

**California Black Voices Project Grantees
Announced by Minnesota Street Project Foundation**



(Images L to R: Indira Allegra, Lizzetta LeFalle-Collins, Rashaad Newsome, Toni Scott, and Leila Weefur)

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, October 27, 2020 – Minnesota Street Project Foundation is pleased to announce the first **California Black Voices Project** grant winners, **Indira Allegra**, **Lizzetta LeFalle-Collins**, **Rashaad Newsome**, **Toni Scott**, and **Leila Weefur**. Each of the five grantees will be awarded \$10,000 and an exhibition in 2021 at the [Minnesota Street Project's](#) 1275 Minnesota Street location and on the Project's virtual site, [Minnesota Street Project Adjacent](#).

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The **California Black Voices Project** grantees were chosen through a jury process, comprised of four prominent art world professionals, **Lava Thomas** (artist), **Dewey Crumpler** (professor/artist), **Karen Jenkins-Johnson** (Jenkins Johnson Gallery), and **Andrew McClintock** (Ever Gold Gallery). Chosen from an outstanding applicant base of Black artists and curators from California, jurors considered all artistic mediums, including performance and film.

In addition to the \$10,000 grants, the five grantees will each create an exhibition of new work or a newly curated exhibition beginning in 2021, within a provided appropriate space at 1275 Minnesota Street. Building upon their featured exhibitions, grantees will also receive professional assistance from the Project team to create a virtual version of their exhibition, hosted on the [Minnesota Street Project Adjacent](#) virtual site in conjunction with their show. Further support will be provided to the grantees for talks and other educational events in person at Minnesota Street Project, and online at Adjacent.

“The California Black Voices Project grants were initiated as a way for The Project to take part in addressing the systemic racism in the art world,” states Deborah Rappaport, President, Minnesota Street Project Foundation, “and directly support the work of California artists and curators that vitally contribute to our arts ecosystem.” Deborah and Andy Rappaport have seeded the initial grant funds, gifted to the Minnesota Street Project Foundation from the Rappaport Family Foundation.

California Black Voices Project Grantees

Indira Allegra

Indira Allegra, is an artist and writer exploring memorial as a genre and a vital part of the human experience. They are re-imagining what a memorial can feel like and how losses can create threads of kinship through epistolary practices, performance, sculpture, and installation. These practices are all intertwined - with sculptures at times initiating performances, performances creating sculptures and sculptures expanding into installation environments which seek to correspond with the viewer. Allegra is deeply informed by the ritual, relational and performative aspects of weaving and uses this as a framework to work with tension be it material, social, or emotional.

Lizzetta LeFalle-Collins

Curator, Lizzetta LeFalle-Collins combines art practice and art historical scholarship by conceptually borrowing from the art of assemblage's materiality and politics. She specializes in Black artists' art practices and actively encourages viewers to explore their works in broader art historical contexts, and outside of an expected and racially limited “Black Box.” James Baldwin’s literature prompted LeFalle-Collins’ embrace of writing as a part of her creative curatorial process. His article “The Creative Process” became a guiding light for her as she carved out a space to work with artists in a slow and intentional team-building process.

Rashaad Newsome

Rashaad Newsome’s work blends several practices, including collage, sculpture, film, photography, music, computer programming, community organizing, and performance, to create a new field. Using the diasporic traditions of improvisation, he pulls from the world of advertising, the internet, Black and Queer culture to produce counter-hegemonic work that walks the tightrope between social practice, abstraction, and intersectionality. Collage acts as a conceptual and technical method to construct a new

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cultural framework of power that does not find the oppression of others necessary. A structure that celebrates Black contributions to the art canon, and creates innovative and inclusive forms of culture and media.

Toni Scott

Critical to Toni Scott's work is the advancement of understanding between races and promoting a deeper historical consciousness through narratives. The subject of race has played a significant role in informing her art, which seeks to address the complexities of my multi-ethnic African, European, and Native American heritage. Scott's multi-media installations also address a broader discourse on American history, in particular, the long-forgotten victims of slavery and genocide whose descendants continue to be adversely impacted by systemic racism today.

Leila Weefur

Through video installation, Leila Weefur examines the performativity intrinsic to systems of belonging present in our lived experiences from the perspective of a trans-gender-nonconforming Black artist. Weefur references Black colloquialisms as a source of reverence/contempt, combining concepts of the sensorial memory, abject Blackness, hyper surveillance, and the erotic. Their work aims to construct physical environments for which an audience can have a multi-sensory engagement, inviting viewers into the possibility of understanding Black narratives through the way bodies experience it. Weefur's work is extended through publications, expanding audience access and reach beyond the gallery.

The **California Black Voices Project**, as well as other grant-making programs through the Foundation, can be expanded with donations to the Minnesota Street Project Foundation by other interested funders.

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About Minnesota Street Project Foundation

Established in 2019, Minnesota Street Project Foundation embarks on initiatives to further develop the diversity and vibrancy of arts-related culture within and beyond the Project's model. Through collaboration, the Foundation advances educational and civic programming and provides direct financial support to artists and arts organizations. The Foundation commits to fostering relationships with local, national, and international businesses, individuals, and institutions to support the evolving landscape of art practice and patronage.

www.minnesotastreetproject.org

Minnesota Street Project Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent permitted by law.