



Press Release

For Immediate Release
June 15, 2018
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Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) and City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) Announce Recipients of the Creative Economic Development Fund *An Investment Pool for Creative, Social Impact Businesses*

Los Angeles – With support from the Roy and Patricia Disney Family Foundation, the Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) and the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) today announced the nine **Creative Economic Development Fund (CEDF)** grantees' funded projects.

The CEDF is a program that provides funding for projects that will help launch startup ventures; enable temporary, pop-up activities; and expand micro-sized creative enterprises with five or fewer employees. This year, the partnership will provide \$105,000 in grants of up to \$12,500 each to independent creative businesses, self-employed artists or cultural producers, artist collectives, or nonprofit arts organizations with earned income activities that use commercial strategies in pursuit of a social or community impact objective.

Out of 69 applicants, the 9 selected organizations that will receive a CEDF grant are:

Across Our Kitchen Tables (Boyle Heights), a culinary arts hub and event series for women of color in all stages of development of their food-based businesses, is awarded \$12,500 to support online community development, networking events, and an annual symposium.

Amazing Grace Conservatory (Mid City) is awarded \$10,000 to develop Amazing Grace Studios, a social enterprise that will provide entrepreneurial training in sound, lighting, and recording for youth ages 5-18. Students will produce original content from their performances, recordings, videos, and live streaming to sell.

Color Coded (Boyle Heights), a tech learning space for people of color of all identities, is awarded \$12,500 to launch a training program that will be an affordable and practical way for people of color in Los Angeles to become community-centered digital specialists, specializing in design and coding.

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Las Fotos Project (Lincoln Heights) is awarded \$12,500 to support the expansion of Hire Her, a photography social enterprise that provides teenage girls on-the-job training for their future careers in the creative economy.

Pieter Performance Space (Lincoln Heights), a community arts space with a combined nonprofit and earned-income business model that fosters regional dance and performance for all without regard for ability to pay, is awarded \$12,500 to hire a social media strategist and undergo an expanded marketing initiative.

POT (Echo Park), a women of color-owned and operated pottery studio that prioritizes inclusive accessibility for both people of color & LGBTQ communities in Los Angeles, is awarded \$10,000 to hire two positions to expand studio services.

Rational Dress Society (Eagle Rock) a counter-fashion collective that created JUMPSUIT, an experimental, ungendered monogarment to replace all clothes, is awarded \$10,000 to create an app that connects users to an online database of local seamstresses and tailors who can be contracted to sew JUMPSUIT using their open source patterns, thereby stimulating local economies for experimental garment production.

U-Space Ukuleles (Little Tokyo), a creative, minority-owned community-building music venture, serving as Los Angeles's first full-service Ukulele Store, café, and community gathering place, is awarded \$12,500 to purchase industry-standard video equipment to launch a creative, community-based promotional branding strategy that will be used to strengthen and expand the enterprise's arts and social empowerment initiatives.

Women's Center for Creative Work (Elysian Valley) is awarded \$12,500 to initiate the Actual People Stock Photo Project, a subscription-based photo and illustration portfolio featuring images of folks in the WCCW community: women, femmes, people of color, genderqueer folks, and the differently abled to respond to a growing market demand for stock photos of diverse people.

The objective of the CEDF is to support creative enterprises that will have positive economic development and positively impact the City of Los Angeles. In selecting the projects for funding, priority consideration was given to enterprises and their projects that benefit economically-disadvantaged communities.

"Many of today's entrepreneurs not only want to make a profit, but also want to do something good for their communities. Artists, cultural producers, and independent designers are no different, and the Creative Economic Development Fund will invest in the startup and expansion of arts-businesses so that these entities can play a stronger and more visible role in the City's economic future," said **City of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti**.

The City of Los Angeles has become an exciting place for creative enterprises due to a desirable climate that attracts young entrepreneurs and innovators; a bustling entertainment and media industry; and a number of top-caliber art and design schools. Startups and micro-enterprises are the backbone of economic development and community vitality, yet have less access to investment and growth capital than large, more established businesses. The lack of capital is especially true for creative enterprises whose commercial strategies are applied for arts and cultural activities with social benefit aims.

“CEDF shines a spotlight on artists who are pursuing viable and socially relevant businesses contributing to the unique character of Los Angeles. Now in its fourth year, CEDF grantees have emerged as the face of the City. The diversity of enterprise owners, range of their social impacts, and types of products and services they offer exemplify why Los Angeles is an exciting place to be living and working right now.” said **Angie Kim, President and CEO of Center for Cultural Innovation**.

“This Fund is one of the first of its kind, bridging the arts and our economy while helping causes and communities,” said **Danielle Brazell, General Manager of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs**. “We are excited to recognize another group of recipients with enterprising solutions to address social needs and demonstrate the importance and impact of conducting business creatively in Los Angeles.”

For more information about the **Creative Economic Development Fund (CEDF)**, please visit: www.cciarts.org.

About Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI)

Center for Cultural Innovation was founded in 2001 as a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Its mission is to promote knowledge-sharing, networking, and financial independence for individual artists and creative entrepreneurs by providing business training, grants, and incubating innovative projects that create new program knowledge, tools, and practices for artists in the field. For more information, please visit cciarts.org.

About the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

As a leading, progressive arts and cultural agency, DCA empowers Los Angeles’ vibrant communities by supporting and providing access to quality visual, literary, musical, performing, and educational arts programming; managing vital cultural centers; preserving historic sites; creating public art; and funding services provided by arts organizations and individual artists.

Formed in 1925, DCA promotes arts and culture as a way to ignite a powerful dialogue, engage LA’s residents and visitors, and ensure LA’s varied cultures are recognized, acknowledged, and experienced. DCA’s mission is to strengthen the quality of life in Los Angeles by stimulating and supporting arts and cultural activities, ensuring public access to the arts for residents and visitors alike.

DCA advances the social and economic impact of arts and culture through grant making, public art, community arts, and strategic marketing and development. DCA creates and supports arts programming, maximizing relationships with other city agencies, artists, and arts and cultural nonprofit organizations to provide excellent service in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles.

For more information, please visit culturela.org or follow DCA on Facebook at facebook.com/culturela; Instagram [@culture_la](https://instagram.com/culture_la); and Twitter [@culture_la](https://twitter.com/culture_la).

About the Roy and Patricia Disney Family Foundation

Roy and Patricia Disney Family Foundation invests in innovative solutions and community leaders to build a more just, equitable, and sustainable world in which all people thrive. For more information, please visit rpdf.org.

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