



Press Release

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Center for Cultural Innovation Awards Artistic Innovation Grants to Bay Area Performing and Media Artists

San Francisco – The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) today announced eight new grantees of the [Investing in Artists: Artistic Innovation](#) program (fka Investing in Artists). Awards of \$9,000 each were granted for Artistic Innovation projects proposed by performing and media artists in the San Francisco Bay Area. The program is made possible with support from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

First launched in 2007, Investing in Artists: Artistic Innovation supports artists who are creating new work that pushes the envelope of their creative process, explores new artistic collaborations, and/or supports artistic growth and experimentation that extends the boundaries of their art-making.

Out of 50 eligible applications, the eight Investing in Artists: Artistic Innovation grantees are (county of residence noted in parentheses):

Arnaud Loubayi (Santa Cruz County) to support the development of new choreography with guest artists for a performance at the 10th Annual Ha Mboungi African Dance and Drum Conference.

Chariell Glogovac-Smith (Santa Cruz County) to support the use of digital tools as an archiving practice for a performance and media project.

Christopher Luna-Mega (Santa Clara County) to support the development of “Temporal Tides: Acoustics of Shoreline Flux”, an interdisciplinary multimedia collaboration merging music, Monterey Bay oceanography, and video art.

Diana Diroy (San Mateo County) to support the production of “Seeds of Ancestral Memory”, a short documentary film about farmers growing crops from homelands their families were forced to leave behind.

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Elizabeth Rivera (Santa Clara County) to support the production and presentation of “Remembrance: The Power to Alchemize”, a one-night, multi-sensory ritual performance experience.

Farah Yasmeen Shaikh (San Mateo County) to support the new choreographic works taking place at “heARTivism - Artist Voices Creating Impact”.

Lisa Sniderman (San Mateo County) to support the development of the book and music for “VitaNova”, a hybrid musical that reimagines accessible theater through interactive storytelling, original songs, and simultaneous live and virtual performance.

Yosimar Jimenez Reyes (Santa Clara County) to support the development and production of “Si Dios Quiere, Regreso”, a solo show exploring the emotional toll of immigration, grief, and the longing to return home.

“Each year, we continue to be inspired by the innovation, exceptional talent, and creativity of artists and creatives across our region. The 2025 Investing in Artists' grantees showcase the incredibly diverse range of performing and media arts projects that challenge creative boundaries and encourage reflection, imagination, and connection,” says CCI Director of Grants Stephanie Imah. “We are excited to support these eight remarkable artists who play a vital role in shaping and enriching the broader creative community in the Bay Area.”

The 2025 Investing in Artists: Artistic Innovation program has awarded \$72,000 in project support grants as part of the first round of the program’s current three-year grant cycle (2024–2026). For this new cycle, we are thrilled to increase the award amount from \$8,250 to \$9,000 and to continue rotating eligible Bay Area counties, ensuring that resources are more intentionally directed to all ten Bay Area counties. For the 2025 application cycle, artists from Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, and San Mateo Counties were eligible to apply. In 2024, artists from Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco Counties were invited to apply. The final round in 2026 will be open to those from Marin, Napa, Solano, and Sonoma Counties.

A group of panelists reflecting a diverse range of knowledge and perspectives assisted CCI in reviewing the Investing in Artists: Artistic Innovation applications, including Hannah Bowers (singer-songwriter), Heesoo Kwon (multimedia artist), Tiffany Yau (curator and creative producer), and Valéria Miranda (dancer and Director of the Mary Porter Senson Art Gallery).

About the Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI)

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.

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