

Community Investments
 FY24 San Francisco Artist (SFA) Grantees



Grantee Name	Grant Amount	Project Description
<p>Afatasi She/her/hers</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation of a futuristic, wearable-art collection for a Black History Month Fashion Show at the Ruth Williams Bayview Opera House in San Francisco’s Bayview-Hunter’s Point neighborhood. This wearable art collection will showcase both metal and textile elements inspired by Afro-Futurism, and feature community stakeholders and members of San Francisco’s only shrinking demographic.</p>
<p>Alexandru Salceanu He/him/his</p> <p>Fiscal Sponsor: Somarts</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support “Witness,” a long-term collaborative video project that involves immigrant communities who create autobiographical video portraits. Through an intentional methodology, participants tell their own story in the language of their choice, are involved throughout the creative process, and have ownership over composition, audio narrative, edits, and all subsequent iterations. The goal of “Witness” is to create an open/democratic/publicly-accessible visual and oral history archive.</p>
<p>Ami Molinelli She/her/hers</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to produce, record, mix and master a full length album and two concerts plus workshop titled, “Raizes: Choro & Samba” (Roots of Choro and Samba) at San Francisco State University (+workshop) and Red Poppy Art House, San Francisco. In addition, I will compose one instrumental samba as well as a five part percussion composition. The project will illustrate the music connections between Brazilian instrumental choro and samba.</p>

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<p>Amihan She/her,They/Them</p> <p>Fiscal Sponsor: Filipino-American Development Foundation)</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the composition, production and writing stages of a concept album entitled Kali-to honor my brother Kali Diwa who passed this year. I will be conceptualizing new versions of the music of Diskarte Namin-our father’s band-which was the soundtrack to our childhood. The 8-10 track project will be an oral history of collective struggle and resistance by Filipino communities in SF told through hiphop flows and neo soul melodies.</p>
<p>Ana Teresa Fernández She/her/hers</p> <p>Fiscal Sponsor: Intersection for the Arts</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used for Bodies in Water, a project that supports awareness, joy, action and agency about the ocean and sea level rise to LatinX and Black communities by providing them with access to four surfing, poetry, and art workshops. And a culminating all-day engagement at Crane Cove with the temporary installation On the Horizon that will serve as a stage for the youth and professional artists to perform on.</p>
<p>Antony Fangary He/him/his</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the development of a poetry book exploring the impacts of colonialism in Egypt: Ya Kharabi. The book will function as an investigation of Coptic diaspora and the psychological nuances engraved in historically persecuted people. It is an interweaving of Egyptian history, Coptic Prayers, and more. My work will change harmful narratives about Arabs and function as a mirror for folks in the diaspora.</p>

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<p>Ariel Mihic She/her/hers</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a 3-day performance intensive for pre-professional BIPOC acrobats under the artistic direction of a local BIPOC circus director. Training in dynamic partner acrobatics, hand-balance, contact improvisation, and dance will develop acrobats' act creation skills. A public performance showcasing acts created during the intensive alongside acts by invited SF BIPOC circus performers will further acrobats' professional development via networking and full production experience.</p>
<p>Arturo Mendez-Reyes He/him,They/them</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will support arts producer Arturo Méndez-Reyes in the research, design, and production of 'Leyendas Otomías/Otomi Legends', a collection of 6 art installations (storytelling, design, music, and AR), based on indigenous knowledge, to be showcased in multiple venues in SF. Along the multimedia pieces, I will design and print 1000 copies of a children's coloring Zine in order to make indigenous knowledge available to the public of SF in the Summer of '25.</p>
<p>Ava Koohbor She/her/hers</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support research, materials, hiring another musician, hiring an assistant for circuit building, hiring a hotographer/videographer, renting a space for experimentation and performance, hiring an Audio/visual technician and equipment rentals.</p>

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<p>Badri Valian They/them/theirs</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will support a workshop series for 5 different San Francisco immigrant communities (Iranian, Ukrainian, Latinx, Vietnamese, Filipino). These trauma-informed workshops combine storytelling with guided art exercises to help individuals verbalize/ visualize their displacement stories through the specific lens of clothing abandoned due to the complexities inherent in the process of immigration. Works will culminate in an exhibit, showcasing collective community empowerment and fostering change for future generations.</p>
<p>Biko He/him/his</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the development and presentation of Third and Palou, a revolutionary love story that begins on Third Street during the 1966 riots. Third and Palou will be a play, oral history and visual display. Original painted sets will be portable and available for display once the play closes. The production includes a curriculum tracing the history of Hunters Point and its relation to the struggles of Black people.</p>
<p>Breanna Sinclairé She/her/hers</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Breanna Sinclairé in developing and performing in a new opera titled GO2 THE WILDERNESS, written by librettist, Douglas Kearney. Sinclairé will perform as lead vocalist, serve as a vocal mentor for the other singers in the piece and collaborate with composer, Jonathan Bingham, to develop the vocal components of the score.</p>

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<p>Bryan Pangilinan He/him/his</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will support "Bombahouse the Musical" by Bryan Pangilinan and the GAPA (GLBTQ+) Fund. This musical delves into the Filipino and A&PI queer experience in late '90s San Francisco, drawing artistic inspiration from freestyle and OPM (Original Pilipino Music). The house provided refuge for over twenty queer Filipinos from across California during a time of HIV/AIDS, partying, online dating, substance use, coming out, and community activism.</p>
<p>Cheryl Derricotte She/her/hers</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to create a new body of work called 36 Trees. My goal is to make one fine art print for each of the 36 neighborhoods in San Francisco. I plan to gather leaves and fallen bark to make prints. No trees will be harmed to make this work. Text will be included on the prints, to share the story of the tree and neighborhood's history.</p>
<p>Claudia Escobar She/her/hers</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the production, post-production, and community screenings of 'When The Cicada Sang', a documentary about Márcia Treidler, an artist, activist, and capoeira master who challenged gender norms in the capoeira world, paving the way for future generations in this art form. Marcia is a local leader who continues to touch the lives of so many San Francisco residents, as well as capoeiristas around the globe.</p>

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<p>Conni McKenzie She/her/hers</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support "Borrowed," an interactive and immersive dance theater experience focused on uplifting marginalized communities and inspiring climate action such as advocacy for improved waste management systems and community gardens. It addresses the impact of climate change on communities such as Bayview-Hunters Point, offers a unique opportunity for self-discovery through nature and the arts, and ultimately aims to transform the relationship between the community and the environment.</p>
<p>Diana Lara She/her/hers</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a multidisciplinary performance that combines dance, film and 3D mapping, focused on the Honduran Lenca indigenous culture and practices around water protection and ancestry. The project will explore water protection activities and rituals to create movement, choreographic structures, and visual language. The project seeks to share the value of indigenous wisdom to contribute to a broader understanding of Honduran culture in San Francisco.</p>
<p>DjeRae He/him/his</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds funds will support artist DjeRae Lucas in the production of 'FIVE', an audio-visual 7-song EP portraying the artist's self-empowerment and self-reclamation journey as a Black Trans-Masculine person and sexual assault survivor.</p>
<p>Donna Mae Foronda She/her/hers</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support production for the independent feature film "Big Rhonda." These resources will help secure Bay Area-based cast and crew, filming locations, and essential equipment rental expenses. This social thriller story seeks to address the challenges faced by San Francisco's unhoused community due to city changes, including rising costs linked to the tech industry.</p>

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<p>Eric Garcia He/him,They/them</p> <p>Fiscal Sponsor: Dancers Group</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support The Water Will Come, a site-responsive production that explores the tenacity, interdependence, and imagination of San Francisco’s QTBIPOC community to build and protect sanctuary spaces amidst attack and adversity. The production blends devised theater, contemporary dance, and drag, creating a fully immersive, theatrical experience that places artists and audiences into the heart of queer resilience, hope, and abundance.</p>
<p>ET IV He/him/his</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Filipinx DJ, producer, and visual artist ET IV to create a short documentary film that combines oral history with archival photos, sampling, and visual collage. The project will draw connections between family, immigration, and diaspora - from the perspective of a San Francisco born-and-raised Pinoy. In centering ancestral reconnection and intergenerational healing, this film will serve as a site of mourning and honoring collective grief.</p>
<p>Genevieve Quick She/her/hers</p> <p>Fiscal Sponsor: Chinese Culture Foundation of San Francisco</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will support Planet Celadon: The Call Center; an interactive media-based installation that combines a science fiction narrative with Asian American history and cultural objects, like Scholars Rocks and the Chinese Telephone Exchange. The work prompts viewers to record multi-lingual voicemail messages to our real and imaginary ancestors, children, and communities. The work operates as a speculative telecom system and archive, expanding communication beyond our Earthly reality.</p>
<p>George McCalman He/him/his</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support NAACP award-winning artist George McCalman’s Illustrating Black History, a vivid, vital celebration of Black men and women who achieved greatness over the course of centuries in this country, culminating in a San Francisco exhibition of 300 original portraits of Black cultural pioneers.</p>

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<p>J Manuel Carmona He/him/his</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to create a four mural series called “The Latinx Queerness” that will be painted to create more public “art experiences” in the city. Over the course of a year (July 2024-2025), these murals will celebrate Latino LGBTQIA figures in the Mission District as well as honor the Queer history of 16th/Valencia Street Corridor. The murals that will be created in partnership with local businesses.</p>
<p>Jadu She/her,They/Them</p> <p>Fiscal Sponsor: Embodiment Project</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will support development of a 3-part project including solo work activated in participation with the house and youth dance communities. The process involves work-in-progress showings at a weekly house dance event informing the direction of a solo performance debuting at the Seeds Community Showcase alongside an evening-length show for the SF-based youth company. The revised solo work will then be debuted as part of the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival in June 2025.</p>
<p>Jungyoon Wie She/her/hers</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation of a 15 to 25-minute composition for string quartet entitled “Sky Lantern.”</p>
<p>Kathy L. Nguyen She/her/hers</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support my book project, a novel based on my family’s journey from Vietnam to San Francisco after decades of colonialism and war. The book draws from my family’s experiences in refugee camps in the Philippines, Guam, and Camp Pendleton after the war. It tells the story of my parents’ intergenerational trauma and struggles to rebuild their lives in America, where they face another kind of war--poverty, racism, and discrimination.</p>

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<p>Kayl Johnson He/him/his</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Kayl Johnson’s visionary project, “Expressions of Freedom”. This initiative aims to empower individuals through a series of visual art-based workshops for the community, integrating art, music, textiles, skating & movement as tools for personal liberation. In this world filled with constraints and limits Kayl aims to empower freedom in one’s inner self through creation. Fostering a sense of freedom & empowerment through artistic exploration.</p>
<p>Kevin Simmonds He/him/his</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support “The Nudists: Scoping Public Nudity in San Francisco,” a hybrid literary performance inspired by interviews with Bay Area locals. For a century before the 2013 ban, San Francisco law was the most permissive in the nation regarding public nudity. How has nudist/naturist life changed in SF? How has San Francisco’s loss of this controversial right and expression reverberated elsewhere?</p>
<p>Laurus Myth</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a mobile public sculpture. “The Junction Keep” will generate 12 performances and 4 events across SF Cultural Districts, rebuilding work lost in a wildfire. The artist creates this ‘Social Magic’ performance to engage walkers, bikers, and drivers to address public safety through an art-inspired awareness campaign. With vibrant LEDs illuminating the streets, we share community stories while interacting with SF “collision corridors.”</p>

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<p>Lenora Lee She/her/hers</p> <p>Fiscal Sponsor: Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will support the creation and SF premiere of “A Bridge to Now” culminating in six dance performances at Dance Mission Theater April 24-27, 2025. It will feature seven dancers, multimedia design, original recorded music by saxophonist Francis Wong, and research on Chinese migration to SF and Lima, Peru, cross migration between North and South America, and cultural integration and support within Chinese and Peruvian communities, spanning historical and contemporary times.</p>
<p>Lyzette Wanzer She/her/hers</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the writing of Building A Career as a Literary Artist of Color, a professional development workbook for BIPOC creative writers who’re eager to advance their writing careers in a #PublishingSoWhite industry. This work stems from my workshops of the same name that I designed during the racially fraught summer of 2020. Students habitually ask, “Where’s your book so we can continue what we’ve learned?”</p>
<p>Marcel Pardo Ariza They/them/theirs (Galeria Studio 24)</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Ahora, Nosotres, a social practice art project that will uplift San Francisco trans immigrants through community conversations, the development, creation and presentation of multimedia works and a poster art campaign.</p>
<p>Maria Breaux She/her/hers</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the writing of a creative nonfiction book centered around my brother David Breaux, who was the victim of a serial killer in Davis, California in April 2023. The title will be Compassion Guy, which David was affectionately called for his 14 years of collecting definitions of this word from passersby on a street corner in Davis, and around the country during his 2014-2015 Compassion Tour.</p>

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Maya Fuji She/her/hers	\$30,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will facilitate the creation of "Irasshimae (Welcome) - Fujimura Tobacco Shop," a solo exhibition by Japanese-American artist Maya Fuji.
Megan Kurashige She/her/hers	\$30,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation of a new dance theater piece that explores how stories and dreams offer keys to survival in the face of inevitable change. Building on collaboration with a third-generation Japanese-American farmer, the piece will be structured in modular sections conceived specifically for immersive, site-responsive performance.
Melody Takata She/her/hers Fiscal Sponsor: Nihonmachi Little Friends	\$30,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support In Their Footsteps: The Legacy of Issei Women and the Japanese YWCA, a project that will incorporate the works of poetry, dance, music and multimedia artists. Melody Takata will guide the creative process and perform with an ensemble of BIPOC artists to tell the story of resilience and activism within the Japanese American community through performances with projection mapping, original compositions, spoken word and choreography.
MK Wong He/him/his	\$30,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation of a graphic novel memoir about the healthcare challenges that Asian American elders with limited English proficiency face, as seen through the eyes of a caregiving son for his mother.

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<p>Mohammad Gorjestani He/him/his</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the development of my narrative film "Bip City", a coming-of-age allegory centered on a prolific smash-and-grab car burglar crew, colloquially known as "Bippers" set in San Francisco. The film examines the systemic challenges faced by black and brown people, set in the streets of a city that is a microcosm of a modern society marked by wealth generated at the expense of people of color.</p>
<p>Monica Magtoto She/her,They/Them</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support an installation featuring several large paintings and hand made objects forming a Day of the Dead style "ofrenda" (offering) to the Spirit of the city of San Francisco, from the perspective of two third generation San Francisco sisters. This project will explore our devotion to the city and our complex relationship to its ever changing urban landscape.</p>
<p>Nancy Cato She/her/hers</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Tomboy - a book, art exhibit and community dialogue exploring the ways Black queer/lesbian/gay/dyke/butch women defied heteronormative expectations even as children. Participants will see themselves anew, alight with possibilities and with freedom, and expressing the fullness of the Black experience, of the lesbian experience, of the working class experience, all populations that are being pushed out of San Francisco.</p>

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<p>Nancy Wang She/her/hers</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will support Strong Like Bamboo, an evening-length production exploring discrimination and violence against Asian Americans/ Pacific Islanders (AAPI). I will develop and perform my original work at this event, as well as commission and assist six professional AAPI storytellers of Korean, Japanese, Chinese and Filipino descent to develop original pieces. All seven stories will be performed twice in June 2025 at the Chinese Cultural Center in Chinatown.</p>
<p>Naomi Garcia Pasmanick She/her,They/Them</p> <p>Fiscal Sponsor: Independent Arts & Media</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Naomi Garcia Pasmanick on the production and post-production of Olas de recuerdo, a mid-length documentary film that explores memory and immigration as it relates to the identity of this San Francisco filmmaker.</p>
<p>Niloufar Talebi She/her/hers</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will support the writing of "Home Proxy Home," an essay collection that weaves together my immigrant journey and intricate ties to my ancestral land, Iran. This project explores identity and belonging through the lens of cultural, economic and psychological displacement. Sparked by my travels in the Caucasus, the essays delve into themes of home and heritage, illuminating the mosaic of dreams and unspoken desires that whisper in the diasporic consciousness.</p>

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<p>Nina Limón She/her/hers</p> <p>Fiscal Sponsor: Independent Arts & Media</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Andreína Maldonado in creating a socially-engaged music album featuring six original songs written by domestic workers and day laborers from the 2022 hit musical "Our Work, Our Dignity." This project amplifies the voices of Latinx low-wage workers, provides new economic opportunities, and showcases Maldonado's commitment to community empowerment. SFAC's grant covers studio costs, artist fees, and distribution, contributing to inclusivity and equity for these workers and collaborating artists.</p>
<p>Panda Dulce She/her,He/him</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to underwrite screenwriting and film production costs for the pilot episode of my debut long-form narrative TV series: "The Rice Rockettes." Based on interviews with SF's own all-AAPI drag family, "the Rice Rockettes," this pilot follows the family as they compete against drag celebrities in an SF-wide competition. This pilot serves as proof-of-concept for my debut long-form narrative TV series. It will premiere at a "Screening & Drag Performance" Public Event.</p>
<p>Patrick Makuakāne He/him/his</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support "KUPUKUPU," a hula dance theater production integrating a varied mix of cultural ideology, philosophy and reclaimed historical significance into songs and dance narratives which illuminate the beauty and complexity of Hawaiian culture. Featuring original music and choreography created by Patrick Makuakāne, works include traditional and contemporary Hawaiian pieces ranging from guttural melodic chants to songs exploring beloved stories of gods and goddesses with groove-induced beats.</p>

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SeQuoia He/him/his	\$30,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the further development of De Mangangá, a movement and music-driven retelling of the folklore of Besouro Mangangá, an early 20th century Brazilian capoeira legend who fought social injustice and became a symbol for resistance to oppression.
Sherene Melania She/her/hers	\$30,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation of a full length version of Unbreakable: Honoring the Women of Iran. My goal is to expand the one act piece that premiered in May. I hope to add a multimedia component, capturing the stories of Iranian women’s oppression over the past 44 years, as well as the history of women’s roles dating back to ancient Persia.
Vanessa Sanchez She/her/hers	\$30,000	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the research, development and presentation of “El Ahualulco (working title),” a percussive dance and music exploration of the historical and cultural connections between Veracruz, Mexico and Cuba.