

Press Release

For Immediate Release
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Photo from CCI Investing in Tomorrow Grantee, Arts Council of Santa Cruz County. Photo by Crystal Birns

Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) Announces Recipients of the Investing in Tomorrow Organizational Grants Program *Change Capital for Shaping the Future of California's Arts Nonprofit Field by Arts Organizations and its Visionaries*

San Francisco & Los Angeles, CA – The **Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI)** today announced the fourteen **Investing in Tomorrow Organizational** grantees' funded projects. The program is made possible with support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Investing in Tomorrow Organizational Grants provides funding for projects by diverse and up-and-coming leaders at nonprofit or fiscally sponsored arts organizations that have the potential to re-shape the trajectory of California's nonprofit arts sector in ways that advance intergenerational and multicultural leadership, inclusion and equity, and new sustainability models.

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The 2017 Investing in Tomorrow Organizational Grants program granted \$105,000 to fourteen projects taking place throughout California. Each grant of \$7,500 supports catalytic individual and institutional leadership at this time of tremendous social, economic, generational, demographic, and technological change.

Out of 106 applicants, the fourteen grantees of the Investing in Tomorrow Organizational grants are:

Arts Council of Santa Cruz County (Santa Cruz), to launch The Creative Express, a mobile visual and performing arts studio designed by Creative Young Artists, a youth arts collective in Watsonville, CA. The converted bus, led by a diverse group of young leaders, will travel to

and serve the neighborhoods of those who have been historically overlooked by formal arts institutions.

Asian American Women Artists Association (San Francisco), to foster the professional development of emerging curators of color so as to diversify the curatorial profession and commensurately increase the visibility of exhibitions of Asian American women artists, through training, workshops, and seminar programs.

Bisemi Foundation (Oakland), to support the Cultural Arts Incubator Program, which is designed to proliferate and empower women of color in performing arts and arts administration, by producing a series of short films documenting participants' experiences in tailored intensive retreats and workshops.

Del Sol Performing Arts Organization (San Francisco), to adopt an internationally tested arts cooperative, membership-based fundraising model to finance a new music series in an intimate setting of a private San Francisco home.

Gallo Center for the Arts (Modesto), to launch a Technical Theater Mentorship Program to address their growing need for skilled technical theater professionals in the San Joaquin Valley region. The program will provide opportunities for economically disadvantaged youth from local high schools to be trained for technical jobs in production, and offers an experiment in workforce development by a local presenting institution.

The Harmony Project (Los Angeles), to offer a mariachi music program to students in Leimert Park, Los Angeles, including the formation of an all-girls mariachi ensemble class, cultivating skills specific to the performance of mariachi such as Spanish language competency, musical proficiency, and showmanship. This project also brings together Mexican American and Leimert Park's historically African American communities and cultures in a distinctly Southern Californian way.

Hartnell College Foundation (Salinas), to establish an Arts Hub at the College that focuses on arts entrepreneurship, connects artists to local businesses in the public and private sectors, and provides local artists with access to space, tools, and equipment. Hartnell College provides a model for how a local college can be a resource to local (non-enrolled) artists, and a connector between the arts community and other local industries.

Hope Mohr Dance (San Francisco), to support the creation of "Queer Crossings," a Community Engagement Residency that will provide sanctuary and creative opportunity for queer, immigrant artists of color to create new works of performance inspired by the intersection of their experiences. These are perspectives not well represented in the arts or society, and this attention reflects the important role that a dance company can play in giving voice to marginalized people.

Justice For My Sister Collective (Los Angeles), to support "Nuevas Novelas," a two-part job training program for 20 young women of color in Boyle Heights, Los Angeles, to improve their media literacy skills through filmmaking apprenticeships. This project is a training pipeline to be financed largely through paid contracts, and addresses both a new enterprise business model and the need to increase underrepresented voices in media.

Media Arts Santa Ana (Santa Ana), to launch the Millennial Producers Academy, a program that will provide digital media arts production training, entrepreneurial skills, and cultural agility development to

a cohort of young adults selected from local community, social justice, health, cultural and advocacy organizations.

MiHistoria (San Leandro), to support a new performance-based strand to the organization's work in empowering Latinas to be the authors of their own stories. The project will bring together rural farmworker and urban immigrant women to meet and create texts, culminating in public performances in the Bay Area and Central Coasts.

RYSE Inc. (Richmond), to support "Rooted in Richmond," which will empower young teaching artists to lead a dynamic community-based art project centered on place-based inclusion and belonging, and addressing issues of affordable housing through a series of workshops.

Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo (San Gabriel), to support "Women Who Submit - Submission Workshops and Parties," which are six free public events in partnership with community spaces, focused on supporting women and non-binary writers to prepare their creative work for publication and professional advancement.

Women's Audio Mission (WAM) (San Francisco), to address the critical need for multicultural and bilingual Spanish leadership in WAM's recently opened Oakland location by expanding part-time instructor Victoria Farjado's role to a full time leadership position, using her social justice experience to develop a more inclusive curriculum for the advancement of women and girls in music production.

The creation of the Investing in Tomorrow Organizational Grants Program was driven by the findings of *Creativity Connects: Trends and Conditions Affecting US Artists*, a national report published by CCI in 2016 that described how the nonprofit arts sector is changing in dramatic ways. Both *Creativity Connects* and CCI's 2017 Future Arts Forward convening, a gathering of over 200 artists and arts professionals, affirmed that emerging generations of arts leaders want to work toward advancing equality, inclusion, equity, and financial sustainability across generations and industry sectors.

CCI's President and CEO Angie Kim said, "We are excited to be supporting important projects that are both about making visible culturally specific voices and shaping the trajectory of the arts sector. We wanted to validate often overlooked communities and ideas, and this group of grantees reflects that the future of the arts is in terrific hands."

This program was adjudicated by an unusually large number of panelists to reflect a multitude of perspectives, regions, backgrounds, and generations. The statewide panel was made possible with support from the Kenneth Rainin Foundation. Panelists included:

- Lilia Agüero, San Jose, School of Arts and Culture
- Amar Azucena Cid, Sacramento, Caltrans
- Kym Cochran, Santa Barbara, Fishbon
- Rudy Espinoza, Los Angeles, Leadership for Urban Renewal Network
- Jonathon Freeman, Redding, Native Roots Network
- Jeremy Liu, San Francisco, Oakland, PolicyLink
- Madin Lopez, Los Angeles, ProjectQ
- Nikiko Masumoto, Central Valley, Masumoto Family Farm

- Beatrice Thomas, San Francisco, Beatrice Thomas Consulting
- Whitney Roux, City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture

About the Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI)

The 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 www.cciarts.org.

About the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation helps people build measurably better lives, concentrating its resources on activities in education, the environment, global development and population, performing arts, and philanthropy, as well as grants to support disadvantaged communities in the San Francisco Bay Area. For more information, please visit www.hewlett.org.

About the Kenneth Rainin Foundation

Kenneth Rainin Foundation is a private family foundation dedicated to enhancing quality of life by championing and sustaining the arts, promoting early childhood literacy and supporting research to cure chronic disease. Collaboration and innovation are at the heart of all of its programs. Its vision is guided by the belief that change is possible through inquiry, creativity and compassion. For more information, please visit www.krfoundation.org.

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November 15, 2018
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**Center for Cultural Innovation
Announces Recipients of the
Investing in Tomorrow Grants Program
*Change Capital for Re-imagining the Arts Field in Ways That Advance
Intergenerational and Multicultural Leadership,
Inclusion and Equity, and New Sustainability Models***

San Francisco – The **Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI)** today announced the five *Investing in Tomorrow* grantees and their funded projects. The program is made possible with support from the Kenneth Rainin Foundation.

Investing in Tomorrow grants provide funding for forward-looking projects that hold promise for re-imagining the Bay Area region's arts field in ways that advance intergenerational and multicultural leadership, inclusion and equity, and new sustainability models. This year marks the final year of *Investing in Tomorrow*, which over its two-year course, has proved to be an exciting investment in visionaries who are seminal to the vitality of the Bay Area's arts future.

The 2018 *Investing in Tomorrow* program granted \$40,000 to five projects taking place in the Bay Area. Each grant of \$8,000 supports catalytic leadership and ideas at this time of tremendous social, economic, generational, demographic, and technological change.

Out of 49 applicants, the five *Investing in Tomorrow* grantees are:

Afro Urban Society, in partnership with the African and African-American Performing Arts Coalition and Dance Mission Theater, will launch its Stage Lighting Tech Fellowship for Womxn of African Descent, which will provide four Black lighting designers with paid fellowships. The fellowships will increase the number of Black female lighting designers in the Bay Area, in addition to providing a national model for increasing representation in the technical arts.

Arab.AMP will be an Oakland-based platform that shines a spotlight on the work of Arab Experimentalists working in the Arab world and its diaspora. Led by Arab and Arab American artists and other arts leaders of color, Arab.AMP will enable Arab artists to co-create, engage in discourse with one another and the public, and perform within the specific context of Arab Experimentalism.

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ARVR Women will change the face of futurists by putting out-of-reach AR headsets in the hands of Women of Color artists to publish and promote their reviews and establish their authority, visibility, and leadership in immersive art, design, and tech.

Jess Curtis/Gravity will further develop their audio description services for people who are blind or visually impaired, and create a programmatic model that can be adopted by performing arts organizations nationally and internationally.

Peacock Rebellion will incubate the Bay Area Queer and Trans People of Color Technical Arts Production Crew (TAP-Crew). TAP-Crew will bring together Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC) artists and production professionals for relationship-building, skill-sharing, and mentorship opportunities in order to grow a sustainable QTPOC arts ecosystem from the ground up.

The creation of the *Investing in Tomorrow* grants program was driven by the findings of *Creativity Connects: Trends and Conditions Affecting U.S. Artists*, a national report published by CCI in 2016 that described how the nonprofit arts sector is changing in dramatic ways. Both *Creativity Connects* and CCI's 2017 Future Arts Forward convening, a gathering of over 200 artists and arts professionals, affirmed that emerging generations of arts leaders want to work toward advancing equality, inclusion, equity, and financial sustainability across generations and industry sectors.

CCI's Grants Program Director Laura Poppiti noted, "We are excited to be supporting important projects that are both about making visible culturally specific voices and shaping the trajectory of the arts sector. We wanted to validate often overlooked communities and ideas, and this group of grantees reflects that the future of the arts is in terrific hands."

A panel of emerging arts leaders assisted CCI in reviewing the *Investing in Tomorrow* applications, including: social practice performance artist Jose e abad; artist and arts organizer Diane Li; and print maker and digital illustrator Chucha Marquez.

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