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Kentuck Art Center to Receive \$20,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

[*Northport, Alabama*— Kentuck Art Center is pleased to announce it has been approved by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for a Grants for Arts Projects award of \$20,000. This project grant will support Kentuck's year-long programming season titled "Repurposed," which lifts up women's voices in art and community through visual art exhibitions, music, and a series of speakers.

In total, the NEA will award 958 Grants for Arts Projects awards totaling more than \$27.1 million that were announced as part of its first round of fiscal year 2024 grants.

"The NEA is delighted to announce this grant to Kentuck Art Center, which is helping contribute to the strength and well-being of the arts sector and local community," said National Endowment for the Arts Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD. "We are pleased to be able to support this community and help create an environment where all people have the opportunity to live artful lives."

"We are so excited that Kentuck Art Center has received its first-ever Project Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts," said Exa Skinner, executive director of Kentuck Art Center. "National recognition for Kentuck Art Center's year-round programming is a huge milestone for our organization, and the community and artists we serve."

"Kentuck's programming team has been working for over a year on our plans for 2024," said Mary Bell, program director of Kentuck Art Center. "As an all-women department, this project is near to our hearts. Because of our experience as women in the arts, we know how important it is to give a platform to women to share their work and their stories."

Throughout the 2024 programming season (February-December), exhibitions at Kentuck's 3 galleries in Historic Downtown Northport will feature women artists who create innovative art with media that traditionally has been deemed 'women's work,' or features themes surrounding the lived experience of women. Each month, Kentuck's free event, Art Night, will offer an opening reception for artists, artist talks, and live music by women vocalists and musicians. Women who have broken barriers in traditionally male-dominated fields and scholars who study the role of women in history will be invited speakers. Throughout the year, workshops and community outreach will incorporate themes of the current exhibition or feature women artists.

"Our programming team has worked with a diverse group of women artists to prepare this season, and we have seen first-hand the dedication, talent, creativity, and grit of these women," said Skinner. "We are thrilled to invite you to attend Art Nights, workshops, and our galleries to experience the incredible year we have planned. Thank you to the National Endowment for the Arts for making this possible."

Kentuck Art Center is excited to launch this year's programming season during Art Night on February 1, 2024 from 5-8pm. This free, family-friendly event will feature the opening receptions of "Rescued" by Dayo Johnson in Kentuck's Museum Gallery, "Finding My Religion" by Loretta Lynn in the Teer Gallery, and the grand opening of the brand new classroom space on Kentuck's campus, named Kentuck's Clay Studio. Additionally, there will be live music by Josephine Arsenault, pop up shops from local vendors, and a Scholar Talk by Dr. Anne Franklin Lamar to introduce this year's programming theme, "Repurposed." For more information about February Art Night, please [click here](#).

For more information on other projects included in the NEA's grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).



ABOVE: "My Sister's Keeper" by Dayo Johnson



ABOVE: "Finding My Religion" by Loretta Lynn

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Kentuck Art Center and Festival was established in 1971. Kentuck's mission is to perpetuate the arts, engage the community, and empower the artist. The Kentuck Festival of the Arts is nationally recognized for its quality, diversity, and celebration of artistic style ranging from folk to contemporary arts and traditional crafts.

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