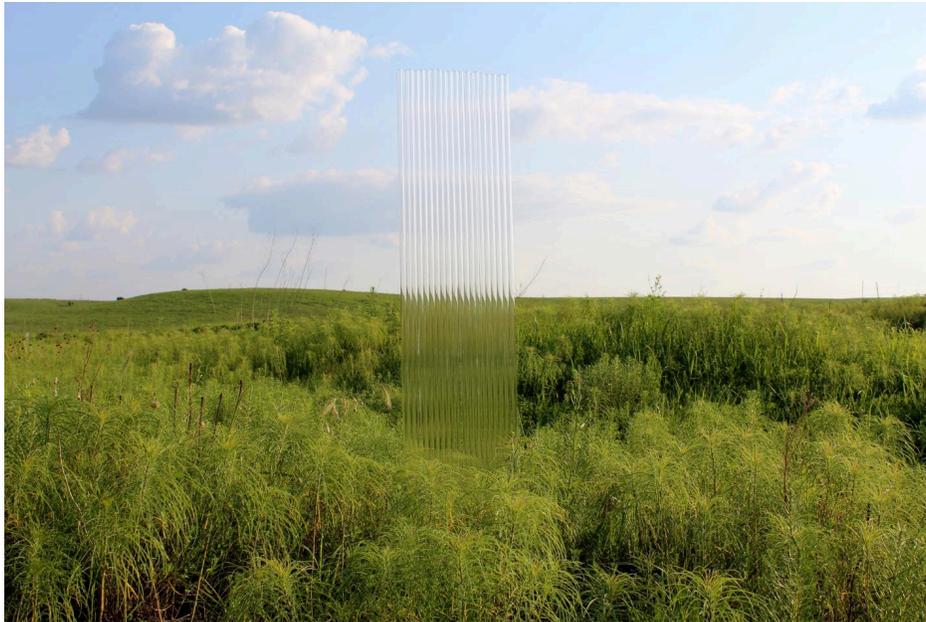


## TULSA ARTIST FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCES 2026–2028 AWARDEE COHORT

*Building on more than a decade of place-based impact, ten artists working across disciplines have been selected through a national open call to receive more than \$2.3 million in resources to live and work in Tulsa, Oklahoma.*



Amy Hoagland, *Blurred Horizon*, 2021. Courtesy of the artist

**January 27, 2026 – Tulsa, OK – Tulsa Artist Fellowship** is pleased to announce the 2026–2028 Tulsa Artist Fellowship awardees. Selected through a highly competitive national open call, this cohort comprises ten accomplished artists and arts workers working across visual art, film, writing, sound, and performance. Their rigorous, publicly engaged practices position Tulsa as a hub for ambitious, cross-disciplinary work and national creative exchange.

Over the three-year residency term, the cohort will collectively receive more than \$2.3 million in financial support and resources to live and work in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

*“As communities navigate rapid change and competing pressures, sustained investment in artists is one of the most practical ways to build cultural resilience,”* said **Carolyn Sickles**, Executive & Artistic Director of Tulsa Artist Fellowship. *“Tulsa Artist Fellowship supports long-form work that cannot be made on deadlines or in isolation—projects that require research, experimentation, and genuine relationships over time. This new cohort will join a thriving*

*network of fellows and Tulsa partners to create ambitious work that deepens understanding, invites public connection, and strengthens Tulsa's creative infrastructure for the long term."*

Founded in 2015 by the George Kaiser Family Foundation (GKFF), Tulsa Artist Fellowship is a place-based, durational award designed to support visionary arts practitioners who choose to live and work in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Each year, ten artists are selected through a national open-call process and commit to a three-year residency that includes \$150,000 in stipend funding, a \$36,000 housing stipend, fully subsidized studio space with shared facilities, and additional resources supporting health care, studio assistance, relocation, and public engagement—representing an estimated \$230,000+ investment per fellow over the full residency term. With three overlapping cohorts, Tulsa Artist Fellowship supports 30 artists concurrently, translating to an average annual investment of approximately \$2.3 million in artists living and working in Tulsa.

The complete list of **2026–2028 Tulsa Artist Fellowship Awardee Cohort** is below:

- **Myiesha Gordon Beales** — Sculpture, Social Practice, Ceramics — Detroit, MI
- **Derrick Estrada / Baseck** — Sound & Instrument Design — Los Angeles, CA
- **Amy Hoagland** — Sculpture, Installation, Environmental Art — Denver, CO
- **Rebecca Nagle** (Cherokee Nation) — Nonfiction, Journalism — Tahlequah, OK
- **Aaron Robertson** — Literary Nonfiction, Translation, Fiction — Brooklyn, NY
- **Amir Saadiq** — Photography, Experimental Film, Installation — Santa Monica, CA
- **Sabrina Saleha** (Navajo/Bengali) — Screenwriting, Film — Santa Fe, NM
- **Leonard Suryajaya** — Photography, Installation, Performance — Chicago, IL
- **Dustin Tahmahkera** (Comanche) — Playwriting, Indigenous Studies — Norman, OK
- **Loren Waters** (Cherokee/Kiowa) — Screenwriting, Film — Tulsa, OK

This cohort arrives at a moment when Tulsa's cultural life is being shaped by place, history, and evolving forms of expression. Together, the awardees engage Tulsa as both a living archive and a site for future-making, bringing forward overlooked stories, strengthening cultural continuity, and contributing new perspectives grounded in local context. By pairing nationally recognized artists with Oklahoma-rooted practitioners, the cohort reinforces Tulsa's cultural ecosystem through mentorship, collaboration, and community partnership, creating artistic, educational, and civic value that extends beyond the fellowship term.

Over the three-year award period, fellows will develop projects emphasizing long-term engagement and public connection, using land, sound, and narrative to foster shared understanding and civic meaning. Highlighted projects include a collaborative lens-based initiative combining large-format photographic tableaux, oral storytelling, video, and public activations - **Leonard Suryajaya**; a community-led research project examining how violence against Native peoples shaped Oklahoma's oil industry and Tulsa's early wealth - **Rebecca Nagle** (Cherokee Nation); and a public art initiative transforming underutilized outdoor spaces in North Tulsa into temporary art gardens that invite reflection, connection, and collective imagination - **Myiesha Gordon Beales**.

Additional work across the cohort includes literary and archival research, environmentally responsive sculpture, experimental sound and instrument design, Indigenous-centered performance, and multidisciplinary film and installation projects—each rooted in sustained inquiry and public exchange.

For the 2026–2028 award, applicants from 47 U.S. states and territories, including U.S. citizens living in 15 countries across five continents, participated in the submission process. The selection panel comprised eight reviewers representing a wide range of artistic disciplines, each contributing distinct expertise, cultural identities, geographic backgrounds, and perspectives.

The panel included: **Joël Díaz** (Director, The Clifton House), **Ayokunle Falomo** (Writer and Educator), **Rachel Hayes** (Textile Artist; TAF Alum), **Karl Jones** (Interdisciplinary Artist; Co-Founder, Center of Queer Prairie Studies; TAF Alum), **Jenny Keller** (Cherokee Nation; Associate Curator, Gilcrease Museum), **Josh Levi** (Interdisciplinary Artist; Public Programs, COUNTERPUBLIC), **Natani Notah** (Navajo Nation; Visual Artist; TAF Alum), and **Brian Sea** (Creative Performance Producer).

The 2026–2028 award term begins in **January 2026** and concludes in **December 2028**.

Tulsa Artist Fellowship invites applicants from all arts disciplines to apply for its 2027–2029 award term. Applications will open in Spring 2026. For more information, visit [tulsaartistfellowship.org](https://tulsaartistfellowship.org).

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### About Tulsa Artist Fellowship

Established in 2015, Tulsa Artist Fellowship was created as a place-based arts initiative by the George Kaiser Family Foundation (GKFF), that addresses pressing challenges for contemporary artists and arts workers living in and joining the city of Tulsa, Oklahoma. A central part of the Fellowship's initiative is to bring, enliven, and participate in Tulsa's growing and thriving arts community. TAF supports contemporary artists across all mediums and is committed to celebrating diversity in all its forms and freedom of expression.

### About George Kaiser Family Foundation

George Kaiser Family Foundation (GKFF) is a charitable organization dedicated to providing equal opportunity for young children through investments in early childhood education, community health, social services, and civic enhancement. GKFF believes that Tulsa is a land of opportunity. A generous and welcoming community, this city is not bound by traditional conventions. GKFF is dedicated to making Tulsa the best city for children to be born, grow and succeed.

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