



Press Release

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Center for Cultural Innovation Grants Artistic Innovation Awards to Bay Area Performing and Media Artists

San Francisco – The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) today announced six new grantees of the *Investing in Artists* program. Awards of \$8,000 each were granted for Artistic Innovation projects proposed by performing and media artists to create new work that pushes the envelope of their creative process. The program is made possible with support from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

The *Investing in Artists* grants program is designed to support diverse working artists in the 11 counties surrounding the San Francisco Bay Area. Grant funds support awardees in pursuing new collaborations, creative growth, and artistic experimentation that extends the boundaries of their art-making.

Out of 82 applicants, the six *Investing in Artists* grantees are:

Alexa Burrell (Media Arts) to acquire audio and video equipment to create immersive multimedia installations for Black women's healing.

Kim Epifano (Dance) to support *Rock & Mortar*, a site-specific anthropological journey with an intergenerational cast of female mixed-heritage dancers, actors, and musicians that seeks to heal matrilineal traumas through interdisciplinary performance art.

Deann Borshay Liem (Film) to support the development of *Relative Strangers*, a multi-part documentary about mixed race Korean adoptees searching for their birth families, initiating unexpected discoveries about family, race, culture, and themselves.

Catherine Liu (Dance) to support *Break*, a dance theater production about mental health.

Sabereh Mohammadkashi (Film) to support a self-portrait documentary of an Iranian immigrant who has come to America for freedom but struggles with identity and belonging. Between healing her relationship with her authoritative father in Iran and saving her Oakland cooperative household from being sold in the open market, she comes to find her "home."

Genevieve Quick (Video) to support a performance video work that integrates video, dance, and music, and uses a humorous science fiction narrative to address Otherness and the Asian American community.

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“We are thrilled to support the 2019 *Investing in Artists* grantees and the projects they are pursuing that push the boundaries of their art-making,” says CCI Grants Program Director, Laura Poppiti. “These artists bolster the Bay Area’s identity as a stronghold of creative innovation, artistic experimentation, and cultural expression.”

The 2019 *Investing in Artists* program granted \$48,000. This is the second cycle of a three-year granting program that originally began in 2007 to enhance the working lives and strengthen the creative support system for California working artists.

A group of panelists reflecting a diverse range of knowledge and perspectives assisted CCI in reviewing the *Investing in Artists* applications, including: Christina Augello of Exit Theatre, Armando Castellano of Quinteto Latino, Kirthi Nath of Cinemagical Media, and Deborah Vaughan of Dimensions Dance Theater.

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 individuals in the arts by providing business training, grants, and incubating innovative projects that create new program knowledge, tools and practices for artists in the field, and conditions that contribute to realizing financial self-determination. 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.

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