

San Francisco
Arts
Commission

Agency
Report on
District-Based
Programming

FY 2008 - 2009



SFAC Arts Commissioners

Fiscal Year 2008/2009

P.J. Johnston, President
At Large

Maya Draisin, Vice President
Media Arts

René Bihan
Landscape Architecture

Nínive Calegari
Literary Arts

John Calloway
Performing Arts (Music)

Leo Chow
Architecture

Amy Chuang
Performing Arts (Music)

Topher Delaney
Visual Arts

Lorraine García-Nakata
Literary Arts

Leonard Hunter
Sculpture
May 2005 - August 2008

John Kriken
Architecture
May 2005 - November 2008

Alexander Lloyd
At Large

Sherene Melania
Performing Arts (Dance)

Jeannene Przyblyski
At Large

Cass Calder Smith
Architecture

Dede Wilsey
At Large

Sherri Young
Performing Arts (Theater)

Pop Zhao
Painting
May 2005 - April 2009

Ron Miguel
Ex Officio, President, Planning Commission

San Francisco Arts Commission

Agency Report on District-Based Programming

Gavin Newsom

Mayor

Luis R. Cancel

Director of
Cultural Affairs

FY 2008 - 2009

www.sfartscommission.org





SAN FRANCISCO ARTS COMMISSION

A letter from the President of the Arts Commission and the Director of Cultural Affairs

GAVIN NEWSOM
MAYOR

LUIS R. CANCEL
DIRECTOR OF
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

PROGRAMS

CIVIC ART COLLECTION
CIVIC DESIGN REVIEW
COMMUNITY ARTS
& EDUCATION
CULTURAL EQUITY GRANTS
PERFORMING ARTS
PUBLIC ART
STREET ARTISTS LICENSES

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As we look back at a historic year of change – marked, unfortunately, by an unprecedented downturn in the economy – the Arts Commission remains heartened by the fact that civic society continues to view the arts in San Francisco as vital and as important as ever.

Arts are at the core of what defines San Francisco. It is what brings people here to visit and what helps us as residents feel renewed every time we immerse ourselves in the fabric of the City. Whether we spend a night out to hear live music, visit our world-class museums, walk the Mission District and enjoy the murals that add color and meaning to the streetscape, or take a class in any dance form imaginable, the arts beautify our public spaces, nurture us and make us proud to call San Francisco home.

Just as the automobile industry defines Detroit, so do the arts define San Francisco. And so it remains critical that public funding for the arts remains strong. We now know that the non-profit arts sector is a formidable economic engine. In fact, for every dollar that the City invests in the non-profit arts and culture sector, \$7 is returned to the local economy. Few industries can boast that kind of return on their investment.

Researchers at Americans for the Arts collected data from 6,080 local nonprofit arts and culture organizations and 94,478 of their attendees to measure total industry spending in San Francisco. They learned that our City's non-profit arts and culture sector generates \$1.03 billion in local economic activity. That's right, a billion.

This spending—\$459.7 million by arts groups and an additional \$572.95 million in event-related spending by their audiences (e.g., that dinner or cocktail you have before a show, or the cost of a taxicab ride that gets you to that show) – directly supports more than 27,800 full-time arts industry jobs. But there's more: non-profit arts spending delivers \$93.1 million in local and state revenue and generates a total of \$548 million in household income to San Francisco residents.

These figures sound impressive – and they are. They articulate the financial value of the City's investment in the arts, be it through the San Francisco Arts Commission's many programs or the nationally renowned and venerable Grants for the Arts program, which supports general operating expenses for hundreds of San Francisco arts organizations. This kind of investment is what will help our City rebound once the pall of this financial crisis lifts.

These statistics compliment but do not eclipse the other intrinsic benefits – beyond the economics – that the arts contribute to our lives. The arts give us a voice to express how we see the world around us; they enable us to connect with ourselves emotionally and to each other as global citizens, or simply as neighbors. The arts inspire, give us hope, allow us to play and to imagine how we want our City and our world to be. Any way you slice it, the arts are a good investment and good for us.

The San Francisco Arts Commission has consistently strived to keep the arts on the map, relevant to all of our lives, ensuring that a vibrant cultural community remains a centerpiece of life in San Francisco. And we are pleased to share with you many of the high points of this past year, and to spotlight just a few up front.

Last October, the Mayor and the Arts Commission were pleased to bestow the 2nd Annual Mayor's Art Award to Alonzo King, co-founder of LINES Ballet, cementing



CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO



Gavin Newsom, Alonzo King, PJ Johnston and Luis R. Cancel at the 2008 Mayor's Art Award

this event as a highlight for the year. And last December, we made our cable television debut with CultureWire, a new partnership with SFGTV. Five programs were produced this year (which you can download from our home page at sfartscommission.org) and we look forward to featuring more of our activities—and those of our grantees—in the coming year.

San Francisco's public art program has always led the nation in terms of breadth of works in outdoor spaces, thanks in large part to the guaranteed percentage (up to 2%) of every public construction project's budget that is dedicated to commissioning new work. And yet this year we seemed to have raised the bar even higher. From Louise Bourgeois' *Crouching Spider*, which became a favorite iconic image on the Embarcadero, to Spanish artist Manolo Valdés' bold and beautiful feminine sculptures, which graced Civic Center Plaza, San Francisco's public art created a lively buzz this year and made living and visiting this City an even greater thrill. We were perhaps most proud to have brought the world-renowned sound pioneer, San Francisco's Bill Fontana, into City Hall's Beaux Arts Rotunda for an aural experience unique to every one of the 200,000 visitors to the building (you can still catch this installation at City Hall through the end of summer).

The Arts Commission's visibility this year also reached landmark proportions. Never before has the agency enjoyed this level of press attention – in print, television, radio and new media. From featured conversations on KQED's "Forum," to the launch of a new partnership with *The San Francisco Examiner*, to podcasts about our programming, the Arts Commission is more visible to more audiences than ever.

It is our obligation and our privilege to continue championing the value of the arts in everyday life, as we did recently in Washington, DC, on National Arts Day. Whether we are celebrating the 15th anniversary of our WritersCorps program, which has worked closely with some 15,000 young people, or carefully restoring the Dewey Crumpler mural on the Joe Lee Recreation Center in Bayview, we recognize the crucial role the arts, and our organization, play in the well-being of our City. The arts bring meaning to each of our lives and to all our communities, helping us explore the beauty within us and around us.

P.J. Johnston
President
San Francisco Arts Commission

Luis R. Cancel
Director of Cultural Affairs
City and County of San Francisco

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Programs Overview

Civic Design Review

The Civic Design Review Committee of architects and designers conducts a three-phase review of new and renovated civic construction projects to ensure design quality of City structures.

Community Arts & Education

Arts Education

The Arts Education Program works in collaboration with the Arts Providers Alliance of San Francisco and SFUSD to support professional development for teaching artists. The program also supports the publication of *Inside/Out: A Guide to Arts and Arts Education Resources for Children and Teens in San Francisco*. The SFUSD Arts Education Master Plan was spearheaded by this program.

Neighborhood Cultural Centers

The Arts Commission supports the programs and operations of nonprofit arts organizations housed in four City-owned community cultural centers – the African American Art and Culture Complex; Bayview Opera House; Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts; and South of Market Cultural Center. The program provides programmatic support for the Queer Cultural Center and the Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center.

Neighborhood Festivals Grants

The Neighborhood Festival grant supports neighborhood festivals that promote art and culture as a main component for strengthening neighborhoods. The grants provide opportunities for neighbors to celebrate their unique cultural and community ties.

Programs in the Community Grants

The Programs in the Community grant supports non-profit, non-arts organizations that use the arts to strengthen and enrich the lives of their constituents. Special projects as well as ongoing programs are funded and include a final public performance or presentation.

WritersCorps

WritersCorps works to transform and strengthen individuals and communities through the written and spoken word. The program serves youth-in-need: aged 6-21, primarily low-income, incarcerated, immigrant, homeless, or educationally disadvantaged.

Cultural Equity Grants

Cultural Equity Grants nurture the continuing growth of a vibrant arts scene that celebrates the City's vast ethnic diversity and variety of cultural traditions. Project-oriented grants to arts organizations and individuals support the creation and presentation of high-quality professional artistic work, as well as strengthening infrastructure and sustainability. Programs are: Cultural Equity Initiatives Levels 1 & 2; Individual Artists Commissions; Creative Space; Organizational Project Grants; Arts & Communities: Innovative Partnerships; Native American Arts & Cultural Traditions Grants; and the Creative Capacity Fund. CEG also organizes professional development workshops and knowledge sharing forums.

Gallery

The Arts Commission Gallery showcases the work of Bay Area artists at several locations: the main gallery at 401 Van Ness Avenue in the Veterans Building; City Hall; and window installations at 155 Grove Street. The SFAC Gallery also produces special events and educational programs.

Public Art Program

Art Enrichment / Percent for Art

Permanent artworks are commissioned specifically for new and remodeled public buildings and facilities, such as libraries, recreation centers, parks and transportation improvement projects to beautify these civic spaces and reflect the cultural vitality of our city. This ensures that the arts are part of the cultural vitality of life in the city.

Art on Market Street Program

Pedestrians are engaged year-round with artworks inspired by the history, ecology and cultures of Market Street, created by Bay Area artists. The program consists annually of four three-month poster series and two to three temporary projects in a variety of media, all taking place on or near Market Street.

Civic Art Collection

The Civic Art Collection program is responsible for cataloguing, maintaining and conserving the more than 3,000 pieces of art with an estimated value of \$86 million. The collection is comprised of art works in every media – from the city’s 100 historic bronze monuments to exquisite works of modernist jewelry.

Temporary Installations

Like permanent arts enrichment projects, temporary art commissions are also managed by the Arts Commission and are displayed in prominent locations such as the Civic Center and the Embarcadero. The duration of these public visual artworks vary, but typically lasts six months.

Street Artists Licensing Program

San Francisco’s street artists provide residents and visitors with a colorful outdoor marketplace that contributes to the economic life of the city.

Summer in the City Concert Series

The Summer in the City “Pops” concert series provides music lovers with diverse and affordable performances by our renowned San Francisco Symphony orchestra and a sparkling roster of guest artists in Davies Symphony Hall. The free San Francisco Symphony performance in Dolores Park each summer is also under the auspices of this program.

2008-2009 Grant Awards

and comparisons to 07-08

Grants Summary: Overall and Per Program

Cultural Equity Grants	08-09	07-08
Arts & Communities: Innovative Partnerships	\$347,550	\$626,121
Creative Spaces = CS	\$120,000	\$139,396
Cultural Equity Initiative – Level 1 = CEI L1	\$385,450	\$439,500
Cultural Equity Initiative – Level 2 = CEI L2	\$300,000	\$300,000
Individual Artist Commission = IAC	\$260,440	\$257,500
Native American Arts & Cultural Traditions Grants = NAACT	\$106,000	\$116,226
Organizational Project Grants = OPG	\$525,000	\$596,750
TOTAL CEG Grants	\$2,054,666	\$2,475,493

Community Arts & Education	08-09	07-08
Arts Education		\$48,798
Neighborhood Festival Grants	\$42,000	\$39,000
Programs in the Community	\$162,188	\$253,175
TOTAL CAE Grants	\$204,188	\$340,973

Neighborhood Cultural Centers

	08-09	07-08
Programs & Operations		
African American Art and Culture Complex	\$491,919	\$466,331
Asian-Pacific Islander Cultural Center	\$98,429	\$96,259
Bayview Opera House	\$319,611	\$310,399
Mission Cultural Center for Latino Art	\$539,671	\$522,179
Queer Cultural Center	\$98,429	\$96,259
SOMArts	\$603,763	\$583,012
TOTAL Cultural Centers	\$2,151,822	2,074,439

Totals

	08-09	07-08
CAE + CEG Grants	\$2,258,854	\$2,798,466
CAE + CEG Grants + Cultural Centers	\$4,410,676	\$4,872,905

Featured Citywide Impact

and activities from FY 2008-2009

2nd Annual Mayor's Art Award Honors Alonzo King/LINES Ballet



On October 1, 2008, some 250 people gathered in the Green Room at the War Memorial Veterans Building to honor Alonzo King, the recipient of the 2nd Annual Mayor's Art Award. Established to honor an individual with a lifetime of outstanding achievement in the arts and civic life, this award celebrates the highest artistic standards, engagement in and dedication to San Francisco's cultural life, and service to the arts in the public sector.

Louise Bourgeois *Crouching Spider*

After 18 months hovering on the Embarcadero, Louise Bourgeois' sculpture, *Crouching Spider*, departed the waterfront in April 2009. On loan to the City by the artist (who at 97 is considered to be one of the world's most influential living artists), the 2 ton monumental bronze arachnid has enjoyed pride of place at the Embarcadero's Entry Plaza at Pier 14. The sculpture, which was originally cast in 2003 from the artist's famous *Spider* series, was made specifically for display in San Francisco. Initially lent for eight months by the artist, courtesy of Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco, and Cheim & Read, New York, the sculpture's stay was extended due to popular support.



Bill Fontana's *Spiraling Echoes* in City Hall's Rotunda



The exciting, one-of-a-kind sound piece created by world-renowned artist Bill Fontana entitled *Spiraling Echoes* was installed in City Hall's grand Rotunda in February 2009 and will remain there through mid August. Mr. Fontana is a pioneer in creating site-specific sound art that transforms the spaces they inhabit. From his installations at London's Big Ben and the Tate Modern, to Paris's Arc de Triomphe and the Lyon Light Rail in France, Fontana's sound pieces offer the most unique experiences, full of curiosity and wonder. This project will be the first audio installation Mr. Fontana has conceived for the interior of a public building, and is expected to draw more than 200,000 individuals over the course of the six-month installation.

CultureWire

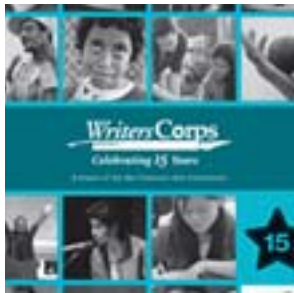
The San Francisco Arts Commission proudly launched CultureWire in December 2008. The first cable television program of SFGTV devoted to the activities of the Arts Commission, CultureWire produced four episodes this year on features such as the Mayor's Art Award, the Bill Fontana sound installation in City Hall, the Art of a City exhibition which showcased the Civic Art Collection at San Francisco International Airport, the Manolo Valdés sculptures and the Patrick Dougherty willow sapling installation at the Joseph L. Alioto Performing Arts Piazza.

Dewey Crumpler's *The Fire Next Time*

Dewey Crumpler's *The Fire Next Time* the mural on the façade of the Joseph Lee Recreation Center, across the plaza from the Bayview Opera House, was restored to its original luster, and rededicated with a celebration and public art panel at the Bayview Opera House in August 2008.



WritersCorps Celebrated its 15th Anniversary



The Arts Commission's WritersCorps program turned 15 this year and celebrated its resounding impact of the teaching artists who worked with 15,000 young people since 1994 to develop their writing, public speaking and communications skills. WritersCorps has always focused on youth whose voices have historically been underrepresented or ignored, providing meaningful opportunities for students to learn and grow. The anniversary exhibition ran at the SFAC Gallery from November 2008-January 2009 and more than 2,000 people attended. Also, a WritersCorps fundraiser in December 2008 brought in award winning writer Sherman Alexie in partnership with City Arts and Lectures.

Public Art Rises in Prominence

The Arts Commission's Public Art Program witnessed significant growth and a spike in the prominence of its commissioned artists this year. The City's investment in infrastructure as seen in public buildings and developments has become manifest in the artwork installed at the new California Academy of Sciences where Maya Lin's breathtaking wire sculpture, *Where the Land Meets the Sea* is suspended (see District One). The Chinatown Central Subway project, the Transbay Terminal and General Hospital's public art commissions will bring an influx of new artwork and add beauty and notoriety to the City's Art Collection.



Investment in our Cultural Centers

In an ongoing effort to provide technical assistance and professional development for senior staff and the boards of the four City-owned community cultural centers, the Arts Commission sponsored two events with the centers' directors and board members. The first, in October 2008 was with A.C.T.'s Heather Kitchen who discussed capital campaigns and strategies for sustaining non-profit arts groups in trying economic times. In March 2009, Jan Masaoka, director and editor-in-chief of Blue Avocado, discussed the three "r's" of board development: relationships, responsibility, and resources.

5th Annual Arts Education Resource Fair, 2008

On October 15th, 2008, the Arts Commission in partnership with the Arts Providers Alliance of San Francisco sponsored the 5th Annual Arts Education Resource Fair, and it has evolved to become one of the most important forums for SFUSD principals and educators to learn about arts education programs for their schools and students. This year brought together more than 45 organizations that exhibited their wares – curriculum, programs, artists residencies, and more – for public school professionals. It serves as the "one stop shop" and helps ensure that all our students experience high quality art programs in every school every day.

Summits and Forums on Arts and the Economic Recession

On January 12, 2009, the Arts Commission gathered the Bay Area arts community to discuss the impact of the recession on their organizations and livelihoods. Renowned Philadelphia economist Jeremy Nowak presented a keynote that offered a glimpse into the future of the field and strategies for mitigating financial crises. The 300 participants then broke out into groups to discuss how the economy was impacting them and how public funding in the arts could provide support and assistance in the months and years ahead. On May 11, 2009, the Arts Commission brings Michael Kaiser, John F. Kennedy Center President and author of *The Art of the Turnaround: Creating and Maintaining Healthy Arts Organizations* to the California Commonwealth Club to continue the dialogue.

Civic Design Review Projects

outside the City boundaries

The following Civic Design Review projects are all located outside the City districts, but all have significant impact on San Francisco’s infrastructure.

Project Name / Agency	Location
Alameda Siphon No. 4 Project - Chemical Injection Control and Electric Shed Buildings / PUC	Alameda, CA
Bay Division Pipeline Reliability Upgrade –Tunnel Shaft Housing / PUC	Various Bay Area Locations
Roselle Crossover Improvements Project - Valve Vault and Generator Buildings / PUC	Riverbank, CA
San Antonio Pump Station Upgrade Project / PUC	Sunol, CA
San Francisco International Airport Secure Connector / SFO	South San Francisco
SF International Airport Terminal 2 Renovations Project / SFO	South San Francisco
San Joaquin Pipeline / PUC	San Joaquin, CA
Sunol Yard Prefabricated Structures / PUC	Sunol, CA
Tesla Treatment Facility / PUC	Tracy, CA