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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ArtsConnect Announces 2023 Artist INC Topeka Fellows

TOPEKA, KS – ArtsConnect is pleased to announce the 2023 participants (“fellows”) for the 2023 session of Artist INC Topeka. These artists have been selected from a competitive application process and the program will begin on May 9, 2023. Selected artists represent multiple artistic disciplines including visual, literary, and performing arts.

The following artists have been selected to participate in Artist INC Topeka:

Pradeep Bangalore, Visual Artist	Aisha Lee Imani, Multidisciplinary Artist
Hollie Blakeney, Visual Artist	Theresa Martin, Visual Artist
Jason Dailey, Multidisciplinary Artist	Tiena Nazzaro, Visual Artist
Jean Denney, Visual Artist	Laura Odell, Multidisciplinary Artist
Lyman Edwards, Designer	Jose Saucedo, Visual Artist
Matthew Filby, Mixed Media Artist	Kristen Shook, Interdisciplinary Artist
Jonah Graf, Visual Artist	Zandra Sneed-Dawkins, Visual Artist
Ash Grubb, Visual Artist	Irene Tsuneta, Fiber Artist
Jodee Jensen, Visual Artist	Lesa Weller, Multidisciplinary Artist
Cindy Kersenbrock, Ceramic Artist	Tyson Williams, Performing Artist/Writer
Troy Komahcheet, Visual Artist	

Artist INC Topeka sessions will take place weekly beginning on May 9, 2023, and the program will end with a public presentation & reception on June 27, 2023. The final presentation & reception is scheduled to be held at the ArtsConnect gallery, located at 909 N Kansas Ave.

This program is led by a team of artists called “peer facilitators” who have committed to the development of artists in the Topeka community by participating in a variety of training and development activities specifically tailored to the Artist INC Program. Peer facilitators for this session will be: **Kim D. Brook, Lisa LaRue-Baker, Alisha Saucedo, Kody Stadler and Michael Toombs.**

Artist **Becki Waugh** will be working as lead facilitator for the program and is also the Programs Coordinator for ArtsConnect.

Artist INC is a cutting-edge training seminar that addresses the specific business needs and challenges artists of all disciplines face every day. Artists gather for one night a week for eight weeks to learn business skills specific to their art practice and apply those skills cooperatively with their peers.

Using an innovative class design, artists learn and grow together through artist facilitator mentoring, small group activities, as well as large group discussion and peer moderated panel discussions. Now in its fifteenth year, the Artist INC workshop has been completed by more than 1,500 regional artists.

Artist INC Topeka is supported in part by an award from Mid-America Arts Alliance, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission in addition to foundations, corporations and individuals throughout Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas. ArtsConnect is proud to host the program for the third year in Topeka.

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***ArtsConnect** is the premier arts engagement organization in Topeka. We work to promote the arts through building community connections and broadening the understanding of how the arts enhance the quality of life for all.*

More information at www.artstopeka.org.

***Mid-America Arts Alliance (M-AAA)** strengthens and supports artists, cultural organizations, and communities throughout our region and beyond. We believe in more art for more people. More information at www.maaa.org.*

