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S.F. Arts Commission Awards \$953,194 in Grants to
City Arts Groups

The San Francisco Arts Commission has awarded a total of \$365,000 in Creative Space grants to 18 San Francisco arts groups for repairs, improvements or expansions to their exhibition, training, or performance spaces. Thirty-nine other groups have received a total of \$588,194 in Organization Project grants to present exhibitions, performances, new media events or other arts projects for community audiences.

The Commission approximately doubled the amount of money awarded for space grants this year, said the Commission's Director of Cultural Affairs Richard Newirth, in order to support a larger number of city-based arts groups that have recently been confronted with needs for new or improved facilities for their programs. For example, Iconoclast Productions received a Creative Space grant for \$20,000 to repair the roof of a three-story live-work Victorian house used as live-work space for disabled artists and their families, so that the top floor will also be habitable. The Bay Area Video Coalition received \$20,000 for an expansion to accommodate a new digital lab, additional classes, and web skills training. Youth Speaks, Inc. was awarded \$30,000 to equip its new Literary Arts Center with bookshelves, a production suite, a small stage and storage space; and the Queer Cultural Center got \$30,000 to develop a performance

venue for Queer artists inside the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Transgender Community Center currently under construction at Market and Octavia streets.

Among the Organization Project grantees were: the National Poetry Association, which got \$5,000 to produce a multimedia performance poetry extravaganza featuring performances by Maya Angelou and other national and local artists; New Pickle Circus, which received \$15,000 to produce a circus performance by a multiracial cast celebrating American diversity in the new millenium; Children's Book Press, which was awarded \$12,244 to present a series of Saturday afternoon workshops for families of color in neighborhood public libraries.

The grants were made by the Commission's Cultural Equity Grants Program, which earlier this year granted a total of \$219,500 to 23 individual artists for dance, music, or theatre projects. In all, the Commission will give approximately \$1.55 million in Cultural Equity Grants for the year 2001.

Money for Cultural Equity Grants comes from a city Hotel Tax Fund allocation. The allocation was established in 1993 to give San Francisco's independent artists and small to mid-sized arts organizations fair access to the city's financial support for the arts.

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