

**Press Release**  
**For Immediate Release**  
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## **7 Organizations Across California Awarded NextGen Organizational Grant Funding**

CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE - The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI), in partnership with the James Irvine Foundation and the William Flora Hewlett Foundation, is pleased to announce the awardees of the NextGen Organizational Grant Program through the NextGen Arts Leadership Initiative. Of 11 finalists, six California nonprofit cultural organizations were selected to receive a total of \$75,000 to explore new organizational policies and practices that support the career advancement of their organization's next generation arts leaders. Through CCI, NextGen arts leaders are defined as arts administrators between the ages of 18-35 working in the nonprofit cultural sector for less than 10 consecutive years.

The NextGen Arts Leadership Initiative was established in 2009 by CCI, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and The James Irvine Foundation to support the professional development of the Millennial arts workers who are needed to inherit and lead a field currently dominated by baby-boomers with "few in the pipeline to replace them".

This five-year project will continue to support the following activities through 2015: 1) NextGen Arts Professional Development Grants for emerging arts leaders, providing up to \$1,000 for eligible individuals to take workshops, attend conferences, or work with career coaches or management consultants. 2) Organizational Grants, providing up to \$15,000 for arts organizations 3) Convening and Networking Activities for emerging arts leader networks Statewide. The NextGen Initiative is part of CCI's Creative Capacity Fund.

### **Organizational Grant Program Awardees:**

California Presenters (Sacramento)  
Dancers' Group (San Francisco)  
Palo Alto Art Center (Palo Alto)  
Santa Monica Museum of Art (Santa Monica)  
Mexican Heritage Plaza School of Arts & Culture (San Jose)  
World Arts West (San Francisco)

A group of three next generation leaders from across the state acted as advisors to the

NextGen Organizational Grant Program. They were: Carrie Blanding, Grantwriter and Nonprofit Consultant; Letitia Ivins, Assistant Director of Civic Arts, Los Angeles County Arts Commission; and Jennifer Laine, Executive Director, San Benito Arts Council. Other people closely involved in this grant program were Cora Mirikitani (President and CEO, CCI), and Jayna Swartzman (Program Director, NextGen Arts).

About CCI: The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) was founded in 2001 to strengthen the support system for artists in California. Its mission is to promote knowledge sharing, networking, and financial independence for individual artists and creative entrepreneurs by providing grants, business training, and incubating innovative projects that create new program knowledge, tools, and practices for artists in the field.

For more information about the Center for Cultural Innovation, please go to [www.cciarts.org](http://www.cciarts.org). For more information about the NextGen Arts Leadership Initiative please go to [www.nextgenarts.org](http://www.nextgenarts.org).

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