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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### 2012 KRESGE ARTIST FELLOWS HIGHLIGHT CULTURALLY 'RICH ENVIRONMENT' OF METRO DETROIT

*\$600,000 IN FELLOWSHIPS TO DETROIT AREA LITERARY AND PERFORMING ARTISTS*

**DETROIT, MICHIGAN – JUNE 28, 2012** - Two dozen Metropolitan Detroit literary and performing artists have been awarded Kresge Artist Fellowships for 2012. Each of the 24 fellowships includes an unrestricted prize of \$25,000, rewarding creative vision and commitment to excellence within a wide range of artistic disciplines.

The fellowships represent [The Kresge Foundation's](#) desire to advance the artistic careers of Detroit artists living and working in its hometown, as well as elevate the profile of the area's artistic community. Artists are selected from the Metropolitan Detroit tri-county area, comprised of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

#### 2012 KRESGE ARTIST FELLOWS

##### LITERARY ARTS

Cheryl A. Alston  
Mary Jo Firth Gillett  
Lolita Hernandez  
Kim Hunter  
Michael Hurtt  
Stephen Jones  
Heidi Kaloustian  
[Peter Markus](#)  
[Ken Meisel](#)  
[Marsha Music](#)  
[Kathleen Pfeiffer](#)  
Mark Stryker

##### PERFORMING ARTS

[Maria Costa](#)  
[Don "Doop" Duprie](#)  
[Laurie Eisenhower](#)  
[Bryce Harding "Mr. Chips"](#)  
Kris Johnson  
[Natasha "T" Miller](#)  
[Passalacqua](#)  
[Terry Peake](#)  
[Chris Pottinger](#)  
[Ara Topouzian](#)  
[Xiao Dong Wei](#)  
[Shara Worden](#)

Detroit's [College for Creative Studies](#) administers the fellowships. [ArtServe Michigan](#) provides professional practice opportunities for the fellows.

"Each of these extraordinary literary and performing artists help us see what we haven't seen before, to make connections and quite often to challenge us," says Rip Rapson, president of The Kresge Foundation. "The breadth of their pursuits is incredible – from poetry to hip-hop and Middle Eastern harp. It illustrates the rich environment that we find in Metropolitan Detroit. We're delighted to support and encourage their work and to watch as their efforts shine a light on the artistic talent in southeast Michigan."

Nearly 450 applications for fellowships were reviewed through a competitive process by independent panels of national and local artists and arts professionals. The panelists provided a balance of artistic perspectives and an understanding of the local artistic environment, as well as extensive knowledge of the art forms being reviewed.

#### 2012 Literary Arts Panelists

- Melba Joyce Boyd, Distinguished Professor and Chair of Africana Studies at Wayne State University
- Toi Derricotte, Poet and Professor of English at University of Pittsburgh
- Thomas Lynch, Poet and author
- Ishmael Reed, Poet, essayist and novelist
- John Yau, Poet, critic and weekend editor, [Hyperallergic.com](#)

## 2012 Performing Arts Panelists

- Dr. Ysaye Barnwell, Musician, “Sweet Honey In the Rock”, actress and educator
- Don Byron, Composer, multi-instrumentalist, critic and educator
- Thom Jurek, Music critic and staff writer, Allmusic.com
- Michael Kondziolka, Director of Programming, University Musical Society
- Laura Kuhn, Executive Director, John Cage Trust and Professor of Performance Art at Bard College

The annual Kresge Artist Fellowships, Kresge Eminent Artist Award and multi-year grants to arts and cultural organizations in greater Detroit constitute Kresge Arts in Detroit, the foundation’s effort to provide broad support to the regional arts community.

Kresge Arts in Detroit is one facet of the foundation’s [Detroit Program](#), a comprehensive framework that seeks to change the city’s trajectory to one of long-term economic opportunity that advances social equity, promotes cultural expression, and re-establishes the city as the center of a vibrant region.

“The Kresge Foundation has a keen understanding of what it takes to develop a sustainable artistic career, and they match that understanding with generous support for individual artists. Kresge Arts in Detroit is contributing to the vitality of our city not only by providing artists with the means to do their best work and make it available to the community but by letting the world know that Detroit is a great place for art and artists. The College for Creative Studies is proud to collaborate with The Kresge Foundation in this effort,” says Richard L. Rogers, president of the College for Creative Studies.

In April of 2013, Art X Detroit, a biannual event, will showcase new works from the 2011 and 2012 Kresge Artist Fellows and Kresge Eminent Artists. The event celebrates some of Detroit’s most talented literary, performing and visual artists. Open to the public, it will be held at multiple venues in Midtown Detroit’s cultural corridor. Art X Detroit will be presented by [Midtown Detroit, Inc.](#)

**Biographies and images of the 2012 Kresge Artist Fellows are attached. For further information, please contact Mira Burack at [mburack@collegeforcreativestudies.edu](mailto:mburack@collegeforcreativestudies.edu) or 313.664.7939.**

**For more information about the Kresge Artist Fellowships and the 2012 Kresge Artist Fellows, please visit [www.kresgeartsindetroit.org](http://www.kresgeartsindetroit.org).**

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**The Kresge Foundation:** *The Kresge Foundation, a \$3.1 billion private, national foundation, based in Troy, Michigan, seeks to influence the quality of life for future generations through its programs in arts and culture, community development, Detroit, education, environment, health, and human services. Kresge Arts in Detroit, which comprises the Kresge Eminent Artist Award, Kresge Artist Fellowships and Kresge Arts Support, represents one aspect of the Detroit Program, a comprehensive community development effort to strengthen the long-term economic, social and cultural fabric of the city and surrounding region. For further information, please visit [www.kresge.org](http://www.kresge.org).*

**College for Creative Studies:** *The Kresge Artist Fellowships and Kresge Eminent Artist Award are administered by the Kresge Arts in Detroit office at the College for Creative Studies. Located in midtown Detroit’s Cultural Center, the College for Creative Studies is a world leader in art and design education and prepares students to enter the new, global economy where creativity shapes better communities and societies. A private, fully accredited college, CCS enrolls over 1,300 students pursuing Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees. The College also offers Master of Fine Arts degrees in Design and in Transportation Design. For further information, please visit [www.collegeforcreativestudies.edu](http://www.collegeforcreativestudies.edu).*

**ArtServe Michigan:** *ArtServe Michigan is the leading statewide advocacy organization for arts and cultural communities and artists. By reinforcing the ability of artists and arts and cultural organizations to remain alive and well, ArtServe widens arts access, supports economic development and stimulates investments in the creative talent running through Michigan. Valuing the significant role of artists, and arts and cultural organizations, as essential to Michigan’s economic recovery and future prosperity, ArtServe also provides a rich base of professional support and resources designed to strengthen the sector. For further information, please visit [www.artservemichigan.org](http://www.artservemichigan.org).*

**Midtown Detroit, Inc.:** *Midtown Detroit Inc. is a nonprofit planning and development organization that supports the physical maintenance and revitalization of Midtown Detroit, while working to enhance public awareness, appreciation*

and use of the district. Founded in 1976, the organization has been working to encourage new housing development, increased visitorship to area attractions and new commercial activity within the neighborhood. For more information, please visit [www.detroitmidtown.com](http://www.detroitmidtown.com).