



THE BARRA FOUNDATION

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BARRA FOUNDATION AWARDS \$2 MILLION IN CORE SUPPORT TO EXEMPLARY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN GREATER PHILADELPHIA REGION

WAYNE—(December 7, 2015)—[The Barra Foundation](#) has announced \$2 million in unrestricted funding for the recipients of its 2016-2017 [Barra Awards](#), which acknowledge and advance nonprofit organizations that exhibit exemplary leadership, performance and adaptability.

Forty organizations will each receive \$50,000 over a two-year period. In addition, leaders of those organizations become members of a diverse network of entrepreneurial and innovative thinkers. The awardees come from the Arts & Culture, Education, Health and Human Services sectors in the Greater Philadelphia region.

“Keeping pace with a changing environment, particularly as a nonprofit organization, is not easy, but it is crucial,” said Kristina Wahl, President of The Barra Foundation. “The awardees have proven that they can evolve and adapt to better serve the community, and the Barra Awards are designed to reward and encourage these organizations.”

The Barra Awards, which account for one-quarter of the Foundation’s annual grantmaking, employ a unique nomination process to identify potential awardees. A new slate of nominators is selected each grant cycle for their experience and familiarity with the nonprofit community. Each nominator recommends up to three organizations and remains anonymous until the awards are announced. Eligible nominated organizations are invited to apply and, ultimately, awardees are approved by Barra’s Board of Directors.

“We put our trust in leaders on the ground to tell us which organizations are truly outstanding in their fields and making the greatest impact on their communities. Many of our nominators are past grantees themselves, which lets them contribute to the work of their peers and keeps our grantee community engaged and connected,” said Wahl.

“Supporting an organization's general operating expenses conveys an important level of trust and partnership, and it helps these excellent awardees focus their energies on their life-changing work,” said Amanda Jefferson, executive director of Summer Search, one of the Barra-selected nominators and a 2013 Barra awardee.

The Barra Awards also offers awardees opportunities to attend events, collaborate with other leaders, and exchange ideas—ultimately advancing a culture of innovation in the region beyond Barra’s individual grants. Barra believes that this combination of flexible financial support and the opportunity to share ideas with leaders from different disciplines can help organizations discover new ideas and better solutions.

“I feel fortunate to have gotten even more familiar with organizations by being a nominator for The Barra Foundation,” said Antonio Valdes, [Executive Director of Children’s Crisis Treatment Center and winner of a Barra Award in 2013](#). “We all know how important it is to receive core operating support that allows us to build a better overall system for at-risk kids and families; I am proud to help identify the high-performers in our network.”

The 2016-2017 Barra Awardees include:

1812 Productions
Achieve Now
African Family Health Organization
AIDS Law Project
The Attic Youth Center
BlackStar Film Festival
Catholic Social Services – Montgomery County
ChesPenn Health Services, Inc.
The Common Market
Community Integrated Services
Depaul USA
Eastern State Penitentiary
Face To Face
The Food Trust
Gearing Up
Graduate! Philadelphia
HIAS PA
Kulu Mele African Dance and Drum Ensemble
Lutheran Settlement House
Manna on Main Street
Maternity Care Coalition
Mission Kids (AKA Child Advocacy Center)
Neighborhood Bike Works
PCCY
Philadelphia Academies Inc.
Philadelphia Folklore Project
Philadelphia Futures

Philadelphia Outward Bound School
Philadelphia Public School Notebook
Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks
Philadelphia Youth Network
Philadelphia's Children's Alliance
Puentes de Salud
Research for Action
Scribe Video Center
Springboard Collaborative
Theatre Horizon
Vetri Community Partnership
Visiting Nurse Association Community Services
Women Against Abuse

About The Barra Foundation

The Barra Foundation invests in innovation to inspire change that strengthens communities in the Greater Philadelphia region. Through its Catalyst Fund and Barra Awards, the Foundation provides approximately \$4 million in annual grants that are focused on supporting innovation in and across the fields of Arts & Culture, Education, Health and Human Services.