

Arts Impact Endowment: Program Overview

Proposition E established the Arts Impact Endowment, which is jointly administered by the San Francisco Arts Commission (SFAC) and Grants for the Arts (GFTA). This funding provides new resources for community-driven priorities. Proposition E charged the SFAC and GFTA with a community engagement process to inform the creation of a Cultural Service Allocation Plan (CSAP) and distribution of funds from the Arts Impact Endowment. This process and plan ensures that the findings are responsive to community needs and reflects equity principles.

The 2019-2024 CSAP outlined four priority areas that the Arts Impact Endowment will support through the year 2024: 1) Arts Education (40%); 2) Affordable Space (30%); 3) Arts Organizations Core Support (20%); and 4) Individual Artists Support (10%). These priority funding areas were determined after citywide community engagement through targeted mapping activities of key stakeholders and an online poll.

The impacts of COVID-19 are particularly poignant for San Francisco's arts and cultural communities, and moreover, BIPOC-led organizations. Based on community feedback and recommendations from the Economic Recovery Task Force, and respecting the four priority funding areas of the 2019-2024 CSAP, SFAC and GFTA have repurposed the Arts Impact Endowment to support the recovery of arts and culture nonprofits. The guidelines for the Arts Hub, Universal Basic Income, and Re-Opening Safely grants were posted and widely disseminated on October 5, 2020 with an application deadline of October 30, 2020.

Panel Composition

The three-member internal review panel convened on November 12, 2020 to rank Sankofa applications according to the stated review criteria in the published Arts Impact Endowment guidelines. All panelists are city employees and grantmakers representing Grants for the Arts, San Francisco Arts Commission, and the Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development.

FY21 Arts Impact Endowment Funding Recommendations

Thirteen applications for the three project areas were received. The panelists reviewed 12 applications according to the stated review criteria; one applicant was ineligible. Funding recommendations include 3 applicants for a total of \$1,920,000. Detailed recommendations per project area are described below.

Project Area 1, Arts Hub: Five grant applications were received. The panelists reviewed the applications in this project area according to the stated review criteria. The funding recommendation is for one applicant for a total of \$250,000.

The recommended applicant has proven experience with developing and managing online resources for the arts sector. AIE funding will augment an existing platform and quickly expand information access to the arts community.

Project Area 2, Universal Basic Income: Five grant applications were received. The panelists reviewed the applications according to the stated review criteria. The funding recommendation is for one applicant for a total of \$870,000.

The recommended applicant demonstrated strong engagement within the arts sector and focus on financially vulnerable and BIPOC artists. The applicant is skilled in managing and disbursing

emergency grant funds and will evaluate the impact and build partnerships with national UBI funders.

Project Area 3, Re-Opening Safely: Two grant applications were received. The panelists reviewed the applications in this project area according to the stated review criteria. The funding recommendation is for one applicant for a total of \$800,000.

The recommended applicant demonstrated deep expertise in space needs of a wide variety of the arts and culture sector, including the visual arts, performing arts, arts education, and theater. The applicant also has strong experience with granting city funds for tenant improvements, fixtures and equipment.

Attachments

Attachments to this memo include the list of the Arts Impact Endowment applicants with scores and project descriptions.

Community Investments

FY20-21 Arts Impact Endowment Funding Recommendations



Applicant Category Grant Amount	Average Score	Project Description
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Arts Hub \$250,000	97	Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) requests a \$250,000 three-year grant from the San Francisco Arts Commission to support the ongoing development and expansion of the Artist Power Center (APC), a digital platform created to help Bay Area artists and cultural workers disproportionately impacted by COVID identify critical resources and build long-term careers.
Gray Area Foundation for the Arts Arts Hub \$250,000	79.33	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the development of an online hub providing community resources for the arts sector in San Francisco. Gray Area will lead, manage and execute all aspects related to UX research (interviewing and surveying community needs and wants emphasizing BIPOC and LGBTQAI community members); prototyping (incorporating the principles of universal design and emphasizing web accessibility and localization to support disabilities and non-English speaking members), buildout and hosting, outreach, marketing, data entering, and maintenance.
Theatre Bay Area Arts Hub \$250,000	78.33	For Theatre Bay Area to build upon our existing and successful resource sharing and information aggregating systems and expand it to the larger arts community by: bolstering our job and audition database to include other disciplines; designing a new leg of our website as a hub and spoke system for artists with a main page linking to discipline-specific resources and grants; and continuing our work of creating a networked online community of disciplines, identities, and affinities through easily accessible webinars, seminars, and virtual happenings.
Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center Arts Hub \$250,000	70	Co-sponsored by the Asian/Pacific Islander Cultural Center, Artists For a Better Bay Area (ABBA) and AJWI, the ARTS HUBsf will provide information that will expand the BIPOC, LGBTQ and disabled arts communities' access to the financial resources that will promote their recovery from the COVID crisis. The project's Website will provide up-to-date and accurate information about federal, state and local grants, job opportunities and resources. Our staff will also provide advice on how to meet these programs' eligibility requirements.

Internet Archive Arts Hub \$239,000	55.67	The Internet Archive is seeking funding from SFAC for an expansion of its Artist in Residence program with the aim of empowering local Bay Area BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ artists to envision and create the future, while we preserve a diverse slice of the San Francisco's artistic past. This project includes three initiatives: digitizing the work and endangered histories of elderly Bay Area artists; an AIR program that pairs BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ artists and archivists culminating in online and in-person exhibitions; and a website initiative to establish an enduring AIR section of archive.org.
Community Vision Re-Opening Safely \$800,000	89.67	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to make COVID19 related facilities and operational investments to support the safe reopening of arts and culture organizations deeply rooted in and are reflective of historically underserved communities.
Theatre Bay Area Re-Opening Safely \$800,000	83.33	Theatre Bay Area will develop, administer & study the impacts of a reopening safely grant for San Francisco theatre companies. The objectives: to help performing arts groups mitigate the financial impact of COVID-19, support them in forming reopening procedures, give them access to expertise and tools to implement the necessary changes, & to research the benefits/outcomes of the program. Based on our successful & low-barrier Performing Arts Worker Relief Fund model, we will develop an effective application system. Grants will be prioritized for applicant groups from marginalized communities.
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Universal Basic Income \$870,000	93.33	YBCA will leverage its demonstrated experience designing and implementing locally-focused funding programs to execute a Universal Basic Income pilot for artists who had little/no safety net before the pandemic. With a focus on Black, Indigenous and/or People of Color, Disabled, & LGBTQ++ artists in our hardest hit communities, we will execute a culturally-sensitive targeted outreach & application process; administer unconditional \$1000 monthly payments to 45 San Francisco artists; document/evaluate impact; catalyze national networks & secure additional partners to continue beyond the pilot.
The Center for Cultural Innovation Universal Basic Income \$870,000	83.33	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Center for Cultural Innovation's design and administration of a Universal Basic Income (UBI) project. The project will provide financial relief to San Francisco artists and cultural workers who are BIPOC, foreign-born immigrant, transgender, and people with disabilities. Approximately 130 recipients will each receive \$6,000 each, which they may opt to receive in one lump sum, over two payments, or in monthly increments over a six-month period or longer.

Q Foundation Universal Basic Income \$870,000	80.67	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to provide monthly Universal Basic Income payments to 130 San Francisco artists and cultural workers who are the most financially vulnerable, especially BIPOC, immigrant, transgender and disabled artists, teaching artists, arts educators, cultural workers and producers, who are of and serve historically marginalized communities. Using an already operationalized equity platform to accept applications, verify eligibility, and distribute funds, we will be up and running and getting funds into the hands of people in need almost immediately.
Southern Exposure Universal Basic Income \$870,000	80.67	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the development and execution of a Universal Basic Income grant for San Francisco artists and cultural workers to mitigate the financial impact of the coronavirus on their livelihoods and the community arts sector. These UBI grants will seek to provide immediate financial relief to BIPOC, immigrant, transgender artists and artists with disabilities.
Theatre Bay Area Universal Basic Income \$870,000	77.67	Theatre Bay Area will administer & study the impacts of a Universal Basic Income grant for San Francisco arts & culture workers. The objectives: to help mitigate the financial impact of COVID-19, support the arts community, & to research the benefits/outcomes of the program. Based on our successful & low-barrier Performing Arts Worker Relief Fund model, we will develop an effective application system. Grants will be prioritized for applicants in marginalized & financially unstable communities. These include BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, women, veterans, immigrants, & people with disabilities.