

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 2013**

**APPLICATIONS OPEN AUGUST 2 FOR PICA'S PRECIPICE FUND,
A NEW REGIONAL VISUAL ART GRANT**

Press Contact: Patrick Leonard, Communications Director
503.242.1419 x19, patrick@pica.org

Precipice Contact: Roya Amirsoleymani, 503.242.1419 x18, roya@pica.org

More details: <http://precipicefund.org>

PICA's new granting initiative, The Precipice Fund, will officially open for online applications starting this Friday, August 2nd. Announced in January, the Fund will deliver \$500 to \$5,000 grants to visual artist groups, organizations, and initiatives based in Portland, Oregon, who are presenting new work in informal, but significant ways. Formed with the support of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The Precipice Fund expands Warhol's Regional Regranting Program to the Northwest, creating new channels of support for "vibrant, under-the-radar artistic activity." Applications will be accepted from August 2 through October 18, with grant awards announced in November. To apply, please visit precipicefund.org.

PICA

With the founding of Precipice, PICA joins four established re-granting funds in San Francisco (Southern Exposure); Kansas City, MO (Charlotte Street Foundation and Spencer Museum of Art); Chicago (Threewalls and Gallery 400); and Houston (Diverse Works, Aurora Picture vShow, and Project Row Houses). Portland is a natural location for the re-granting program to expand; as PICA's Visual Art Curator Kristan Kennedy describes the local scene, "Artist-run organizations, initiatives, and projects don't only fill the gaps in our art ecosystem, they ARE our ecosystem." The Warhol Foundation has made the award for two years of re-granting programs, with the potential for continued commitment; the longest running regional re-granting program (at San Francisco's Southern Exposure) has been in operation since 2007.

According to Kennedy, this new fund will, "allow PICA to formalize support for these vital projects and to ensure that they remain where they want to be: on the edge of the city, on the edge of practice, on the edge of an institutional structure."

Applicants must have a public presence, intersect with diverse audiences, and contribute to the vitality of contemporary art practice. Grantees will be selected by a panel of their peers, comprised of curators and artists from within and outside of the region. Precipice will run independently of PICA's own visual art programming: PICA staff will not influence the granting decisions, and award recipients must present their funded projects outside of PICA. Full application details, a budget worksheet, and a PDF of the information session presentation are available online through precipicefund.org.

About The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts was established in 1987 for the advancement of the visual arts. The Foundation's objective is to foster innovative artistic expression and the creative process by encouraging and supporting cultural organizations that in turn, directly or indirectly, support artists and their work. The Foundation values the contribution these organizations make to artists and audiences and to society as a whole by supporting, exhibiting and interpreting a broad spectrum of contemporary artistic practice.

About Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA)

Portland Institute for Contemporary Art acknowledges and advances new developments in contemporary art, fostering the explorations of artists and audiences. Since 1995, PICA has championed the practice of contemporary artists from around the world, driving vital conversations about the art and issues of today. PICA presents artists from visual and performance backgrounds and embraces those individuals who exist at the borders of genres and ideas. Through artist residencies and exhibitions, lectures and workshops, and the annual Time-Based Art Festival, PICA constructs a broad platform for contemporary art.

About The Precipice Fund

The Precipice Fund provides critical support for artist-driven organizations, projects, initiatives, and publications that exist on the edge of new practice. These projects operate outside of traditional forms of support, galvanize communities, promote critical dialogue, and encourage generative and expansive artistic process while driving culture forward regionally and nationally. These often informal, anti-institutional, serious, intentionally nebulous, and innovative projects are an integral part of Portland's vital art ecology and are emulative of the pioneering spirit of the Pacific Northwest.

The logo for PICA, consisting of the letters 'PICA' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters are positioned above a horizontal yellow bar that is partially visible on the left side of the page.