



California Arts Council 2016 Cultural Pathways Grantees

A new pilot grant program, Cultural Pathways is rooted in the California Arts Council's commitment to serving the needs of an increasingly demographically complex California, and the belief that a healthy arts ecosystem reflects contributions from all of California's diverse populations. This program provides two years of operating support and a host of technical assistance and professional development activities to small and emerging organizations rooted in communities of color, recent immigrant and refugee communities, or tribal groups. Learn more at <http://arts.ca.gov/programs/pathways.php>.

Number of Grants Awarded: 28 | Total Investment: \$ 280,000

African American Historical & Cultural Museum of the San Joaquin Valley, Fresno

\$10,000

In 1984, the African American Historical & Cultural Museum of the San Joaquin Valley Museum was established to provide a vehicle for African Americans who made significant contributions to the richness of the San Joaquin Valley. The museum is committed to telling the story of African Americans in all its permutations: family life, the Civil Rights movement, arts and entertainment, sports, medicine, architecture, politics, religion, law and technology. The African American Historical & Cultural Museum of the San Joaquin Valley is the only entity of its kind, located in Fresno, California to serve the entire Central Valley. The specific purpose of this corporation is to promote an understanding, appreciation, and awareness of African Americans, historically and culturally, throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

AfroSolo Theatre Company, San Francisco

\$10,000

The mission of the AfroSolo Theatre Company is to nurture, promote and present African American and African Diasporan art and culture through solo performances and the visual and literary arts. Through art, we bring people of all ethnicities together to explore and share the human spirit that binds us all. Since 1994, we have presented the annual AfroSolo Arts Festival, the only festival of its kind in the United States. A forum for African Americans and the larger African Diaspora, the festival highlights the work of a wide range of solo performing artists and visual artists, giving voice to the unique experience of being Black, while fostering dialogue about Black arts and culture and the social issues that fuel these artists.

Alternative Theater Ensemble, Marin

\$10,000

Mission: Committed to the creative growth of theater artists and to a community that is inclusive, diverse, and accepting, AlterTheater seeks to make theater more accessible to the non-theatergoing public by producing compelling work in places where people are, and to reconnect all theatergoers with the unique power of intimate, immediate storytelling. Founded on the principles of ensemble collaboration and artistic risk, AlterTheater Ensemble is also committed to new works and local artists. Purpose: AlterTheater exists to expand opportunities to artists of color, to give voice to the unheard, and to bring the marginalized to the consciousness of the mainstream. We produce in highly visible places, particularly in storefronts along the downtown pedestrian shopping district, where passersby can "window shop" theater. We make theater seem fun and accessible to people who might not normally think about attending a play. Our audiences are nearly 2/3 low-income.

Breath of Fire Latina Theater Ensemble, Orange

\$10,000

Our mission is to support the work and enrich the lives of Latinas in the visual and performing arts. Breath of Fire Latina Theater Ensemble creates opportunities and leadership roles for Latinas in the visual and performing arts. We aim to produce work that reflects, impacts and empowers the Latino community. We believe in the transformative power of theater and aim to raise awareness of critical issues in the community, entertain and challenge, foster cross-cultural understanding and be a catalyst for personal healing and social justice. Core Values: A Platform for Untold/Under-told Stories; Creating and Fostering Leadership Opportunities for Latinas in the Performing Arts; Commitment to education and outreach in our community; Personal Healing; and Social Justice.

Cambodia Town Film Festival, Los Angeles

\$10,000

The Cambodia Town Film Festival (CTFF) is a multi-day film forum that screens new studio and independent features, documentaries, foreign features, short films, animated shorts and re-released classics. Each year's program includes a variety of special events and panel discussions featuring directors, producers, writers and actors. CTFF provides a creative forum for both seasoned and emerging filmmakers and artists, offering an opportunity for both students and well-established professionals to showcase their talent. One of the key purposes of CTFF is to highlight the diversity of the Cambodian experience through the art of filmmaking. By specifically featuring films that deal with not only traditional genres and topics but contemporary socio-political conflicts, economic challenges, and identity negotiation as well,

the Festival seeks to encourage new dialogue on a global scale. The fourth CTFF will be held September 1-4, 2016.

Chaksam-pa Tibetan Dance & Opera Company, Contra Costa

\$10,000

Chaksam-pa Tibetan Dance & Opera Company's mission is to teach, preserve, and promote Tibet's traditional performing arts in the diaspora. Tibetan opera, folk songs, and dances are a heritage that once brought folklore, social satire, and the teachings of Buddha to the far-flung regions of independent Tibet. These indigenous art forms, handed down from master to student for centuries, were the fabric of knowledge about Tibetan identity and the common cultural heritage of the people that are either suppressed or altered in today's Tibet.

El Sereno Community Arts, Los Angeles

\$10,000

El Sereno Community Art's mission is to stimulate and encourage the identity, wellness and empowerment of the El Sereno community through culturally significant events and art programs.

Eritrean Community Center of Santa Clara (ECC), Santa Clara

\$10,000

The ECC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, non-religious, non-political organization made possible by the generous donations of our community. ECC welcomes all without regard to racial, ethnic, regional, religious, political, or socio-economic background and its mission seeks to: Serve as a springboard for a vibrant community geared towards empowering Eritrean-Americans in Santa Clara County and beyond; Preserve our heritage and history to strengthen cultural vitality; Make a positive difference in the community by providing social, cultural, educational, professional & recreational programs for youth, families, and seniors; Foster community spirit by creating a place for family & friends to come together; Be an essential resource for the community by providing free or heavily subsidized social services in critical areas such as health, legal aid & senior support; Promote awareness & understanding of the Eritrean-American subculture in the mainstream.

Filipino American Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles

\$10,000

The Filipino American Symphony Orchestra (FASO) is committed to encouraging orchestral music and cultural diversity by developing and promoting Filipino American artists through programs designed to educate and enrich the community. FASO's vision is to be the premiere cultural orchestra that will sustain artistic excellence in the Filipino American community; and,

to be the avenue of cultural growth especially the youth, and help in developing love and pride not only in music but in one's identity. The goals of FASO are: to foster growth in establishing and developing Filipino American orchestra musicians, to advance and promote Filipino music, to serve and support the community, and to provide opportunities to the community to experience a positive atmosphere of Filipino culture.

Gabrielino/ Tongva Springs Foundation, Los Angeles

\$10,000

The Gabrielino/Tongva Springs Foundation is a non-profit organization established to preserve and protect the Ancestral Village of Kuruvungna Springs, located within the University High School Campus in West Los Angeles. The G/TSF will educate youth and community in general about California Indigenous History. The special focus will be on the original inhabitants of the Los Angeles Basin, the Gabrielino/Tongva People, and the preservation and protection of the sacred ceremonial Springs at Kuruvungna. The G/TSF will maintain and develop the cultural center and museum that serves as a repository of artifacts, historical documents, oral histories, photo collections and other cultural and historical resources directly associated with the history of the Gabrielino/Tongva People.

Garifuna American Heritage Foundation United, Inc., Los Angeles

\$10,000

GAHFU's mission is to serve the Garifuna-American, Caribbean-American and Central American/Afro-Latino community in the greater Los Angeles and Long Beach area, the United States and abroad through cultural education programs, outreach, advocacy and social services programs. It is dedicated to the dissemination and preservation of Garifuna heritage through the arts, music, culture and language education such as Garifuna classes, cultural competency and enrichment programs, and community forums. GAHFU's main purpose is to preserve the uniqueness of the Garifuna culture, history, language, music, arts & crafts and spirituality by working closely with community organizers not only in Los Angeles County, but throughout the world. GAHFU will properly channel the music, dance and the arts as Garinagu have a strong, talented and artistically inclined group of artists who are the lifeline of the Garifuna culture.

Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California, Alameda

\$10,000

ICCNC is an independent, non-profit organization serving the Muslim-American and greater Bay area communities. ICCNC provides a dynamic space that cultivates an exchange of ideas about Islam through art, culture, and education. In existence since 1996, ICCNC provides religious services to Bay area Muslims (Friday prayers and official holidays), a weekend Farsi school for children, and various cultural and social programs. Our arts and cultural activities (10-20 events

each year) welcome the general public: Muslim, non-Muslim and secular people can come together, meet and dialogue. The arts and culture programs consists of Islam & Authors' readings, film screenings, musical and theater performances, and art exhibitions and workshops.

Kapwa, San Francisco

\$10,000

Kapwa's primary Mission and Purpose is to present the pre-colonial music, dance and regalia of the Philippines in their traditional contexts, following the proper protocols of the Philippine cultural groups they represent. Kapwa's current repertoire focuses on the Maguindanao and Maranao kulintang traditions of Mindanao, Philippines, and its specialties are educational performances and hands-on workshops that engage audiences and community participants directly. This direct engagement and experience of the art forms is in alignment with how the art forms are experienced by villagers in the Philippines and it is Kapwa's intention to give Americans a similar authentic experience to help them better understand the art forms within their cultural and social contexts. Kapwa's secondary mission is to make its programs family friendly and affordable for all audiences - but particularly for Filipino-Americans who may not have easy access to their pre-colonial culture.

Kayamanan Ng Lahi Philippine Folk Arts, Los Angeles

\$10,000

Kayamanan Ng Lahi Philippine Folk Arts is committed to presenting, promoting and preserving the richness and diversity of Philippine culture through folk and traditional dance and music. For more than 25 years, the organization has educated, entertained and enlightened hundreds of members and hundreds of thousands of diverse audiences.

KSTARPRODUCTIONS, Alameda

\$10,000

The mission of K*STAR*PRODUCTIONS (K*S*P) is to fearlessly cultivate a diverse environment that inspires, informs, and supports the evolution of the arts through relationship building, mentoring, exploration, and presentation. Part of our mission is to make production accessible to the community at large with a focus on African American constituents. This goal is attained by forming alliances, traveling, producing concerts, workshops & Master classes, hosting public symposiums, & providing professional development information to emerging artists.

Lao Community Cultural Center, San Diego

\$10,000

The Lao Community Cultural Center (LCCC) was founded in February 1992. Its mission is to

promote unity and collaboration among Lao-Americans of all ethnic groups and to facilitate cultural exchange between the Lao Community and other communities at large. LCCC goals are cultural preservation, education, and exchange through collaborative community events, activities, and programs to promote Lao language, arts, culture and cuisine. Engaging Lao-American youth is paramount to the preservation of the centuries old Laotian culture and is the way forward.

Lucha Inc., Ventura

\$10,000

The Inlakech Cultural Arts Center/Lucha Inc. is committed to Artistic Excellence. Its mission is to continue to provide a structured year round Enrichment Literacy Learning Program for both youth and the elderly in Ventura county. The maestros strive to provide a safe and supportive after-school learning environment for youth to meet and engage with their peers artistically. The participants are empowered to realize their full potential in order to enhance their cultural self-expression and maximizing their creative potential through dancing, music, art, and theatre. Their success is the strongest motivational tool that has empowered our students to succeed in a variety of performances in community venues; These presentations translate into healthy relationships. Many of the new arrivals who come into the center enroll as a consequence to the constant modeling we do throughout the community.

Media Arts Santa Ana, Orange

\$10,000

Media Arts Santa Ana (MASA), a fiscally sponsored project of Community Partners, promotes self-expression, community empowerment, civic participation and cultural agility by providing free and affordable film screenings and discussions, media arts training and interdisciplinary workshops to underserved youth and adults in the primarily Latino immigrant and working class communities in and around Santa Ana. MASA's core programs include the OC Film Fiesta multicultural film festival, the OC Cinema Camp and the Youth Murals and Media Class. Our mission is to inspire the growth and development of the Media Arts in Santa Ana by empowering the local community through classes, festivals, screenings, access to technology, workshops, special initiatives, social media training and networking opportunities. We will achieve this mission via the aforementioned programs, bilingual technology workshops, community partnerships and the development of new programs.

Network of Myanmar American Association, Los Angeles

\$10,000

The Network of Myanmar (Burmese) American Association (NetMAA) is a nonprofit organization run entirely by volunteer efforts. NetMAA's dedication to promoting networking

among Myanmar-Americans has made us a cohesive and, civically active community.

OBJECTIVES: To support and promote education, social issues, arts, and culture. To educate the Myanmar-American community about our rich cultural heritage, and build bridges of friendship and understanding with other communities. To maintain open communication and cooperation between NetMAA and other Myanmar-American organizations, as well as other groups representing other racial and ethnic communities. NetMAA is a grassroots underserved community-based organization that understands the Myanmar (Burmese) culture, and has worked closely with other Asian and Southeast Asian communities across the United States for more than ten years.

Performing Arts United, Sacramento

\$10,000

Performing Arts United (PAU) provides education, encouragement and development of performing arts consisting of Music Production, Vocal/Songwriting, Acting, Dance and Video Production, to at-risk youth and communities underserved, promoting K -12, post-secondary education and entrepreneurship to strengthen communities. Providing arts and culture to youth that are at-risk academically, improve other subjects of learning in education. Youth develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, which build youth's self-confidence and esteem in the classroom. Students that excel in school, decrease adolescent behavior, set educational goals and help youth prevent the challenges of being at-risk in their community. Providing performing arts and teaching students 21st century technology skills, of music composition can create job opportunities and encourage further education in the arts field of music production and engineering.

Regional Organization of Oaxaca, Los Angeles

\$10,000

The mission of the Regional Organization of Oaxaca (hereafter ORO) is to preserve and promote the Oaxacan indigenous arts and culture. ORO was created by Oaxacan immigrants who considered that despite the sizable Oaxacan community residing in Los Angeles, there were few opportunities to engage in cultural activities that were relevant to us and reinforce cultural traditions from our places of origin. That is why we took on the task of creating those social and cultural spaces. For close to 30 years ORO has been one of the main driving forces organizing the Oaxacan immigrant communities to share our indigenous culture with other residents of Los Angeles through the organization of cultural events (e.g. La Guelaguetza, Spring Festival) and the creation of music and dance groups specialized in performing Oaxacan music and dances.

Rock Rose Gallery and Production Studio, Los Angeles

\$10,000

Rock Rose Gallery and Production Studio was established in August of 2000 in the Northeast Los Angeles community of Highland Park, known as the first arts community in the greater Los Angeles area. As an arts incubator for artists of all disciplines artists are encouraged to flourish at Rock Rose, a safe and nurturing environment which also allows the community to be inspired and to get in touch with their own creative spirit. Over the years Rock Rose has served as a nexus for local artists to develop and present their work in several disciplines including spoken word, music, dance, the visual and media arts, and folk art practices. The space has not only served as an incubator for the artists but also as a haven for local youth to attend workshops and performances. The eclectic menu of presentations has attracted a variety of audiences from other areas into the NELA community.

San Bernardino Generation Now, San Bernardino

\$10,000

San Bernardino Generation Now strives to empower and unite our communities through education, economic development and civic participation. By encouraging residents and its youth to take an active role in strengthening San Bernardino, the organization will develop into community leaders who will create a new cultural identity for our city.

San Diego Multicultural LGBT Literary Foundation, San Diego

\$10,000

The Multicultural LGBT Literary Foundation's mission is to promote and preserve works by lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender authors and artists of color and their allies. The Multicultural LGBT Literary Foundation's vision is to nurture the arts, racial justice, and literacy within LGBT culture.

Senderos, Santa Cruz

\$10,000

Senderos' mission is to create pathways to success and build community by sharing Latino culture through cultural arts and by fostering educational opportunities. Senderos, meaning pathways, celebrates Latino culture and history through the artistic expression of dance and music, as well as supporting student academic success and adult basic education. Senderos provides equitable access to the arts by offering free after-school instruction with Centeotl Danza y Baile and Ensamble Musical. Linking young people to their heritage enhances self-esteem and promotes family unity. Performing at over 20 school and community events each year, Senderos stays connected to its Oaxacan roots with our authentic cultural festival, Vive Oaxaca Guelaguetza. While proudly representing their countries of origin, Senderos participants

bring art, culture, and community together to break down barriers and increase understanding and the acceptance of diversity throughout Santa Cruz County.

Sewam American Indian Dance, Marin

\$10,000

Sewam Dance is dedicated to sharing the highest quality meaningful, and culturally rich American Indian presentations to audiences everywhere. We share the art, culture and beauty of American Indian people through performance and education presentations, enriching participants understanding of American Indian cultural traditions and celebrating the diversity of our varied communities. Through our presentations, residency programs, education enrichment programs, and large-scale productions we share cultural histories, dances, and songs which are often not seen outside of Native community gatherings. In these specialized programs audiences are exposed to oral narratives, meanings of dances, cultural history, lifestyle, arts, and participate in building awareness and connections across diverse communities.

Silk Road House, Contra Costa

\$10,000

The Silk Road House was created to host arts activities that bring to life the traditions of the Silk Road here in California, and to celebrate the Silk Road's renowned hospitality. We promote and support the cultural traditions of Central Asia, which formed the heart of the ancient Silk Road. Our core constituency is made up primarily of émigrés from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, though we are inclusive and maintain lively connections with other groups from neighboring cultures. The Silk Road House symbolizes the communications and bonds between peoples and cultures of the historic Silk Road. By fostering community, it creates a contemporary social network connecting people who love those cultures. The Silk Road House provides Central Asians a place to maintain their identity in a country that knows little about their culture of origin, and provides a welcoming space for Americans to experience the history, culture, languages, and everyday life of Silk Road countries.

World Stage Performance Gallery, Los Angeles

\$10,000

The World Stage is an educational performance gallery rooted in the African American community. Our mission is to provide leadership to secure, preserve and advance the position of African American music, literature and works in the oral tradition to a local national and international audience.