



Mayor's Office of
Arts and Culture

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The Shout Syndicate Announces Pilot Round of Grantees with Awards Totaling \$200,000

Plus: Two New Major Donors: The Bowery Presents and The Emerson Colonial Theatre

[Thursday, September 12, 2019 – Boston, MA] The Shout Syndicate, an innovative collaboration of Boston music and arts industry professionals in partnership with The Boston Foundation and the Mayor’s Office of Arts & Culture, today announced it has awarded \$200,000 in its pilot round of grantmaking to ten Greater Boston non-profit arts organizations that focus on creative youth development. The grants were announced at a celebration Thursday afternoon at the Foundation Room/House of Blues Boston, where The Shout Syndicate also announced two new major donors: concert promoters **The Bowery Presents** and theatre/entertainment company **The Emerson Colonial Theatre/The Ambassador Theatre Group**.



Teens hosting radio program at Zumix in East Boston



Mural sketch by Raw Art Works teens in Lynn

The 10 grantees, chosen for their proven work with youth arts in Greater Boston, include:

- 826 Boston
- Cambridge Community Center
- Hyde Square Task Force
- OrigiNation Cultural Arts Center
- Raw Art Works
- Sociedad Latina
- The Theater Offensive
- Transformative Culture Project
- Urbano Project
- ZUMIX

The pilot round of grants were made possible in part by donations from early backers **Don Law/Live Nation New England**, film/TV writer/producer **Judd Apatow**, and international recording artists **The Mighty Mighty Bosstones**.

"Congratulations to this first group of grantees, and thank you for your dedication to enhancing creative youth development in Boston," said Mayor Martin J. Walsh. "The Shout Syndicate has already become a central part of our arts strategy in the City of Boston. Together we're making progress in improving access to the arts in and out of schools, and I'm grateful to everyone who helped us make it a reality."

Each of the ten non-profit organizations will receive \$20,000 to produce youth-led arts programs in disciplines including music, dance, theatre, and visual/media/literary arts during the 2019-2020 school year. The grants also cover stipends for participating youth to receive hourly wages, so they don't need to choose between an after-school job or an arts program. The ten organizations, known leaders in their fields, operate in Boston neighborhoods including Roxbury, Mission Hill, Jamaica Plain, and Dorchester, as well as in Cambridge and Lynn, Massachusetts.

"The Boston Foundation is proud to support and partner with The Shout Syndicate on this new funding opportunity," said Paul S. Grogan, President & CEO of The Boston Foundation. "These ten grantees are among the very best organizations in youth arts in our region. We applaud Mayor Walsh for noting the need for a new fund in this sector, and we look forward to seeing the outstanding projects that will come from these grants."

"We at Urbano Project are thrilled to be a Shout Syndicate grantee," shared Stella Aguirre McGregor, Executive Artistic Director. "We're proud to be part of this pilot cohort and excited to start our work."

Since the initial donors established The Shout Syndicate in 2017, other generous producers and performers have stepped up, including theatre presenter Broadway in Boston, recording artists Frank Turner and Letters to Cleo, and fellow philanthropists, Theo and Paul Epstein's Foundation To Be Named Later and The Boston Foundation.

"We're glad to join our fellow colleagues in the arts community and support The Shout Syndicate," said Josh Bhatti, Vice President of concert promoter, The Bowery Presents. "We feel it's important to do our part in the community, and support arts opportunities for Greater Boston youth."

The slate of planned projects for 2019-2020 includes a city-wide youth publication in Boston, public art murals in Lynn, original dance choreography, a history of hip hop in Cambridge, original music recordings in East Boston and Roxbury, original LGBTQ theatre, and more. Teens will create their projects with support from arts leaders and teaching artists, and in the spring of 2020 each grantee will share their cumulative work with the public.

"We are grateful that Boston now has The Shout Syndicate as an advocate and resource for young people exploring the arts," shared Erica Lynn Schwartz, General Manager of The Emerson Colonial Theatre/Ambassador Theatre Group. "We're grateful for the opportunity to come aboard as a new partner to assist in this effort."

About The Shout Syndicate

The Shout Syndicate is a group of Boston-area entertainment veterans who, at the invitation of Mayor Walsh, joined together to raise funds for after-school arts programs in Greater Boston, starting in 2017. The Shout Syndicate is housed at The Boston Foundation and works in partnership with The Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture and Boston Creates, its cultural plan. The Shout Syndicate invites artists and the

creative community to stand up and give back to the arts – to ensure future generations of artists are empowered to create to the sector. <https://www.theshoutsyndicate.com/>

About The Boston Foundation

The Boston Foundation, Greater Boston’s community foundation, brings people and resources together to solve Boston’s big problems. Established in 1915, it is one of the largest community foundations in the nation—with net assets of \$1.3 billion. In 2018, the Foundation and its donors paid \$129 million in grants to nonprofit organizations. The Foundation works in close partnership with its donors, with more than 1,000 separate charitable funds established for the general benefit of the community or for special purposes. It also serves as a major civic leader, think tank and advocacy organization, commissioning research into the most critical issues of our time and helping to shape public policy designed to advance opportunity for everyone in Greater Boston. The Philanthropic Initiative (TPI), a consulting unit of the Foundation, designs and implements customized philanthropic strategies for families, foundations and corporations around the globe. <https://www.tbf.org/>

About the Mayor’s Office of Arts & Culture

The Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture's mission is to support artists, the cultural sector, and to promote access to the arts for all. The office houses the Boston Cultural Council, the Boston Art Commission, and the Poet Laureate program. Responsibilities include implementing the City's cultural plan, Boston Creates; commissioning public art, managing the Boston Artist-in-Residence program; curating exhibitions in City Hall; and operating the historic Strand Theater in Dorchester. <https://www.boston.gov/departments/arts-and-culture>

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