



## Press Release

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

**San Francisco** – The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) today announced eight new grantees of the Investing in Artists program. Awards of \$8,250 each were granted for Artistic Innovation projects proposed by performing and media artists in the San Francisco Bay Area. The program is made possible with support from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

First launched in 2007, Investing in Artists supports artists who are creating new work that pushes the envelope of their creative process, explores new artistic collaborations, and/or supports artistic growth and experimentation that extends the boundaries of their art-making.

Out of 43 eligible applications, the eight Investing in Artists grantees are (county of residence noted in parentheses):

**Sara Anders** (Solano County) to support "Holy Roller," a short film showcasing the complexity and duality that comes with being a woman of faith, which Anders will write and direct.

**Jaimeo Brown** (Marin County) to support "Street Cries," a multidisciplinary work about how early African-American art has influenced modern contemporary music and culture.

**Bia Gayotto** (Sonoma County) to support "Mycelia Women's Choir" (working title), a video installation that explores the connection between mycelia and women as caregivers through song.

**Hannah Gladstone** (Sonoma County) to support the development of a vocal ensemble, "Sing to the Sun & Moon," and a collection of community gatherings that will provide resources for healing and birthing for the Black community.

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**Nancy Hayashibara** (Sonoma County) to support "Mosaic," a multimedia work about the way animals see the world featuring interactive projections and music.

**Tyler Holmes** (Marin County) to support "The End Is Built Into The Beginning," an experimental film and accompanying soundtrack that explores the link between birth and death.

**Taylor Price** (Solano County) to support "The Sunset Route: Echoes of the South in Black California," a documentary film and multimedia exhibition that examines the cultural evolution of Black life in the Golden State over the last century.

**Antwan Williams** (Solano County) to support "Until Then," a multidisciplinary work utilizing film and dance to challenge how criminality and incarceration are imposed on the body.

"Every year, we continue to be in awe of the talent, creativity, and artistic and cultural innovation that Bay Area artists bring forward. The 2023 Investing in Artists' grantees and their projects represent a breadth of performing and media arts genres and works that invite us to look back, forward, and within," says CCI Program Officer, Stephanie Barajas. "We are honored to support these eight artists residing and working in counties that have historically been underfunded and undersupported."

The 2023 Investing in Artists program awarded \$66,000 in project support grants. This is the third and final round of the program's current three-year grant cycle. This cycle is marked by significant updates from previous ones: the number of awards available for each round has increased from six to eight; the maximum award amount has increased from \$8,000 to \$8,250; and we are rotating Bay Area counties that are eligible for support. For the 2023 application round, artists residing in Marin, Napa, Solano, and Sonoma Counties were eligible to apply. In 2021, artists residing in Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco Counties were eligible to apply, and in the 2022 round, artists residing in Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Mateo Counties were eligible. In so doing, CCI targeted resources more intentionally to all ten Bay Area counties.

A group of panelists reflecting a diverse range of knowledge and perspectives assisted CCI in reviewing the Investing in Artists applications, including Yayoi Kambara (artist, co-interrogator of Dancing Around Race [DAR] and founder of KAMBARA+), Lisa Murray (independent filmmaker and founder of Ag & Art Film Festival and Ag & Art Film Magazine), Kayatta Patton (rapper, poet, producer, and educator), and Amy L. Pinto (theater-maker, performer, writer, teacher, and founding Artistic Director of the Imaginists).

CCI would like to extend a special thank you to Kimzin Creative and the Vallejo Arts Fund for their outreach and networking support.

### **About the Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI)**

The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) was founded in 2001 as a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Our mission is to support individuals in the arts—artists, culture bearers, and creative entrepreneurs—to realize greater self-determination so as to unfetter their productivity, free expression, and social impact, which contributes to shaping our collective national identity in ways that reflect the diversity of society.

For more information about CCI, please visit [www.cciarts.org](http://www.cciarts.org).

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