



For Immediate Release
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\$200,000 in New Grants Awarded to California Artists by the Center for Cultural Innovation

The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) today announced twenty-six artists who received funding in the fifth round of funding under its *Investing in Artists* grants program, which is designed to build the personal and creative capacity of California's artists working in all disciplines.

The *Investing in Artists* grants program was established by the Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) in 2007 to enhance the working lives and strengthen the creative support system for California artists working in all disciplines. Following three initial rounds of funding made to 54 artists in 2007 and 2008, CCI was able to expand the program which will now make \$1 million in new grants to artists from 2009-2011, supported by The James Irvine Foundation and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Round V of the *Investing in Artists* grants program specifically provided support to working artists in the Visual Arts, Craft and Literary Arts in two categories: 1) for the acquisition of Artistic Equipment & Tools; and 2) for Artistic Innovation.

In the Artistic Equipment & Tools category, fourteen (14) artists received *Investing in Artists* grants:

- Susan Avila (Craft, Oakland)
- Amy Balkin (Multidisciplinary, San Francisco)
- Chris Bell (Multidisciplinary, San Mateo)
- Cindy Bernard (Visual Arts, Los Angeles)
- James Buckhouse (Multidisciplinary, Palo Alto)
- Heather Bursch (Visual Arts, Los Angeles)
- Joshua Churchill (Multidisciplinary, San Francisco)
- Binh Danh (Photography, San Jose)
- David Gurman (Multidisciplinary, San Francisco)
- Taro Hattori (Visual Arts, Oakland)
- Packard Jennings (Multidisciplinary, Oakland)
- Larry Kline (Visual Arts, Escondido)
- Blaine Merker (Multidisciplinary, San Francisco)
- Kim Stringfellow (Multidisciplinary, Joshua Tree)

In the Artistic Innovation category, twelve (12) artists received *Investing in Artists* grants:

- Jeff Chang (Literary Arts, Berkeley)
- Sara Daleiden (Multidisciplinary, Los Angeles)
- Sergio de la Torre (Multidisciplinary, San Francisco)
- Amy Franceschini (Visual Arts, San Francisco)
- Guillermo Gomez-Pena (Multidisciplinary, San Francisco)
- Desiree Holman (Multidisciplinary, Oakland)

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- Ali Liebegott (Literary Arts, San Francisco)
- Kelly Nipper (Multidisciplinary, Los Angeles)
- Scott Oliver (Visual Arts, Oakland)
- Alison Pebworth (Visual Arts, San Francisco)
- Jessica Rath (Visual Arts, Los Angeles)
- Philip Ross (Multidisciplinary, San Francisco)

“We know that grants to individual artists are an important means to help them advance their work, and this is particularly true during an economic recession when financial resources are so scarce,” said CCI President and CEO Cora Mirikitani.

A panel of distinguished experts assisted CCI in reviewing Round V *Investing in Artists* applications, including: Jaime Cortez (*Literary and Visual Artist*); Patrick Ela (*Accredited Senior Appraiser*); Courtney Fink (*Executive Director, Southern Exposure*); Karin Higa (*Adjunct Senior Curator of Art, Japanese American National Museum*); Julie Lazar (*Independent Curator*); Cora Mirikitani (*President and CEO, CCI*); Sharon Tanenbaum (*Executive Director, SF Camerawork*); and Elizabeth Thomas (*Phyllis Wattis MATRIX Curator, UC Berkeley Art Museum*).

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.

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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