

# 2024-25 GRANT AWARDS

## Arts & Cultural Organizations General Operating Support



The Arts & Cultural Organizations General Operating Support grant program supports the well-being of California’s cultural vitality by helping sustain a robust and diverse arts workforce and infrastructure through direct funding to arts and cultural organizations in support of ongoing operations. Funds may be used to support any eligible expenses associated with the general operations of an arts or cultural organization, including but not limited to rent, utilities, and staff salaries.

**Number of Grants Awarded: 34**  
**Total Investment: \$686,005**

Organization Name	County	Application ID	Approved Grant Amount	Grant Request Summary
AXIS DANCE COMPANY	Alameda	GEN-24-23836	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, AXIS Dance Company will ensure ongoing accessibility throughout all of our core programs and will produce our 2024/25 Home Season, a biannual event in the Bay Area where we will premiere new work by D/eaf, disabled, non-disabled, and neurodivergent artists.
BAY AREA CREATIVE BAC	Alameda	GEN-24-22413	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, Bay Area Creative (BAC) will provide inspiring creative youth development and therapeutic arts workshops in spoken word poetry, urban dance and filmmaking. Over 10,000 underserved youth ages 5-18 and adults receive culturally responsive social justice focused arts workshops held during the school day, after school, over the summer and in professional development seminars. Services are provided by passionate local professional artists who hail from the same communities as participants. Along with school based activities, therapeutic writing and dance services are designed by licensed expressive arts therapists and provided for youth impacted by the legal system who reside in juvenile detention and foster care. All offerings create a transformative haven for individuals honing the refinement of social-emotional learning, bolstering self-efficacy, and empowering the authentic expression of their voices.
BAY PHILHARMONIC	Alameda	GEN-24-24236	\$20,276	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, Bay Philharmonic (Bay Phil) will bring communities together and improve residents’ quality of life with transportive performances during the 2024-25 season. We will use this funding to support our operations, especially musician salaries for 40-50 professionals who perform each show.</p> <p>We present inclusive, high-quality, and accessible shows (we don't call them concerts) that engage and inspire every guest. Our shows embrace different cultures, traditions, and music genres. Bay Phil musicians, accompanied by guest soloists and other professional performers, including choruses, dancers, actors, and storytellers, deliver imaginative, relatable performances to over 1,400 audience members.</p> <p>Professional musicians are the heart of our success. This grant will help Bay Phil continue to hire the best Bay Area musicians, maintain artistic excellence, and offer beautiful music in the region.</p>
BODY TRAFFIC	Los Angeles	GEN-24-23325	\$20,276	BODYTRAFFIC requests general operating support from the California Arts Council to help support the Company’s 2024-25 home season performances in Los Angeles and concomitant community engagement activities. During the California Arts Council grant period, BODYTRAFFIC will give 6 shows at 3 venues, The Wallis, 2 performances, December 2024; Audry Irmas Pavilion, 2 performances, March 2025; and The Avalon Hollywood, 2 performances, May 2025. Three new dance works by Akram Khan, Trey McIntyre, and Martha Nichols will be developed and premiere during the LA season. In addition, a minimum of 750 free tickets to its season will be distributed to students and their families participating in community outreach and dance training programs, in collaboration with community partners, as part of BODYTRAFFIC’s multi-layered engagement efforts that provide in-depth arts exposure.

CORNERSTONE THEATER COMPANY INC	Los Angeles	GEN-24-22941	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, Cornerstone Theater Company will maintain our capacity to deliver programs in Los Angeles County and throughout California. Receiving general operating support will provide essential funding to sustain our organization as we welcome new artistic leadership and lay the foundation for a new visionary direction.
CREATE NOW INC	Los Angeles	GEN-24-24252	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, Create Now will fulfill its equity-centered mission to reach young artists facing the highest barriers to arts education and creative expression. Our year-round, no-cost arts programming helps transform the lives of Los Angeles' most vulnerable youth (ages 3-24) by fostering a love for the arts across diverse backgrounds. Create Now partners with local schools and charitable organizations to provide arts education, and experiences. Our equity model unites schools, social services, and professional artist mentors to deliver arts education directly to the most vulnerable. We also host vibrant arts festivals, giving under-served youth a platform to showcase their talents along with our Cultural Journeys program. By prioritizing equity and cultural relevance, Create Now helps youth discover their artistic voices and thrive in a diverse, inclusive creative world.
CREATIVE IDENTITY	Orange	GEN-24-22611	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, Creative Identity (CI) will strengthen our organization's ability to maintain the operations of our (2) fine arts day program locations in Orange County, CA. CI focuses on improving the quality of life and societal perceptions of underserved adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) by providing music performance and expressive arts training, mentoring, and opportunities to engage with the fine arts community in a meaningful way. Creative Identity will use awarded funds to sustain general operating costs associated with our day programs, including rent, utilities, and staff salaries during times of unpredictable economic conditions.
CUBACARIBE	San Francisco	GEN-24-23277	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, CubaCaribe will use CAC funds to support general operating costs for personnel and occupancy. Personnel will produce core artistic and educational programs, such as the Annual CubaCaribe Dance & Music Festival, the annual SF Carnaval Contingent, host the resident Alayo Dance Company and more; as well as manage finances; maintain communications with its community and the general public through outreach, marketing and its website; and provide fiscal sponsorship to two Bay Area-based artists.
CULTURE SHOCK DANCE TROUP INC	San Diego	GEN-24-22717	\$20,276	With the generous support of the California Arts Council, Culture Shock Dance will be able to support 30,000 individuals in receiving dance training through its Training Academy and Performance Troupe programs. These initiatives provide opportunities for individuals of all ages to engage in hip-hop dance education and performance. The Studio Program offers dance classes for various skill levels and styles within hip-hop, while the Performance Troupe Program allows dancers to audition for troupes appropriate to their age and skill level. These troupes rehearse weekly and perform at free community events across San Diego.
DIMENSIONS DANCE THEATER INCORPORATED	Alameda	GEN-24-24269	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, Dimensions Dance Theater will continue its community-centered arts programming that fulfills our mission to preserve and perpetuate African Diaspora dance through dance education, the creation of collaborative productions that shift perspectives, and communal events that uplift systemically underserved African American communities in the Oakland Bay Area, bringing communities together, breaking down cultural barriers, and create a sense of belonging through shared humanity.
DIVERSIONARY THEATRE PRODUCTIONS INC	San Diego	GEN-24-24786	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, DIVERSIONARY THEATRE PRODUCTIONS INC will continue its mission to provide an inspiring, inclusive, and empowering space for community to celebrate and explore complex, provocative, and diverse LGBTQIA+ stories which contribute to the larger cultural discussion. We will do this in FY25 through our Performing Arts Programs, including our mainstage season of LGBTQIA+ plays and musicals, as well as through our nine free Arts Education and Community Engagement Programs.
EL SISTEMA USA SALINAS INC	Monterey	GEN-24-24898	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, EL SISTEMA USA SALINAS INC (DBA YOSAL) will continue to fund crucial operational needs such as space rental, teacher salaries for equity focused music educator development. This support enables us to sustain our exceptional music education programs—OrcheSTARS!, Da Capo, and Symphony Orchestra—that serve over 250 underserved students annually in Salinas and surrounding areas. Our programs are crafted to accommodate various skill levels and age groups, providing a transformative experience that fosters discipline and teamwork among predominantly Latino youth. This operational support is vital for continuing to deliver high-quality, transformative music education and for strengthening YOSAL's impact, reshaping community perceptions through the power of outstanding musical learning.

FILMFORUM INC	Los Angeles	GEN-24-24102	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, Filmforum inc. will produce and present twenty (20) or more screenings per year with guest filmmakers in conversation. The artists and films will come from California and around the world, including films by multiple communities, including African-American, Asian-American, Latino-American, and LGBTQ, as we have done for 49 years. 2025 will be our 50th year.
GEOFFREY'S INNER CIRCLE	Alameda	GEN-24-22946	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, Geoffrey's Inner Circle will supplement staff salaries and programming costs and further our mission as a multidisciplinary arts venue and Black cultural center to uplift and promote Black culture and diverse Black art forms in Oakland through educational and performance initiatives, engaging youth, seniors, and low-income populations.
IN LAK'ECH DANCE ACADEMY	Alameda	GEN-24-24727	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, In Lak'ech Dance Academy will hire a full-time operations manager to oversee programs and facilities at our newly acquired dance studio. This addition will enable us to significantly expand our class and production offerings, reaching more community members and enhancing our efforts to create safe spaces for queer and transgender individuals. The operations manager will play a crucial role in managing daily operations, coordinating events, and supporting our mission to celebrate and uplift marginalized voices through dance and cultural expression.
JUNIOR CENTER OF ART & SCIENCE	Alameda	GEN-24-23949	\$20,276	With the support of the California Arts Council, Junior Center of Art and Science will continue to engage in arts-integrated programming with school and community partners. We have returned to our updated facility equipped with multiple interactive learning spaces that meet the needs of families and youth ages 2-17. This grant would allow us to expand onsite operations, and grow our outreach efforts with our local community. Despite our setbacks, we have been able to build new programs, fundraise for our scholarship and sliding scale, and form new community partners, because we remain steadfast in our commitment to arts and science education for all.
LA COMMONS	Los Angeles	GEN-24-23011	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, LA Commons will continue to provide arts and culture services which amplify community voices and support wellness in South LA.
LATINO CENTER OF ART AND CULTURE	Sacramento	GEN-24-24779	\$20,276	With the support from the California Arts Council, LATINO CENTER OF ART AND CULTURE will fund essential areas such as staff salaries, ensuring the retention of experienced and dedicated personnel crucial for program success. It will support translation services and bilingual marketing materials, facilitating effective communication and engagement with both English and Spanish-speaking community members. Furthermore, LCAC will enhance volunteer engagement by providing resources for training and coordination, maximizing community involvement and it will carry out the Section 504 evaluation process to improve accessibility, ensuring inclusive participation for individuals with disabilities.
LEAD GUITAR	Los Angeles	GEN-24-23882	\$16,897	With support from the California Arts Council, Lead Guitar will expand its free services to five additional LAUSD schools where 80% or more of students qualify for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch. Currently, Lead Guitar provides Teaching Artists for classroom instruction, curriculum, teacher training and experiential learning opportunities - like student concerts at local college campuses - to 1,363 students in 21 Los Angeles schools annually. 94% of those students qualify for FRPL, 86% identify as Latinx and 25% are English Language Learners. In-school assemblies from global touring artists and other events serve around 5,000 additional students and community members. Demand for Lead Guitar's services is out pacing our current reach. We have ten qualifying schools on our waiting list. GOS support from CAC would allow us to reach half of those waiting list schools.
LOS ANGELES MUSIC AND ART SCHOOL	Los Angeles	GEN-24-23670	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, Los Angeles Music and Art School will provide equitable, affordable and high quality arts education and performance opportunities in music, art, dance and drama to students of East Los Angeles and beyond so they are afforded the artistic skills and tools to succeed.
OUTWORDS ARCHIVE INC	Los Angeles	GEN-24-24117	\$20,276	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, The Outwords Archive will continue to record, preserve, and share the stories of LGBTQ+ elders, to build community and catalyze social change. OUTWORDS' overarching focus is using the media arts and storytelling to promote social equity of all types and to address systemic inequities in American society and beyond.</p> <p>OUTWORDS functions simultaneously as a media production company (for the purpose of gathering new interviews), an archive (for the purpose of organizing and preserving our assets), and a distribution company (for the purpose of sharing our extraordinary elder stories with the LGBTQ+ community and beyond through multiple channels). Our distribution occurs primarily through a robust array of public events, corporate DEI trainings, partnerships with LGBTQ+ organizations, and social media.</p>

PACIFIC OPERA PROJECT INCORPORATED	Los Angeles	GEN-24-22761	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, Pacific Opera Project will reinforce the staffing of our Education & Community Engagement Department team, enabling us to deepen the impact of our Free K-12 Music Education Programs for underserved youth in LA's Title-I schools, and continue developing community engagement opportunities for those with limited access to live musical performances. POP's Education Programs utilize personal storytelling through music and theater arts, realized together with our teaching and mainstage artists, to help develop self-esteem and self-confidence, as well as peer-to-peer and intergenerational cultural understanding.
ROOT DIVISION	San Francisco	GEN-24-24350	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, Root Division will continue to sustain and enhance studios, exhibitions, and arts educational programming that supports emerging BIPOC artists while engaging communities of color in authentic, intentional, and culturally responsive ways. Funds will be used to support Root Division's 2024-25 programming, staffing, and operational costs as the organization continues its unique studios incubator, offers free dynamic youth arts programming, develops new projects and exhibitions, and supports the continued development of empowering leadership and shared knowledge. Across its core programs, RD is focused on supporting and nurturing historically marginalized communities, specifically artists, educators, curators, and youth who identify as BIPOC, immigrants, and LGBTQIA+.
SAN BERNARDINO SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION	San Bernardino	GEN-24-22568	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, the San Bernardino Symphony Association will fund general operations including office rent, office utilities, and a portion of the salary of our Spanish-speaking office assistant who has been so helpful with the preparation of outreach materials and patron services. Since the cessation of federal arts assistance, and with the loss of so many of our senior donors, our 95-year-old organization has been extremely challenged; this grant would make a world of difference.
SAN DIEGO CIVIC YOUTH BALLET INC	San Diego	GEN-24-22570	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, the San Diego Civic Youth Ballet (SDCYB) will enrich San Diego's community with cultural performances, and provide more than 900 youth from multi-faceted backgrounds with affordable opportunities to study ballet with teachers of the highest quality. Further, SDCYB will advance diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility & belonging through intentional work in low-income neighborhoods, the use of culturally responsive strategies, and by using a revolutionary practice in the world of high-quality ballet programs. We cast dancers in performances exclusively based on their skill—regardless of appearance.  SDCYB will progress toward realizing its strategic plan by optimizing community engagement; investing in people to support organizational priorities; and strengthening financial sustainability for long-term viability. Support from the CAC will enable SDCYB to offer additional free and reduced cost classes, camps, and tickets.
SANTA CECILIA OPERA AND ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION	Los Angeles	GEN-24-24381	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, Santa Cecilia Orchestra will enhance its ability to provide exceptional musical experiences and educational programs to our community. The grant funds will be used to cover general operating expenses, including rent, utilities, staff salaries, and program development. This support will enable us to maintain our high standards of artistic excellence, expand our outreach initiatives, and ensure the sustainability of our educational programs, which aim to inspire and educate the next generation of musicians.
SCHOOL OF THE GETDOWN	Alameda	GEN-24-22739	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, School of The Getdown will supplement staff salaries and programming costs and further our mission to celebrate and promote Black musical forms and share these cultural traditions with diverse Bay Area communities through performance and educational programs, with particular attention towards youth and the Black community.
SHIPYARD TRUST FOR THE ARTS	San Francisco	GEN-24-23311	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, SHIPYARD TRUST FOR THE ARTS will enhance its diverse arts programs and community engagement at the Hunters Point Shipyard. We will support our Artist-in-Residence program, providing free studio space, professional development and other opportunities to the residents and other underrepresented artists at the shipyard. Our partnerships with local schools, senior centers, and community organizations will offer free art classes and collaborative projects. We will continue to host bi-annual Open Studios events and present exhibits and events in our art gallery throughout the year. We will continue to advocate for and support all shipyard artists, while ensuring accessibility and inclusivity in all our programs, supporting people with disabilities and creating a vibrant, inclusive arts community.

SILICON VALLEY SHAKESPEARE	Santa Clara	GEN-24-23034	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, SILICON VALLEY SHAKESPEARE (SVS) will continue to serve our communities with free, professionally oriented theatre that innovates and expands on age-old classics, illuminates the universality of the human condition, and inspires connection between people of all identities.
STREET SPIRIT	Alameda	GEN-24-23461	\$20,276	<p>With support from the California Arts Council, Street Spirit will broaden the reach of the artwork and stories in our newspaper, promote equity in our community through compassionate storytelling, and realize a strong financial position in our next fiscal year.</p> <p>Street Spirit eliminates barriers between unhoused people and the arts, providing vocational training in the process. Your support will complement matching funds committed by a diverse group of funders who are passionate about our mission. We will evaluate the impact of your support by tracking new artistic contributors and participants in our vocational training program, as well as the involvement of key staff. Street Spirit has helped unhoused residents change the narrative around homelessness for more than 30 years, and your support will strengthen our operational integrity.</p>
THE DAVID S HARP FOUNDATION INC	San Diego	GEN-24-24502	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, the David's Harp Foundation will expand its impactful Digital Arts program to ensure equitable access and empower a new generation of leaders. We will hire a talented alum from our Biz Pod program as an Artist Mentor (teaching artist) to guide elementary and high school-aged youth at risk of justice system involvement. This grant will cover their training and salary, allowing them to mentor and inspire at-risk youth through digital music and multimedia production. In line with our organization's goal to transition executive directorship to a program graduate by 2031, this initiative fosters leadership from within the community, creating a powerful ripple effect of transformation and empowerment through creative expression and professional development.
URBAN JAZZ DANCE COMPANY	San Francisco	GEN-24-24305	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, Urban Jazz Dance Company (UJDC) will present our October 2024-September 2025 programming including our 17th annual Home Season to take place in November 2024, perform at 15 schools, produce 10 #DeafWoke episodes and present other QTBIPOC Deaf and/or Disabled artists. CAC funds will go towards staff salaries and will support UJDC to produce 2 annual dance productions, the ongoing virtual #DeafWoke and a series of dance performances and workshops in San Francisco. As members of the Deaf community, UJDC founders and staff are of the very communities we serve. We believe in access for all, center diverse historically excluded communities most impacted by oppression in our programming, and deeply embed access in our work. UJDC will bring real Deaf stories to the stage.
VERSA-STYLE DANCE COMPANY	Los Angeles	GEN-24-23782	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, Versa Style Street Dance Company will subsidize livable wages for three members of our six-person core administrative staff. Staff members are critical to the organization's sustainability and capacity as an anchor of Hip Hop and street dance culture and education across Southern California. VSDC staff occupy vital roles within the organization, including administrators, teaching artists, performers, mentors and cultural practitioners and represent an internal career development pipeline crucial to the organization's ethos as a cultural institution with county-wide impact. California Arts Council funding will support VSDC's ability to care for its artists and provide equitable pay.
YOUTH IN ARTS	Marin	GEN-24-23752	\$20,276	With support from the California Arts Council, Youth in Arts will continue as a community-based arts and culture organizational leader in the North Bay of San Francisco and throughout the region. General Operating support will bolster YIA's steadfast provision and advocacy of equitable and accessible arts education that amplifies the student voice, catalyzes community development, and forges creative pathways for systematically marginalized communities. YIA's key programs include Artists in Schools (AIS) that brings professional, working artists to schools through long-term residencies; Arts Unite Us (AUU), providing on-going arts access for students with disabilities; and the Intensive Arts Mentorship (I AM) a program that offers teens creative youth development through a mentorship and job skills training model.