

**2007 - 2008 Arts & Communities: Innovative Partnerships
Immigrant Service Organization
Exploration Grant Recipients and Project Summaries**

Applicant: *Arab Cultural Center*
Community Partner(s): *Youth Speaks*
The Living Word Project
Exploration Grant **Award: \$10,000** **Project Budget: \$10,000**

This project will research, develop and implement a series of spoken word workshops and residencies to involve immigrant and first-generation Arab American youth, regardless of religion or national origin. Building on the culturally-based oral tradition of Middle Eastern communities, these workshops will help the youth find their voice and speak out about their experiences to each other and to the world. The partnership between the Arab Cultural Center, Youth Speaks and The Living Word Project will facilitate a process involving mentoring, master classes, and technical assistance in spoken word performance.

The planning process will focus on outreach; determining the number of youth served and the selection process for youth; curriculum development; documentation of the process and actual works created; evaluation; the selection of mentors and teachers; and the securing of performance opportunities and additional funding.

This project intends to serve Arab and Middle Eastern youth (aged 15-25) living in San Francisco. The number of participants will be determined during the planning and development of the project—roughly estimated to be 15-40 youth.

Applicant: *Asian Women's Shelter*
Community Partner(s): *Luna Kids Dance*
Exploration Grant **Award: \$10,000** **Project Budget: \$16,168**

The goal of Asian Women's Shelter's "A&PI Creative Dance Project" is to bring dance to underserved Asian & Pacific Islander immigrant families who, traditionally, have had limited or no access to this art form. Specifically, AWS will expand its in-house creative dance program to include former shelter residents living in neighborhoods across San Francisco who formerly had no access to these resources once they left the shelter. Dance classes will be held at community-based sites that are familiar and accessible to former shelter residents.

AWS will work with a cadre of their on-call language and domestic violence counselors to participate in the development and implementation of creative dance classes for former shelter residents. These counselors typically act as a communication bridge between AWS staff and families and in this project will be a bridge to bring creative dance to former residents. This exploration process will allow the partners to answer questions around outreach, barriers to participation, integration of feedback from participants and accessibility. The exploration phase will also initially focus on the Filipino, Chinese and Korean immigrant communities.

The target audience includes former shelter residents who are now living in either permanent or transitional housing in neighborhoods across San Francisco. The majority of women and children who come through AWS's doors are Asian & Pacific Islander immigrants who have left situations of domestic violence. Over 95% of shelter residents are either limited or non-English speaking immigrants who have no independent economic means and have lived in social isolation.

Applicant: *Chinatown Community Development Center*
Community Partners: *Manilatown Heritage Foundation*
International Hotel Senior Housing
Exploration Grant **Award: \$10,000** **Project Budget: \$10,000**

Chinatown Community Development Center, Manilatown Heritage Foundation, and International Hotel Senior Housing, Inc. will engage in a grassroots planning process to help the community envision a mural on an exterior wall of the International Hotel, the locus of an important struggle in Chinatown and a current site of affordable senior housing. The mural will signify the International Hotel as a celebratory space of community-building and a testament to the concept of "home."

Through a call-for-artists, a community-based artist/muralist will be identified. Together, with a core group of representatives from each agency, the group will engage members of the surrounding community to solicit input on the theme of the mural. The project will allow the CCDC to continue to integrate arts into its neighborhood revitalization plans, as well as, strengthen the burgeoning relationship between the three partners.

The project will focus on community members living in Chinatown, current residents of the International Hotel, and constituencies of CCDC and Manilatown Heritage Foundation.

Applicant: *Croatian American Cultural Center*
Community Partners: *To be determined through the planning process*
Exploration Grant **Award: \$10,000** **Project Budget: \$15,000**

This planning process will enable the Croatian American Cultural Center (CACC) to design a new audience expansion and diversification strategy, and a series of 2009 programs that will attract San Francisco's under-served immigrant and refugee populations from Bosnia, Croatia, Bulgaria and the Romany to our venue.

During the first half of the project, CACC staff will meet with a wide spectrum of artists, arts groups, social service agencies, churches and mutual associations rooted in these communities. Following four months of face-to-face meetings, in June 2008, CACC staff will select the most appropriate partners in each of these four communities and engage them in the design and promotion of arts program that will attract greater number of their constituents to the Cultural Center in 2009.

The project's target audience is San Francisco's Croat, Romany, Bulgarian, Bosnian and other under-served Balkan immigrant and refugee populations.

**2007 - 2008 Arts & Communities: Innovative Partnerships
Immigrant Service Organization
Realization Grant Recipient and Project Summary**

Applicant: *La Raza Centro Legal*
Community Partner(s): *N/A*
Realization Grant **Award:** *\$32,681* **Project Budget:** *\$35,481*

The immigrant legal services and advocacy organization La Raza Centro Legal will formally launch El Coro Jornalero, a choral group made up of Latino immigrant day laborers and domestic workers drawn from our client base and membership. While the choral group has existed informally and intermittently since 2005, this project will be to formally launch and institutionalize El Coro Jornalero. Under the direction of musical director and educator Ricardo Torres, El Coro Jornalero will be a cultural vehicle for giving a public face to this population, advancing the organization's immigrant rights advocacy work, and developing the unity and leadership skills of the choral members.

By bringing together the men's and women's worker associations, El Coro Jornalero will also facilitate more direct and open communication, coordination and collaboration within the organizing body of La Raza Centro. Choral members will create specific roles within the group—like Musical Coordinators, Marketing Coordinators and Leadership Development Coordinators—where they can gain additional leadership and life skills.

The intended audiences are: fans of Latin American music and political folk and choral music in the Bay Area; the Latino immigrant community from which the chorus members come; and the progressive social justice community. La Raza Centro Legal will expose these audiences to the musical talents, experience and organized power of immigrant workers. El Coro Jornalero will also educate them about the diverse musical and political traditions represented in the chorus members and its music.