

Community Investments  
 FY24 Cultural Equity Initiatives (CEI) Grantees



Grantee Name	Grant Amount	Project Summary
<b>5 Elements</b> Fiscal Sponsor (Independent Arts & Media)	\$100,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support 5 Elements core programs that engage San Francisco youth to reimagine health and justice through hip-hop, indigenous cultural practices, and critical arts education. Funding will provide critical support to compensate and sustain staff, community artists, and emerging youth creatives deeply embedded in San Francisco communities to create programs and platforms that increase access for youth of color to develop their artistic talents and cultural practices.</p>
<b>A PLACE OF HER OWN</b> Fiscal Sponsor (Asian American Women Artists Association Inc.)	\$75,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support A PLACE OF HER OWN's (PLACE) infrastructural needs, and long-term sustainability goals, via planning for program reach expansion: director's salary, alumni leadership stipends, rent, online learning platform and consultant fees. Since 2009, we've accumulated much wisdom about internal and collective healing and transformation. We aspire to share PLACE's healing tools more widely by developing publicly available self-guided materials, and content to complement our current programming.</p>
<b>African-American Shakespeare Company</b>	\$100,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the transitional phase of a merger between African-American Shakespeare Company (AASC) and Handful players (a youth arts education organization). This merger will expand AASC's impact on the community and stability with new staff, board of directors, and programming. Funding will be put towards hiring a consultant to assist with the transitional time; professional development for staff; and supporting a joined board retreat.</p>

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<b>AfroSolo Theatre Company</b> Fiscal Sponsor (Intersection for the Arts)	\$100,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to enhance the sustainability of AfroSolo Theatre Company with efforts to increase audience attendance and earned income. The primary focus will be on its 31st and 32nd season of programs. Grant funds will be used to hire a part-time marketing manager, publicist, and social media consultant. Activities will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increased social media visibility</li> <li>2. Marketing/media outreach</li> <li>3. Website upgrades</li> <li>4. Ongoing program and work sample archiving</li> </ol>
<b>Asian American Women Artists Association Inc.</b>	\$100,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support staff in developing administrative procedures to enhance engagement with Asian American Women Artists Association Inc.'s (AAWAA) artistic community. Consequently, staff will implement a professional development plan to gain new skills in leadership, finance and data reporting. Funding will also support website maintenance for its growing audience and purchasing equipment that enable staff to more easily collaborate, work and serve the artistic communities of San Francisco.</p>
<b>Au Co Vietnamese Cultural Center</b>	\$100,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the development and implementation of a new Southeast Asian Arts and Cultural Education program for Tenderloin youth in partnership with the Tenderloin Community School. The program will be open to youth of all backgrounds and cultivate cross-cultural understanding within the Tenderloin neighborhood between the Southeast Asian and other BIPOC communities, as well as mobilizing community artists to share their traditional practices with the next generation.</p>

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<b>Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits</b> Fiscal Sponsor (QCC-The Center for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Art & Culture)	\$100,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a two-year capacity building initiative that will support us to become a 501(c)3 non-profit organization including the Legal Fees for us to incorporate, and once we are incorporated, will support D&O & Liability Insurance; Human Resources and Finance Management Fees; Consultant Fees to create a How To Manual for our annual Two-Spirit Powwow; and partially cover our Executive Director and Program Manager’s annual salaries.
<b>Bridge Live Arts</b>	\$100,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support wages and professional development for our all BIPOC-identifying, working artist staff. Funds will also support artist fees for our Community Engagement Residency artists, with whom Bridge Live Arts (B.L.A.) partners across an entire year to present social justice based art initiatives for historically marginalized communities; and access service provider fees to bolster accessibility to our programs and online content for disabled artists, audiences, and communities.
<b>Chavalos De Aqui Y Alla</b>	\$80,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Chavalos’ folklore dance and music programs by ensuring our teachers are paid equitably, providing a new home for Chavalos in the Mission District for Central American arts, and sustaining the associated expenses with folklore performances and in turn would allow us to continue providing free programming to local adults, youth and their families from all walks of life.

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<b>Chinese Historical Society of America</b>	\$100,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Chinese Historical Society of America’s (CHSA) archive digitization. With approximately 20,000 rare and valuable artifacts, CHSA will digitize its collection of photographs, objects, documents and art through 2-D and 3-D scanning and add them to its cloud-based and collections database website. This enables public access to vital historical records and artifacts, as well as supporting the care and preservation of these important and delicate objects.</p>
<b>Chrysalis Studio / Queer Ancestors Project</b> Fiscal Sponsor (QCC-The Center for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Art & Culture)	\$100,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support capacity building including increasing the hours of Executive Director/ Queer Ancestors Project (QAP) Prints and Resists Lead Teaching Artist from 128/month to 155/month; sustain lead Intern hours at 14 hours per month; add stipends for participating artists in QAP Prints; work with a disability consultant to ensure programming is as accessible as possible; add a stipend for review panels; and create a new comix workshop.</p>
<b>Clarion Performing Arts Center</b>	\$100,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support operational costs such as staff salaries, rent, payments to musicians, artists, film makers and poets who perform at Clarion Performing Arts Center; curators of film, poetry and Showgirl Magic Museum, and a drama teacher for the Children’s Theater Program.</p>

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<b>Diasporic Vietnamese Artists Network</b>	\$100,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support salaries for staff responsible for organizing and executing public benefit events and programming (Chief Operating Officer, Communications Manager, Communications Associate). They run planning &amp; logistics for our reading series at SFPL, our Southeast Asian International Book Festival (winter 2024), our 50th Anniversary Event marking the end of the war in Vietnam, and our monthly ACCENTED program and podcast on KPFA radio, among others.</p>
<b>Emerging Arts Professionals San Francisco Bay Area</b> Fiscal Sponsor (Intersection for the Arts)	\$100,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support our Equity-based Co-Director model and sustainably continuing our critical programming such as our personal and professional development Fellowship program, our annual art-workers convening at Emergence, Equity consulting and public programs, and network engagement with our primarily BIPOC, LGBTQ+ and women-identified arts and culture workers and emergent leaders.</p>
<b>Ensemble for These Times</b> Fiscal Sponsor (InterMusic SF)	\$100,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Ensemble for These Times' ongoing efforts in San Francisco to amplify traditionally underrepresented voices in contemporary classical chamber music by: performing and commissioning music by women composers; performing and commissioning works by Asian, Black, Latinx, and LGBTQIA artists; bringing these works to local audiences; continuing to consistently compensate our primarily women musicians and staff; continuing our podcast focusing on women composers; and keeping concerts accessible.</p>

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<b>Eye Zen Presents</b> Fiscal Sponsor (Intersection for the Arts)	\$100,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support operational capacity to produce two years of Eye Zen’s FabLab and OUT of Site programming, including: -Increasing Artistic Director and Managing Director salaries to 30 hours/week, increasing our capacity to administer and produce Eye Zen’s core programming -Facilitation fees for Artistic Directors of 2 FabLab seasons -Salary for a new Communications Manager to support the work of 35+ artists over two years
<b>Foglifter Press</b>	\$100,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Foglifter Press to increase our staff capacity and sustainability. Funds will support the hiring of four new positions including a Co-Editor in Chief, a Production and Distribution Manager, an Editor at Large Anthologies, and an Editor at Large Special Projects. Remaining funds will support publication storage and increased stipends to reflect their increased workloads and the growing cost of living for our entire staff.
<b>Galeria Studio 24</b>	\$100,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Galeria Studio 24’s (aka Galeria de la Raza) general operations at its two sites: Studio 24 and Studio 16. Galeria’s Studio 24 supports the Education & Workforce Development programs (5,000 sq. ft Folsom St/24th St space) and Studio 16 is the main gallery and mixed-use performance space (7,800 sq. ft site at 16th at Folsom Streets).
<b>Inkboat Inc.</b>	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission Funds will be used to support Clouds from a Crumbling Giant, or Clouds, a collaboration between inkBoat theater and dance, Wudang West Cultural Center and the San Francisco Community Living Campaign. This project delves into the cycles of growth, decline and regeneration of human structures and ideas, combining traditional Daoist cultural perspectives with theatrical performance-devising traditions rooted in the Japanese avant-garde – distilled into a 60-minute dance-theater performance.

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<b>Jess Curtisgravity Inc.</b>	\$100,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support staff and organizational capacity at Jess Curtisgravity, continuing the growth that we are experiencing through the implementation of our 2021-2025 Strategic Plan with its unwavering focus on RADICAL INTERSECTIONAL ACCESS; these funds will enable us to advance our expanded programming, assessing their utility and effectiveness, and adjusting to the ever-evolving needs of our community as an actively and publicly anti-racist, anti-ableist, and anti-sexist organization.</p>
<b>Kultivate Labs</b>	\$100,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Kultivate Labs' Balay Kreative's Kreative Growth program that issues out micro-grants, enrolls grantees in professional development courses, assigns them mentors in their field, and gives them studio space.</p>
<b>Music Is First</b> Fiscal Sponsor (Intersection for the Arts)	\$100,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support essential aspects of program operation, ensuring success and longevity, by bringing the two founders as employees, hiring a .5 program director, and hiring two teaching artists. Additional overhead costs include supplies, curriculum resources for residencies and home-school connections in San Francisco classrooms. This includes outreach, community engagement and a family-engagement series. Music Is First! ensures that programming reaches children from various backgrounds and socio-economic statuses.</p>
<b>NAKA Dance Theater</b> Fiscal Sponsor (Dancers Group)	\$100,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the employment of NAKA Dance Theater's core administrative team for 2 years, including: 1 part-time bookkeeper; 1 part-time grants writer; 1 grants manager; and 1 new bilingual communications manager. These staff are vital to our ongoing program offerings and our ability to serve our San Francisco community members.</p>

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<b>OX</b> Fiscal Sponsor (Counterpulse)	\$75,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support salaries that create new artistic leadership opportunities and foster artistic expression, allowing OX to pay its LGBTQ, BIPOC, and disabled operational staff from an annual org-wide budget instead of project-based budgets. In previous years where OX has received organizational funding, project funding is freed up to platform more artists and increase their pay, sustaining our 12-year legacy of furthering San Francisco’s queer performance art heritage.</p>
<b>Push Dance Company</b>	\$100,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support PUSH Dance Company in developing a first-ever 5-year strategic plan intended to invest in BIPOC-centered programs meant to engage community-based activism, physical health, and mental wellness at our newly developed BIPOC sanctuary dance space for global majority people.</p>
<b>Root Division</b>	\$100,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Root Division’s 2024-2026 programming, staffing, and operational costs as the organization continues its unique studios incubator, offers free dynamic youth arts programming, develops new projects and exhibitions, and supports the continued development of empowering leadership and shared knowledge. Across its core programs, RD is focused on supporting and nurturing historically marginalized communities, specifically artists, educators, curators, and youth who identify as BIPOC, immigrants, and LGBTQIA+.</p>
<b>SAMMAY Productions</b> Fiscal Sponsor (Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center)	\$100,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the organizational capacity and continued artistic development of SAMMAY Productions, a San Francisco-based arts organization committed to cultural vitality and racial equity through dance, music, performance, and intercultural exchange. From 2024-2026, these funds will be used to supplement the salaries of the Artistic Executive Director, Administrative Coordinator, and Program Coordinator and organize planning retreats for staff and associated artists.</p>



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<b>San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company</b>	\$100,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company’s productions, workshops, and operations. This will include expanding our staff by at least one, bringing us to three full-time and 5 part-time staff members, while increasing compensation and benefits for existing staff to reflect the exorbitant cost of living in the Bay Area. It will also include two world premiere productions, two festivals, and several education programs and workshops.</p>
<b>San Francisco International Hip Hop DanceFest</b> Fiscal Sponsor (Dancers Group)	\$100,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support production costs for the 2024 and 2025 annual San Francisco International DanceFest. SFAC support will be applied to annual fees for core staff and facility rental of the Palace of Fine Arts (3601 Lyon, San Francisco, CA, 94123).</p>
<b>San Francisco Recovery Theatre</b> Fiscal Sponsor (Idris Ackamoor and Cultural Odyssey)	\$100,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the core operations and organizational capacity of San Francisco Recovery Theatre (SFRT) through the hiring of a part-time Development/Marketing Director. This new position will increase the organization’s sustainability through increased fund and donor development, increased marketing/outreach, increased volunteer involvement, and the establishment of a Strategic Plan in collaboration with the Advisory Board. This will facilitate SFRT to increase artistic programming and quality of arts productions.</p>
<b>San Francisco Youth Theatre</b>	\$100,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support San Francisco Youth Theatre’s (SFYT) organizational structure and arts programming as it celebrates its 10th anniversary. The project includes creating a three-year (2025-28) strategic plan that reflects SFYT’s growing capacity and priorities. Implementation will include increased staff hours for outreach, a development professional to help us cultivate individual giving, an Executive Director succession plan, and a new theatre program for SF’s children and their families.</p>

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<b>The African &amp; African American Performing Arts Coalition</b> Fiscal Sponsor (The Dance Brigade A New Group From Wall Flower Order)	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support operating and related production expenses for the 20th Anniversary of Black Choreographers Festival: Here & Now (BCF). Honoring BCF's predecessor Black Choreographers Moving Toward the 21st Century (BCM), celebrating the history and connections of two iconic SF Festivals - preserving the legacy of Black dance; connecting artists to new audiences; bringing community together in participation, contemplation, and celebration of African American Art & Culture.
<b>The San Francisco Neo-Futurists</b> Fiscal Sponsor (Intersection for the Arts)	\$99,978	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the operations of the San Francisco Neo-Futurists, including increasing the rate of pay for our ensemble of local artists, collaborators, and technicians; creating a stipend to compensate ensemble members for work on operational committees; commissioning work from BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ artistic peers for presentation as part of our quarterly specialty shows; and creating an ongoing free workshop series for BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ community members.
<b>Theatre Flamenco of San Francisco Inc.</b>	\$100,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support our dance company, allowing us to provide innovative programming, and sustain our mission. Our plan is to use the funds strategically so we can provide more opportunities to our underserved community members to learn flamenco, train the next generation of professional artists, bring highly skilled international artist to work with local artists, and provide innovative programming for our community for the years to come.
<b>Womens Audio Mission</b>	\$100,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support critical components of Women's Audio Mission's (WAM) programming that focuses on strengthening the resources offered to BIPOC women and gender-expansive artists, including our Local Sirens paid Artist Recording Residencies and performance opportunities, as well as providing financial support for diverse women/gender-expansive artists to easily access WAM Academy music production training. Both initiatives will directly impact 200+ San Francisco Bay Area artists from historically marginalized communities.

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World Arts West	\$100,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support: 1) Hiring a new Communications Manager to design and execute WAW's organizational communications strategy; 2) Continuing to employ WAW's Grant Accelerator Co-Director to better support our yearly grant capacity building cohort of Bay Area cultural artists; 3) Hiring a new Artist Performance Coordinator to manage the 10 to 15 ensembles featured in our annual WAW Dance Festival.
Yerba Buena Arts & Events	\$100,000	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Yerba Buena Arts &amp; Events dba Yerba Buena Gardens Festival's (YBGF) capacity-building and sustainability initiatives:</p> <p>1) Engage a multimedia designer to update YBGF's website through increased archival capacity, ADA accessibility, and improve the calendar's content and mobile view.</p> <p>2) Expand programs and co-presentations beyond the May - October season to year-round cultural/community programs.</p> <p>3) Revise audience surveys and establish best practices for consistent audience counts.</p>
Zaccho SF	\$100,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support artist fees and production expenses for the biennial San Francisco Aerial Arts Festival in 2024 and 2026, and "A Poet's Love" in 2025. CEI funds will also support core staff salaries, our ongoing Youth Performing Arts Program (YPAP), and Artist Residency Programs, which support SF artists with subsidized studio time at Zaccho Studio in Bayview Hunters Point (BVHP), San Francisco.