

THE RENEE & CHAIM GROSS FOUNDATION



PRESS RELEASE

Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation awarded \$49,500 by the New York State Council on the Arts

Jan. 1, 2022, New York City—The Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation is pleased to announce a grant award of \$49,500 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 \$105 million investment in the arts for FY2022, NYSCA has awarded more than \$80 million since June 2021.

“The arts have long been a critical sector in our economy, and as we continue to rebuild a stronger New York, it’s essential we do all we can help this industry thrive once again,” **Governor Kathy Hochul said**. “These awardees represent the best of what New York’s vibrant communities have to offer and with this funding in hand, they will be able to not only continue their creative and inspiring work, but help spur revitalization in their own backyard as well.”

“Council congratulates the Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation, Inc. on their grant award! New York State arts and culture organizations inspire New Yorkers and cultivate community in every region,” **said Katherine Nicholls, Chair, NYSCA**. “Arts and culture are crucial to our state’s health, and Council recognizes the dynamic impact of NYSCA grantees on the well-being of all New Yorkers.”

“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 will be a unique temporary exhibition *Artists and Immigrants* (April–December 2022) 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 20th-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 20th-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.

Governor Hochul's press release can be found here: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-45-million-critical-funding-propel-recovery-nonprofit-arts-and>

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.



*For more information about the Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation,
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