

California Arts Council

2016 Artists Activating Communities (AAC) Grantees

A new pilot grant program, Artists Activating Communities (AAC) supports sustained artistic residencies in community settings, demonstrating that the arts are a central component of civic life, and that artists are vital in shaping society. AAC Projects are artist-driven, engage community members as active participants, and activate participants to develop and express their own creativity. Learn more at <http://arts.ca.gov/programs/aac.php>.

Number of Grants Awarded: 47 | Total Investment: \$559,968

Organization, County, and Grant Award Amount	Project Description	Lead Artist
18th Street Arts Center <i>Los Angeles</i> \$15,000	With support from the California Arts Council, 18SAC will commission Kenyatta A. C. Hinkle to create a conceptual living artwork that uses collaboration to explore issues of Black visibility in mainstream history. In collaboration with local community members, Hinkle will conduct field research in the Pico neighborhood to develop an interactive installation that explores how “African-ness” is structured within urban and rural African-American communities.	Kenyatta A. C. Hinkle
ABD Productions <i>San Francisco</i> \$13,500	With support from the California Arts Council, ABD Productions will continue to develop and expand the Skywatchers Youth Program for homeless youth, in collaboration with Larkin Street Youth Services. Young adults participate as storytellers, performers, and audience members in the conception and presentation of interdisciplinary works of art reflecting the rich complexity of their stories and their aspirations for the future.	Anne Bluethenthal
Acuna Art Gallery and Cultural Center/Cafe on A <i>Ventura</i> \$12,000	With support from the California Arts Council, Acuna Gallery and Cultural Center will promote wellness based on Promotora, a model that uses community-defined practices to encourage participation in culturally-specific art forms. The grant will provide funds for a resident artist to create a new body of work that will weave together the stories, journeys and lives of the immigrant community into visual representations, and will engage the community in art lectures, workshops and community gatherings.	Ana Carrillo

<p>Armory Center for the Arts <i>Los Angeles</i> <i>\$12,000</i></p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, the Armory will conduct a residency with Giacomo Castagnola, an MIT-educated artist/designer based in San Francisco. The residency examines the phenomenon of street vending prevalent among LA Latino immigrant communities, building upon the recent push to legalize food vending in LA County. Castagnola will work with vendors to apply their skills to develop art and design-centered solutions to enhance production and illuminate their often marginalized societal contributions.</p>	<p>Giacomo Castagnola</p>
<p>Art Produce <i>San Diego</i> <i>\$5,600</i></p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, Art Produce will conduct a residency with a local contemporary fiber artist, traditional weavers from the Burmese refugee community, and residents of two neighboring, socio-economically diverse San Diego communities. Bridging diverse cultural art forms, this multi-generational, cross-mentoring project will provide public workshops and community celebrations culminating in a participatory gallery exhibit during the annual local Arts Festival.</p>	<p>Michelle Montjoy</p>
<p>Arts Connection, The San Bernardino County Arts Council <i>San Bernardino</i> <i>\$7,290</i></p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, Arts Connection—in collaboration with artist Michael Segura—will offer a series of political cartooning workshops for teens and adults in the City of San Bernardino. Workshops will engage participants in discussions around local, regional and national issues, and introduce them to fundamental techniques and materials. Participants will have the opportunity to publish work in the <i>Inland Empire Community News</i> and <i>Uncle Jam</i>, and on Arts Connection's website.</p>	<p>Michael Segura</p>
<p>Asian Art Museum Foundation of San Francisco <i>San Francisco</i> <i>\$12,000</i></p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, the Asian Art Museum will present <i>The Testimony Project</i>, a multifaceted collaborative project between the AAM and SF-based artist Eliza Gregory. <i>Testimony</i> aims to explore individual and collective experiences around contemporary immigration in San Francisco, and to present those experiences in a way that promotes justice, conversation, and connection within San Francisco's diverse communities.</p>	<p>Eliza Gregory</p>

<p>Attitudinal Healing Connection Alameda \$12,000</p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, Attitudinal Healing Connection will produce the fourth installation of our Superhero mural series. We will commission experienced public artists to create a mural during the spring of 2017, transforming a 4000-square foot stretch of West Oakland. This arts-centered community building effort brings together local students, artists, and residents, while addressing the impact of neglect and blight on a changing community.</p>	<p>David Burke</p>
<p>AuCo Vietnamese Cultural Center San Francisco \$15,000</p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, master musician Van-Anh Vo will partner with AuCo to provide a music workshop series to teach cultural and artistic traditions of Vietnam to children and young adults of Vietnamese heritage. Workshops are open to the general public and are free of charge. Workshops educate participants about Vietnamese traditional music and aim to bridge the generational and cultural divides between Vietnamese parents and their children, and between the Vietnamese community and the general public.</p>	<p>Van-Anh Vo</p>
<p>Brava for Women in the Arts San Francisco \$13,500</p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, Brava and choreographer Jesus Cortes will work with 50 San Francisco youth ages 13-18 to develop and premiere a new musical. <i>Camino Mexicano</i> will tell interwoven stories of Mexican immigrants and Mexican Americans living in early 20th-century California. The youth, predominantly from the Mission District's Latino families, will premiere the work in May 2017 in our 360-seat theater in the days leading up to the 39th annual San Francisco Carnaval.</p>	<p>Jesus Cortes</p>
<p>California Shakespeare Theater Alameda \$6,750</p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, California Shakespeare Theater will partner with actors Cat Brooks and Anna Maria Luera to extend the Rysing Womyn series they have developed through their previous work with Motivating, Inspiring, Supporting & Serving Sexually Exploited Youth (MISSEY). Our project will engage commercially sexually exploited girls and young women through a series of weekly workshops to tell their stories through monologues, poetry, and the written word.</p>	<p>Cat Brooks</p>

<p>Chinese Culture Foundation of San Francisco <i>San Francisco</i> \$13,500</p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, the Chinese Culture Foundation will partner with artist Justin Hoover to implement Martial Spirit, a community arts residency exploring Choy Li Fut kung fu. Hoover will work with his teacher Grandmaster Doc-Fai Wong and members of the International Plum Blossom Kung Fu Federation. Residency-based activities will be held in the Ping Yuen Housing Project and the adjacent Cordelia Alleyway in San Francisco Chinatown.</p>	<p>Justin Hoover</p>
<p>City of Walnut Creek Civic Arts Education <i>Contra Costa</i> \$13,500</p>	<p>Civic Arts and a social practice artist will engage Walnut Creek affordable housing residents with <i>A Drive to Create</i>. In partnership with residents at two sites, Peter Foucault will explore creativity and community issues, then co-design a project addressing a key issue. Seven on-site artmaking sessions per site will enrich lives, amplify voices around self-identified community needs, and facilitate continued arts involvement through documentation, public events and follow-up outreach.</p>	<p>Peter Foucault</p>
<p>Collage Dance Theatre <i>Los Angeles</i> \$12,000</p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre will partner with Heidi Duckler and Toogie Barcelo to curate a festival at King Hing, a historic Chinese Cinema Hall in the heart of LA's Chinatown, animating the space with dance, film and multidisciplinary installations from local artists in the company's first ever ongoing series.</p>	<p>Heidi Duckler</p>
<p>Community Works West <i>Alameda</i> \$12,000</p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, Community Works will produce an original multi-media production directed by Bay Area actor/director Margo Hall. Ms. Hall will lead “Rising Voices,” a theater internship program for women recently released from jail. Through 26 weeks of workshops and rehearsals, Ms. Hall will work with participants to create an original drama incorporating the women’s own words. The piece will premiere in spring 2017. Grant funds will support the resident artist, Margo Hall, and the RV Program Coordinator.</p>	<p>Margo Hall</p>
<p>CONTRA-TIEMPO <i>Los Angeles</i> \$15,000</p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, CONTRA-TIEMPO will use Urban Latin Dance Theater, specifically our signature “choreographic lab” approach, to help foster dialogue and create change around social issues facing low-income Black and Spanish-speaking residents in Community Coalition’s target South LA neighborhoods, helping develop residents’ senses of themselves as artists and as agents for social change.</p>	<p>Ana Maria Alvarez</p>

<p>Dell'Arte Inc. Humboldt \$11,744</p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, Dell'Arte International will partner with the RAVEN Project of the Youth Service Bureau, a program of the Redwood Community Action Agency. Dell'Arte's Community Arts Director will invite youth from the Queer Coffee House at the RAVEN project to participate as creators and performers of theatrical material that is inspired and envisioned by themselves, in collaborative with the artist.</p>	<p>Zuzka Sabata</p>
<p>Developmental Disabilities Service Organization Sacramento \$13,500</p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, DDSO/The Short Center Repertory will use "Theatrical Clown" performance technique, expertise in ASL performance, and experience with the accommodations of blind actors and persons with developmental disabilities to mentor high school-age students who are blind, deaf or have developmental or learning disabilities through summer intensive workshops, monthly one-day sessions during the school year, and a culminating workshop performance.</p>	<p>James C. Anderson</p>
<p>DSTL Arts Los Angeles \$6,210</p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, DSTL Arts—in partnership with City of Los Angeles' Exposition Park Regional Library—will execute an artist residency with Luis A. Pichardo, Jennifer Fuentes, and Andres Rivera facilitating 13 zine-making workshops with South LA residents examining the effects the 1992 LA Riots had on their communities. The project will culminate in the artists' collaborative book release and a reading featuring the artists and workshop participants on the 25th anniversary of the LA Riots.</p>	<p>Jennifer Fuentes</p>
<p>EastSide Arts Alliance Alameda \$15,000</p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, EastSide Arts Alliance will work with artist José Navarrete to implement a year-long free program cultivating and expanding an experimental performance ecosystem in East Oakland's communities of color. Navarrete will convene a cohort of emerging experimental artists of color through mentorship, leadership, and opportunity; grow audiences of color from the neighborhood; and connect these emerging artists directly to their surrounding communities.</p>	<p>José Navarrete</p>

<p>Embodiment Project <i>Alameda</i> \$13,500</p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, Embodiment Project will work with Destiny Arts Center and Oakland dancer/teacher Mika Lemoine to direct a year-long street dance mentorship program led by five teaching artists for 45 East Bay girls of color aged 9-18. The mentorship program will focus on the girls' self-esteem, body image, and empowerment through workshops, dance classes, group activities, and mentor/mentee attendance at Bay Area street dance events.</p>	<p>Mika Lemoine</p>
<p>Fresno Arts Council Inc. <i>Fresno</i> \$8,460</p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, the Fresno Arts Council will partner with the Barrio Art Collective and Fresno Autonomous Summer Program to provide a summer intensive mural project for at-risk youth that will culminate in the installation of a youth-designed mural on the historic Azteca Theater in Fresno. Funds will specifically be used to pay two professional artists and ten youth artists, and to provide art materials and equipment for the development and completion of the mural.</p>	<p>Mauro Carrera</p>
<p>Higher Gliffs <i>Alameda</i> \$12,000</p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, the Community Rejuvenation Project will collaborate with Rich City Rides to create a mural on its headquarters to increase awareness around their community mobilizing initiative to promote healthy lifestyles, neighborhood history awareness, and alternatives to fossil fuel-based transportation.</p>	<p>Desi Mundo and Pancho Peskador</p>
<p>Idris Ackamoor and Cultural Odyssey <i>San Francisco</i> \$13,500</p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, Cultural Odyssey will conduct a sustained artistic residency with musician Idris Ackamoor at the African American Art & Culture Complex in the Western Addition community of San Francisco. The activities will be characterized by participatory artmaking and deep interaction with the community. Funds will be utilized to support artistic fees, production costs, marketing and audience development, and project administration.</p>	<p>Idris Ackamoor</p>

<p>Kala Art Institute <i>Alameda</i> <i>\$13,500</i></p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, Kala will partner with artist Sue Mark and Oakland’s Golden Gate Library for Communities Crossing: Commons Archive, a collaborative creative residency at an arts organization (Kala) and a community setting (GG library) that will create an evolving collection of stories and ephemera that supports neighborhood social memory. This new archive will follow the structure of popular tool lending library-based programs, making local history accessible and tangible.</p>	<p>Sue Mark</p>
<p>Los Angeles Master Chorale Association <i>Los Angeles</i> <i>\$13,500</i></p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, the Los Angeles Master Chorale (LAMC) will engage Grammy-winning composer and conductor Eric Whitacre as the organization's first-ever artist-in-residence. Whitacre's project will harness emerging technology to inspire creativity and foster community among participants, many of whom will be new to LAMC, and provide unique opportunities for active participation in singing and the choral arts in traditional and non-traditional settings alike.</p>	<p>Eric Whitacre</p>
<p>Los Angeles Opera Company <i>Los Angeles</i> <i>\$15,000</i></p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, LA Opera will expand its partnership with the Mariachi Conservatory to engage community members in the Zarzuela Project, encouraging a tradition of opera in East L.A. In year-long weekly workshops, LA Opera lead and teaching artists will train and nurture a dynamic community opera performing group—with participation of children, families and adults—in the creation and production Zarzuela, a popular form of Spanish opera.</p>	<p>Melodee Fernandez</p>
<p>Mariposa County Arts Council <i>Mariposa</i> <i>\$12,000</i></p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, the Mariposa County Arts Council (MCACI) and actor/playwright Lee Stetson will develop and produce a traveling theatrical pageant exploring the history of Mariposa County from the beginning of the Gold Rush in 1849 through the following two decades. This production, created entirely by Mariposa residents, will tour to three isolated communities within Mariposa County. The production will be mounted annually with new material and participants.</p>	<p>Lee Stetson</p>

<p>Nurturing Independence Through Artistic Development <i>Contra Costa</i> \$12,000</p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, NIAD will work with artist Ellen Lake on Bench Projects, a site-specific public art project transforming 60 under-utilized bench ads throughout the City of Richmond into bus bench galleries featuring print-based artwork that engages new audiences and activates public space.</p>	<p>Ellen Lake</p>
<p>Palo Alto Art Center Foundation <i>Santa Clara</i> \$13,500</p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation will conduct a multidisciplinary sequential residency with Bay Area artist Lisa Solomon to engage teens in a series of multi-site art workshops exploring color. The residency will empower local teens, many of whom are facing tremendous academic stress in school, to discover their artistic abilities through individual and group projects, building on the power of color as a creative and therapeutic tool.</p>	<p>Lisa Solomon</p>
<p>PEN Center USA <i>Los Angeles</i> \$12,000</p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, PEN CENTER USA will engage Lilliam Rivera as a Young Adult Writer in Residency. Ms. Rivera will facilitate a series of creative writing experiences featuring workshops in fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and screenwriting for PEN Center USA student members. The workshops will incorporate the use of social media platforms like Twitter and Instagram to share youth stories.</p>	<p>Lilliam Rivera</p>
<p>Piece by Piece <i>Los Angeles</i> \$13,500</p>	<p>With support from the CAC, artist Betty Rosen will conduct community-participatory programming to engage low-income residents of Taylor Yard in the completion of Mosaic Storytelling Sculptures themed with motifs that explore and celebrate the critical value of water, Los Angeles River ecosystems, family recreation opportunities, the role of creativity in family life, and similar topics of importance to the community as determined during the Sculpture Design Planning phase.</p>	<p>Betty Rosen</p>
<p>Queer Rebel Productions <i>San Francisco</i> \$15,000</p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, Queer Rebel Productions and artist Celeste Chan will conduct QTPOC FREE School, a year-long literary workshop for LGBT/queer and transgender people of color in Oakland. Our aim is to build community, foster artistry, and promote the history and visibility of LGBT people of color. Project leadership comes from the community (a queer woman of color). Awarded funds will pay for project staff time, outreach, and artistic supplies.</p>	<p>Celeste Chan</p>

<p>Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project – QWOCMAP <i>San Francisco</i> <i>\$13,500</i></p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, QWOCMAP will conduct an artist-in-residence hosted by SFWAR that will provide free professional filmmaking workshops and popular education learning circles to increase engagement around factors that contribute to the spectrum of violence against lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer (LBTQ) women of color. Awarded funds will support artist fees for workshop instructors, stipends for filmmaker mentors, and associated workshop costs.</p>	<p>Madeleine Lim</p>
<p>Riverside Art Museum <i>Riverside</i> <i>\$3,224</i></p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, Riverside Art Museum will engage low-income residents in Riverside’s Eastside neighborhood in creative art-making activities facilitated by public practice artist Cynthia Herrera. PROJECT BICI happenings - in vacant lots and alleyways - will include a series of photography, storytelling and bookmaking workshops in which participants are encouraged to tell, write and archive histories by creating books, sharing stories and performing live readings.</p>	<p>Cynthia Herrera</p>
<p>San Diego Art Institute <i>San Diego</i> <i>\$12,000</i></p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, San Diego Art Institute will engage non museum-going audiences visiting Horton Plaza mall and the blind community of San Diego through free, hands-on collaborative artmaking activities with SDAI's artists-in-residence Cat Chiu Phillips, Aren Skalman, and Omar Lopex. Activities will include creating installations out of discarded plastic bags and VHS tapes that incorporate sound elements, as well as rubbed drawings and clay sculptures.</p>	<p>Cat Chiu Phillips</p>
<p>Santa Cecilia Orchestra <i>Los Angeles</i> <i>\$13,500</i></p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, Santa Cecilia Orchestra will present “Musica del Pueblo” (Music of the Community), which comprises chamber music workshops and performances at Santa Cecilia Arts and Learning Center for beginning musicians, amateur musicians and retired musicians, particularly adults of color who are underrepresented in orchestral fields. Our participants will receive coaching, share musical ideas, rehearse together and play in a performance for the community.</p>	<p>Sonia Marie De Leon</p>

<p>SFMOMA <i>San Francisco</i> \$13,500</p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, SFMOMA will commission a new public artwork by California-based artist Josh Kun in partnership with the San Francisco Public Library (SFPL). The project will utilize SFPL’s musical archival holdings as a way to rethink what San Francisco means to local residents. The interactive sound-based collaboration will involve research, design, recording, fabrication, installation, and documentation of the artwork from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.</p>	<p>Josh Kun</p>
<p>Shakespeare - San Francisco <i>San Francisco</i> \$15,000</p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival will engage community members from the Central Valley town of Salida in the Shakespeare for All program, a collaborative project that brings professional actors and community members together to create and perform a Shakespeare play that reflects the local community. The culminating production will be presented at the Salida and Modesto libraries to engage the larger community.</p>	<p>Stephen Muterspaugh</p>
<p>Sierra County Arts Council <i>Sierra</i> \$8,000</p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, the Sierra County Arts Council will reinvigorate the theater program in our frontier towns through a slate of events designed to engage a new generation and to reignite local passion for creative expression. Grant monies will be used to deploy a talented team of skilled theater artists to inspire regular town folks to return to the lively arts and in so doing return Yuba Theatre to its central role at the cultural heart of our community.</p>	<p>Scott Ewing</p>
<p>The AjA Project <i>San Diego</i> \$13,050</p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, The AjA Project will provide photography-based arts training and empowerment mentorship for transborder youth through a series of workshops engaging participants in documenting their everyday aesthetic encounters. Through dialogues with border artists and interviews with peers, participants will generate a digital living archive and a large-scale public art installation exploring the complexities of the transfronterizo experience.</p>	<p>Rebecca Maria Goldschmidt</p>

The Arts Council of Kern <i>Kern</i> <i>\$10,000</i>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, the Arts Council of Kern will partner with the Kern County Sheriff's Population Management Department at the Lerdo Detention Facility to program a creative writing residency and a visual arts program to their minimum security inmates in their Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program. Each program will be hands-on and taught by qualified Kern County artists. CAC funds will be used for program instruction and instructional supplies.</p>	Porter Jamison
The Cutting Ball Theater <i>San Francisco</i> <i>\$12,000</i>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, Cutting Ball Theater will offer a three-month-long theater residency at De Marillac Academy and Larkin Street Youth Services, both of which provide services to underserved youth and teens. Lead Artist Marilet Martinez will teach general theater classes, with a focus on improv technique and her specialty of stage combat. Students in the residency also will also attend performances at Cutting Ball's theater in the Tenderloin neighborhood.</p>	Marilet Martinez
TheatreWorkers Project <i>Los Angeles</i> <i>\$5,600</i>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, TheatreWorkers Project (inspired by the concept of Restorative Justice) will work with the Friends Outside in Los Angeles County Fatherhood Project to provide theatre workshops to men who are transitioning from incarceration to society. Participation in improvisation, writing and storytelling will culminate in a performance for families and friends, that will promote positive self esteem as the men redefine their personal narratives.</p>	Susan Franklin Tanner
Upstate Community Enhancement Foundation <i>Butte</i> <i>\$12,000</i>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, Upstate Community Enhancement Foundation - Friends of the Arts - will bring together visual and performing arts professionals to offer Artisme classes that combine dance, writing, theater and visual arts to build confidence in the creative voice. Our target audience: retirees. Our goal: Create ART AMBASSADORS trained to express themselves in productive, healthy and potentially life changing ways to influence others with Artisme methods.</p>	Christine Mac Shane

<p>Workshop for Community Arts <i>Orange</i> <i>\$9,040</i></p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, WCA will facilitate Travieso Press, a community bookmaking project that brings together Santa Ana writers, artists, and residents to produce a series of community-written and community-published children's picture books, handmade through cartonera-style publishing. Books will be distributed for free through various nonprofit and social service venues, thus creating an additional ripple effect of meaningful and accessible experiences with literature and art for Santa Ana children and families.</p>	<p>Adriana Sánchez Alexander</p>
<p>Youth Art Exchange/The Tides Center <i>San Francisco</i> <i>\$15,000</i></p>	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, Youth Art Exchange will partner with architect Craig Hollow to activate the Mission neighborhood through the design and build of a parklet. The process of designing the parklet will engage San Francisco youth and the surrounding community of stakeholders to create a new outdoor gathering space and a vibrant physical improvement to the neighborhood. Funds will be matched by Umpqua Bank and used to support the artist's salary and program supplies.</p>	<p>Craig Hollow</p>