



Press Release

For Immediate Release
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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.

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 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. The Foundation is guided by their commitment to change through inquiry, creativity and compassion. For more information, please visit www.krfoundation.org.

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