

ANNUAL REPORT

Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund

Legacy Amendment

YWCA of Minneapolis

**eliminating racism
empowering women**

ywca

Minneapolis

Emily O’Gara

Director, Institutional Giving

eogara@ywcamppls.org | 612-215-4129



MINNESOTA'S LEGACY TRACK THE PROGRESS

YWCA of Minneapolis (YWCA) is pleased to submit an annual report for the work completed with the generous appropriation of \$52,800 for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 24 from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund of the Minnesota Legacy Amendment. This report details accomplishments in FY24 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) related to the following statutes: Minnesota Session Laws-2023, Chapter 40, Article 4, Section 2, Subdivision 6. We are grateful for your support of this program.

Camille J. Gage Artist Fellowship (CJGF) **July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024**

FY24 Report, .08 FTE

In accordance with the Minnesota Session Laws-2023, Chapter 40, Article 4, Section 2, Subdivision 6, these funds were used to supplement, rather than substitute, our legacy grant. This grant funded a recently established artist fellowship, which would not exist without the supplementing state funds.

The appropriation for establishment funding via Minnesota's Arts and Culture Heritage Legacy Fund was approved for the Camille J. Gage Artist Fellowship (CJGF) in Spring 2023. It was sponsored by Senators D. Scott Dibble and Foung Hawj, and Representative Samantha Sencer-Mura.

During the bill's development, Senator Dibble led a work group to complete a comprehensive vetting process of dozens of potential non-profits to serve as partners to host the fellowship. From this, YWCA was chosen as its mission, vision and values aligned most authentically with the criteria articulated in the bill as well as Camille J. Gage's broader legacy.

YWCA had not planned for nor budgeted for the program in any previous fiscal year and is working in collaboration with a newly formed committee focused solely on designing, stewarding, and supporting the CJG Artist Fellowship program into fiscal years 2024, 2025, and 2026.

The inaugural Camille J. Gage Fellowship is currently funded solely with monies appropriated from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

About Camille

Camille J. Gage's legacy is multi-faceted. It's one of being a kind-hearted friend who had a knack for uniting the community. She was a multi-talented, creative, and fierce activist who protested, volunteered, advocated, and worked hard with a focus on climate change, women's reproductive rights, racial justice, and homelessness.

She found herself in the service of others; at Minneapolis homeless encampments, at the Native American Community Development Institute, and on the Indigenous-led Nibi walks. She touched the lives of countless relatives, friends, neighbors, and community members. She often said her daily goal was "to make someone else smile and make their world better for a day."

Camille helped start several art galleries and organizations, including Form + Content Gallery and WARM (Women's Art Registry of Minnesota), now known as the Women's Art Resources of Minnesota. She also produced and edited poetry and essay books, including *Fierce Lament* and *One Minneapolis: A City in Verse*, at the request of former Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges, featuring poets from across Minneapolis neighborhoods.



About the Fellowship

The Camille J. Gage Artist Fellowship (CJGF) provides a platform to honor Minnesota-based artists who have demonstrated a legacy of service with their creative gifts at the intersections of art and activism, to be recognized for their contributions, plus offered financial resources and organizational support to more deeply impact their communities.

YWCA, with its bold mission of eliminating racism and empowering women, was selected as the host organization of the fellowship as it most aligned with how Camille engaged with the community and for people with marginalized identities.

The 2024-2025 CJGF awardee, Amoke Kubat, received a \$45,000 fellowship award and a yearlong opportunity to work in partnership with YWCA. The awardee was publicly recognized at YWCA's *Empower Possible* annual gala on April 27, 2024.

About the Year 1 Camille J. Gage Fellow, Amoke Kubat

Amoke Kubat is a "Northsider for life" who has been involved in empowering mothers and families since 1987. She is a Yoruba Priestess, teacher, artist, and writer who partners with community artists, activists, and organizations to bridge African/African American culture and historical contributions into transformative actions and socially equitable practices for healing and building sustainable families and communities. Amoke is the designer of YO MAMA! It is a "mothering" artistic practice. YO MAMA! is an art-based support group called The Art of Mothering Workshops (where traditional women's work is learned and art genres are explored) and provides custom-designed ART Residencies for organizations that serve mothers. YO MAMA's mission is to empower mothers by disrupting the devaluation of women's invisible labor and showcasing their mastery of the art of mothering and the universal traditional women's work that transforms into art-making and economic security.



Amoke uses writing and art-making to speak truth to power and to hold a position of wellness in an America sick with inequalities and inequities. Her writing includes published short stories, her memoir, a play, and the Playbook for the play. Yo Mama's House is a vibrant community space that empowers mothers and nurtures artistic expression. It aims to foster a supportive environment where art serves as a catalyst for personal and communal transformation. The proposed projects under this fellowship will further these goals by creating platforms for storytelling, cultural exchange, and creative collaboration, thereby enriching the lives of participants and strengthening community bonds.

Proposed Outcome Achievement

- Achieved proposed outcomes (Achieved 100% of outcomes)
- Achieved most of the proposed outcomes (Achieved greater than 50% of proposed outcomes)
- Achieved some of the proposed outcomes (Achieved less than 50% of proposed outcomes)
- Achieved none of the proposed outcomes (Achieved 0% of proposed outcomes)
- **Outcomes data not yet available**

****Please note, this grant was approved 1/11/2024 and runs through 6/30/2026. During this full grant period, we will award **two** Camille J. Gage Artist Fellows. This report is on the Year 1 Fellow and expenditures to date as of June 30, 2024. The selected fellow's activities took place after June 30, 2024 and will be included in a more detailed final report due October 2026.*

As of June 30, 2024, the FY24 direct expenses for the YWCA of Minneapolis Legacy project are \$3,760. Funding consisted of the following:

1. \$1,260 to Transperfect Translations for Interpretive services to ensure the application process is accessible to those who speak languages other than English. The application was accessible in the following languages: Amharic, English, Hmong, Somali, Spanish.
2. \$2,500 to Amoke Kubat for project proposal development to develop a project proposal for the fellowship term. As part of the process, the artist underwent a six-week discovery and development period at the start of the fellowship term to create a project proposal via facilitated meetings with the Camille J. Gage Fellowship Committee, community members, and YWCA staff as well as gather any research and/or materials needed for this process. The project proposal will be required to include:
 - I. Proposed activities that will be supported by fellowship funding during the fellowship term.
 - II. Measurable outcomes of the proposed activities.
 - III. Methods of evaluation for the desired outcomes.
 - IV. A detailed budget and funding distribution plan based on the needs of the project.

We are grateful for the support of the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to realize this project.

Information | July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024

YWCA of Minneapolis respectfully submits this report on the work supported by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund of the Legacy Amendment in FY2024. We would be happy to answer any additional questions. Please contact Emily O’Gara for additional information at eogara@ywcamppls.org or 612-215-4129. Legacy project information is accessible online at: [Gage Fellowship — YWCA Minneapolis | Eliminating Racism | Empowering Women](#)