

Creative Space Grant Program Overview

The Creative Space (CRSP) grant program supports the enhancement of San Francisco cultural facilities through Planning and Facility Improvement Grants. The category aims to improve existing arts facilities and develop new ones that will support the work of San Francisco's arts organizations and artists.

Creative Space Planning and Facilities grants support the planning or pre-planning for the development or acquisition of arts facilities; or capital improvements to address emergency situations, improve the capacity of the creative space, and/or to have significant positive effect on audience accessibility, comfort, and enjoyment.

Panel Composition

The three-member peer review panel convened on February 25, 2021 to rank the CRSP applications according to the stated review criteria in the published CRSP 2020-2021 guidelines.

The strength of the panelists' expertise is in architecture, affordable housing, community engagement, and real estate experience. Demographics include one African American, one Latinx person, and one Asian American. Gender demographics include two women and one man.

FY20-21 CRSP Funding Recommendations

12 grant applications were received requesting a total of \$1,034,014.

The panelists reviewed 12 CRSP applications according to the stated review criteria. CRSP Funding recommendations include 6 applicants for a total of \$400,000.

Successful planning proposals included funding for feasibility studies and collaborative space planning for mission-aligned organizations that strongly demonstrated meeting SFAC's equity goals. Facilities improvement proposals include the removal of asbestos and electrical rewiring, a build-out of a performing arts and community gathering space in the Mission, and a build out of a cultural hub and gallery space in SOMA.

The applicants that did not score well were unable to clearly articulate how the project benefited and engaged and marginalized communities.

Attachments

Attachments to this memo include the list of CRSP applicants recommended for funding with scores and project descriptions, and panelist biographies.

Community Investments

FY20-21 Creative Space (CRSP) Funding Recommendations



Applicant Category Grant Amount	Budget Size	Average Score	Project Description
Friends of SCRAP Planning \$50,000	< \$500K	95	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support increasing the safety of SCRAP's programmatic space. First and foremost, funds will go toward an environmental consultant to support a careful and safe analysis of asbestos found in our concrete. SFAC funds will also support extensive electrical rewiring to add 33 new power outlets, creating a much safer space for the public by removing the need to rely entirely on a network of extension cords and power strips to light our space. Finally, funds will support the repositioning of interior non-load-bearing walls and the repainting of our building's exterior.
Chinese Culture Foundation of San Francisco Planning \$50,000	> \$1 M	92	SFAC funds will support Ross - Jia, a planning project for the experimental creative space in SF's Chinatown's Ross Alley. Entitled Jia or Home, the proposed project addresses the need for 1) Enhancing CCC's ability to create a home dedicated to artists' growth; 2) Community space for emerging artists and intergenerational audiences; 3) Creative spaces in Chinatown.
Gray Area Foundation for the Arts Planning \$50,000	> \$1 M	92	San Francisco Arts Commission Funds will be used to support planning a capital campaign and strategy for Gray Area's acquisition and further renovation of the Grand Theater at 2665 Mission St, which we have operated since 2014. The funds will cover internal staff time and external consultants to support closing on our building by the time of our lease ending in 2024. We will also be exploring further facilities improvements to expand our service capabilities including classroom, coworking, performance, and concessions capacity. Securing our space is critical to ensuring we can support artists and organizations in San Francisco and the Calle 24 Latino Cultural District for many years to come.
Community Arts Stabilization Trust Planning \$50,000	> \$2 M	89	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support and launch CAST's Dreaming Spaces initiative in San Francisco. Dreaming Spaces centers artists in the reimagination of their spaces, with support from designers, city planners, and public health experts to generate design solutions for artists and arts organizations to safely gather in spaces free from disease, oppression, and violence. Informed by the visions and designs that are produced in a series of

			community design charrettes, the SFAC funds will also be used to develop budgets, schedules, and feasibility studies for selected prototype/pilot project designs. Pilot projects will be prioritized based on what can best support arts organizations to not only recover from the upheaval of COVID and resume programs and activities, but to also reimagine and envision how they use and occupy their spaces, and what they define as their spaces.
Youth Speaks Inc. Facilities-Level 2 \$100,000	> \$2 M	95	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the build-out of Youth Speaks' new shared Mission District facility. Through an October 2019 competitive process, the Mission Economic Development Agency selected Youth Speaks (YS) to co-locate with First Exposures (FX) at their new 2060 Folsom Street site in SF's Mission District. Funds from the Creative Space grant program will provide YS and FX to complete final elements in the build-out process, which is the performing arts and community gathering space on the ground and second floor classroom and workshop space.
Kultivate Labs Facilities-Level 2 \$100,000	> \$500K	93	Funds from the San Francisco Arts Commission will be used to support Balay Kreative, Kultivate Labs comprehensive program that provides support and professional development for historically excluded Filipinx artists in SOMA Pilipinas. Specifically, the Creative Spaces grant will be used in the buildout Republika x Balay Kreative Gallery, a cultural hub and gallery space dedicated to exhibiting and supporting Filipinx artists who uplift Philippine diasporic experiences in the heart of SOMA Pilipinas. Kultivate Labs will build out and curate the gallery throughout the 2021-2023 grant period and will feature the work of an anticipated 35 underrepresented artists. Thousands of SOMA community members and visitors will have an opportunity to access the exhibitions and artists will expand their audience.



FY21 Creative Space (CRSP) Panelist Biographies

Jose A. Brunner works at the axis of research, speculation and practice in architecture. Originally from Tijuana, Mexico, Jose developed within a bicultural environment that both embraced and questioned the state of duality. He currently works as an architectural consultant with a special focus on public interest projects such as affordable housing and non-profit workplace. Past ventures include collaborating with A+D Architecture + Design on a series of projects serving the Latino community in San Francisco's Mission District. This includes affordable housing units for seniors and an immigrant resource center for low to moderate income families.

Jose earned a Master of Science in Advanced Architectural Design from Columbia University where he was Awarded the Lucille Smyser Lowenfish Memorial Prize for his work on contested territories. He also earned a Bachelor of Architecture from the California College of the Arts where he is currently an Adjunct Professor in the Diversity Studies program. His seminar, Border Phenomena, explores the anthropology of frontiers, and the agency of art and design at the boundary between nations.

Brandi Mack is the Director of Community Engagement at Design Justice and Designing Spaces. She is a native Oaklander, mother of three beautiful daughters, holistic health educator, therapeutic massage therapist, permaculture designer, and living systems thought leader. Brandi has worked and trained in the trauma-informed youth development sector for over fifteen years, using Urban Farming as a tool for personal development. Brandi is currently the national director of The Butterfly Movement and provides coaching in Restorative Justice. Brandi uses living systems principles to activate, support, and guide individuals and communities in connection back to the land and to a renewed self. Brandi is a spoken work artist, and a toastmaster.

Cindy Wu is the Executive Director of LISC Bay Area. Since 1981, LISC has invested \$924 million in Bay Area communities. As a key collaborator in the Partnership for the Bay's Future, LISC Bay Area manages a \$500 million fund that invests in affordable housing production and preservation.

Previously Cindy served as Deputy Director at Chinatown Community Development Center in San Francisco. There, Wu led work on a range of challenges—from affordable housing to equitable transportation to culturally sensitive economic development. She helped double CCDC's affordable housing portfolio over five years, and also managed the organization's planning program, helping residents advocate for their community and attracting more than \$45 million in neighborhood capital improvements.

In addition to her nonprofit experience, Wu served five years on the San Francisco Planning Commission. Wu holds a master's degree in city planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and BA in architecture from UC Berkeley.