

# THE RENEE & CHAIM GROSS FOUNDATION



PRESS RELEASE

## Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation awarded \$30,000 by the New York State Council on the Arts

**Jan. 2, 2023, New York City**—The Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation is pleased to announce a grant award of \$30,000 from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) to support the recovery of the nonprofit arts and culture sector. Following New York State’s historic investment in the arts for FY2022, NYSCA has awarded \$90 million since Spring 2022 to a record number of artists and organizations across the state.

“As a cultural capital of the world, New York State is strengthened by our expansive coverage of the arts across all 62 counties,” **Governor Kathy Hochul said**. “This year’s historic commitment to the arts sector will spur our continuing recovery from the pandemic and set the course for a stronger future.”

“We are immensely grateful to Governor Hochul and the Legislature for their unprecedented investment of \$240 million to support arts organizations across the state,” **said NYSCA Executive Director Mara Manus**. “New York State arts organizations such as the Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation are the cornerstone of our vibrant arts economy. As crucial drivers of our health and vitality, we are grateful to the unwavering dedication of arts workers across the state.”

“On behalf of the entire Council, I congratulate the Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation on this grant award,” **said Katherine Nicholls, Chair, NYSCA**. “Their creative work provides the benefits of the arts to both their community and all of New York. Arts organizations are essential, leading our tourism economy and fueling sectors such as hospitality, transit, and Main Streets across our 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 during this difficult time. 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.”

“A major example of our educational offerings is our unique temporary exhibition *Artists and Immigrants* (April 2022–June 2023) celebrating artists who were immigrants whose works are represented in our permanent collection,” **continued Mimi Gross**. “My father, a sculptor, who was an immigrant from Ukraine 100 years ago, had many peers with whom he exchanged art works which now frame a unique moment in 20<sup>th</sup>-century art history. The collection exemplifies works evolving from a visual to social commentary

generation to abstraction. We will exhibit a variety of works, hold lectures, conduct tours, and publish a catalogue. This unique exhibition will be possible thanks to NYSCA's supporting generosity."

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 *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**

NYSCA preserves and advances the arts and culture that make New York State an exceptional place to live, work and visit. NYSCA upholds the right of all New Yorkers to experience the vital contributions the arts make to our communities, education, economic development, and quality of life. To support the ongoing recovery of the arts across New York State, NYSCA will award record funding in FY 2023, providing support across the full breadth of the arts.

NYSCA 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, NYSCA is an agency that is part of the Executive Branch. For more information on NYSCA, please visit <http://www.arts.ny.gov>, and follow NYSCA's Facebook page, Twitter @NYSCArts and Instagram @NYSCouncilontheArts.



# Council on the Arts

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