

Grantee Name	Grant Amount	Project Summary
Afatasi the Artist	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the third annual futurism fashion experience at The Bayview Opera House. This event culturally affirms members of San Francisco’s only shrinking demographic creating a space for joy, promoting unity, and inspires future dreaming. This experience is a part of the annual Black History Month programming and includes a futurism fashion show, an art exhibition, and a panel discussion.
Christopher Burch	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a series of free in-person and virtual workshops with a focus on Black creatives ages 18-64, designed to teach vital skill sets needed to forge a successful career as a working creative; such as pitching a project proposal, creating a contract, approaching a gallery and understanding how to make a living wage for oneself.
Dianthe Spencer Fiscal Sponsor (San Francisco International Arts Festival)	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the Lift Every Voice Talent Showcase. This project will consist of a series of four rehearsals/workshops and four concerts held at the Buriel Clay Theatre in the African American Arts & Culture Complex (AAACC). The focus will be the live performance of Black music rooted in traditions such as gospel, blues, jazz, and other derived forms. All events will be free and open to the public.

Community Investments

FY23-24 Dream Keeper Initiative (DKI) – Artist Grantees



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Kevin Dublin	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the production of a hybrid critical and personal essay, reading and interview series, and a short-form literary documentary all titled: "To Be a Black Poet in San Francisco."
Lumukanda Abdul-Kenyatta Fiscal Sponsor (Bayview Hunters Point Multipurpose Senior Services, Inc.)	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the artist Lumukanda Abdul-Kenyatta and his Speakeasy Storytellers organization. The project's short-term vision is to present "Strictly Harlem," a multimedia production written and performed by the artist about the colorful characters and gripping circumstances of his upbringing in 1950-'70s Harlem. The piece will be part of the artist's "Speakeasy Storyteller Series." The project's vision is to allow up to 60 community members to learn and perform the art of storytelling.
Marcella Elizabeth Sanchez	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the Be Seen Project: The Genius and Gaze of Black Creatives, a portrait project documenting Black Creatives, centering LGBT+ people, and gathering stories of their work, life, and experiences in the Bay Area. Each Black creative receives 15 free professional portraits, will be invited to a networking event and their stories will be shared on social media and in a final public showcase.
Maria A. Judice	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a 40-seat (physical/virtual) microcinema. The microcinema will center on global Black films and support films from radical independent and avant-garde filmmakers from around the world. The space will support media literacy and critical thinking. It will also have a wrap-around education component for screenwriting, acting, and critical cinema writing. An ultimate goal is a place for communities to engage with cinema with a focus on Black and POC communities.

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Mark A. Harris	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the development and production of a powerful film, set in San Francisco, which portrays the harrowing ordeal of a Black artist and activist who narrowly escapes a fatal encounter with plainclothes police officers as he exits his Mission District art studio late at night. This story is inspired by the real-life incident I personally endured on the night of June 14th, 2020.
Marvellus Lucas Fiscal Sponsor (New Community Leadership Foundation, Inc.)	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a series of five comedy show events with the theme “Healing through Laughter.” I believe in attacking mental health issues through comedy. Laughter is, indeed, the best medicine. I will host five comedy shows to help showcase local comedians. At each show, I will share community resources to help support people in need of suicide prevention, harm reduction, job opportunities, senior care, and further opportunities.
Nekia Wright	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the production of 4 AFROlistic Wellness public events. Including: 2 AFROlistic wellness workshops & screenings of Black Healing from Zimbabwe to the Bay Documentary Film Presentations in Spring of 2024 and 2 AFROlistic song and dance presentations followed by guided AFROneural Beats Meditations during Black History Month 2025.
Reza John Harris	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the second annual “History of the Bay Day Party” in July 2024 at The Midway in San Francisco. This event is a celebration of Bay Area hip-hop history that includes rap music, DJing, graffiti art, and dance. The event features live performances and painting, discussion panels, an art gallery, historical exhibits, a car show, and local business vendors.

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Rodney Jackson	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the development and world premiere of "The Day the Sky Turned Orange" a new musical. Dream Keeper Initiative funds will support my fee as the lead artist and Director and publicity and production costs. The project's development, rehearsals & auditions, will be held at Black community venues such as the African American Art and Culture Complex, Bayview Opera House and Zaccho Dance Studio. The production's world premiere will take place at San Francisco's Brava Theater Center in June 2025.
Tajuana Kebo Drew	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support an intensive workshop series with a focus on LBTQIA+ Black filmmakers that will train them in culturally-humble grant writing, budgeting, and financial indicators, in order to build solidarity economies for film that prioritize mobilization of multiple culturally specific resources. This project will increase the number, stabilization, and growth of LBTQIA+ Black filmmakers contributing to art and culture, and serving Black communities in San Francisco.
Thomas R Simpson	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a performance/workshop series entitled: "STOP! SHOW! CONTROL!: The Art Of Surviving A Police Stop." The goal is to educate young Black men and youth on what to do during a police stop whether in a vehicle or on the street. Through role playing, the project will demonstrate three primary steps to take before, during and after the encounter to keep it from turning violent.

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Trayvon Smith	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission Dream Keeper Initiative Grant funds will be used to produce a series of five community-based events, which will include an interactive art installation entitled "Healing through Self-Expression", BIPOC artists and there will be professional networking and development opportunities. The events will have an opening and closing event to engage, promote and showcase BIPOC artists in San Francisco.
Yung Lott	\$50,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a local youth music project. As an accomplished musician myself SFAC funds will afford me the opportunity to recruit 10-15 youth from the community and to work with them as we cut an album of 10-13 songs, start to finish, in a professional recording studio. This will be the first time an artist has engaged in a project like this with the Hunters Point community.