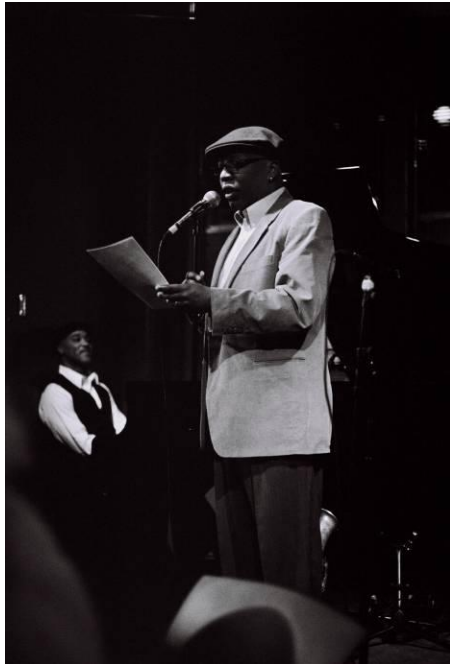




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**CHARLOTTE STREET FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES
2009 GENERATIVE PERFORMING ARTIST AWARDS FELLOWS**

***POET/PERFORMER GLENN NORTH AND CHOREOGRAPHER/DANCER TIFFANY SISEMORE
AWARDED UNRESTRICTED CASH GRANTS OF \$5,000 EACH***



Charlotte Street Foundation is pleased to announce the selection of two Kansas City generative performing artists to receive unrestricted cash Awards of \$5,000 each in 2009. Selected by a panel of area performing arts professionals from a pool of nearly 30 nominated artists, the recipients are performance poet **Glenn North** and choreographer/dancer **Tiffany Sisemore**.

Launched in 2008, the Charlotte Street Generative Performing Artist Awards support and recognize artists creating outstanding, innovative, original work in the fields of dance, theater, music, experimental music performance, theater/performance art, and hybrid/interdisciplinary versions thereof. The awards seek to foster the continued creative and professional development of the selected artists, provide the means for them to further focus on and develop their work, and increase exposure for their accomplishments, as the CSF Visual Artist Awards have done since 1997. Through its Awards programs, CSF seeks to contribute to the vitality of Kansas City's art community and to enhance Kansas City's desirability as a place for artists to work and live.



The recipients were selected based on the quality of their work and accomplishments to date, as well as promise for continued development as generative artists; relevance of their work in relation to local, regional and national contemporary art discourses and to the contemporary moment and culture in which we are living; and the potential of their work "stand up" nationally, influence the field, and have lasting value. With these latest awards, Charlotte Street Foundation has now recognized a total of 70 Kansas City based visual and generative performing artists, with a total of \$432,500 in unrestricted cash grants distributed directly to the artists. A public performance of the work of this year's Generative Performing Awards Fellows is planned for late fall, 2009.

The 2009 Generative Performing Awards Advisors responsible for selecting the recipients included **Hali Fieldman**, Associate Professor, UMKC Conservatory of Music; **David Ford**, multi-disciplinary artist; Municipal Art Commission; **Michael Joy**,

Director of Artists and Educational Programs, Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey; **Joette Pelster**, Executive Director, Coterie Theatre; and **Eric Rosen**, Artistic Director, Kansas City Repertory Theatre.

About the Artists:

Glenn North is a nationally recognized performance poet who has shared the stage with such noted poets as Nikki Giovanni, Sonia Sanchez, and Amiri Baraka, and whose original spoken word tracks are featured on CDs including *Out of the Comfort Zone* by the Jazz Disciples, *Release* by the Phantom, and *The Experience* by Tru Sol. North's work has been commissioned by entities including Points of Light Foundation, the Norman Lear Center, the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, and Kansas City Public Library. He has been a featured poet at events hosted by MTV Rock the Vote, NAACP Black History Month, and KC Repertory Theatre in conjunction with the world premiere of *Clay*. This spring, he was accepted into the prestigious, highly competitive Cave Canem program, a five year program of week-long retreats for African American poets held annually at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The retreat residencies offer Fellows the opportunity to join a community and to study with a world-class faculty that includes Rita Dove, Lucille Clifton, Yusef Komunyakaa and many others.

North is currently poet in residence and education specialist at the American Jazz Museum, Kansas City, where among many other things he organizes the monthly open mic poetry series "Jazz Poetry Slams." A committed teacher as well as student, he has worked extensively with urban youth, including as director of the Urban Transcendence Poetry Project, which included leading poetry and performance workshops, developing school curriculum, and editing the publication *Urban Transcendence Poetry Magazine*. In his words, Glenn strives to "write and perform poetry that possesses timeless aesthetic value while demonstrating how the written and spoken word can change lives and uplift communities. He studied English at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, earned his BLS from Rockhurst University, and is currently pursuing his MFA in Creative Writing at UMKC.

Tiffany Sisemore earned her BFA in dance performance from UMKC in 2001 then studied in New York with The Ailey School, Dance New Amsterdam, The Graham School, and the School at Steps on Broadway. Her choreography has been featured in the City in Motion Dance School's "New Voices Dance Series" (of which she is currently curator/co-director), "Modern Night at the Folly," and the "Performance Lab Series" at Steps on Broadway, New York, and has been performed by Wylliams Henry Dance Company and Paula Weber among others. This May, her newest work, "Now We Are A Coda" was performed at Urban Culture Project's la Esquina venue as part of "Jutting And Swerving - New Work by Jane Gotch and Tiffany Sisemore," which she co-produced. "I strive to evoke wonder, not through spectacle, but through precisely staged movement phrases and the use of extraordinary performers," says Sisemore. "I challenge my performers to explore movement not familiar to their bodies. I take traditional dance vernacular and twist it to create unconventional movement that is both quirky and beautiful. I build on performers strengths as well as their opportunities to draw freshness to their performance quality. I desire to form a connection between the audience and performer, and elicit layers of emotion – filled with joy, gloom, question or the like. My work, in tone, spans from meditative to dizzying jubilation."

Partial funding for CSF's 2009 Awards programs has been generously provided by Scott Francis, Scott and Dallas Pioli, Nancy and Rick Green, and Susan Moore.

Charlotte Street Foundation (CSF) supports and recognizes outstanding artists in Kansas City; presents, promotes, enhances, and encourages the visual and performing arts; and fosters economic development in the urban core of Kansas City, Mo. On all levels, CSF places artists at the center of its mission and has built an infrastructure that depends on and reflects their involvement. As a result, we are an organization that continually evolves in response to their input and in relation to the city's larger cultural ecosystem. For more about the Charlotte Street Foundation, visit www.charlottestreet.org.