

For Immediate Release

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THE KITCHEN

NEW YORK CITY'S CENTER
FOR EXPERIMENTAL ART
AND THE AVANT-GARDE
SINCE 1971

THE KITCHEN RECEIVES \$2,000,000 FROM THE MELLON FOUNDATION

Largest Grant in The Kitchen's History Supports Institutional Innovation and Growth for the Next Generation of the Avant-Garde

The Kitchen has received a \$2,000,000 grant from the **Mellon Foundation**, the largest single gift to the organization in its 50-year history. The funding will allow the multidisciplinary art institution, now under the leadership of Executive Director and Chief Curator **Legacy Russell**, to expand its internal infrastructure and staff in anticipation of the reopening of its Chelsea home. The building is undergoing a renovation made possible through a separate ongoing capital campaign. These parallel sources for evolution will buttress The Kitchen's ability to support artists, grow and deepen relationships with its audience community, function as a site for radical learning on- and off-stage, and create a more capacious home for the future of the avant-garde.

Legacy Russell says, "We are grateful for Mellon's immense collaboration in growing with us the strategic vision for the future of cultural work and creative care, exemplified by The Kitchen's experimental mission and unparalleled history as it continues to unfold now."

Emil Kang, arts and culture program director of the Mellon Foundation, said, "We are pleased to support The Kitchen at this pivotal moment in its history under the visionary leadership of Legacy Russell—a vision that centers artists in boldly reimagining the systems and structures they require to sustain the audacity to create."

The Kitchen receives this considerable contribution in a moment of comprehensive transformation for the organization. As its longtime home at 512 West 19th Street in Chelsea is being renovated, The Kitchen has established a temporary home at Westbeth Artists Housing (163B Bank Street, 4th Floor Loft) while continuing to explore the notion of a Kitchen without walls, with programming extending to

other physical and virtual sites. The organization just debuted a new website and visual identity designed by Pacific (Elizabeth Karp-Evans and Adam Turnbull). The site foregrounds live recordings, video, and archival storytelling, creating a more accessible and engaging experience for visitors and sharing its offerings with local, national and international audiences. The Kitchen recently announced its [Fall 2023 season programming](#), in which a wide range of experimental artists put forward thrilling propositions for the future of the avant-garde.

About The Kitchen

Founded in 1971 as an artist-driven collective, The Kitchen today reaffirms and expands upon its originating vision as a dynamic cultural institution that centers artists, prioritizes people, and puts process first. Programming in a kunsthalle model that brings together live performances, exhibition-making, and public programming under one roof, The Kitchen empowers its audiences and communities to think creatively and radically about what it means to shape a multivalent and sustainable future in art. The Kitchen seeks to cultivate and hold space for wild thought, risky play, and innovative and experimental making, encouraging artists and cultural workers alike to defy boundaries and sending them into the world to remake art history and catalyze creative change.

Among the artists who have presented significant work at The Kitchen are Muhal Richard Abrams, Laurie Anderson, ANOHNI, Robert Ashley, Charles Atlas, Kevin Beasley, Beastie Boys, Gretchen Bender, Dara Birnbaum, Anthony Braxton, John Cage, Lucinda Childs, Julius Eastman, Philip Glass, Leslie Hewitt, Darius James, Joan Jonas, Bill T. Jones, Devin Kenny, Simone Leigh, Ralph Lemon, George Lewis, Robert Longo, Robert Mapplethorpe, Sarah Michelson, Tere O'Connor, Okwui Okpokwasili, Nam June Paik, Charlemagne Palestine, Sondra Perry, Vernon Reid, Arthur Russell, Cindy Sherman, Laurie Spiegel, Talking Heads, Greg Tate, Cecil Taylor, Urban Bush Women, Danh Vō, Lawrence Weiner, Anicka Yi, and many more.

Website: thekitchen.org

Instagram: [instagram.com/TheKitchen_NYC](https://www.instagram.com/TheKitchen_NYC)

Facebook: [facebook.com/TheKitchenNYC](https://www.facebook.com/TheKitchenNYC)

About Mellon Foundation

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is the nation's largest supporter of the arts and humanities. Since 1969, the Foundation has been guided by its core belief that the humanities and arts are essential to human understanding. The Foundation believes that the arts and humanities are where we express our complex humanity, and that everyone deserves the beauty, transcendence, and freedom that can be found there. Through our grants, we seek to build just communities enriched by meaning and empowered by critical thinking, where ideas and imagination can thrive. Learn more at mellon.org.

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