

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Center for Cultural Innovation Awards \$150,000 in New Grants to Support Working Lives of California Artists

The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) today announced the names of 27 individual artists who were recipients of first round *Investing in Artists* program grants for California artists. A total of \$150,000 in grants was awarded on a competitive basis to exemplary California artists in two categories: 1) to acquire Artistic Equipment & Tools; and 2) to engage in Planning for Presenting & Marketing Artistic Work.

Launched in June of this year, 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 given out by CCI to California artists working in all disciplines over three rounds of funding in 2007-2008.

In the Artistic Equipment & Tools category, seven (7) artists received Round One *Investing in Artists* grants:

- **Bill Fontana** (Media Arts, San Francisco)
- **Amy Franceschini** (Visual Arts, San Francisco)
- **Kompiang Metri-Davles** (Folk and Traditional Arts, Richmond)
- **David Rousseve** (Performing Arts, Pasadena)
- **Joan Takayama-Ogawa** (Visual Arts, Pasadena)
- **Hank Willis Thomas** (Media Arts, Oakland)
- **David Wilson** (Media Arts, Culver City)

In the Presenting & Marketing Work category, twenty (20) artists received Round One *Investing in Artists* Planning Grants:

- **Idris Ackamoor** (Performing Arts, San Francisco)
- **Ana Maria Alvarez** (Performing Arts, Los Angeles)
- **Katherine Aoki** (Visual Arts, Santa Clara)
- **Charya Burt** (Folk and Traditional Arts, Windsor)
- **Scott Constable** (Visual Arts, Sebastopol)
- **Lia Cook** (Visual Arts, Berkeley)

- **Chitresh Das** (Folk and Traditional Arts, San Francisco)
- **Paul Flores** (Performing Arts, San Francisco)
- **Margaret Jenkins** (Performing Arts, San Francisco)
- **Nancy Keystone** (Performing Arts, Los Angeles)
- **Alonzo King** (Performing Arts, San Francisco)
- **Suzanne Lacy** (Visual Arts, Marina del Rey)
- **Cherylene Lee** (Performing Arts, San Francisco)
- **Juan Morales** (Performing Arts, Wasco)
- **Alison Pebworth** (Visual Arts, San Francisco)
- **Favianna Rodriguez** (Visual Arts, Oakland)
- **Marcus Shelby** (Performing Arts, San Francisco)
- **Wang Wei** (Performing Arts, Oakland)
- **Kristina Wong** (Performing Arts, Los Angeles)
- **Rene Yung** (Visual Arts, San Francisco)

Round One of the *Investing in Artists* grants program received over 550 applications from California artists in various stages of career development, representing a wide range of artistic disciplines in the performing, visual and media arts. According to Cora Mirikitani, President and CEO of the Center for Cultural Innovation, “We wanted to make a long-term investment in building the capacity and self-sufficiency of working artists who may have exceptional talent, but are still struggling to survive. Based on the overwhelming response received from artists across the state, we think this new grants program is on the right track.”

CCI convened a six member panel of outside experts to make recommendations on final grant recipients. The panelists were Bonnie Brooks, Chair of the Dance Center at Columbia College in Chicago; Patrick Ela, Independent Arts Consultant and Former Director of the Craft and Folk Art Museum in Los Angeles; Kris Kuramitsu, Independent Curator and Former Director of Arts Programs for the Peter Norton Family Foundation; Julie Lazar, Director of International Contemporary Arts Network based in Glendale; Renny Pritikin, Director at the Richard L. Nelson Gallery at UC Davis, and Eleanor San San Wong, Director of Cultural Equity Grants at the San Francisco Arts Commission.

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 “Business of Art” entrepreneurial training workshops, *Investing in Artists* grants and the Los Angeles Arts Loan Fund micro-lending program, the Benefit Opportunities for Artists (BOA) group discount purchasing program, and a Project Incubator.

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