



## Press Release

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### Center for Cultural Innovation in Partnership with Zoo Labs Announce the 2024 Fund Recipients

**San Francisco Bay Area** – The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) today announced the 2024 **Zoo Labs: FUND** grant recipients. Fourteen unrestricted grants ranging from \$5,000 - \$50,000 were awarded to Bay Area BIPOC-led artist teams with music businesses that are contributing to the region’s arts and culture ecosystem in positive ways. In addition to receiving a cash award, grantees will have access to a suite of mentorship resources offered by Zoo Labs: LEARN, including on-demand artist-tailored entrepreneurial courses, virtual group learning and networking sessions, and a curated pairing with a business mentor.

A total of 97 eligible applications were received across the four award tiers. Of these, the fourteen business recipients and the Bay Area counties they represent are:

#### **\$50,000**

ANYxMEANS (Alameda)

#### **\$25,000**

Audiopharmacy (Alameda, San Francisco, Sonoma)

Fyre Hazard Studios (Solano)

Today's Future Sound (Alameda)

#### **\$15,000**

Meem Theater (San Francisco)

Naima Shalhoub | SiphR Sessions (Alameda)

Studio X Recording (Alameda, San Mateo)

Town Business Inc. (Alameda, Contra Costa)

Wav.House (Alameda, Santa Clara)

#### **\$5,000**

Adaelo (Contra Costa, San Francisco)

resting between waveforms (Alameda, San Francisco)

Salōn! (San Francisco)

Stop Drop And Roll Show Live! (Santa Clara)

The Underground Rainbow Experiment (Alameda)

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Zoo Labs: FUND was created to address the critical lack of financial support for music entrepreneurs in the Bay Area, particularly BIPOC artists, seeking to launch or grow their creative ventures.

Grants were awarded to teams based on the potential for funding to have both a short and long-term impact, such as seeding the launch of a business, accelerating a business's growth, or investing in the untapped potential of an established business.

"We are continually inspired by the incredible talent and innovation showcased by our 2024 Zoo Labs: FUND grantees—and even more inspired by how they impact our local communities," said Zoo Labs founders Vinitha and David Watson. "It's an honor to support their journeys as they elevate their creative businesses."

CCI Program Officer Stephanie Barajas reflected, "As we conclude this fourth cycle, we remain amazed by the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of our grantees. CCI is proud to partner with Zoo Labs in providing substantial and unrestricted grants that empower Bay Area music entrepreneurs to achieve greater self-determination in their artistic pursuits."

Two, three-member panels were invited by CCI to review Zoo Labs: FUND applications and make grantee recommendations. For the \$5,000 and \$15,000 award tiers, panelists included Jonathan Borca (performing artist, storyteller, and arts commissioner), Maryela Perez (curator, DJ, and cultural worker), and Annah Sidigu (poet, composer, and songwriter). For the \$25,000 and \$50,000 award tiers, panelists included Carman Gaines (artist, advocate, and nonprofit leader), PC Muñoz (musician, producer, writer, and program creator), and Akiko Sampson (record label owner, musician, and video director).

The 2024 cycle of Zoo Labs: FUND awarded \$225,000 in unrestricted grants. The program was made possible by Vinitha and David Watson, in addition to the support of individual donors.

### **About Zoo Labs**

Since 2013, Zoo Labs has been building an ecosystem that values art, ideas, and people. Their programming helps empower artists to own and amplify their creations, breaking down the roadblocks between art and business. Complementing Zoo Labs: FUND is [Zoo Labs: LEARN](#), a suite of free artist-tailored entrepreneurship courses. The curriculum taught in these self-paced online courses is tried and true - tested over Zoo Labs' decade of serving an extensive alumni community and helping them level up their artistic business practices. For more information about Zoo Labs and Zoo Labs: LEARN, please visit [www.zoolabs.org](http://www.zoolabs.org).

### **About the Center for Cultural Innovation**

The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) was founded in 2001 as a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Our mission is to support individuals in the arts—artists, culture bearers, and creative entrepreneurs—to realize greater self-determination so as to unfetter their productivity, free expression, and social impact, which contributes to shaping our collective national identity in ways that reflect the diversity of society. For more information about CCI, please visit [www.cciarts.org](http://www.cciarts.org).

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