



For Immediate Release
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\$200,000 Awarded by the Center for Cultural Innovation to California Artists in Round VI Funding

The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) today announced \$200,000 in grants to twenty-four recipients in a sixth round of funding under its *Investing in Artists* grants program for California artists. To date, more than \$1 million in grants have been awarded through this program.

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. CCI is now continuing the grants program in its fourth year with support from The James Irvine Foundation and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Round VI of the *Investing in Artists* grants program provided support to performing and media artists in two categories: 1) for the acquisition of Artistic Equipment & Tools; and 2) for Artistic Innovation.

In the Artistic Equipment & Tools category, the following thirteen (13) artists received *Investing in Artists* grants:

- Tandy Beal (Multidisciplinary, Felton)
- S. Leo Chiang (Media Arts, San Francisco)
- Nara Denning (Media Arts, San Francisco)
- Arthur E. Dong (Media Arts, Los Angeles)
- Peter Esmonde (Media Arts, San Francisco)
- Mark G. Izu (Multidisciplinary, San Francisco)
- Larry Karush (Music, Los Angeles)
- Susan R. Mogul (Media Arts, Los Angeles)
- Jude Narita (Theater, Marina Del Rey)
- Naoyuki Oguri (Dance, Venice)
- Gang Situ (Music, San Francisco)
- Marilee Talkington (Theater, San Francisco)
- Theresa Wong (Music, Berkeley)

In the Artistic Innovation category, eleven (11) artists received *Investing in Artists* grants:

- Lily Cai (Dance, San Francisco)
- Leilani Chan (Theatre, Los Angeles)
- Paul Drescher (Music, Berkeley)
- Paul S. Flores (Theater, San Francisco)

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- Janie Geiser (Multidisciplinary, Los Angeles)
- Nancy Keystone (Theatre, Los Angeles)
- Victoria E. Marks (Dance, Los Angeles)
- Margaret Jenkins (Dance, San Francisco)
- Jay Rosenblatt (Media Arts, San Francisco)
- Keith Terry (Multidisciplinary, Oakland)
- Sarah E. Wilson (Music, Kensington)

“At a time when funding for individual artists is harder than ever to find, CCI is privileged to fund the 24 exemplary performing and media artists selected in this round,” said CCI President and CEO Cora Mirikitani.

A panel of distinguished experts assisted CCI in reviewing Round VI *Investing in Artists* applications, including: Victoria Bryan (*Faculty Member, California State University*); Jon Ching (*Video Artist and Educator*); Angela Mattox (*Performing Arts Curator, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts*); Denis McCourt (*Co-Artistic Director, Long Beach Shakespeare Company*); Cora Mirikitani (*President and CEO, CCI*); David Plettner-Saunders (*Co-Founder, The Cultural+Planning Group*); Kathleen Powell (*Chair of the Board of Directors and Co-Founder, Cinequest*); Susan Simpson (*Experimental Theater and Media Artist, Faculty Member, California Institute of the Arts School of Theater*); and Kristina Wong (*Multidisciplinary Performance and Media Artist*).

About CCI: The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) was founded in 2001 to strengthen the support system for artists in California. Its mission is to promote knowledge sharing, networking, and financial independence for individual artists and creative entrepreneurs by providing grants, business training, 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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