40 Groups schedule retreats at Hopscotch House each year, serving about 450 participants per year.**