

Arts, Equity, & Education Fund

A QUARTERLY SPOTLIGHT - SUMMER 2023



News & Updates

The entire AE&E Fund team appreciates the thoughtfulness and effort applicants showed in developing their proposals. We are carefully reviewing each request and will contact all applicants by June 15th.

Our team looks forward to building new relationships and continuing the work with our existing grantees. We hope you are able to take time to enjoy early summer events and experiences with family and friends that deepen your connection to the arts and learning.

Touchstone Center for Crafts: Open House

Touchstone Center for Crafts celebrated its fiftieth-anniversary last year with renowned Pittsburgh sculptor, Thaddeus Mosley. Like Mosley's own work, Touchstone is rooted in Southwestern Pennsylvania, connected with nature, and making an impact on the art world. Nestled in Farmington, Pennsylvania, about 60 miles south of Pittsburgh, Touchstone provides artists' residencies, exhibitions, retreats, camps, and art experiences for all ages. Students work with groundbreaking contemporary artists using traditional and experimental approaches to craft. Teaching Artists this summer include Pittsburgh's own Sharif Bey, whose work inspires us at AE&E Fund.

We spoke with Touchstone's Executive Director, Lindsay Ketterer Gates to learn more about Touchstone and its upcoming **Open House Saturday, June 3rd from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

In the past few years, what is the accomplishment at Touchstone that you are most proud of?

We've been able to reach a lot more people with our programming, our exhibitions, and everything that we have to offer. I think we're really on the map now and it's allowed us to do some interesting partnering with regional arts and culture organizations.

It's allowed us to have support and make connections with the national craft field through the pandemic and all the uncertainty that we were all going through. We had a 400% increase in the applications for scholarships, for our programming this year and three times the amount of internship applications!

During the pandemic we learned a lot about barriers to participation at craft schools that we didn't know existed, and one of them was just the fear of the unknown. We're trying to have a very diverse campus, and we know that we need to break down those barriers.

In 2020, we decided we would do a virtual Open House, and those videos of all of our studios of artists, interviews of people going throughout campus, all of those videos still exist on our YouTube channel. Maybe you watch the video first and then you feel ready to have that first campus experience.

What can we expect to see and do at the Open House on June 3rd?

We started this Open House as a way to get the community to understand that they are welcome on our campus and to show them what we do, get them to experience what a craft school setting is like, and hopefully that leads them to want to participate. We bring artists into every studio to do demonstrations throughout the entire event, we have live music, food vendors, and artist pop-up shops. We'll have two exhibitions up and individuals who are coming to the Open House are able to circle through all of our galleries.

We always have kids activities. And it's the one day a year where you can not only visit our campus, but you know there will be demonstrations in every studio that you can watch and you can linger and get to know the artists. We try to bring in artists as demonstrators who are also going to be instructors throughout the season. So, whenever possible, the artists that you will be talking to in the studios will be instructors.

For more information about Touchstone Center for Crafts and the Open House visit:

www.touchstonecrafts.org/events-exhibitions/open-house

Photos provided by Touchstone Center for Crafts



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Arts, Equity, & Education Fund strives for a better reflection of the real world in arts and education.