

Aaron Davis Hall, Inc.

(New York, NY)

Fund for New Work: Linking Artists and Community

Total Award: \$100,000 over 1 year

To support the *Fund for New Work: Linking Artists and Community*, a project to develop four works that respond to the question; "what is the public good and how do we as individuals and groups work to support and/or destroy that ideal?" Aaron Davis Hall has had a twenty-five year commitment to linking artists and community. The most consistent link has been in working with artists who examine and critique our society. Each of the artists selected for this project have dedicated their artistic careers to exposing and affecting social justice concerns within their respective communities and artistic disciplines. Tania Leon's work as a composer and conductor has involved racial, political and economic oppression in the United States and abroad. Bill T. Jones has most recently examined emotional, political and social narratives that have been inspired by American authors such as Flannery O'Conner. Roger Guenveur Smith's one-man biographical performances provide a contemporary context for historical events; and Sekou Sundiata consistently examines the wellness of the nation by raising questions about healthcare, free speech, economic inequity and other societal issues. All of these artists' works have historically traveled to venues throughout the country. Aaron Davis Hall will commission each of these artists to create work; create a model for working with artists, other arts organizations and community members; create a venue for community engagement activities, and identify local and national collaborators who can present the work.

Arts and Culture Program: *Objective I, Strategy 1*