

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Arts Council of Fort Worth to Receive \$10,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts**

*Fort Worth, TX* - National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Mary Anne Carter has approved more than \$84 million in grants as part of the Arts Endowment's second major funding announcement for fiscal year 2020. Included in this announcement is an Art Works award of \$10,000 to the Arts Council of Fort Worth for the Pioneer Tower Iconic Public Art Project. This is one of 1015 grants nationwide that the agency has approved in this category.

"These awards demonstrate the resilience of the arts in America, showcasing not only the creativity of their arts projects but the organizations' agility in the face of a national health crisis," said Mary Anne Carter, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. "We celebrate organizations like the Arts Council of Fort Worth for providing opportunities for learning and engagement through the arts in these times."

The Arts Council of Fort Worth's Director of Public Art Martha Peters said, "We are delighted to have the NEA's support and recognition of the bold new approach to public art this project represents. During the 20th Anniversary Year of the Fort Worth Public Art program, the work of internationally renowned new media artists will reflect the past, present and future of Fort Worth on a truly monumental scale to the broadest possible audience."

An iconic light-based public art project for Pioneer Tower at the Will Rogers Memorial Complex in the Cultural District was recommended in the *Fort Worth Public Art Master Plan Update*, adopted by City Council in October 2017. For this National Register-listed structure, a projection mapping project is an ideal approach. The artists will create videos formatted to a 3D scan of the 204-foot tall tower, making it possible to project on all four sides simultaneously. In Spring 2018, the City engaged local artists and co-founders of Dallas Aurora ([www.dallasaurora.com](http://www.dallasaurora.com)), Joshua King (JTK Studios) and Shane Pennington (SP Studio) to specify art infrastructure, which was installed in conjunction with the recent rehabilitation of Pioneer Tower. In April 2019, they guided the appointed Project Core Team's Curatorial Committee through a process that resulted in the selection of New York-based new media curator DooEun Choi as project curator. The internationally renowned new media artists that she proposed were invited to develop proposals, which were presented to the Fort Worth Art Commission in May. On June 8, 2020, the Art Commission recommended both Quayola ([quayola.com](http://quayola.com)) and Refik Anadol ([refikanadol.com](http://refikanadol.com)) be commissioned to create the works proposed which will use complex computer algorithms and artificial intelligence to interpret large data sets, evoking Fort Worth's natural beauty, rich diversity, and storied history. City Council will consider authorizing the artists' contracts on June 23, 2020.

The premier of the works, which will be the centerpiece for a free community event, is currently scheduled for the last weekend in February 2021.

For more information on this National Endowment for the Arts grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).

**About Fort Worth Public Art:** Fort Worth Public Art is a City of Fort Worth program created to enhance the visual environment, commemorate the city's rich cultural and ethnic diversity, integrate artwork into the development of the City's capital infrastructure improvements, and to promote tourism and economic vitality. Managed by the Arts Council of Fort Worth with oversight of the Fort Worth Art Commission, FWPA strives for artistic excellence and meaningful community involvement. For more information, please visit [www.fwpublicart.org](http://www.fwpublicart.org).

**About the Arts Council of Fort Worth:** The Arts Council of Fort Worth was formed in 1963 to provide funding and leadership to stimulate and assure the advancement of the arts throughout the Fort Worth. Today's Arts Council continues to promote, nurture, and support the arts in Fort Worth by providing fiscal and business resources to local artists and arts groups while also serving the community through management of the Fort Worth Public Art Program and Fort Worth Community Arts Center.

The Arts Council of Fort Worth is supported in part by the City of Fort Worth and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

For more information, please visit [www.artsfortworth.org](http://www.artsfortworth.org)

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