

Arts Impact Endowment: The Sankofa Initiative Program Overview

The Sankofa Initiative is a re-granting program of the San Francisco Arts Commission's Arts Impact Endowment to support the healing and creativity of communities of color most affected by COVID-19. The Sankofa Initiative's focus on Arts Education prioritizes access to creative exploration, cultural preservation, professional development, and access to technology and art supplies for those most in need during and after the global health emergency.

The word Sankofa is connected to the West African proverb, "It's not wrong to go back for that which you have forgotten." With this proverb as our North Star, this responsive recovery fund prioritizes BIPOC-led (Black/Indigenous/People of Color) organizations to uplift BIPOC communities through their own self-determination.

Panel Composition

The three-member internal review panel convened on October 7, 2020 to rank Sankofa applications according to the stated review criteria in the published Sankofa Initiative 2020-2021 guidelines.

The racial demographics of our panelists include two African American males and one Native American female. All panelists are city employees and grantmakers representing the Department of Children, Youth, and the Family, Grants for the Arts, and San Francisco Arts Commission.

FY21 Sankofa Initiative Funding Recommendations

The panelists reviewed 7 applications according to the stated review criteria. Sankofa funding recommendations include 2 applicants for a total of \$475,000. Detailed recommendations per project area are described below.

Project Area 1, Cultural Preservation: Three grant applications were received requesting a total of \$675,000. 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 \$225,000.

The recommended application demonstrated a long history of re-granting both locally in San Francisco and statewide. Their constituency encompasses strong ties to Native American communities in addition to a history of funding a variety of BIPOC-led arts organizations, artists, and cultural bearers.

Project Area 2, Technology & Supplies Access: Three grant applications were received requesting a total of \$525,000. The panelists reviewed the applications according to the stated review criteria. The funding recommendation is for one applicant for a total of \$250,000.

The recommended application demonstrated deep engagement with BIPOC youth living in Bayview and Hunters Point empowering them to learn a 21st century skill, artform, and a career pathway in media arts. This application provided a thorough strategy for outreach, application support, and award distribution.

Project Area 3, Professional & Wellness Development: One grant application was received requesting a total of \$225,000. The panelists reviewed the application in this project area according to the stated review criteria.

Due to the low number of applications and an insufficient response, this project area of the Sankofa Initiative will be reissued. In the revised RFP, the language for this project area will be clarified and provide an additional opportunity to outreach to more organizations.

Attachments

Attachments to this memo include the list of the Sankofa Initiative applicants with scores and project descriptions.

Community Investments
 FY21 The Sankofa Initiative Funding Recommendations



Applicant Organization	Project Area	Amount Requested	Final Score	Provide a brief Project Summary (100 words):
Alliance for California Traditional Arts	1. Cultural Preservation (Grant Amount up to \$225,000)	\$225,000	87.67	<p>The Alliance for California Traditional Arts proposes a new re-granting program to serve BIPOC individuals and organizations in San Francisco specializing in the practice of cultural traditions. The program will offer grants between \$1,500 and \$15,000 to individuals, nonprofit organizations, and organizations applying through a fiscal sponsor, and will facilitate a broad range of activities including cultural practice and transmission, performance/exhibitions, documentation, and gatherings, among other projects. All projects will be required to have a public presentation element.</p> <p>Grant period for subgrantees: 07/01/2021 to 05/31/2022. Final reports due 06/30/2022.</p>
World Arts West	1. Cultural Preservation (Grant Amount up to \$225,000)	\$225,000	79	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission Sankofa Initiative funds will be used to support a new regranting project administrated by World Arts West to support BIPOC culture bearers, artists, cultural practitioners, community historians and elders living and practicing in San Francisco.</p> <p>The project aims to build the capacity and increase the economic viability of San Francisco cultural practitioners, especially those impacted by systemic racism and COVID-19.</p>
Filipino-American Development Foundation	1. Cultural Preservation (Grant Amount up to \$225,000)	\$225,000	76	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Filipino-American Development Foundation, Kularts, and SOMA Pilipinas Filipino Cultural Heritage District in implementing a Cultural Preservation regranting program that will support our community's underserved and economically vulnerable artists through a two-phase process that will enable us to invest in mentor artists who can in turn work with and guide community-based artists, storytellers, and culture bearers who will also receive funding support.</p>

Bayview Hunters Point Center for Arts & Technology	2. Technology and Supplies Access (Grant Amount up to \$250,000)	\$250,000	89	<p>BAYCAT BIPOC Media Maker Fund will help close the digital divide for approximately 75 youth and early-career creatives from vulnerable San Francisco communities most affected by COVID-19. The Fund will provide computers, DSLR cameras, lighting, sound, and other equipment to complement BAYCAT's award-winning digital media storytelling programs and help launch their careers in competitive Bay Area creative industries.</p> <p>Support from the SFAC's Sankofa Initiative will ensure that aspiring media makers, primarily low-income, BIPOC youth ages 15-24, have access to creative and technical tools that allow them to tell their own stories and heal from this moment of collective trauma.</p>
City Youth Now	2. Technology and Supplies Access (Grant Amount up to \$250,000)	\$25,000	78.67	San Francisco Arts Commission Funds will be used to support City Youth Now's efforts to ensure that youth in San Francisco's foster care and juvenile justice systems have access to art supplies, virtual art classes, technology, and software to support their creativity and provide them safe outlets to process and express the many feelings they are experiencing.
Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco	2. Technology and Supplies Access (Grant Amount up to \$250,000)	\$250,000	74.67	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support BGCSF's regrants program to disburse \$200,000 in pass-through funds to a majority of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) led arts organizations and BIPOC individual artists providing community-centered art. Recipients of grants will use the funds to acquire Technology and Supplies to provide quality arts programming or produce quality art. The program will center its regrants through a lens of racial equity and social justice. All funds will be disbursed in a timely manner.
Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center	3. Professional & Wellness Development (Grant Amount up to \$225,000)	\$225,000	76.33	Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center in partnership with the African American Art and Culture Complex respectfully requests \$225,000 to conduct the Healing Hands Initiative (HHI); a professional development and regrants program designed to serve the BIPOC communities of San Francisco. HHI support artists through in the context of their own work to ensure success. HHI will provide support to San Francisco artists, artist collectives, or small nonprofits who have been

				historically marginalized and not have had access to city resources. Grant recipients will be given monetary grants, grantwriting services; and professional development trainings to produce their own work.
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