



Arts & Culture in Community

A look ahead to increased arts engagement and support

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Core Principles

How SFF builds trust and defines the work of supporting arts and culture in community

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Geography, Strategies & Issue Areas

Exploring regions served, issue areas, bodies of work, and funding strategies

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A review of arts and culture funding 2020-2023

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focused funders



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A glimpse into the work made possible in two partner grantee organizations

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San Francisco Foundation Arts & Culture 2020-2023

A LETTER FROM THE ASSOCIATE **DIRECTOR**

I started my journey at the San Francisco Foundation in December 2018 as a consultant brought in by Landon Williams, then Senior Director of the Place Pathway. Through his experience in political liberation movements during the 1960s and 1970s, Landon knew how arts and culture shape the fabric of communities in America and globally. When accessible and supported in the fullness of their diversity, arts has the power of transforming the perception of power and privilege and the dynamics associated with justice, equity, accountability, preserving endangered cultural practices, and shifting the narrative on how we think about ourselves and society.

While access to and participation in arts is a human right, achieving this fully is still a challenge and underfunded, particularly for marginalized populations and communities of color. Artists and anchoring organizations face an uphill struggle in producing their best work in the Bay Area: of the 2300+ cultural organizations, only about 15% operate with a budget of more than \$500,000. Furthermore, about 20% of artists have left California since the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2019, SFF Place Pathway began an arts and culture refresh to advance our overall purpose of seeking to inspire and support creative problem solving—across and within sectors. We believed then and now, that the arts can play a role in addressing community challenges but recognized that we needed to launch a new



strategy inside the walls of the Foundation. We knew we needed to have significant involvement from community partners, donors and funders to develop an ecosystem approach to support the arts and culture sector. Our work over the last five years has led us to dive deep into the core principles of creative placemaking and trust-based philanthropy. Creative placemaking empowers communities and artists to use their wisdom and ingenuity for development and social change while trust-based philanthropy is an approach to balance out power dynamics when working with nonprofit organizations.

We developed our Artistic Hubs Cohort model to incorporate deeper input from and learning amongst arts grantees. Our learning from cohort input clearly demonstrates that we weren't just creating a program strategy by sitting in meeting rooms at the Foundation office. We hosted convenings designed specifically for arts leaders and us to get to know one another—both as organizations and as human beings. We selected organizations based on how grounded they were in their communities, their board/ staff makeup, geographic area and community serviced and their willingness to be authentic and honest with themselves, us, and others. We communicated how we were developing program

strategy through the help of organizations throughout the region in order to show investment and cultivating trust within the broader community. The Artistic Hubs Cohort program tackles the displacement of artists and organizations due to high living costs in the Bay Area. Since 2013, SFF has supported 41+ organizations through multiyear grants, capacity-building workshops, and technical assistance.

Through strategic grantmaking and donor support, the San Francisco Foundation provides vital help needed by vulnerable artists and arts organizations in today's challenging economic environment. I am truly proud of our collective work to date and our commitment to center boldness, equity, and community into our goals for the future.

By donating to the Artistic **Hubs Cohort Fund, you ensure** that SFF can continue its innovative work in community development, preservation of cultures, nurturing artists and organizations, and ultimately building healthy neighborhoods. Your support sustains the cultural vibrancy and social health of the Bay Area through the Foundation's work.



-Esailama Artry-Diouf, Ph.D Associate Director, Arts and Culture

BY THE NUMBERS

HOW WE

WORK

2,300+ Arts and Culture organizations in Bay Area

More than 85% operate on budgets less than \$500,000 Less than 15% operate on budgets \$500,000 or greater

545,627 employed in **Bay Area**

> by arts-related organizations

IN COMMUNITY

40,000 employed in San Francisco

to building Moving from relationships for **SILOED EFFORTS COLLECTIVE IMPACT**





CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

A community-centered, artistfacilitated approach to the planning, design, and management of our neighborhoods and communities to spur economic development and promote enduring social change.

Priority Populations

Black, Latino/Latinx, and Indigenous Communities

Very Low-Income and Extremely Low Income—at or below 2.5x's Federal Poverty Level (50% AMI in Oakland)

Women, Immigrants, Legacy Families, Formerly Incarcerated, Youth, and LGBTQ+

San Rafael and the specific Golden Gate Village public housing redevelopment project in Marin City



TRUST-BASED PHILANTHROPY

SFF works from a core of trustbased philanthropy, which aims to transform the power dynamics and structural barriers that get in the way of nonprofits achieving their intended impact.

Develop mutually-accountable relationships with our grantee partners and minimize the power imbalances inherent in our work

Center the experience and expertise of communities directly affected by the systems and policies we're working to make more just

Share what we're learning—including what's working and where to improve

SERVING 6 BAY AREA COUNTIES

Alameda **Contra Costa** Marin **San Francisco** San Mateo **Santa Clara**

San Francisco, Alameda, and Contra Costa Counties—especially in neighborhoods with high BIPOC representation

East Palo Alto and San Mateo County coastal cities including San Gregorio, Half Moon Bay, and Pescadero

Santa Clara **County** including San Jose

BODIES OF WORK

ISSUE AREAS & PARTNERS





Promote cultural preservation and equity

















Advance power building, policy change, workforce development, and narrative shift



















Promote creative placemaking



Preventing artist and non-profit displacement



























BODIES OF WORK

With creative placemaking and trust-based philanthropy at our core, SFF's key impact areas are cultural preservation, equity, enabling policy change, promoting creative placemaking, and preventing artist and nonprofit displacement from their communities. Additionally, SFF emphasizes the importance of integrating arts with education. By incorporating arts across

the curriculum, students can develop holistic problem-solving and critical thinking skills that help them to think innovatively. The Foundation's priority focus areas in education are enabling the introduction of arts in curricula, developing an appreciation for live performance, and providing teaching careers to artists.



NONPROFIT GRANT MAKING

\$900,000+

grant making

Awarded to arts organizations

197 grants awarded 2020-2023

129 partner grantees 2020-2023

AWARDS \$200,000

VISUAL & LITERARY

2021-2023

Supporting outstanding artists

24 poetry awards 12 fiction awards

4 non-fiction awards

Aligning with local government

MAJOR POLICY

ADVOCACY

Regional

policy wins

Proposition 28 passed, ensuring student arts

Assembly Bill 812 protecting affordable housing near cultural

education access

Building relationships

3 cohorts since 2013

\$2,265,000 total grants awarded to organizations with budgets **less than** \$500,000



FUNDING COLLABORATIVES

41+

ARTISTIC HUBS

COHORT

Arts orgs supported since 2013

Expanding

collective impact

5

Collaboratives

joined

60+ orgs funded

95+ artists employed

7 artists' circle projects

\$11,598,880 funds awarded



ARTS IN EDUCATION

Art is about discovering and creating ingenious ways of problem-solving, integrating principles, presenting information and making a pathway to knowing who you are. By adding the elements of art to STEM-based thinking, educators believe that students can use both sides of their brain—analytical and creative—to develop the best thinkers and makers of tomorrow.

Art contributes to the development of essential skills like collaboration, communication, problem-solving, critical thinking, and students' mental health and overall wellbeing.

PRIORITY FOCUS AREAS



Center Arts & Culture to bolster academic achievement



Inspire and cultivate new generations of participants in and supporters of the arts



Develop an Arts & Culture workforce, including viable teaching careers for individual working artists



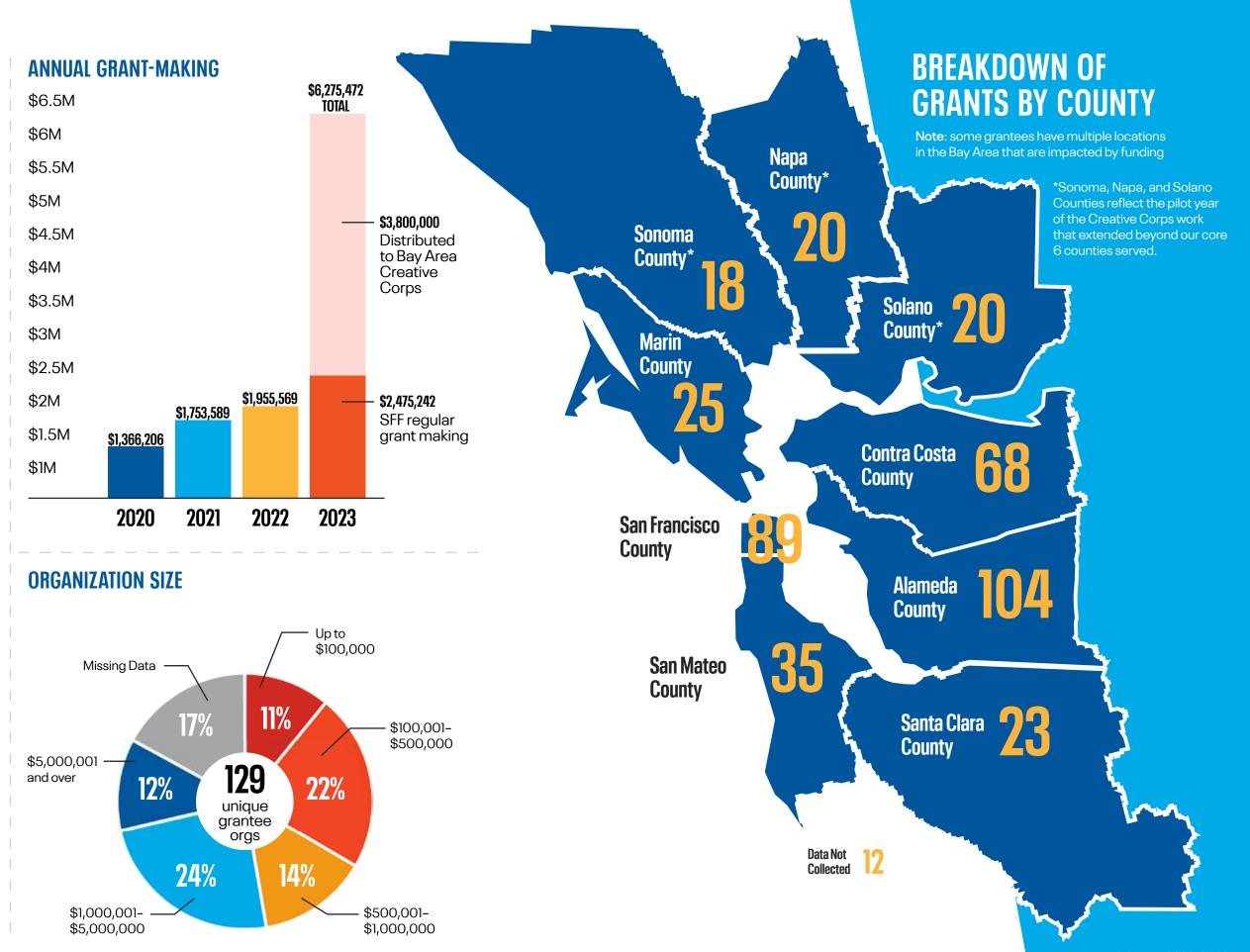
PLACE PATHWAY ARTS & CULTURE GRANTMAKING

In the four years spanning 2020–2023, more than \$11,350,000 in grants have been distributed to 129 arts organizations in the Bay Area.

The goal of the Place Pathway grantmaking is to create and preserve communities where people of different races can live, work, create, worship, and belong. Our work supports efforts to ensure that neighborhoods thrive and that residents have abundant local opportunities.

We provide funding and advocacy support for local arts organizations that advance racial equity and economic inclusion, build power around community priorities, and serve as cultural anchors in their communities.

A one-time distribution from the California Arts Council extended our impact in 2023 by more than \$3,800,000. Additional donor support for Arts & Culture moving forward will allow us to make an even bigger ongoing impact in the Bay Area.



San Francisco Foundation

Arts & Culture 2020–2023

ARTISTIC HUBS COHORT

The Artistic Hubs Cohort addresses the rising cost of living in the Bay Area that continues to displace arts organizations.

To keep these critical cultural programs in their communities, SFF has supported three cohorts of arts organizations which serve as cultural anchors for underserved communities.

OBJECTIVE

- Inspire new civic engagement as a result of artistic expression.
- Build healthier, stronger communities, facilitate social change, and promote intercultural understanding through arts, education, and community action.

41+
Arts orgs supported since 2013

APPROACH



Deeper investment.

Support organizations with a range of artistic disciplines, budget sizes, and locations with multi-year grants for general operating support.



Capacity building.

Host a sequence of workshops for cohort members to attend together to build a network, capacity, and a shared working environment.



Anchoring organizations.

Build the sense of community and engage key stakeholders in creating and sustaining it. Provide core support and technical assistance to historically underresourced orgs.

RESULTING NARRATIVE SHIFT

Local artists are invited to create new works in collaboration with local nonprofits advancing work around housing and economic displacement and promoting civic engagement.

"Oftentimes, I think these organizations can end up feeling like they're doing their work alone."

Tara Dalbo, Deputy Director, La Peña Cultural Center.

\$150,000 | 2018-2020 COHORT





CULTURE

舊金山中華文化中心

SOMARTS















AFRICAN AMERICAN ART & CULTURE









Esailama Artry-Diouf, Ph.D

organizations."

when working

with non-profit

"Creative

empowers

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and social change

while trust-based

philanthropy is an

approach to balance

out power dynamics

use their wisdom

placemaking

\$700,000-

total awarded



Grantee Arts Organizations

all with budgets less than \$500,000



2021-2023 COHORT

The 2021-23 Artistic Hubs Cohort represents a collective of 10 arts organizations who are housed and were at risk of displacement in the Malonga Casquelord Center for the Arts. Together, these organizations serve as intersections of artisic excellence, community access, and social justice.

















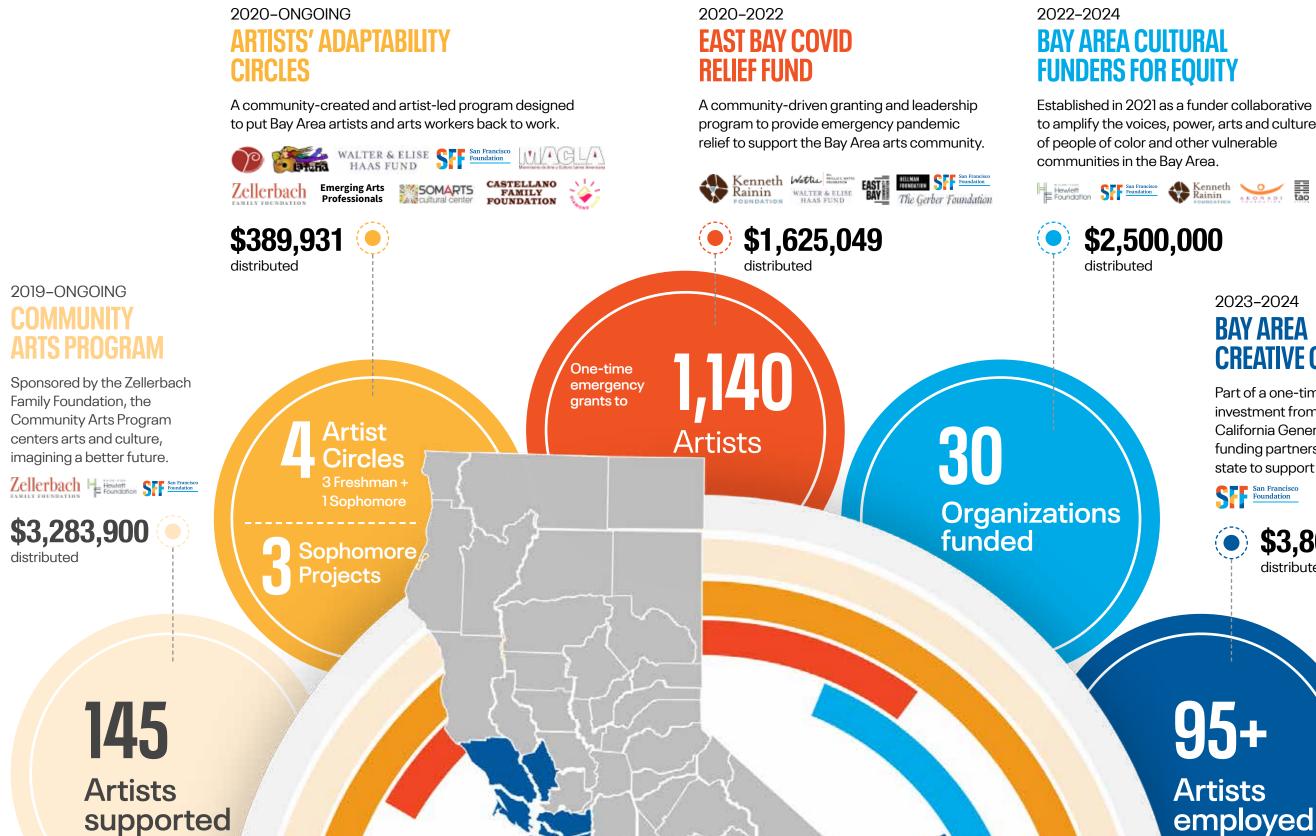


"I got so much good insights from my peers in the Bay Area doing similar work—working with similar, but different communities."

Natalia Neira-Retamal, Co-Executive Director, La Peña Cultural Center

San Francisco Foundation





Established in 2021 as a funder collaborative to amplify the voices, power, arts and cultures of people of color and other vulnerable





2023-2024 **BAY AREA CREATIVE CORPS**

Part of a one-time \$60 million investment from the State of California General Fund to 14 funding partners from across the state to support the arts.







\$3,800,000 distributed

Artists

Funding Collaboratives

COMMUNITY **ARTS PROGRAM**

HISTORY

Sponsored by the Zellerbach Family Foundation, the Community Arts Program believes arts and culture play a role in creating a thriving Bay Area by ensuring the voices, experiences, traditions, and dreams of all individuals and communities can be appreciated and celebrated.

OBJECTIVE

The Community Arts program ensures vibrant new work is created, new voices are celebrated, and artists and audiences inclusive of the Bay Area's diverse communities and cultures have opportunities to thrive.

We support the creation of work by Bay Area artists and access to the arts for Bay Area communities.

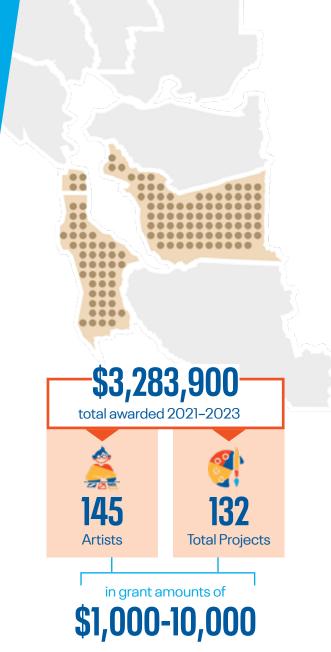
We celebrate the rich diversity of the region by awarding funds to emerging artists and small to midsized arts and culture organizations engaging their communities with meaning and purpose.

FUNDING PARTNERS









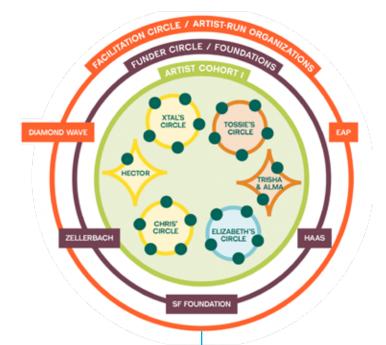
Great work is created by artists working with, in, and for their communities



The arts are a valuable tool for creating a sense of vibrancy, belonging, and dignity

Funding Collaboratives

ARTISTS' ADAPTABILITY CIRCLES





Provide direct investment in groups of individual artists Artists can better identify and address their needs and those of their culturally-specific communities

Peer-to-peer learning and collaboration expands the efforts of individual artists

Circles

3 Freshman

1 Sophomore

Results in larger and deeper change in communities and combatting colonized concepts of art

Sophomore

projects

HISTORY

The Artists' Adaptability Circles (AAC) program is a a mutual aid-based funding and cohort development program for Bay Area artists, arts workers, and culture bearers—forged out of deep, sustained conversation among arts leaders, the program supports those hardest hit by COVID-19: Black, Indigenous and People of Color, LGBTQIA+ people, people with disabilities, and other historically underresourced communities.

FUNDING PARTNERS



Emerging Arts Professionals













OBJECTIVE

Rooted in mutual aid, AAC focuses on process, journey, and support for individual artists as its goal, rather than measurable objectives or deliverables. The program operates through interconnected circles, involving advisors, artists, and organizational partners.



EAST BAY COVID RELIEF FUND

HISTORY

The East Bay COVID Relief Fund was established in 2020 to provide emergency pandemic relief to the Bay Area arts community.

The Kenneth Rainin Foundation seeded the pooled Fund that was augmented by additional support from SFF and a group of other foundations, and was administered by the Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI).

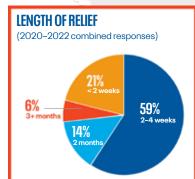
OBJECTIVE

The Fund offered up to \$2,000 to Alameda and Contra Costa Counties' individuals in the arts facing financial hardship, prioritizing the needs of artists and arts workers of cultural populations that had been and particularly were financially vulnerable—Black, Indigenous, Latinx, foreign-born immigrant, trans, and people with disabilities.



\$1,625,049 total relief grants awarded





FUNDING PARTNERS





WALTER & ELISE HAAS FUND

The Gerber Foundation Enhancing the quality of life of infants and young children







Funding Collaboratives

BAY AREA CULTURAL FUNDERS FOR EQUITY

HISTORY

The Bay Area Cultural Funders for Equity was established in 2021 as a funder collaborative focused on advancing equitable community wellbeing. The collaborative members include public funders; independent, community, and family foundations; philanthropic advisors; and donors.

OBJECTIVE

The collaborative is committed to amplifying the voices, power, and arts and cultures of people of color and other vulnerable communities in the Bay Area, particularly those living at or near the poverty line.

"We commit to amplifying the voices, power, arts, and cultures of people of color and other vulnerable communities in the Bay Area, to advance equitable community wellbeing."

-North Star Statement, Bay Area Cultural Funders for Equity

GRANTEE PARTNERS

Alena Museum

American Indian Cultural District

Artist as First Responder

ARTogether

Black Cultural Zone

Bridge Builders to the New Generation

Cheza Nami Foundation

Civic Design Studio

Contemporary Asian Theater

Scene

East Bay Center for the Performing Arts

El Comalito Collective

EPACENTER

FIERCE Advocates

Galeria de la Raza

Granny Cart Gangstas

Grown Women Dance Collective

Holy Stitch Factory Fellowship

\$2,500,000 total grants of \$40,000 awarded to

Counties

30 Organizations

Lower Bottom Playaz

Malonga Arts Collective

Peacock Rebellion

Quilt Magazine

Raizes Collective

Rawley Delane Clark

Samoan Community Development

Silicon Valley African Film Festival

Silicon Valley De-Bug

Sogorea Te' Land Trust

Watsonville Film Festival

Weaving Spirits Festival of Two-Spirit Performance

FUNDERS

Akonadi Foundation

California Arts Council

California Wellness Foundation

Chrysalis Fund

City of Oakland Cultural Affairs

David and Lucile Packard

Foundation

Dean and Margaret Lesher Foundation

East Bay Community Foundation

Ford Foundation

Grants for the Arts San Francisco

Kenneth Rainin Foundation

San Francisco Arts Commission

San Francisco Foundation

San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Tao Rising

The California Endowment

Walter and Flise Haas Fund

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

Zellerbach Family Foundation

Funding Collaboratives



APPROACH

In 2023, a one-time \$60,000,000 allocation to the California Arts Council was distributed to 14 partner organizations to lift up the role of a workforce of artists and cultural practictioners that is essential to advancing equity and well-being across California through creative and culturally-relevant problemsolving in key sectors.

San Francisco Foundation launched the Bay Area Creative Corps Program (BACC) as one of 14 partners across the state in the California Arts Council's California Create Corps pilot program. BACC hires artists and cultural strategists to help develop community-led solutions to local social justice, public health, civic engagement, and environmental challenges.

In 2023, SFF announced its 29 grantee partners with nearly \$4 million in grants and continues to support their critical work with over 60 Bay Area-based creative changemakers.

OBJECTIVE

The BACC supports community-based social change organizations eager to collaborate with artist activists, cultural strategists, and resilient culture keepers to create and/or deepen community-informed solutions in the areas of Civic Engagement, Environmental Sustainability & Resilience, Housing/Immigrant/Workers Rights, and Public Health.



APPROACH

Support a range of artistic disciplines, budget sizes and locations.

Cultural strategy

engagement

consultations

strategies

Issue area

resources

Community

SUPPORT PROVIDED

Host a sequence of workshops for cohort members to build network, capacity, and a shared working environment.

Specific training

webinars

In-person and

Resource hub

virtual convenings

Provide **technical assistance** to member organizations.

Support for

and hiring

artist outreach

NAPA COUN

Nimbus Arts

Puertas Abiertas Community Resource Center

MEMBERS

CREATIVE CORPS

North Bay Jobs with Justice

North Bay Organizing Project

Suscol Intertribal Council

Raizes Collective

MARIN COUNT

Indigenous Healing Center

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

East Bay Center for the Performing Arts

Monument Impact

ALAMEDA COUNT

Youth vs. Apocalypse

67 Sueños

Attitudinal Healing Connection

Civic Design Studio

Grown Women Dance Collective

Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity

Oakland Fund for Public Innovation

Oakland Rising

Sarah Webster Fabio Center for Social Justice

SAN FRANCISCO COUNT

California Lawyers for the Arts

Chinese for Affirmative Action

Cultural Odyssey

Creativity Explored

A. Philip Randolph Institute SF / Hip Hop for Change

SAN MATEO COUNT EPACENTER

SANTA CLARA COUNT

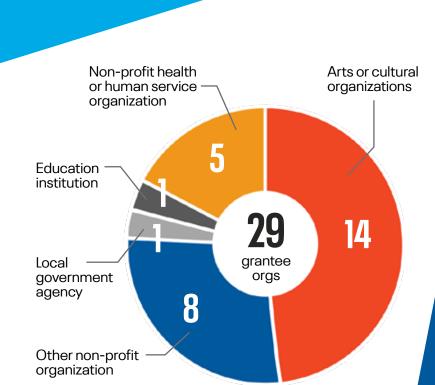
Somos Mayfair

School of Arts and Culture at the Mexican Heritage Plaza

City of San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs

Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana

Mosaic America



Of the 29 BACC grantees, nearly half are arts and culture organizations (45) and the others are a diverse group including health and human service, community organizing, powerbuilding, leadership development, and faith-based non-profits.

22 San Francisco Foundation

Grantee Highlight

SUPPORTING HOUSING JUSTICE

People Power Media's mission is to build power for housing justice and equity in land use through multimedia popular education, policy innovation, and organizing.

People Power media envisions a world where planning and land use are in the hands of the people to create cities that are truly affordable, equitable, and diverse.





2019

Production of awardwinning animated short, **Priced Out: Why You** Can't Afford a Place to Live in San Francisco.



2020

Publication of the Solutions framework to center equity in city planning, which led to the creation of the Race & Equity in all Planning Coalition (REP-SF), a housing justice coalition of 40 grassroots organizations throughout SF.









Writing and coordinating REP-SF's Citywide Peoples Plan, which led to the inclusion of over 100 equity actions in San Francisco's Housing Element, and sustained advocacy for affordable housing, holistic community planning, and protections for BIPOC, lowincome communities and small businesses.



Organizing a town hall for artists and culture bearers to help in the fight for housing justice in August 2024.



Grantee Highlight

MALONGA ARTS COLLECTIVE









Fua Dia Congo



The 2021–2023 Artistic Hubs Cohort represents a collective of 10 arts organizations who are housed in—and were at risk of displacement from—the Malonga Casquelord Center for the Arts, a historic building in the Lakeside Apartments District that is currently a performance and art space operated by the City of Oakland and Oakland Parks and Recreation. Together, these organizations serve as intersections of artistic excellence, community access, and social justice.

2021

In 2021, with grant partnerships of the LeaderSpring Center and Community Vision, the cohort of 10 organizations were able to form a leadership committee and formally establish the first ever Malonga Arts Collective (MAC).

The MAC comprises 10 nonprofit arts organizations—many of them legacy organizations spanning decades—and individual teaching artists who have partnered with the City of Oakland for over 30 years. They are situated on the 2nd and 3rd floors as well as the theater space and lobby of the Malonga Casquelord Center for the Arts in Oakland, California, where they deliver a range of arts programming.

Collectively, these organizations represent roughly 300 years of combined community presence, preserving and perpetuating the cultural art forms of each organization, and bringing community together through the arts. As the cohort evolved its own identity, SFF supported these organizations by organizing exploratory meetings

Cultural districts boost communities economically and help preserve the community's diverse heritage, artistic communities and increase tourism to strengthen the local economy.

between the MAC and the City of Oakland City Council Members and the Oakland Parks and Recreation over one year to work on solutions for affordable long-term lease agreements for the resident organizations who were currently at risk of displacement. We aimed to have these organizations anchored in this historic neighborhood to develop a new cultural district in Oakland.

2022

In 2022, after a year of strategy meetings between the MAC and City of Oakland, SFF helped to draft a City Resolution anchoring the MAC organizations in the Malonga Arts Center. **Oakland City Council passed the Resolution in March 2022 marking the 10**













organizations of the MAC as "cultural pearls" of Oakland. In December 2022, the City of Oakland established the Malonga Arts Collective as anchor tenants of the Malonga Center for the Arts. This included 10-year lease terms with one 5-year option to renew at or below market rates for use of office spaces and reduced fees for studio spaces and theater use.

Also in 2022, SFF staff and board of trustees worked with the MAC in partnership with the California Arts Advocates, a 501(c)(4) lobbying organization, to hold community engagement events raising education and awareness around policies impacting the arts and culture sector such as Prop 28 and AB 812.

On November 8, 2022, California voters approved **Proposition 28: The Arts and Music in Schools (AMS) Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act. The measure required the state to establish a new, ongoing program supporting arts instruction in schools beginning in 2023–2024.** Prop 28 ensures that all 6+ million California PK-12 students receive access to quality arts education without raising taxes.

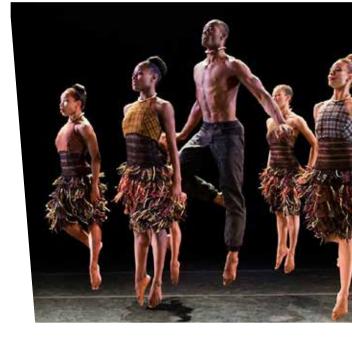
2023

In October 2023, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 812, which requires counties and cities to reserve affordable housing in or near designated cultural districts. Assemblymember Tasha Boerner, author of AB 812, shared:

"Artists are the lifeblood of our cultural communities and help preserve the cultural footprint of the region. AB 812 would authorize a city and/or county to set aside up to 10 percent of deed-restricted housing units within a state or locally-designated cultural district for eligible artists and cultural workers. This prevents artists from having to move away from the neighborhoods they contribute so much to, simply because they can no longer afford to live there."

We continue to press on towards a formal recognition of a cultural district around the Malonga Center, which will open avenues of funding at the local and state levels.







Arts & Culture 2020–2023 27

WHY SUPPORT THE **ARTS & CULTURE CAMPAIGN?**

Partner with us in supporting Bay Area artists and organizations, and ultimately building healthy communities. Your support sustains the cultural vibrancy and social health of the Bay Area through the Foundation's work.

For more information, please contact Esailama Artry-Diouf, Ph.D at eartrydiouf@sff.org.

