



## Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation Announces 2025 Awards in Craft Recipients

***Foundation awards five artists and craftspeople  
\$100,000 each in unrestricted funding***

(SAN FRANCISCO — May 21, 2025) Today, the Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation celebrates the 2025 recipients of the Maxwell/Hanrahan Awards in Craft honoring artisans, craftspeople, toolmakers, tradespeople and artists who bring unique problem-solving perspectives to the expansive field of craft. The five awardees will each receive \$100,000 in unrestricted funding.

Launched in 2022 and administered by [United States Artists \(USA\)](#), the Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation established the Awards in Craft to celebrate artists and craftspeople for their unique and visionary approach to material-based practice, stewardship of cultural traditions, and craft's potential to connect people, places and ideas. This unrestricted award seeks to recognize the complex, present, and ever-expanding role of artists and craftspeople by providing resources for them to continue their practice and advance their impact within our cultural fabric.

Through a range of innovative approaches, this year's awardees reveal the expansive potential of craft to shape how we see and engage with the world. Grounded in the cultural and historical significance of their materials, their collective practices honor the lineages of their disciplines while creating new paths for future generations. Working across mixed media including clay, glass, stone and wood, their work is rooted in diverse artistic traditions and informed by ecological, personal and social narratives — together reflecting the rich, multifaceted realities of contemporary craft.

### **The Maxwell/Hanrahan Awards in Craft 2025 Recipients are:**

- [Jolie Ngo](#) is a ceramicist exploring the intersection of craft and technology. Working from her studio in Santa Barbara, Calif., Ngo expands the boundaries of ceramic art through a multifaceted and playfully subversive approach, stripping away the seriousness often associated with clay traditions and forging a new conceptual and experimental path.
- **Kevin Aspaas** is a Navajo textile and fiber artist. Known for his work with the Navajo wedge weave technique, Aspaas practices a process he calls sheep to loom, which entails gathering and spinning wool from the small flock of Navajo-Churro sheep he raises in Shiprock, NM.

- **Neal Thomas** is a basket maker whose practice began while working in the timber industry in the late 1950s, when he met an elder woodworker who shared with him the art and skill of making split white-oak baskets. At the age of 85, Thomas is well-known across North Carolina for his dexterity and talent in fashioning baskets.
- **[Robert K. Mills](#)** is a Tlingit artist of the Tsaagweidi clan from Kake, Alaska. Working in metal, paint and wood, Mills' art is deeply rooted in the traditions of his ancestors while pioneering new expressions for future generations. Shaped by the land and waters of Lingit Aani, his work speaks to the complexities of colliding worldviews, exploring the resilience and depth of Tlingit life.
- **[Teri Greeves](#)**, of the Kiowa Tribe, is a Santa Fe, NM beadworker whose practice started when she was around eight years old. For Greeves, every stitch taken is an act of resistance and a prayer for ancestors and future generations. Through her beaded depictions, Greeves portrays Kiowa realities, oral histories and her own life experience.

The Maxwell/Hanrahan Awards in Craft provide unrestricted support for craft practitioners to expand their creative visions, pursue new directions of experimentation and deepen their contributions to the discipline.

A rotating panel of craft practitioners, curators, educators and others guiding the field identify nominees each year for the Maxwell/Hanrahan Awards in Craft. Panelists for the 2025 cohort were curator and writer Angelik Vizcarrondo-Laboy; sculptor Raul De Lara; Threewalls Interim Artistic Director Sharbreon S. Plummer, Ph.D. and Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art Curator of Native American Art Tahnee Ahtone.

Previous recipients of the Maxwell/Hanrahan Awards in Craft include multimedia artist Adebunmi Gbadebo (2023); poly-disciplinary artist Antonius-Tín Bui (2022); furniture maker, artist and educator Aspen Golann (2023); ceramic sculptor Cristina Córdova (2024); beadwork and fashion artist Jamie Okuma (2022); stone mason artist and community activist Terrol Dew Johnson (2022); and sculptor Thea Alvin (2024).

For more information on the Maxwell/Hanrahan Awards in Craft and the 2025 class of recipients, please visit: <https://www.maxwell-hanrahan.org/programs/craft>.

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## **ABOUT THE MAXWELL/HANRAHAN FOUNDATION**

Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation powers people who explore and ask, teach and try, conserve and connect, create and captivate. Our funding supports individual scientists, teachers, conservationists and creators whose diverse perspectives enable us to discover new things about ourselves and our world. Learn more about our partners and work at [www.Maxwell-Hanrahan.org](http://www.Maxwell-Hanrahan.org).

## **ABOUT THE MAXWELL/HANRAHAN FOUNDATION AWARDS IN CRAFT**

Exploration and insight require time and commitment. The Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation Awards in Craft seek to make both possible for devoted craftspeople and artists from around the country who strive to express what we see and experience in our world through engagement with material. The award recognizes practitioners committed to material mastery and exploration with practices encompassing the stewardship of living cultural traditions, unique insight in material study, and the advancement of craft at the intersection of other fields including science. We recognize that arts funding, especially for craftspeople, is lacking in the US, and we encourage others to commit to these fields.

## **ABOUT UNITED STATES ARTISTS**

United States Artists plays a pivotal role in America's cultural ecosystem, advancing the well-being of artists through unrestricted funding and tailored professional services, amplifying artists' work, and improving conditions that support their essential roles in society. Founded in 2005 and based in Chicago, IL, United States Artists has awarded over 877 individuals with over \$45 million of direct support across its flagship Fellowship program and its special Initiatives. Learn more at [unitedstatesartists.org](https://unitedstatesartists.org).

## **PRESS CONTACTS**

Jackie Anyanwu

Associate Director, Cultural Counsel

[jackie@culturalcounsel.com](mailto:jackie@culturalcounsel.com)

Rachel Roberts

Senior Account Executive, Cultural Counsel

[rachel@culturalcounsel.com](mailto:rachel@culturalcounsel.com)

Flannery Strain

Account Coordinator, Cultural Counsel

[flannery@culturalcounsel.com](mailto:flannery@culturalcounsel.com)