

Press Release

For Immediate Release
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\$169,600 Awarded by the Center for Cultural Innovation in Second Round Funding to California Artists

The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) today announced the recipients of Round II *Investing in Artists* grants supporting California's working artists in all disciplines. A total of \$169,600 in grants was awarded on a competitive basis to 23 artists in two categories: 1) to acquire Artistic Equipment & Tools; and 2) for Planning and Implementation activities around Presenting & Marketing Artistic Work.

Launched in June 2007, the *Investing in Artists* grants program is uniquely designed to enhance the working lives and creative environment for California artists by funding tools and market strategies that will allow them to create their best work more consistently, and distribute that work more broadly to new audiences. With initial support provided by The James Irvine Foundation, a total of \$450,000 in *Investing in Artists* grants will be awarded by CCI to California artists over three rounds of funding in 2007-2008. To date, 46 artists have received grants in two rounds of funding with award amounts totaling \$319,600. Round III of the funding program has a deadline of June 6, 2008.

In Round II under the Artistic Equipment & Tools category, six (6) artists received *Investing in Artists* grants:

- **Michelle Brown** (Folk & Traditional Arts, Riverside)
- **Janie Geiser** (Performing Arts, Los Angeles)
- **Sasha Isaac-Young** (Media Arts, Los Angeles)
- **Gordon Lee** (Folk & Traditional Arts, Cupertino)
- **Julia Meltzer** (Media Arts, Los Angeles)
- **Richard Steven Street** (Visual Arts, San Anselmo)

In the Presenting & Marketing Work category, thirteen (13) artists received *Investing in Artists* Planning grants:

- **Brenda Wong Aoki** (Performing Arts, San Francisco)
- **Erin Cosgrove** (Media Arts, Altadena)
- **Arthur Dong** (Media Arts, Los Angeles)
- **Geoff Gallegos** (Performing Arts, Los Angeles)
- **Kristy Guevara-Flanagan** (Media Arts, Alameda)

- **Marc Bamuthi Joseph** (Performing Arts, Oakland)
- **Ted Purves** (Visual Arts, Oakland)
- **Ken Roht** (Performing Arts, Los Angeles)
- **Jay Rosenblatt** (Media Arts, San Francisco)
- **Erika Shuch** (Performing Arts, San Francisco)
- **Sri Susilowati** (Folk & Traditional Arts, Pasadena)
- **Scott Wells** (Performing Arts, San Francisco)
- **Christine Wong Yap** (Visual Arts, Oakland)

Also in the Presenting & Marketing Work category, four (4) artists received Implementation grants as follow up funding to their Round I Planning grant:

- **Chitresh Das** (Folk & Traditional Arts, San Francisco)
- **Alonzo King** (Performing Arts, San Francisco)
- **Suzanne Lacy** (Visual Arts, Marina del Rey)
- **Marcus Shelby** (Performing Arts, San Francisco)

Over 520 artists applied for grant support in Round II of the *Investing in Artists* program representing a broad range of artistic disciplines in the performing, visual and media arts. Cora Mirikitani, President and CEO of the Center for Cultural Innovation, said "While we know that the application process is highly competitive, the number and diversity of artists seeking grants also tells us of the enormous need for a grants program like *Investing in Artists*."

CCI convened a six member panel of outside experts to make recommendations on final grant recipients. The panelists were Mike Blockstein, Principal at Public Matters LLC in Los Angeles; Jon Ching, a documentary videographer based in Fresno; Brian Freeman, a San Francisco-based playwright and theater professional; Karin Higa, Adjunct Senior Curator of Art at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles; Julie Lazar, Director of the International Contemporary Arts Network based in Glendale; and Chike Nwoffiah, Director of Oriki Theater in Mountain View.

About CCI: The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) 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 loans, and incubating innovative projects that create new program knowledge, tools, and practices for artists in the field. CCI's current programs for artists include entrepreneurial training workshops, grants and micro-lending programs, a group discount purchasing program called Benefit Opportunities for Artists (BOA), and a Project Incubator.

For more information about the Center for Cultural Innovation and the *Investing in Artists* grants program please go to CCI's website at www.cciarts.org.

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