

Community Investments
FY25 Arts Impact Endowment (AIE)
Funding Channel: New Creative Opportunities (NCO)
Individual Artist Grantees

Grantee Name Pronouns	Grant Amount	Project Summary
Celeste Chan she/her/hers	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Celeste Chan in creating Third World Liberation Front (TWLF) for the Future (SF-based social practice events). Building on her successful 2024 SFPL residency, Chan will expand the project to offer: 1) a multimedia artist presentation from her research, 2) a zine-making workshop to discuss student activism, and 3) a panel consisting of TWLF student strikers and subject matter experts.
Clara Hsu she/her/hers	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Clara Hsu's writing and production of her second Cantonese play, "A Lantern Riddle" (working title) with English Subtitles, premiering in the summer of 2026. The play is about the discovery of stories behind an intricate calligraphy found on a lantern at the Chinatown night market.
Jethro Patalinghug they/them/theirs	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support my multidisciplinary arts project, "Manghihilot" (Healer). Inspired by pre-colonial queer identities that existed in the Philippines, the Babaylans. The project will include the creation of an immersive installation and 4 human-sized sculptures made up of used drag materials - costumes, jewelry, wigs, mannequins, and Philippine indigenous fabrics. The installation will be mounted during the LGBTQIA+ History month and Filipino Heritage month in October 2026.

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Jocelyn Reyes she/her/hers	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation, development and premiere of my new evening length dance work, titled String Quartet No.Ate. Inspired by my recent Type 2 diabetes diagnosis, this work will explore the complexities of food, health and identity within my Latinx heritage with the aim to find a balance between honoring cultural roots while building a healthier future.
Juan de Dios Soto he/him/his Fiscal Sponsor (Cultura Y Nativa De Las Americas)	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the “Change Makers” after-school program, which will engage 20 participants in hands-on art, music, dance and theater. The program will run Monday-Friday, 4-6pm in two sessions: August-December and January-May. Through culturally enriching activities, students gain self-esteem, celebrate diverse traditions, and understand art’s role in social change. The program’s focus empowers students as stewards of their cultural heritage, counteracting gentrification pressures that threaten local cultural identity.
Kevin Simmonds he/him/his	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support "re/sound," an exploratory clinic and performance for people to observe, diagnose, and treat their speaking voices so as to protect, retain, and share the sounds of their chosen linguistic community/communities.

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La Doña she series & they series Fiscal Sponsor (Brava for Women in the Arts)	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support an album of boleros and sones which map the deep historical and cultural relationships between Mexico and Cuba. These genres emerge at the intersection of African, Indigenous and Colonial European roots. This album will engage with San Francisco youth and elders to map and compose in Afro-Indigenous music of resistance and place keeping.
Mabel Valdiviezo she series & they series	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support “Art for Healing,” a multidisciplinary and wellness art project featuring a documentary film, community art workshops, art installation, and a final exhibit that explores the nexus of immigration, family reconnection, mental health, identity, and belonging. Presented at a Latino cultural center in the Mission, the project will uplift the Latino immigrant experience and the complex narratives of belonging that embody their experiences. The completion date is July 2027. This art project will be open to all.
Maria Soledad Sanchez she/her/hers	\$49,350	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the making of the short film TOO DONE. Set entirely in San Francisco, TOO DONE is a shout out for respect for all and empowerment of the invisible and abused. LOGLINE: When a prissy woman steals a cleaning lady’s seat on the tram, Cleaning Lady’s anger spurs her to exact her vengeance on Miss Prissy and unravel the baggage in her own sorry life.

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Mary M Guzmán she/her/hers	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the production of LOST DOG, a short narrative film.
Oscar Penaranda he/him/his	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support publishing my book, From the Belly of the Beast: Stories, Essays, Poems based on Real Life. My current residence at the San Francisco International Hotel anchors my historic past through new writing that takes place across San Francisco, United States, and Philippines. This book will have more poems, essays, with short stories and memoir, culminating in book events across San Francisco, and life's work website/archive.
Ranko Ogura she/her/hers	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a performance, "Invisible Atlas" which shows the current crisis of water and radioactive waste in specific San Francisco sites during the evening: a Buddhist temple, forest, theater, museum, and beach. It is an immersive performance that combines Butoh and contemporary dance, acting, poetry, animation, immersive installation projections and live music, and brings the audience into a deep awareness of their daily environment.

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Tamu She/her/hers	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support COCOON CEREMONIES: MASQUERADE, a series of intentional sculpture-based workshops combining plaster casting of faces with the rich symbolism of African mask making. This project explores the question, "What do we mask?" Through the creation of masks, the series empowers participants to unmask their authentic selves, celebrate body positivity, and explore personal and spiritual enrichment through creativity. Fostering a deeper connection to identity and self-expression.
Veronica Blair She/her/hers	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation of my new work, The Body Electric—a performance art piece celebrating the resilience of bodies of color and the ancestral energy passed down to empower us today. The funds will cover research, studio rental, aerial and dance training, rehearsals, original music, costumes, and necessary permits for public performances.

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Arts Organizations Grantees

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Flyaway Productions	\$100,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support DOWN ON THE CORNER, a public art project in the Tenderloin featuring site-specific dance, original music, and video projection. The project joins transgender visibility with prison systems change and supports the transformation of 111 Taylor Street from a carceral stronghold into a trans-centric space, honoring the building's legacy of resistance as the site of Compton's Cafeteria Riot. Our coalition partner is the Turk x Taylor Initiative. This public art project will be open to all.
Joe Goode Performance Group	\$92,900	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support "Are You Okay?", which will be an immersive dance theater work to premier in San Francisco in the Fall of 2025. At a precarious time when our lives, health, jobs, governments and the technologies that connect us are in constant flux, "Are You Okay?" asks how we are managing in a world that is personally and collectively unstable.
La Lengua Teatro en Español Fiscal Sponsor (Brava for Women in the Arts)	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the production of the US premiere of "Amalia & The Life of Things" by Maricel Santin, in Spanish with English subtitles. This exciting new play about technology, identity, and longing will involve video projections, puppetry, and a moving set. It will employ dozens of artists and technicians, advancing La Lengua's mission to promote linguistic equity while producing new and original professional-quality theater.

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REALSOUL Fiscal Sponsor (Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center)	\$100,000	The San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support 'The Memory of War: Stories of 1st and 2nd Gen Refugee Artists', the commission of four performance artists to create eight lesson plans for grades 6-12. Educators will receive a free 3-hour professional development workshop with funds to invite artists for a total of twelve school-wide assemblies.