



Strengthening arts, culture,
and creative expression as the
tools to cultivate a better
California for all.

Gavin Newsom, Governor
Danielle Brazell, Executive Director
2750 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento CA 95833
(916) 322-6555 | www.arts.ca.gov

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL MEETING**

**Friday, May 15, 2026
10:00 A.M. – 1:50 P.M.**

On Location/Virtual Hybrid Meeting

**Madelyn Helling Library
980 Helling Way, Nevada City, CA 95959**

**Online meeting access will be provided at:
<https://arts.ca.gov/about/council-meetings>**

**ASL Interpretation will be provided via Zoom.
Interpretación simultánea en español – transmisión de audio por Zoom.**

10:00 A.M.	1. Call to Order	R. Messina Captor
10:00 A.M. (5 min)	2. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum	J. Miller
10:05 A.M. (5 min)	3. Land and Peoples Acknowledgement	S. Covert, Executive Director, Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe and Executive Director, HUSWEJ
10:10 A.M. (5 min)	4. Opening Remarks & Community Agreements	R. Messina Captor
10:15 A.M. (5 min)	5. Welcome to Nevada City <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nick Wilczek, Nevada County Librarian • Eliza Tudor, Executive Director – Nevada County Arts Council 	N. Wilczek E. Tudor
10:20 A.M. (5 min)	6. Chair’s Report (TAB P)	R. Messina Captor

10:25 A.M. (5 min)	7. Executive Director’s Report (TAB Q)	D. Brazell
10:30 A.M. (5 min)	8. VOTING ITEM: Minutes from Previous Meetings (TAB R) <i>Council will vote to approve the following minutes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Meeting – February 6, 2026 • Council Meeting – April 20, 2026 	R. Messina Captor
10:35 A.M. (35 min)	9. VOTING ITEM: 2027-2032 CAC Strategic Plan (TAB S) <i>The Strategic Planning Committee will present their recommendations for the agency’s 2027-2032 Strategic Plan.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation (5 min) • Public Comment (15 min) • Discussion (15 min) 	R. Hirabayashi D. Keehn
11:10 A.M. (25 min)	10. PRESENTATION: Native American Artist Grant Program (TAB T) <i>Staff will present an update on the Native American Artist Grant Program currently in development.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation (15 min) • Discussion (10 min) 	E. Gollub
11:35 A.M. (30 min)	WORKING LUNCH	
12:05 P.M. (20 min)	11. PRESENTATION: Folk and Traditional Arts Program (TAB U) <i>CAC staff along with the Director of the Administering Organization will provide an overview of the CAC’s Folk and Traditional Arts program.</i>	E. Gollub A. Kitchener



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<p>12:25 P.M. (45 min)</p>	<p>12. General Public Comment</p> <p><i>Two forms of public comment will be offered:</i></p> <p><i>Comments will be accepted during the meeting in person or over Zoom.</i></p> <p><i>Written comment submissions will also be accepted online prior to and up through 10 a.m. on the second business day following the close of the meeting.</i></p> <p><i>Live public comments will be limited to three minutes per person and 30 minutes in total, as allowed by Bagley-Keene.</i></p>	<p>Q. Moore</p>
<p>1:10 P.M. (15 min)</p>	<p>13. COMMITTEE REPORTS (TAB V)</p> <p>a. 50th Anniversary Committee Report b. Legislative Committee Report</p>	<p>R. Messina Captor</p>
<p>1:25 P.M. (15 min)</p>	<p>14. Open Council Discussion</p>	<p>R. Messina Captor</p>
<p>1:40 P.M. (5 min)</p>	<p>15. In Memoriam</p>	<p>N. Miner</p>
<p>1:45 P.M. (5 min)</p>	<p>16. Closing Remarks</p> <p><i>Call for agenda items for June 26, 2026, Council Meeting</i></p>	<p>R. Messina Captor</p>
<p>1:50 P.M.</p>	<p>17. Adjournment</p>	<p>R. Messina Captor</p>



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**Agenda items included within this public notice may be added, removed or altered until 10 days prior to meeting time.*

1. *All times indicated and the orders of business are approximate and subject to change.*
2. *Any item listed on the agenda is subject to possible Council action.*
3. *A brief mid-meeting break may be taken at the call of the Chair.*
4. *The CAC retains the right to convene an advisory committee meeting pursuant to Government Code Sec. 11125 (d).*
5. *Public meetings held featuring a virtual/Zoom component will include online Spanish and ASL interpreters whenever possible. Should you need additional reasonable accommodations, please make sure you request no later than May 11 at 5 p.m. Please direct your request to the Public Affairs Specialist, Kimberly Brown, at kimberly.brown@arts.ca.gov.*
6. *Public comment instructions will be provided at <https://arts.ca.gov/about/council-meetings/>*
7. *Arts and cultural organizations or coalitions that wish to be scheduled on an upcoming agenda must submit a request to info@arts.ca.gov outlining a synopsis of their work and their purpose for inclusion at a Council meeting. All requests will be sent to the Council Chair for consideration and may or may not be accepted and subsequently scheduled.*

TAB P

California Arts Council | Public Meeting | 05/15/2026

Chair Report
Roxanne Messina Captor
May 15, 2026
Nevada City

As we look at this council meeting after our 50th anniversary celebration April 20th in Sacramento where we honored ten artists throughout the state with the CAC Award chosen from our council and state and local partners, and honoring the original founding council members we realize the California Arts Council has five decades of championing creativity, community, and cultural expression across our remarkable state. We are looking at our 50 years past but one year into the future.

The arts bring people together in ways that few things can. They help us understand one another across cultures and generations. They remind us of whom we are and help us imagine who we might become.

We were joined by Governor Newsom, First Partner Jennifer Sibel Newsom and the founding Governor of the arts council Jerry Brown. Jerry brown started the CA Arts Council in 1975 It was his vision and dedication to the arts that shaped arts in the state.

Now we look to the work ahead. The grant deciding process. Allocations for those grants at a time when the CAC budget is still in question. Initiating the Tribal grant which has been discussed for some time. Sustaining the sector requires investment not only in programming, but in people:

- living wages
- professional development
- leadership pipelines
- benefits and administrative capacity

Public investment in the arts is catalytic. State funding helps organizations leverage philanthropy, local investment, and earned revenue. Small investments often have outsized impact, especially for emerging organizations and underserved communities. Stable state support allows organizations to hire, train, and retain workers rather than operating in perpetual crisis response.

California's creative workforce shapes how the world sees this state. The arts are not supplemental to California's future economy — they are central to it. Investing in creative workers is an investment in innovation, civic life, cultural continuity, and economic competitiveness. The California Arts Council stands ready to partner with the Legislature to build a more sustainable, inclusive, and future-ready creative economy workforce.

TAB Q

California Arts Council | Public Meeting | 05/15/2026



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Danielle Brazell, **Executive Director**
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May 15, 2026

Executive Director's Report

Dear Council Members,

I am pleased to provide the following update on California Arts Council (CAC) programs, services, and agency activities.

1. 50TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION AND PUBLIC CEREMONY

On April 20, 2026, CAC hosted two successful events honoring the agency's original 1976 founding council members and recognizing ten individuals and organizations whose contributions have had a lasting impact on California's arts and culture sector.

Founding members in attendance included Gary Snyder, Peter Coyote, Suzanne Jackson, and Luis Valdez, along with Paul Lanier, son of Ruth Asawa, and Joe Lewis, President of the Noah Purifoy Foundation. Honorees included David Geffen, Mildred Howard, Barbara Kruger, Magic Theatre, Cheech Marin, Charles Ray, Sage Romero, San Jose Taiko, Josie Talamantez, and Luis Valdez (El Teatro Campesino).

The reception, held at the Governor's Mansion, was attended by state partners including the California Film Commission, Office of the Small Business Advocate, State-Local Partners, The Hewlett Foundation, Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, the Stuart Foundation, Creative West, and additional donors. Governor Gavin Newsom, First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, and former Governor Jerry Brown delivered remarks emphasizing the importance of public investment in the arts and its role in California's economic and civic vitality.

The public ceremony followed at Memorial Auditorium drew more than 500 attendees. The evening opened with a performance by Oakland-based aerial dance company BANDALOOP on the auditorium façade, followed by a cultural processional welcoming guests into the venue. Chair Roxanne Messina Captor formally convened the meeting, established quorum and served as the Mistress of Ceremonies'.

The program included recognition of founding members, remarks from Peter Coyote, Speaker Robert Rivas, and Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Arts, Senator Ben Allen.

The awards presentation was led by California Poet Laureate Lee Herrick. Each honoree received a custom-designed award designed by council member Alex Israel. The ceremony concluded with a performance by the Sacramento Pop Choir from the auditorium balcony.

Producing these events required months of active fundraising, procurement, planning, and production led by staff in collaboration with the Ad Hoc 50th Anniversary Committee (Roxanne Messina Captor and Rick Stein), the Governor's Office, donors with the support of contractors Staged Right Productions and Californians for the Arts.

CAC is now advancing a 50th anniversary publicity campaign highlighting agency programs and grantees and continuing outreach encouraging grantees to dedicate events, exhibitions, workshops, and programs in recognition of CAC's 50th anniversary year.

2. FY 2026–27 BUDGET CYCLE

a. Legislative Hearings - CAC's executive team provided testimony before Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on State Administration and Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration and General Government regarding CAC programs and services and potential impacts of proposed federal budget reductions. These hearings were informational only, as CAC had no active budget proposals before the Legislature.

b. Federal Budget Proposals - The President's proposed FY 2026–27 federal budget would reduce National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funding from \$207 million to \$29 million and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) funding from \$207 million to \$38 million, with the stated long-term goal of eliminating both agencies.

Under federal law, 40% of NEA appropriations are allocated to state arts agencies. CAC currently receives just over \$1 million annually to support salary costs, operational overhead, and youth arts education grants. Similar reductions proposed in FY 2025–26 were ultimately not enacted. Federal budget negotiations remain ongoing.

3. LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAMS

a. FY 2025–26 Grant Processing - All FY 2025–26 grant payments have been processed except for three agreements pending resolution of required state forms. Approximately 80% of agreements were executed by the March 31, 2026, deadline, with the remaining 20% completed by April 14, 2026.

Delays were primarily due to staffing shortages within the Operations Unit. All vacancies have now been filled, and staff anticipate full compliance with future execution deadlines.

c. FY 2026–27 Panelist Recruitment and Training - CAC received 899 panelist applications, with 854 applicants approved to date for inclusion in the panel pool. Panel curation is expected to begin the week of May 17, with panel orientation and training scheduled between late May and early June.

Panelists must meet eligibility requirements, including California residency, minimum age requirements, and demonstrated expertise or lived experience related to nonprofit organizations, grantmaking, arts programming, or community-based work. Training covers CAC policies, scoring practices, conflict-of-interest requirements, and program-specific review criteria.

d. FY 2026–27 Outreach Activities - CAC conducted nine in-person outreach workshops statewide, with 484 registered participants and 220 attendees, representing approximately 45% attendance. Workshops were held in Sacramento, Riverside, Carson, Redding, Scotts Valley, Sonoma County, Bakersfield, Richmond, and Encinitas.

Locations were selected based on lower application volume, lower historical funding success rates, and Healthy Places Index considerations to better reach underserved communities. Several workshops were co-hosted with regional partners to strengthen local engagement.

Additional outreach included publicly accessible pre-recorded webinars for each grant program and office hours with Arts Program Specialists.

Applications for CAC’s FY 2026 Local Assistance grant programs closed on May 12, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Staff are currently conducting eligibility reviews.

4. KEEP ARTS IN SCHOOLS (KAIS)

CAC’s Keep Arts in Schools (KAIS) Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund allows Californians to contribute through their state tax returns to support youth arts education grants. Established in 2015, the program requires a minimum annual contribution threshold of \$250,000 and periodic legislative reauthorization.

Although reauthorized in the 2025 Budget Act, the fund failed to meet the required contribution threshold and was subsequently removed from the Franchise Tax Board’s voluntary contribution list for the 2025 filing year. In prior years, the threshold had narrowly been missed, but the program remained active.

If \$250,000 is not appropriated to CAC in FY 2026–27, the reduction will negatively affect statewide local assistance grant funding. CAC is currently working with the Department of

Finance to address the Franchise Tax Board's removal of the fund and restore it for the 2026 tax year.

5. PROGRAMS

a. Poetry Out Loud - California Poetry Out Loud Champion Lilly Braly of Marin County traveled to Washington, D.C., to compete in the national championship. She advanced through the first two rounds of the Western States Regional Semifinals on April 28, 2026, marking California's strongest placement since Mia Ronn of Los Angeles County won the national title in 2022.

On April 29, Lilly met with Congressman Jared Huffman to discuss Poetry Out Loud, her development as a writer and performer, and her future career goals.

b. Native American Grant Program Development - Executive Director Danielle Brazell and CAC staff participated in a listening session at Lólmen Gallery in Shingle Springs with California Native American artists and culture bearers. The session is part of CAC's ongoing effort to co-develop a grant program specifically designed to support Native American artists and address longstanding funding disparities. Feedback gathered during the session will directly inform program development. CAC extends its appreciation to the Shingle Springs Exhibition & Collections Center Staff Cultural Department staff for hosting the convening, specifically Sigrid Benson Director, Jackie Calachini, Curator of Collections, and Meyo Marrufo, artist and culture bearer for creating the environment and conditions for such a rich listening session.

c. Creative Economy Plan- The Joint Committee on the Arts scheduled an informational hearing on the Creative Economy Plan for May 14, 2026. Speakers include CAC staff, Chair Roxanne Messina Captor, and members of the Creative Economy workgroup. Council members are welcome to attend and provide public comment. The hearing is scheduled to begin at 10:00am and conclude at 1:30pm.

d. Arts in Corrections - Nineteen organizations were contracted to provide arts programming in 30 institutions across the state. Contractors include Marin Shakespeare, Tia Chuchas Centro Cultural, Alliance for California Traditional Arts and Healing Rhythms, among others. Participating institutions include California Health Care Facility in Stockton, California Institution for Women in Chino, and California State Prisons in Los Angeles County, Sacramento, Solano and Centinela. Each contractor offers a range of programming to multiple institutions. Programs will include African drumming, songwriting, improvisational theatre, creative expression workshops, visual arts, hip hop dance, beadwork, DJing, and art therapy, and many more.

Staff is working with San Diego State University and their Prison Arts Collective team to conduct impact research and reporting, provide capacity building, and facilitate the cohort of contractors for peer-to-peer learning and overall program improvement. CAC will be hosting a convening for AIC contractors June 8-9 in Sacramento. This is an opportunity for all AIC providers to come together to share best practices and challenges and gather stories of impact.

6. LOOKING AHEAD

With the poignant and mission-centered implementation of the 50th Anniversary events completed, staff are now focused on and producing a series of council meetings, grant panel adjudication, committee meetings, preparing for budget hearings post-May Revision, end of fiscal year closing, and procurement activities related to CAC's next strategic plan.

CAC continues to navigate a challenging fiscal environment while remaining committed to demonstrating the statewide value and public return on investment generated through arts funding.

Please let me know if additional information regarding any of these activities or programs would be helpful.

Respectfully submitted,



Danielle Brazell
Executive Director

TAB R

California Arts Council | Public Meeting | 05/15/2026

Minutes of Public Meeting
CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL
Friday, February 6, 2026
10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
On Location
Angels Gate Cultural Center
3601 S. Gaffey Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

The members of the California Arts Council convened in Sacramento to celebrate the agency's 50th anniversary, honor its founding Council, and present awards to influential artists, creatives, and culture bearers listed in the minutes below.

Council Members Present:

Council Chair Roxanne Messina Captor
Council Vice Chair Nicola Miner

Council Member Caleb Duarte (Remote)
Council Member Vicki Estrada
Council Member Leah Goodwin
Council Member Roy Hirabayashi
Council Member Alex Israel
Council Member Dorka Keehn
Council Member Rick Stein

Council Members Absent:

None

Arts Council Staff Present:

Danielle Brazell, Executive Director
Michelle Radmand, Chief Deputy Director (Remote)
Sylmia Britt, Deputy Director (Remote)
Carissa Gutierrez, Director of Public Affairs
Kristin Margolis, Director of Program Services (Remote)
Megan Morgan, Race & Equity Manager (Remote)
Arielle Rubin, Arts Program Specialist
Rebecca Ratzkin, Equity Measures & Evaluation Manager (Remote)
Kimberly Brown, Public Affairs Specialist
Qiana Moore, Events & Outreach Coordinator
Zachary Hill, IT Specialist

1. Call to Order

Chair Messina Captor called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

2. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Roll call was conducted and quorum was established with ten Council Members present.

3. Land and Peoples Acknowledgement

The Council acknowledged its new and ongoing practice of inviting a local cultural bearer to deliver the Land and Peoples Acknowledgement at each meeting, honoring the communities and Indigenous lands where the Council convenes.

Lazaro Arvizu Jr., an artist, educator, musician, and cultural practitioner with deep knowledge of the Gabrieleno culture and the Los Angeles Basin, delivered the Land and Peoples Acknowledgement, recognizing the First Peoples of the region and their enduring cultural legacy.

4. Community Agreements

Chair Messina Captor reviewed the Council's community agreements to guide engagement.

The community agreements read aloud were as follows:

- Practice listening to understand, not just hearing.
- Wait until you are acknowledged to speak.
- When it's your time to speak, state your name and intention clearly.
- Listen to others with an open mind. Try not to project your truth onto others.
- Practice both/and thinking rather than either/or thinking.
- Have a beginner's mind. Take 100% responsibility for one's own learning.
- It's okay to disagree—disagree with ideas, not with the person.

5. Opening Remarks

Chair Messina Captor welcomed attendees and acknowledged the significance of CAC's 50th Anniversary year.

Minutes of Public Meeting
CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL Friday, February 6, 2026
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6. Welcome Remarks

Amy Eriksen, Executive Director of Angels Gate Cultural Center, welcomed the Council and provided remarks on the organization's community impact.

7. Chair's Report

Chair Messina Captor presented her report. The Chair's report can be read in its entirety [here](#) and acknowledged the celebration of the 50th year anniversary of the CAC and priorities for 2026.

8. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danielle Brazell delivered highlights from her [full report](#) where she noted the agency's upcoming 50th anniversary celebration in 2026. Executive Director Danielle Brazell provided updates on:

- FY 2026–27 Budget: Proposed \$4M increase to Local Assistance
- Arts in Corrections: 19 nonprofit partners awarded contracts
- Grants Cycle Timeline: Launch underway with key milestones through August 2026
- Native American Grant Program: Advisory and listening sessions in progress
- 50th Anniversary Planning: April 20 Arts Awards and media campaign
- Strategic Planning RFP: Anticipated April 2026 release
- 2026 Meeting Dates and Locations with Key Agenda Items to be discussed

9. VOTING ITEM: Approval of Minutes

Chair Messina Captor then presented the minutes from December 12, 2025. As there were no objections from the rest of the Council, the minutes were approved.

10. Ad Hoc 50th Anniversary Committee Report

The Ad Hoc 50th Anniversary Committee presented its [formal report](#) to Council. The committee provided updates on efforts to engage partners and the awards process.

11. DISCUSSION: Equity Committee

The Equity Committee provided a presentation and facilitated discussion on advancing equity priorities across the California Arts Council's programs, policies, and decision-making processes.

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Staff highlighted the Council's continued commitment to data informed decision making, including the integration of a Decision Support Tool (DST) to assess equity impacts prior to the implementation of key Council actions. This tool is designed to support more consistent, transparent, and proactive evaluation of how proposed policies and funding decisions may affect communities across California.

A key component of this work is the Council's use of the Healthy Places Index (HPI) as a data framework to help identify and prioritize historically underserved communities.

The Committee noted that HPI is one of several tools used to guide decision making and that it is most effective when paired with qualitative data, community input, and lived experience to ensure a more holistic understanding of need.

Staff emphasized that the use of the DST, in combination with HPI and other data sources, represents a shift toward proactive equity analysis, allowing the Council to assess potential impacts before decisions are finalized.

The Committee also discussed the development of the Native American grant program, including ongoing efforts to ensure that program design is community informed and culturally responsive. Updates included:

- Engagement with a Native-led advisory committee
- Planned and ongoing listening sessions with Native artists, Tribal leaders, and cultural practitioners
- Consideration of how traditional data tools such as HPI may not fully capture the needs of Tribal and Native communities

Council members discussed the importance of ensuring that data frameworks do not unintentionally obscure or misrepresent Native communities, particularly in cases where geographic or economic indicators may not reflect cultural realities. There was general alignment on the need to supplement existing tools with community specific engagement and alternative approaches to data collection and interpretation.

Council members further discussed the importance of continuing to refine CAC's approach to equity centered, data driven governance, ensuring that analytical tools support thoughtful decision making while remaining grounded in community voice and cultural context.

Action: Informational item only; no vote taken.

12. Committee Reports

Ad Hoc 50th Anniversary Arts Awards Committee - Provided updates on adjudication process and event planning.

Legislative Committee - Shared updates on legislative priorities and engagement.

WORKING LUNCH

13. General Public Comment

Public comment was opened and can be found at the end of this document.

14. Open Council Discussion & Acknowledgement

Council members shared reflections on priorities and acknowledged staff efforts.

15. In Memoriam

Vice Chair Miner led an In Memoriam acknowledgment honoring members of the arts community.

16. Closing Remarks

Chair Messina Captor thanked Council members, staff, and the public for their participation.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

TAB S

California Arts Council | Public Meeting | 05/15/2026



Policy Memorandum

2750 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento CA 95833
T: (916) 322-6555 | F: (916) 322-6575
www.arts.ca.gov

DATE: May 15, 2026
TO: All Council Members
FROM: Strategic Framework Committee – Roy Hirabayashi and Dorka Keehn
RE: Voting Item: Strategic Planning Priorities for 2027 Planning Process

The Strategic Framework Committee recommends that Council vote to approve the following goal and priorities for the 2026/27 strategic planning process:

The overarching project goal is to reflect on and revise the current strategic framework which expires in 2027. The planning priorities will include:

- Strengths/Weakness/Opportunities/Threats analysis (SWOT), emphasizing current opportunities of CAC.
- Partnership framework for State-Local Partners and other networks to increase support for arts and culture across the state.
- Strategies for inter-agency partnership with state agencies and state-led initiatives.
- Long term grants strategy that includes a framework for artistic quality.
- Consideration and revised plan for Council committee structure, training, and meetings.
- Approved and detailed strategy, timeline and performance metrics for the next 5 to 7 years that is grounded in equity principles and adheres to the CAC mission and vision.

Background/Introduction

CAC's current strategic framework expires in 2027. As a state arts agency with an obligation to serve California's arts, cultures and creative economies and residents, California Arts Council (CAC) is required to have a current strategic plan by California State [Government Code 11816](#), Council bylaws, and as part of its obligation to the National Endowment for Arts' state arts agency partnership program.

Per [Council bylaws](#), Council must establish, maintain, and regularly update a strategic plan with clear goals, objectives, timelines, and implementation benchmarks. According to the Chair's Committee Charter, the Strategic Framework Committee maintains the Council's active role in strategic planning by reviewing the current framework, reporting on progress, setting priorities for the next planning cycle, considering public input strategies, and making recommendations to the Council.

Within the 2020-2027 Strategic Framework, the Committee's charge is to "shepherd the implementation and periodic assessment and modification of this framework on behalf of the Council." Looking towards the next strategic planning process, the Committee's role is to recommend priorities and goals for consideration and approval of the Council.

This memo summarizes the activities and recommendations for strategic planning priorities and outcomes for discussion and vote by Council. A general timeline of activities is included.

Committee Activities

Committee presented updates and assessments on the current strategic framework and anticipated planning process at the April 11, June 20 and September 26 and October 24, 2025 Council meetings. Since October 2025, the Committee has met on March 13, March 17, April 13, and April 27. The focus of Committee work has been to determine the focus of the next strategic planning process and its relationship to the current framework, discuss specific possible planning activities and timeline.

Review of Current Framework Progress and October Council Discussion

An assessment of the current strategic framework determined that out of the current strategic framework's 28 aspirational actions, 8 are complete, 13 are in progress and 7 have not yet started.

Table 1: 2020-2027 Strategic Framework Progress Review

Aspirational Area	Total Number	Complete	In Progress	Not Started
Grantmaking	7	5	2	0
Programs	6	2	4	0
Partnerships	10	0	5	5
Public Communications	5	1	2	2
TOTAL	28	8	13	7

*See [October 24, 2025 Council Book](#) for complete memo reporting.

Since then, an additional two aspirational activities related to awareness campaigns about CAC and the benefits of arts and culture more generally, have made progress through Creative Economy town halls and 50th Anniversary publicity and awards ceremony activities.

Key areas of progress have been in addressing accessibility in Council meetings, increasing general operating support, focusing on small-budget organizations, multi-year grants, and the geographic location of grantmaking. Additional activities include increased use of data to inform Council discussions and decision-making, and increased opportunities for technical assistance around grant applications.

Aspirational activities that have had little movement include landscape research on state funding models, cross-sector partnership and policy development, and establishing work groups to inform staff. As stated above, 2026 activities related to CAC's 50th anniversary and the Creative Economy town halls have contributed towards building awareness around CAC and the arts in general.

The October 2025 Council presentation went into further detail on specific areas of progress and engaged Council in a preliminary conversation on what elements to bring forward and what to possibly leave behind in the next planning process. Committee members suggested leaning into capacity building, data, expansion of the online hub, [Collective](#), and CAC's role as convener. There was also mention of the upcoming 50th anniversary and the creative economy plan and town halls as opportunities for further examination and expansion. Overall, Council desired more time to digest information.

New Strategic Planning Priorities

CAC aims to update its strategic plan to support effective agency operations, identify areas of improvements and service to the field. This is an opportune time to plan the agency's future.

CAC just celebrated its 50th anniversary and spearheaded the first statewide sector specific economic strategic plan for the creative economy and completed a statewide tour to introduce the plan. In addition, CAC expanded its Cultural District program, launched the Teen Poet Laureate initiative and a Poetry Anthology, and reintroduced in-person outreach and engagement activities offering technical assistance for organizations applying to CAC grant programs.

The overarching project goal is to reflect on and revise the current strategic framework which expires in 2027. The planning priorities will include:

- SWOT analysis, emphasizing current opportunities of CAC.
- Partnership framework for State-Local Partners and other networks to increase support for arts and culture across the state.
- Strategies for inter-agency partnership with state agencies and state-led initiatives (e.g., Jobs First)
- Long term grants strategy that includes a framework for artistic quality.
- Consideration and revised plan for Council committee structure, training, and meetings.
- Approved and detailed strategy, timeline and performance metrics for the next 5 to 7 years (2028 to 2033/2035) that is grounded in equity principles and adheres to the CAC mission and vision.
- The strategic planning process will leverage the current Strategic Framework document, 2020 evaluation reports, and CAC-led research and evaluation under development.
- The timeline for the RFP and planning process seeks to present a final strategic plan for Council approval spring 2027.

The strategic plan will be a living document with clear success metrics that will be reviewed on a regular basis (timeline to be determined in planning process), and adjustments made to be more adaptive and responsive to the current environment.

The Committee recommends Council approve the above priorities.

Next Steps and Timeline

Upon approval of strategic planning priorities, staff will develop a detailed Request for Proposals and prepare for launch by the end of the current fiscal year (before June 2026). The contract period for the strategic planning process itself would begin by fall 2026 and close by spring 2027.

Report Prepared by Committee Staff: Rebecca Ratzkin, Equity Measures and Evaluation Manager, with Elisa Gollub, Programs Manager, and Megan Morgan, Race and Equity Manager.

TAB T

California Arts Council | Public Meeting | 05/15/2026

CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL

Developing a Native American Arts Program for California

Elisa Gollub Programs | nativeamericangrant@arts.ca.gov



CAC STAFF TEAM

ELISA GOLLUB

Programs Manager
she/her

CARLOS CASILLAS

Arts Program Specialist
he/him

MEGAN MORGAN

Race Equity Manager
she/her

EMILY TAGGART

Arts Program Specialist
she/her

AGENDA OVERVIEW

1. Goals for Presentation
2. Programming Motivation
 - Strategic Framework
 - 2019 Community-Led Meeting
 - Council Direction
3. Current Activities - Program Development
 - RFP Process
 - Contract with Kauffman and Associates, Inc.
 - Community Engagement
4. Preview of Early Learnings
5. Next Steps

GOALS FOR PRESENTATION



GOALS FOR TODAY

REVIEW OF DECISIONS & NEXT STEPS

- Why we are prioritizing a Native American program
- Process to develop a program
- What to expect next

We Are on Native Land: Honoring the Original Stewards Mural

Artist: Rachel Znerold

Location: Golden Gate Park, San Francisco



PROGRAMMING MOTIVATION



PROGRAMMING MOTIVATION

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Native American Artist Partnerships

Action

Formalize a partnership with representatives of California's Native American artist communities, including federally and non-federally recognized tribes. Aim to respectfully understand the needs of these communities and their recommendations in order to be more responsive, and identify and build on the assets that enrich tribes, community groups, and the broader state.

Root Cause Rationale

As the state's first artists and creatives, and as a group that has experienced everything from acculturation and cultural appropriation to displacement and erasure, California's Native American tribal members and relations should garner a unique partnership status with the CAC. There is an urgency in ensuring the CAC is an agency that sharply deviates from harmful past government practices and unfolds instead as one that fosters belonging, inclusion, and cultural humility.



PROGRAMMING MOTIVATION

2019 Community-Led Meeting

- CAC collaborated with Governor's Office of Tribal Advisor
- Discussion:
 - Challenges for Native artists in CA
 - Role of State
 - Recommendation for CA grant program



2019 California Native Arts Community-Led Meeting: CAC Photo

COUNCIL DIRECTION 2022-2024

Equity and Programs Policy Committees discussed starting a Native American Arts grant in 2022

- December 2023 Programs Policy Memo to Council included:
 - “...Native American Initiative: Implementing the recent work of the Equity Committee and to honor a commitment made at a historic statewide CAC convening of Native artists in 2019, we propose a new Native American Initiative to be available in 2025. As part of the research, we will conduct a Native Arts Summit in 2024, request the assistance of SRN’s, SLP’s, and consult tribal leaders to design such a program...”
- In response to Council’s interest, the agency went out to bid for a consultant for program development



The Prophecy Mural – Artist Andrew “Drew” Valencia with community elders & culture bearers

Location: SW 16th St. BART Plaza, San Francisco

From: American Indian Cultural District

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Program Development



PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT – RFP Process

RFP FOR CONSULTANT

- Extended budget and contract term in response to feedback
- Eligibility and panel review
- Subject Matter Experts

CRITERIA

- Proposal quality
- Past work
- Values alignment
- Realistic resources
- Accuracy & presentation
- Budget/cost points

CONTRACT WITH KAUFFMAN & ASSOCIATES

June 2025 – October 2026

- Advisory Committee
- Listening Sessions
- Programs, Partners & Funders Research
- Report and Recommendation



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Advisory Committee

- 10 members
- Balance of perspectives and geographies
- Native Artists, educators, policy makers, Tribal Leaders, Native-led arts organizations
- ≥ 4 meetings plus interim communications



Advisory Committee meeting at CAC office

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

1. Virtual listening session: February 19, 2026
2. In person listening session: March 20, 2026
 - a) Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians – Rancheria
 - b) Coincided with closing exhibit reception for regional artists, museums, city and state government
3. In person listening session: being planned for Southern California in Summer 2026

Image: Light Dancer by Shanti Parks

Flyer: Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians Exhibit and Collections Center

IN THE MEADOW

CONTEMPORARY CENTRAL CALIFORNIA NATIVE ART & DESIGN



Light Dancer © 2026, Shanti Parks

JANUARY 17 - MARCH 27, 2026

Curated by the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians Exhibits & Collections Center.

Featuring works by Malissa Tayaba, Deerstine Suehead, Delana Galvan, Denise Davis, Isabella Suehead, Kimberly Stevenot, Kat Solares, Carson Bates, Skye Anderson, Kai Lapena, Jaime LaPena, Jessica Proctor, Jeremy Peconom, Shanti Parks, Meyokeeskow Marrufo, Raymond LeBeau, Sage LaPena, Jeanette Innerarity, John Chanthaphone, Jacky Calanchini, Viola LeBeau, and Olyvia Calanchini.

CLOSING RECEPTION March 20, 2026 ▲ 5:00-7:00pm

LÓLMEN GALLERY ▲ SHINGLE SPRINGS RANCHERIA



EARLY LEARNINGS



PREVIEW OF EARLY LEARNINGS



NEXT STEPS



WHAT'S NEXT

Summer

3rd Listening Session

August

KAI presents findings to date to Council

October

KAI presents recommendations to Council

2027-2028

New grant program to begin

THANK YOU

nativeamericangrant@arts.ca.gov



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QUESTIONS



TAB U

California Arts Council | Public Meeting | 05/15/2026

Folk & Traditional Arts: Sustaining California's Living Cultural Heritage

Elisa Gollub Programs Manager | folkartsgrant@arts.ca.gov

5/7/2026



AGENDA OVERVIEW

1. Program Purpose
2. California Context
3. Program Structure
4. Program History
5. Folks and Traditional Arts Provider – Alliance for California Traditional Arts



**California's
culture lives
within its
communities.**

National Endowment for the Arts Folk & Traditional Programming

The NEA piloted the first state folklife programs in 1974

Funding for Folk and Traditional Arts nonprofit organizations 1975-2018:

\$132 Million

History of Folk and Traditional Arts at the CAC

California Arts Council
Traditional Folk Arts Program
Master-Apprentice Grant Application

Deadline: February 24, 1988

Applications for this grant will not be accepted after the deadline date, and must be postmarked before midnight, or hand-delivered by 5 p.m. of deadline date.



Thai teacher, Kangwan Goedpand, is director of the Thai Classical Dance Group of Southern California. He is shown in a class at the Wat Thai Temple of North Hollywood.

- NEA Pilot Program
- Early CAC support
- CAC Program
- Contracted services
- NEA & ACTA Partnership
- CAC Administering Org Grant Program

1974

1977

1987-
1992

1995-
2003

2003-
2022

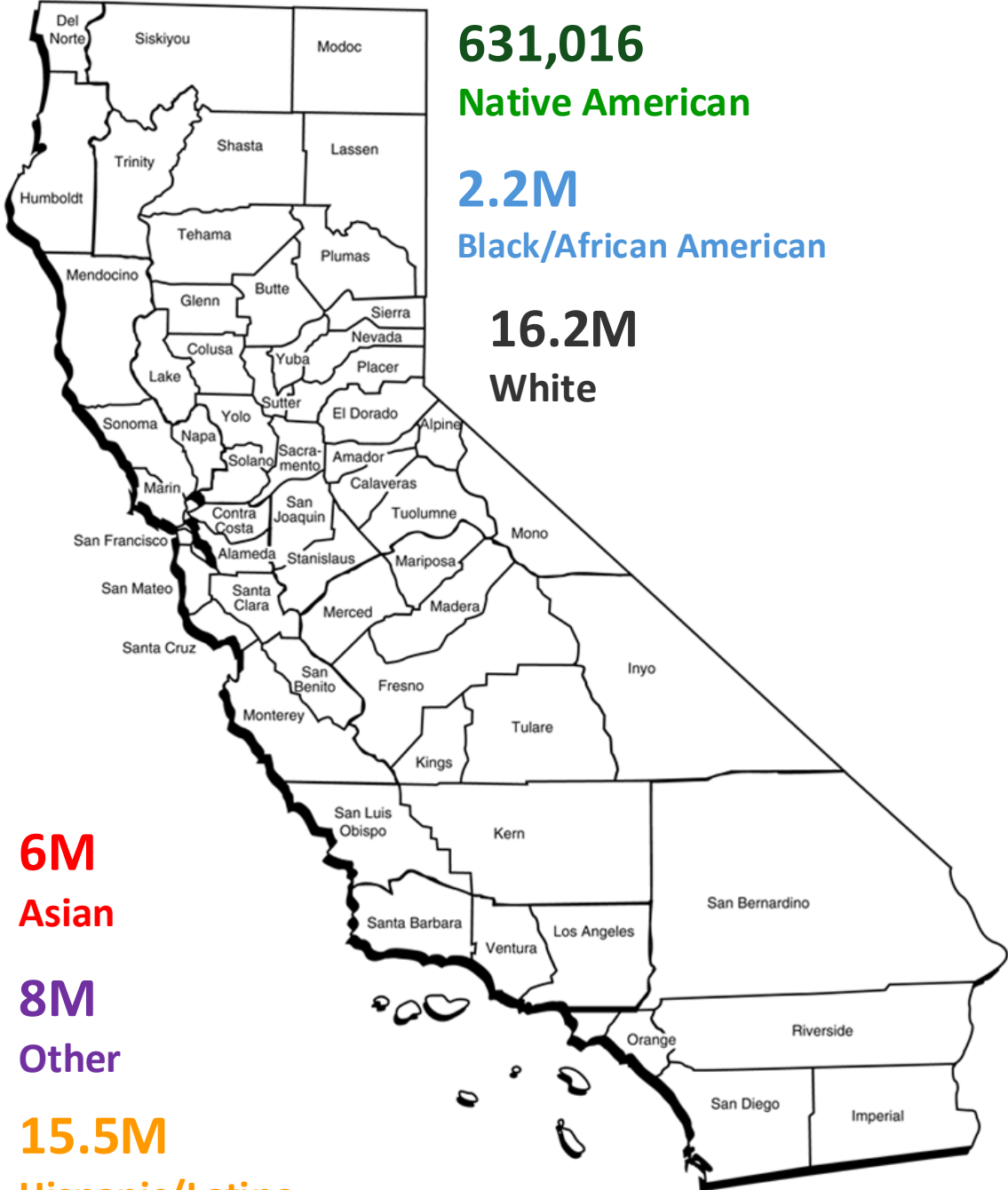
2022-
Present

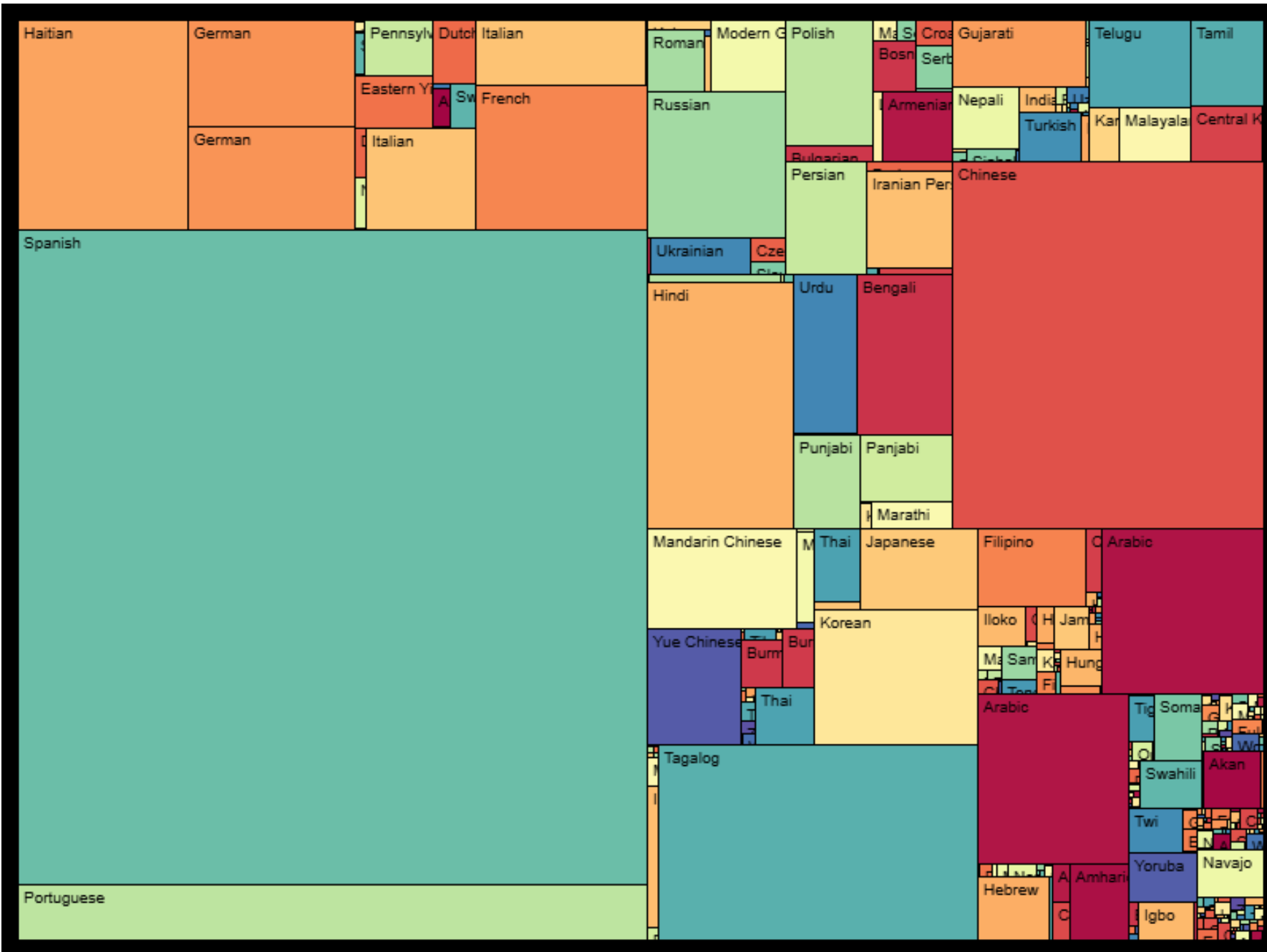
Program Purpose

Folk & Traditional Arts supports the continuation and transmission of cultural arts practices across California.

- Supports Culture Bearers who don't identify as "artists"
- Preserves heritage and intergenerational knowledge transfer
- Funds traditions transmitted through language & community outside institutional settings

California is one of the most diverse regions in the world.





Over 300 Languages spoken across the state

Data provided by the American Community Survey (ACS)

Visual may not accurately reflect the exact quantity of speakers or languages

Who the Program Serves

- Immigrant Diasporic Communities
- Rural Communities
- Community Based Organizations
- Tribal Nations
- Urban communities



How FTA functions today

CAC distributes funds through Administering Organizations

- CAC works through trusted, culturally competent partners to reach communities Statewide



Our Statewide Partner



ALLIANCE for
CALIFORNIA
TRADITIONAL ARTS

THANK YOU

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ALLIANCE for
CALIFORNIA
TRADITIONAL ARTS

Betty Marín

Program Co-Director

actaonline.org

What are folk and traditional arts?

- Common heritage
- Language, religion, occupation, or region
- Collective wisdom
- Shared understanding of beauty
- Affirm the culture of the community



*Dorothy Sylvia (Yurok/Karuk)
right/derecha + Sonia Franzi
(Yurok/Karuk)*



Stewarding Resources For Perpetuating Living Cultures

Direct funding for artists, culture bearers, and organizations

Field Building

Building a stronger field through capacity building, networking, and advocacy

Creative Workforce for Social Change

We employ artists as teachers, leaders, and activists in their own communities and beyond

Traditional Arts and Health Equity

Community-based programs that activate local traditional arts assets towards collective engagement, education, and power-building

What ACTA Does

Field Building

- Building relationships and identifying culture bearers in communities
- Processes to identify culture bearers happen through ethnographic fieldwork, including cultural mapping and community collaborations
- ACTA's team brings expertise as culture bearers, artists, and folklorists
- Convenings and skill building to strengthen networks and increase access to funding resources
- First time grantees build to other funders



Chavalos de Aquí y Allá dance ensemble, Nicaraguan traditional dance in San Francisco, CA. Courtesy of the organization.

ACTA's Living Cultures Grant Program



Highlights from the 2023 and 2024 Program Cycles

- 98 grants in 2023 and 74 grants in 2024-25
- 72% new grantees to the CAC
- Over 1,600 events including workshops, performances and festivals
- Grantees reached over 135,000 people including children and adults

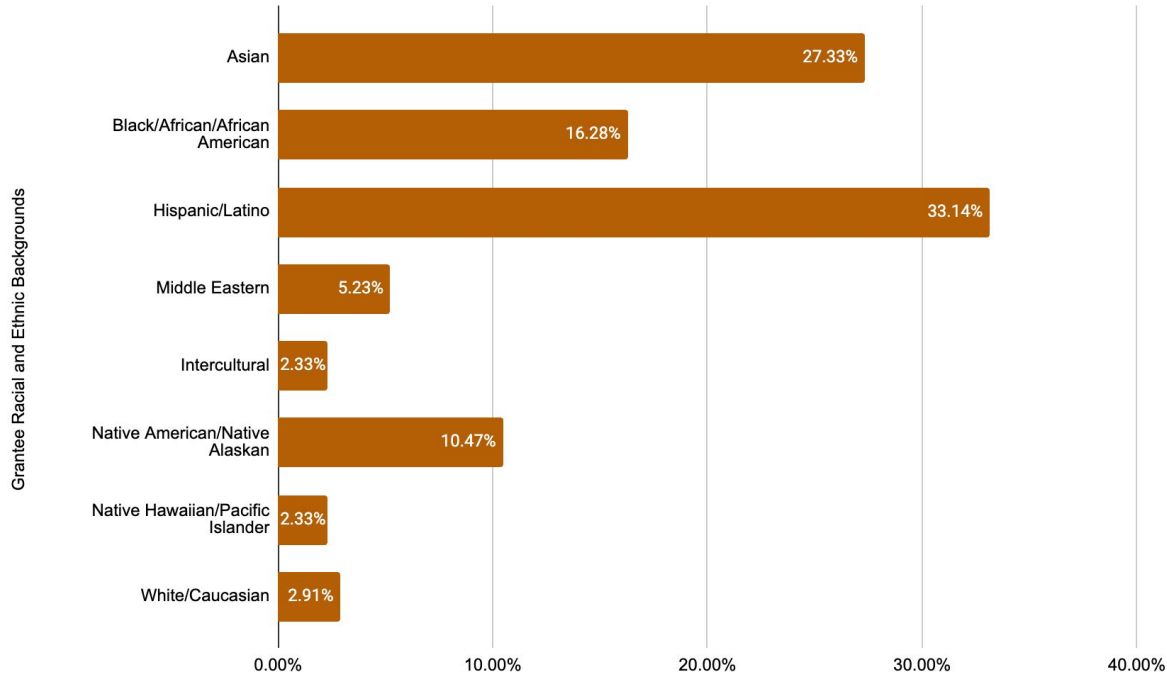


Lao New Year at Wat Visalia, April 2024. Courtesy of grantee, Lao Community Cultural Center in Fresno.

ACTA's Living Cultures Grant Program



Grantee Racial and Ethnic Backgrounds from the 2023 and 2024 Program Cycles





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TRADITIONAL ARTS

“Taste of Africa must continue because the visibility of Black and immigrant joy, culture, and excellence still challenges old assumptions about who belongs in public spaces.”

Catherine (Ciiku) Ndungu-Case
Cheza Nami Foundation, Livermore, CA

ACTA's Living Cultures Grant Program



Dennis Garcia, Chumash culture bearer, telling a story at our outreach session in the Antelope Valley, northern LA County in March 2026. Photo: ACTA.

2026 Outreach & Assistance

- 1 online webinar
- 6 in-person outreach sessions from San Diego to Humboldt County
- Partnerships with organizations with strong networks
- One-on-one assistance to about 90 potential applicants
- Promotional materials and all outreach delivered bilingually in Spanish and English

ACTA's Living Cultures Grant Program

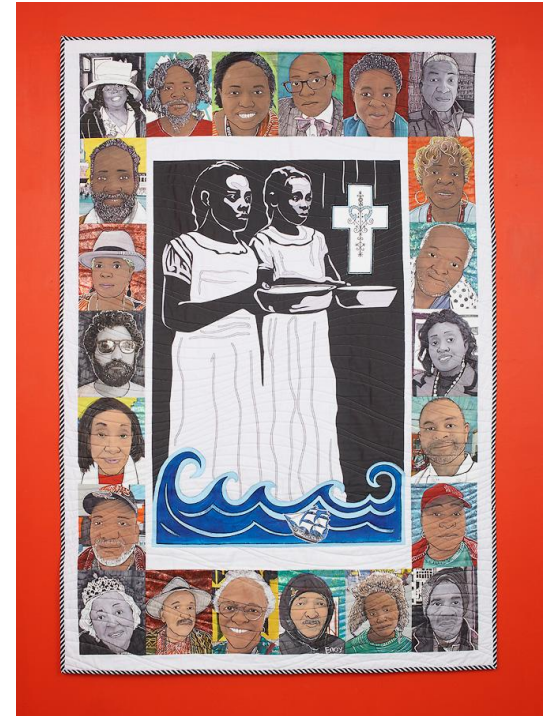


Applications 2023-2026

Applicant Pool	2023	2024	2026
Total Applications Received	343	386	406

2026 Applicant Highlights

- Representing all 9 CAC regions of the state and 39 counties
- 62% are not prior grant recipients of ACTA or the CAC
- 27% applying to their first grant!



*William Rhodes, "Offering Quilt" made with paint, pencil, pen and fabric.
Courtesy of the artist.*

ACTA's Living Cultures Grant Program



2026 Applications

Applicant Pool	Individual Artists	Organizations	Total
Total Applications Received	175 (43%)	231 (57%)	406
Total Funding Request	\$1,312,500	\$2,310,000	\$3,622,500
Funding available from the CAC	\$580,000		
Additional funders	\$127,500		
Total funding pool	\$707,500	Percent of Funding Request	18%

ACTA's Living Cultures Grant Program



Master class with Capoeira Mestre Themba in San Bernardino County organized by grantee Brian Shields. Courtesy of the artist.

What's coming!

- 5 Panels (15 panelists!)
- Award notifications in August
- Grant period Sept. 2026 - Oct. 2027
- 3 grantee convenings
- Site visits



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Thank you!

Thapasya Arts, Kathakali in
San Francisco Courtesy of
the organization.

TAB V

California Arts Council | Public Meeting | 05/15/2026



Policy Memorandum

2750 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento CA 95833
T: (916) 322-6555 | F: (916) 322-6575
www.arts.ca.gov

DATE: May 15, 2026
TO: All Council Members
FROM: Ad Hoc 50th Anniversary Committee (Roxanne Messina Captor & Rick Stein)
RE: 50th Anniversary Arts Awards Public Ceremony and Honoree Reception Summary and Closeout

Purpose: To provide Council with a summary of the 50th Anniversary Arts Awards Public Ceremony and Honoree Reception.

Background: The Council began discussing the 50th Anniversary of the California Arts Council in October 2024. The ideas, planning and written proposal were created by the Ad Hoc 50th Anniversary Committee (at the time Chair Roxanne Messina Captor & Nicola Miner) and approved by Council in June 2025. The Ad Hoc 50th Anniversary Fundraising Sponsorship Committee (Council Members Phil Mercado and Rick Stein) created a fundraising and sponsorship plan that was approved by Council in September 2025. After both Ad Hoc 50th Committees' deliverables were completed, Chair Roxanne Messina Captor formed the current Ad Hoc 50th Anniversary Committee with the purpose and responsibility of implementing the proposed plan and executing the fundraising and sponsorship plan. Additionally, the plan incorporated an arts award nomination and selection process in which the Chair formed the Ad Hoc 50th Arts Awards Committee (Alex Israel and then Vice Chair Leah Goodwin) to serve as panelists alongside Executive Director Brazell. Leading up to April 20, 2026, the plan was executed by staff in close collaboration and coordination with Chair Roxanne Messina Captor and Council Member Rick Stein.

Founding council members honored: Ruth Asawa, Peter Coyote, Karney Hodge, Suzanne Jackson, Alexander Mackendrick, William Allaudin Mathieu, Noah Purifoy, Gary Snyder and Luis Valdez.

Awardees: David Geffen, Mildred Howard, Barbara Kruger, Magic Theatre, Cheech Marin, Charles Ray, Sage Romero, San Jose Taiko, Josie Talamantez, and Luis Valdez (El Teatro Campesino).

Activities:

- At its February 6, 2026 business meeting, following the nomination, panel, and selection process, Council announced ten artists, arts leaders, and arts organizations that were selected to be awarded the 50th Anniversary Arts Awarded. Those selected would be invited to the Honoree Reception and the Public Ceremony to be celebrated and receive their awards.
- In January and February 2026, following a rigorous state procurement process CAC successfully executed a state contract with By Staged Right as the agency's publicist and a contract with California for the Arts (CFTA) as the event producer for the Honoree Reception and the public ceremony on April 20, 2026.
- From January through April 20, 2026, Chief Deputy Director led and managed the event production and publicity with By Staged Right and CFTA, and coordination and communication with the Governor's Office protocol team for the Honoree Reception production at the Governor's Mansion in collaboration with Executive Director Brazell and Ad Hoc 50th Anniversary Committee. Additionally, Chief Deputy Director led separate standing weekly meetings with By Staged Right, CFTA, and Governor's Office to track deliverables and resolve issues.
- Since January 2026, By Staged Right has worked directly with all ten awardees to develop communication materials to highlight and celebrate their work and impact. By Staged Right has highlighted each awardee through CAC's existing social media channels, press releases, and biweekly ArtBeat newsletter.
- From January through April 20, 2026, the Ad Hoc 50th Committee and Executive Director Brazell raised \$76,000 which included \$9,700 in-kind monetary gift contributions.
 - **Diamond:** California Community Foundation, Hewlett Foundation, and The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation. The BANDALOO performance was made possible by Marcy Friedman, Creative West, City of Oakland and California for the Arts.
 - **Platinum:** Creative West, Stuart Foundation, Bette & Wylie Aitken, Nicola Miner, and Susan Steinhauser
 - **Gold:** Alex Israel and Joanne Corday Kozberg
 - **Silver:** Michael & Vicki Alexander, Danielle Brazell & Chilly Nathan, California Coalition of County Arts Agencies – CAC's State-Local Partners, City of San Jose, The Music Man Foundation, Rick & Alison Stein
 - **Patron:** Arts Orange County, Leah Goodwin, Donn K. Harris, Roy & PJ Hirabayashi, Dominique Johnson, Dorka Keehn, Jennifer Laine, Local 7 American Federation of Musicians, Mariposa County Arts Council, Phil Mercado, Roxanne Messina Captor, Steven & Nancy Oliver, Silicon Valley Creates

- **Supporter:** M Frances Davies, Vicki Estrada, K.D. Hatcher, Rachel Osajima, Riverside Downtown Partnership (In Memory of David St. Pierre)
- April 2026, the fabrication and personalized engraving for each awardee was completed in accordance with the artists specifications and approval.

On April 20, 2026, following a nearly yearlong process, CAC successfully hosted an Honoree Reception at the Governor’s Mansion for original founding members, awardees, and invited government leaders, arts organizations, arts and culture leaders and partners to join CAC’s milestone celebration. Following the reception was the public ceremony at the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium that had nearly 500 guests in attendance. To highlight the 50th Anniversary further, the Governor’s Office issued a formal proclamation that 2026 is “California Arts Council 50th Anniversary” and Senator Ben Allen recognized the 50th Anniversary on the Senate Floor. On the Senate floor was original founding Council Member and awardee Luis Valdez, Paul Lanier, son of original founding Council Member Ruth Asawa, and awardee Cheech Marin. Chair Roxanne Messina Captor and Council Member Rick Stein were in attendance in the galley.

The Honoree Reception took place at the Governor’s Mansion in Sacramento, CA from 4 PM to 5:30 PM. Executive Director Brazell provided opening remarks, followed by Chair Roxanne Messina Captor, Former four-term Governor Jerry Brown, First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, and closed with Governor Gavin Newsom. Once formals remarks were concluded, guests were directed to make their way to the public ceremony at the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium. Original founding Council Members, awardees, current Council Members, Executive Director and Chief Deputy Director remained for a short period to take photographs. Thereafter, everyone departed together over to the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium.

At 6:00 PM, CFTA’s CEO, Julie Baker, invited guests to come close to the front of the Memorial Auditorium and introduced the opening performance to kick off the public ceremony; BANDALOOOP. A pioneer in vertical performance, BANDALOOOP seamlessly weaves dynamic physicality, intricate choreography and climbing technology to turn the dance floor on its side. Thereafter, the Memorial Auditorium opened its house and allowed the public to enter, enjoy light hors d’oeuvres, non-alcoholic beverages, and a no-host bar.

Once the ceremony was set to begin, a processional with a vibrant dance ensemble representing Indigenous contemporary, Brazilian samba, South Asian bhangra, and Hawaiian hula, along with musicians representing Sinaloan banda, Filipino kulintang, Persian frame drum, and New Orleans bass traditions led guests to their seats and ended their processes at the stage in the theatre.

At 6:30 PM, Chair Roxanne Messina Captor and Emcee for the ceremony, opened the official business meeting of the Council. The public meeting agenda was as follows.

Time:	Description:
6:30 PM	Call to Order Council Chair Roxanne Messina Captor
6:45 PM	Land and Peoples Acknowledgement Presented by Vice Chair Raquel Williams of Wilton Rancheria
6:55 PM	Executive Director's Report Danielle Brazell
7:00 PM	Honoring Founding Members Presentation of Certificates
7:10 PM	Legislative Remarks Speaker of the Assembly Robert Rivas Senator Ben Allen
7:20 PM	Arts Awards Presented by Lee Herrick, CA Poet Laureate
7:40 PM	Closing Remarks Council Chair Roxanne Messina Captor
7:45 PM	Closing Performance by SacPopChoir
8:00 PM	Adjournment Council Chair Roxanne Messina Captor

Public comment was available in three modes: Online submission, physical guestbook, and via a QR code that was broadcasted at the public ceremony. All public comments will be included in the final meeting minutes for April 20, 2026.

Following the events, staff sent thank you letters to donors, speakers, and presenters.

Next Steps:

- CAC will formally close the contract with event producer CFTA
- CAC will send physical awards and certificates that were not able to be received at the ceremony or traveled with to respective destinations
- CAC, in partnership with Staged Right will produce a commemorative video and photos of the ceremony. These materials will be circulated through CAC's distribution social media channels and made available on the CAC website
- Ad Hoc 50th Anniversary Committee's scope and activities have concluded and will disband per Council bylaws

Report prepared by: Chief Deputy Director Radmand and Executive Director Brazell in collaboration with the Ad Hoc 50th Anniversary Committee



Policy Memorandum

2750 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento CA 95833
T: (916) 322-6555 | F: (916) 322-6575
www.arts.ca.gov

DATE: May 15, 2026
TO: All Council Members
From: Legislative Committee – Roxanne Messina Captor and Rick Stein
RE: Legislative Committee Report to Council

Purpose: To discuss and review updated legislative materials, as well as state & federal legislative updates.

Background:

The Legislative Committee shall provide updates on state & federal legislative activities and make recommendations to the Council.

Activities:

The Legislative Committee met Wednesday, April 22, 2026, to review and discuss several legislative and budget related items. The Legislative Affairs Manager will continue to monitor and track bills that will directly impact CAC or may impact CAC's priorities.

CAC Legislative Affairs Manager provided an update on legislative bills that CAC is currently tracking. It is important to note that the bills referenced below do not include proposed additional staffing resources for the agency for program development, implementation, and management:

- Senate Bill 1073 (SB 1073) introduced by Senator Smallwood-Cuevas. This bill would establish a voluntary tax contribution fund for the Black Cultural District in South Los Angeles. This bill would specifically focus on the recently designated cultural district within Senate District 28. As written, CAC would be required to administer the voluntary tax fund. This bill recently passed the Senate and is pending committee referral in the Assembly.
- Senate Bill 1240 (SB 1240) introduced by Senator McNerney, who represents Senate District 5 which includes Stockton, Tracy, and other regions of San Joaquin County. This bill would create the Office of Nonprofit Empowerment. This newly created department's primary responsibility would be overseeing and coordinating state policy in support of California's nonprofit organizations, including providing technical assistance and resources to nonprofit organizations on procurement and grantmaking laws, regulations, and best practices. This bill would also authorize the newly formed Office to update the State Administrative Manual and State Contracting Manual in consultation with the Governor's Office, Department of Finance, Department of Human Resources, Department of General Services, and California Department of Technology. This bill does not directly mention CAC, however, it could impact CAC's grant and contracts

procedures and staffing resources. This bill is currently being held on Suspense in the Senate Appropriations Committee. The Appropriations suspense hearing is expected to take place on Thursday, May 14th.

- Assembly Bill 2541 (AB 2541) introduced by Assemblymember Mark González, who represents Assembly District 54 in Los Angeles. Coauthors include Assembly Members Alanis and Blanca Rubio, as well as Senators Caballero and Hurtado. This bill would establish the Lowrider License Plate Program, which includes creating and issuing a specialized license plate, known as Lowrider Plate. This bill would require the Arts Council to apply to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to sponsor “The Lowrider” specialized license plate, as specified. The bill would require the department, in consultation with the Arts Council, to design The Lowrider plate to reflect lowrider culture and heritage. The bill would require the department to work in consultation with the Department of the California Highway Patrol to determine whether the design obscures the readability of the license plate. The bill would require the Arts Council to use the fees imposed for the issuance, renewal, or transfer of these specialized license plates, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to fund projects that include, among others, supporting lowrider arts and cultural preservation efforts.
- Senate Bill 971 (SB 971) introduced by Senator Choi. Choi represents Senate District 37, which primarily covers the city of Irvine in southern California. This bill would establish the Healthy Aging Community Partnerships Program which would authorize local health departments to establish older adult education programs in collaboration with relevant local entities, including school districts, libraries, and community-based organizations. Programs may include, but not limited to, technology, physical activity, music or arts programming, cultural programming, language learning opportunities, shared meals, and other community-based enrichment activities that support healthy aging and social connection. While CAC is not explicitly named in the bill, the language within the bill could be interpreted to include local arts councils and other CAC partners. This is currently on 3rd reading, awaiting to be heard on the Senate Floor.

CAC Legislative Affairs Manager and Chief Deputy Director also provided an update on Keep Arts in School (KAIS), the voluntary tax contribution fund. The 2024 Legislative budget package, Senate Bill 164, states that the KAIS voluntary tax contribution funds must meet a threshold of \$250K in the taxable year or become inoperative in the following year. For the taxable year of 2025, filers were unable to donate enough to the KAIS fund to meet the minimum threshold. This does not impact CAC’s current annual budget; however long-term lack of contributions may lead to the loss of \$250K annually. The KAIS fund will be made available to tax filers to contribute in the next filing year, 2027 (for the 2026 taxable year). CAC Public Affairs and CAC’s



Policy Memorandum

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T: (916) 322-6555 | F: (916) 322-6575
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contracted publicist will increase promotion and marketing of KAIS to encourage tax filers to contribute and mitigate the risk of removal of KAIS in future years.

The Legislative Affairs Manager provided a federal budget update based on recently proposed cuts to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for Humanities (NEH). The proposed cuts would lower NEA funding from \$207M to \$29M and NEH funding from \$207M to \$38M.

Per federal legislation, 40% of NEA's annual appropriation must be allocated to state arts agencies. CAC receives just over \$1M from the NEA which supports a portion of the agency's salaries, operational overhead, and local assistance funds for youth arts education grants. In the 2025-2026 federal budget similar cuts were proposed, but those cuts were unsuccessful.

The proposed federal budget reductions will continue to be negotiated through the legislative sessions. We expect to have receive the final appropriation amount from NEA in the coming months. During this negotiation period, CAC will:

- Continue to monitor the budget and legislative progress.
- Provide updates on appropriate bills and budget items as significant deadlines approach.
- Maintain open communication with other relevant agencies and local organizations.

Report prepared by: Legislative Manager, Matthew Canty, with Chief Deputy Director Michelle Radmand in collaboration with the Legislative Committee