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**THE KRESGE FOUNDATION AWARDS \$450,000 IN FELLOWSHIPS TO
DETROIT AREA LITERARY AND PERFORMING ARTISTS**

18 ARTISTS RECEIVE \$25,000 EACH

DETROIT, MICHIGAN – JUNE 30, 2010 - The Kresge Foundation is pleased to announce the 2010 Kresge Artist Fellowships in the literary and performing arts. Each of the 18 fellowships includes an unrestricted prize of \$25,000 rewarding creative vision and commitment to excellence within a wide range of artistic disciplines. This is the second year of the program, and these fellowships are unprecedented awards devoted exclusively to metro Detroit artists in the tri-county area (Wayne, Oakland and Macomb) and represent the foundation's unwavering support for artists living and working in its hometown. Detroit's College for Creative Studies administers the fellowships, and the fellows are also offered customized professional development opportunities by ArtServe Michigan.

The **2010 Kresge Artist Fellows** are:

Literary Arts

Louis Aguilar *creative non-fiction writer*
Vince Carducci *art critic*
Lynn Crawford *art critic/fiction writer*
Vievee Francis *poet*
Rachel Harkai *poet*
Steve Hughes *fiction/creative non-fiction writer*
Matthew Olzmann *poet*
Chris Tysh *poet/playwright*
Craig L. Wilkins *creative non-fiction writer*

Performing Arts

Haleem Ar-Rasheed "Stringz" *choreographer*
A. Spencer Barefield *composer/musician*
Monica Blaire *composer/singer/songwriter*
Timmy Lampinen "Timmy Vulgar" *composer/musician*
Valeria Montes "La Chispa" *choreographer*
Frank Pahl *sound artist*
Joel Peterson *composer/musician*
Rick Robinson "Mr. CutTime" *composer/musician*
Ilana Weaver "Invincible" *hip-hop artist*

The Kresge Artist Fellowships seek to advance and encourage the artistic careers of Detroit artists, as well as to elevate the profile of the city's artistic community. Nearly 350 applications for the literary and performing arts fellowships were reviewed through a competitive process by two 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.

The **Literary Arts panelists** included: Brad Leithauser, poet, novelist, essayist and faculty at Johns Hopkins University; Cary Loren, artist and owner of The Book Beat; Thylia Moss, poet, writer and professor of English language and literature at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; and Lynne Tillman, novelist, short story writer, cultural critic and professor/writer-in-residence in the Department of English at SUNY/University at Albany.

The **Performing Arts panelists** included: Grisha Coleman, composer, choreographer, performer and assistant professor at Arizona State University; Aaron Dworkin, musician and founder/president of the

Sphinx Organization; Benjamin Hernandez, public programs coordinator at Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD); and Greg Tate, author, musician and former cultural critic for *The Village Voice*.

“The 2010 class of Kresge Artist Fellows exemplifies the rich and varied literary and performing talent residing in metropolitan Detroit,” says Rip Rapson, president of The Kresge Foundation. “These 18 artists join the 2009 class of visual artists – all highly creative, highly energized individuals, who we hope will not only find their fellowship experiences productive and rewarding, but also will use those experiences to further enrich and enliven the cultural vitality of our region.”

The annual Kresge Artist Fellowships, Kresge Eminent Artist Award and multi-year operating support grants to arts and cultural organizations 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, five-part community development effort to strengthen the long-term economic, social and cultural fabric of the city and surrounding area by strengthening Detroit’s neighborhoods and downtown, promoting arts and culture, advancing regional economic development and enhancing the natural environment.

“It is remarkable and wonderful that The Kresge Foundation sees the arts as a potent force in bringing about the change Detroit needs and deserves and has decided to support the careers and ambitions of individual artists. Support for individual artists is all too rare these days, and *Kresge Arts in Detroit* is reasserting the principle that the artist matters and needs to be appreciated,” said Richard L. Rogers, president, College for Creative Studies.

In spring of 2011, a biannual festival celebrating the work of the 2009 and 2010 Kresge Artist Fellows and Kresge Eminent Artists will be presented by the University Cultural Center Association (UCCA). The event will be a community-wide celebration of some of Detroit’s most talented literary, performing and visual artists. It will be open to the public and held in the cultural corridor in Midtown Detroit.

Biographies and images of the 2010 Kresge Artist Fellows are attached. For further information, please contact Mira Burack at mburack@collegeforcreativestudies.edu or 313.664.7939.

For more information about the Kresge Artist Fellowships and the 2010 Kresge Artist Fellows, please visit www.kresgeartsindetroit.org.

The Kresge Foundation: *The Kresge Foundation is a \$3.1 billion private, national foundation, based in Troy, Michigan, that seeks to influence the quality of life for future generations through its support of nonprofit organizations in six fields: health, the environment, arts and culture, education, human services and community development. Kresge Arts in Detroit, which comprises the Kresge Eminent Artist Award, Kresge Artist Fellowships and Kresge Arts Support, represents one of five strategic objectives of the foundation’s 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.*

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.*

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.*

University Cultural Center Association: *The University Cultural Center Association (UCCA) 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.*