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Donate to ArtCare
San Francisco is home to a remarkable Civic Art Collection. Comprised of over 4,000 objects worth in excess of $93 million, the Collection includes such treasures as the Coit Tower murals, sculptures by Beniamino Bufano, Lotta's Fountain and hundreds of contemporary artworks commissioned through the City’s Public Art Program. Due to the City’s budget challenges, this one-of-a-kind collection has been historically underfunded. ArtCare provides a vehicle for the public to get involved by supporting the care and maintenance of this collection for future generations. To learn more or to make a donation, visit sfartscommission.org/artcare.

Maxine Albro, California (detail), Coit Tower, 1934; fresco.

FISCAL YEAR 2011-12 HIGHLIGHTS District 8

The San Francisco Arts Commission (SFAC) is the City agency that champions the arts. We believe that a creative cultural environment is essential to the City’s well-being. Established by charter in 1932, the SFAC integrates the arts into all aspects of city life. To learn more about our programs and services visit: sfartscommission.org.

Arts and culture-inspired tourism contributes $1.7 billion to the local economy.
— Research prepared for the San Francisco Travel Association by Destination Analysts, Inc.

In the City and County of San Francisco, arts and culture organizations support approximately 19,744 full-time equivalent jobs and $508.9 million in household income to local residents.
— 2012 Arts & Economic Prosperity Report

Beautification

With $16,000 in percent-for-art funds generated by the Mission Playground renovation, the SFAC’s Public Art Program commissioned Mission-based artist Michael Bartalos to create an integrated fence design based on historic, imaginary and sometimes fanciful neighborhood characters.

SFAC’s Civic Design Review ensures excellence of the built environment through a three-phase review of structures and parks on City land by SFAC staff and commissioners. The committee carefully reviewed the renovation plans for the Mission Dolores Park Renovation to guarantee that the park facilities, courts, irrigation systems and public bathrooms met the highest level of design while fulfilling multiple needs of the community.

Supporting Arts in Your Neighborhood

The following grants were provided by the SFAC’s Cultural Equity Grants Program, which awards project-based and organizational grants to San Francisco arts organizations and individual artists. The artists, organizations and/or projects listed are either based in or performed in District Eight.

Local dancer Pearl Ubungen received a $10,000 grant to develop a pilot residency project, titled “SF Labor Force: Inner Circuitry”, that will reach San Francisco workers who have jobs supporting the lives of marginalized communities.

Benjamin Levy Dance (levydance.org) was awarded $8,100 to create “Comfort Zone”, a dance and media installation commissioned and presented by the Exploratorium.

A $10,000 grant will support dancer/choreographer Sean Dorsey (seandorseydance.com) in the choreographic development and staging of at least eight works-in-progress for his new pieces, “The Missing Generation” and “The Source of Joy.”
Fresh Meat Productions (freshmeatproductions.org) used its $11,850 grant to produce the three-day 11th Annual Fresh Meat Festival of transgender and queer performance at The Brava Theater, June 15-17, 2012.

Asociacion Mayab (asociacionmayab.org) received $13,500 for its Cultural Preservation and Promotion Program, which has the mission of preserving and promoting the values and language of the Maya culture among members of their immigrant community.

With an $11,260 grant, the 3rd i South Asian Independent Film Festival (thirdi.org) will present its 10th Anniversary festival at the Castro and Roxie theaters in November 2012.

The San Francisco Transgender Film Festival (sftff.org) won a $5,090 grant for its 11th annual festival, a four-night event taking place at CountePULSE in November 2012.

Sean Levon Nash (indioarts.com) was awarded a $7,075 grant to assist him in creating a series of short films preserving the oral histories of Choctaw elders via animated sequences. Stories will be told in Choctaw with special English subtitles that reflect the language patterns of Choctaw, rather than formal English.

The Queer Cultural Center (queerculturalcenter.org) was awarded two grants: $11,850 to produce “Creating Queer Community”, a DIY capacity-building professional development program that will support ten emerging LGBT artists and arts organizations in producing work for the 2013 National Queer Arts Festival; and $23,750 to present 24 original literature programs, performances, exhibitions, screenings and community forums that explore medical and mental health issues in the LGBT community.

$22,500 was granted to the African Advocacy Network (aansf.org) to support its partnership with Bongo Sidibe of Duniya Dance and Drum Company in creating two performances and classes, called Bankan.

John-Carlos Perea won a $7,075 grant to fund the recording and distribution of musical pieces created over the past four years that fuse Northern Plains pow-wow singing, Native American cedar flute, and jazz. The project will also include free performance and public dialogue at San Francisco State University and two master classes.

Eth-Noh-Tec (ethnohtec.org) received $25,000 to assist in the development of a three-year strategic plan that will include board development, hiring and mentoring a new Executive Director, redistributing administrative duties and recruiting young artists for apprenticeships.

Shadowlight Productions (shadowlight.org) received $11,850 to create “The Rebirth of Apsara”, a full-length experimental dance/shadow theater work created by Charya Burt and Larry Reed that will be performed in fall 2012.

Where Art Meets Education

Students at Everett Middle School learned the difference between sanctioned and unsanctioned art through Where Art Lives, an anti-graffiti curriculum that places trained urban artists in public schools to teach youth the difference between public art and graffiti vandalism. The program is the educational component of StreetSmARTS, a joint program of the SFAC and the Department of Public Works.

WritersCorps, the SFAC’s award-winning program that places professional writers in community settings to teach creative writing to youth, served 79 students at Mission High School (pictured right).

Art Marketplaces

Nurturing one of the City’s last grass-roots economies, the Street Artist Licensing Program is celebrating its 40th anniversary. A total of 380 artist spaces are located throughout the City and County of San Francisco. In District Eight, there are a total of eight spaces located in the “mini-plaza” at the intersection of 17th, Castro, and Market streets.

Out of $4 million earned annually by street artists, District Eight artists earned an estimated $88,000. Fifty-five percent of program participants reside in San Francisco.