

# THE RENEE & CHAIM GROSS FOUNDATION



PRESS RELEASE

## Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation awarded \$25,000 by the New York State Council on the Arts

**Nov. 17, 2023, New York City**—The Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation is pleased to announce a grant award of \$25,000 from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) to support the nonprofit arts and culture sector. This year, NYSCA has awarded \$80 million to artists and organizations across the state.

“Research confirms what we’ve always known here in New York: arts and culture are a powerhouse, with a staggering return on investment for our economy and our communities,” **Governor Kathy Hochul said**. “Nonprofit arts and culture organizations and their audiences generated \$151.7 billion in economic activity nationwide in 2022 and New York’s unparalleled arts and culture sector is leading the way to benefit our residents, our students and our visitors every day. I commend these grantees on their achievements and look forward to their contributions in the coming year.”

**New York State Council on the Arts Chair Katherine Nicholls said**, “Thanks to the unwavering support of Governor Hochul and our Legislature, NYSCA is so proud to support the work of these organizations and artists from all across New York. Spanning the entire breath of the arts and culture sector – from world-renowned performers to after-school programs, from long established museums to community arts collectives – these organizations and artists together are a powerful driver of health, tourism, economy and education for our residents and visitors. On behalf of Council and staff, congratulations to all our NYSCA grantees and thank you for your perseverance, your creativity and your tireless service to New York State.”

“The funding from NYSCA in support of the Renee and Chaim Gross Foundation is momentous,” **said Mimi Gross, President of the Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation**. “We are grateful to NYSCA, Governor Kathy Hochul, and the New York State Legislature for their continued support of the nonprofit and arts sector. This generous grant will go towards our educational mission: virtual and in-person programs, exhibitions, and tours of the historic home and studio of my parents, now preserved for the public.”

The Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation is a vibrant organization that gives visitors the unique experience of entering the artist’s studio, thereby gaining a more complete understanding of the artistic process. The combination of artist’s studio and interpreted living space is a rare example of an architecturally significant building that contains both an artist’s creative interior and his historically-installed collection in New York. The benefit of seeing art objects within their historic context cannot be overstated. Fundamentally, the interior tells a narrative about the history of American art from an artist’s point of view—a story that cannot be conveyed by larger museums. House & Studio tours, offered again after closure due to COVID, deepen the visitor’s engagement with Gross and the 20<sup>th</sup>-century New York art scene.

The Foundation's temporary exhibitions on topics related to Gross, his milieu, and works in the collection on the second-floor have included topical exhibitions like *Artists and Immigrants, Building Identity: Chaim Gross and Artists' Homes & Studios in New York City, 1953-1974* and those that highlight the significance of the African Arts in the collection such as *Nigerian Sculpture*. In order to be accessible, exhibitions such as *Teaching Through Touch: Works by Chaim Gross* were designed with visitors who may be low vision or blind in mind.

The Foundation also offers special educational programming surrounding themes of exhibitions or current research. Lecture and discussions take place 8-12 times per year and are currently conducted virtually due to COVID. The Foundation also offers Access programming virtually and onsite. As the Foundation is education-centered, the largest constituencies are retiree groups, educators, and high school to graduate level students.

### **About Chaim Gross**

Chaim Gross (1902-91) was an American sculptor whose prolific career spanned seven decades. He is known primarily for his direct carvings in wood as well as his bronzes, often of families or acrobats. His work is in public and private collections throughout the United States, with a significant portion at the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C. A philanthropist as well as a collector, Gross donated hundreds of objects to museums worldwide. He collected broadly, with a focus on the work of his American contemporaries and African arts.

### **About the Foundation**

The Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization incorporated in New York State in 1989. The Foundation's mission is to further the legacy of Chaim Gross through high-quality research, exhibitions, and educational activities around the historic building and art collections for audiences in New York City and beyond. For more information, please visit the Foundation's website at [www.rcgrossfoundation.org](http://www.rcgrossfoundation.org).

### **About the New York State Council on the Arts**

The mission of the New York State Council on the Arts is to foster and advance the full breadth of New York State's arts, culture, and creativity for all. To support the ongoing recovery of the arts across New York State, the Council on the Arts will award \$127 million in FY 2024. The Council on the Arts further advances New York's creative culture by convening leaders in the field and providing organizational and professional development opportunities and informational resources. Created by Governor Nelson Rockefeller in 1960 and continued with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature, the Council is an agency that is part of the Executive Branch. For more information on NYSCA, please visit [www.arts.ny.gov](http://www.arts.ny.gov), and follow NYSCA's [Facebook](#) page, Twitter [@NYSCArts](#) and Instagram [@NYSCouncilontheArts](#).



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