

2023 Artist Opportunity Grant Consultant Bios

Noah Dixon is an award-winning writer, director, and editor based in Columbus, Ohio. Recognized for his “assured debut” by *The New York Times*, Noah’s first feature film, *POSER*, was selected into the 2020 Gotham Narrative Lab and had its world premiere at the 2021 Tribeca Film Festival. *POSER* found theatrical distribution through Oscilloscope Laboratories in 2022. Noah’s work has screened at festivals around the world, including Filmfest Hamburg in Germany, The Americana Film Festival in Spain, and the Jecheon International Film Festival in South Korea. In 2023, Noah lived as an artist-in-residence at the Zentralwerk Studio in Dresden Germany, sponsored by the Greater Columbus Arts Council and the Kulturstiftung des Freistaates Sachsen. Noah is the co-owner and creative director of the production company Loose Films, which has had films featured at Sundance Film Festival, Big Sky Film Festival, and distributed via Showtime, *The New Yorker*, and Vimeo Staff Picks. Noah served as an Artist Opportunity Grant panelist in 2019, 2020, and 2022.

Leesa Haapapuro was born in Detroit, Michigan. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from University of the Arts in Philadelphia and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Cranbrook Academy of Art in 2000. Haapapuro has been an arts educator and member of the Dayton arts community for many years. She has sculptures in the permanent collection of the Dayton Art Institute and Wright State University. She is well known for her temporary site-specific installations which invite community participation and has shown extensively throughout the region. Leesa was awarded Montgomery County Artist Opportunity Grants for 2021 and 2023.

Desirae “The Silent Poet” Hosley is a spoken word artist and community organizer dedicated to creating spaces that help people speak their truth. During her time with AmeriCorps Volunteers of America, she worked with the Urban Appalachian Council

(now known as the Urban Appalachian Community Coalition) in Lower Price Hill, which sparked a love for the nonprofit world. Since then, she has collaborated with Community Matters, helped to bring Louder Than a Bomb Poetry Teen Slam to Cincinnati, and founded SlamCatz, The University of Cincinnati's spoken word poetry slam and dialogue team. As a performer, she's taken the stage at the University of Cincinnati, Fringe Festival Cincinnati, Poetry Museum without Walls, the Aronoff Center, and many other venues. Most recently, she has created Social Therapy 2020, a virtual community where young adults and adults come together to bridge the social gap in this new pandemic world through writing and storytelling. Desirae served as an Artist Opportunity Grant panelist from 2020–2022.

Lisa Shinger is a writer, editor, podcast producer, and digital marketing strategist who is passionate about creating a robust and diverse arts community in the Dayton Region. She has served as a fiction reader for *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* and Fireside Fiction Company. As a fiction writer, she gravitates toward subject matter involving pop culture, entertainment, feminism, nostalgia, and science fiction/fantasy. Lisa served as an Artist Opportunity Grant panelist from 2020–2022.