

The Roberta Flack Foundation

In 2010, Ms. Flack founded the Roberta Flack Foundation. The Mission is two-fold: 1) support animal welfare; and 2) help children, especially girls of color, with their education, especially Music.

In 2019 the Roberta Flack Foundation awarded two grants: Anasa Troutman's Shelectricity and filmmaker Carol Swainson.

(NYC, June 26, 2019) Roberta Flack is not just “an elegant and legendary vocal superstar” (*Amazon*). She is also a dedicated humanitarian, educational activist and social conscience who established her Roberta Flack Foundation to support aspiring creatives and causes she cares about.

In July 2019, Flack will present the foundation’s two inaugural grants. The beneficiaries are: Shelectricity, a first-of-its kind, digitally-enabled ecosystem to empower adolescent girls of color in the United States to reach their full potential and thrive; and educator/filmmaker Carol Swainson to create a film to help white parents teach their children to interrupt the racial narrative that is often found in our music and other media.

Shelectricity brings together technology, culture, and community to create safe and nurturing online and in-person environments for girls to learn, grow, innovate and lead. It will design, build, and launch programs in its first three hub cities – Oakland, Los Angeles, and Memphis – in fall 2019. Its founder, Anasa Troutman, says, “It is my highest aspiration that our girls continue to grow into the kind of women that Ms. Flack is: Wildly creative, deeply compassionate and intimately involved in the creation of culture with an impact that will reverberate for generations to come.”

Carol Swainson, Head of School at San Francisco Schoolhouse, has more than 25 years of experience as an educator and leader at a broad range of independent schools in Washington DC, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, and Oakland, California. She and her husband founded and run the International Peace and Art Center, which promotes peace and social justice through the arts. Carol is an advocate for experiential education that promotes social justice, leading workshops for parents, students, and educators. With the support of the National Association of Independent Schools and the White Privilege Conference, her documentary will be directed at school communities with the goal of empowering families to feel safe in discussing their racial biases and thereby changing the negative racial narrative through their children and their own actions.

Flack herself experienced the support her foundation aims to foster. As a young girl growing up in rural Black Mountain, North Carolina, she was mentored by her family, teachers, church members, choir directors and many others that helped her realize and actualize her talents and dreams. She has never forgotten these people and has always maintained the importance of nurturing young people in realizing their dreams through education and mentorship, which is the cornerstone of the Roberta Flack Foundation.

For further information:

www.robtaflack.com

www.shelectricity.org

InternationalPeaceandArtCenter.com

<https://twitter.com/Eduotter?s=20>

<https://shockink.com/robta-flack-foundation-announces-its-first-two-grants/>