

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 January 27, 2022 to rank the CRSP applications according to the stated review criteria in the published CRSP 2021-2022 guidelines.

The strength of the panelists' expertise is in architecture, affordable housing, facilities management, community engagement, and real estate experience. Demographics include one African American woman, one South East Asian woman, and one trans man.

FY20-21 CRSP Funding Recommendations

13 grant applications were received requesting a total of \$707,500.

The panelists reviewed 12 CRSP applications according to the stated review criteria. CRSP Funding recommendations include 5 applicants for a total of \$300,000.

Successful planning proposals included funding for feasibility studies and collaborative space planning for mission-aligned organizations that strongly demonstrated meeting SFAC's equity goals, as well as . Facilities improvement proposals include support for FF&E for a performing arts space in the Mission.

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

FY21-22 Creative Space (CRSP) Funding Recommendations



Applicant Category Grant Amount	Org Budget	Project Description
African-American Shakespeare Company Planning \$50,000	>\$400K	San Francisco Art Commission funds will be used to support the planning for the acquisition of the Alcazar Theatre as a permanent home for the African-American Shakespeare Company. It would serve as a space for rehearsal and performances, as well as a central place of engagement for the community we serve. We have had a capital campaign and feasibility assessment; and will put in place the recommended needs before starting to raise funds.
Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center Planning \$50,000	>\$400K	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the planning phase of a new arts space that will be co-managed by Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center (APICC) and KULARTS. The new space will be a 120 seat professional theater on 490 Brannan St. The planning support will go towards hiring a capital campaign consultant.
Cultura y Arte Nativa de las Americas Facilities Improvement Level 2 \$100,000	>\$1M	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support our expenses for Fixtures, Furniture & Equipment (FF&E) for the performing arts space for Carnaval San Francisco at the 681 Florida community development project.
Cutting Ball Theater Facilities Improvement Level 1 \$50,000	>\$400K	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the remodel of Cutting Ball Theater's backstage area, creating access for individuals with disabilities and adherence to COVID-19 social distancing advisories. This construction project will enable Cutting Ball Theater to engage a greater number of diverse artists, arts-workers, and Tenderloin community members and will ensure equity in Cutting Ball Theater's physical workspaces.
The Roxie Theater Planning \$50,000	>\$400K	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the pre-planning, creation and implementation of a capital campaign to assist the Roxie in raising enough funds to obtain permanent control of the Roxie Theater site and its adjacent storefronts (Dalva and Little Roxie.)



FY22 Creative Space (CRSP) Panelist Biographies

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.

Avni Shah is a multidisciplinary creative working at the intersection of architecture, real estate, and film.

In her previous role at Gelfand Partners Architects, she worked on improving and expanding San Francisco public schools, affordable housing, and cultural institutions. Amongst various projects, she took the lead on design and entitlements for the expansion of the SF Community Music Center, and the project architect on several historically designated 100% affordable housing modernization projects in SF. She has experience in initial design of creative spaces, to working with various agencies for approvals, to construction administration, and understands the dynamics at play with budgets, schedule, and original project goal.

She is deeply passionate about access to public spaces. Her documentary *White Elephants* (2017) followed up on the true cost of stadiums built for the FIFA World Cup in South Africa, which were built on the promise of public benefits that never came.

Edward David Varga is a musician, composer, audio engineer and transman. He started and operated Homocore Minneapolis (1994-2000) and Homo A Go Go (2002-2009). He served as the Facilities and Technical Director and SOMArts Cultural Center (2009-2012). He is currently in a degree program for Music Composition for Film and Video Games at Berklee College of Music. He has played drums in several bands including San Francisco's Homobiles. His current solo project is under the moniker Eddie and the Heartbeats.