

## **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.

This re-release for Project Area 3: Professional and Wellness Development was prompted after a low number of application submissions and an insufficient response to the original release. The project category was revised for clarity and the guidelines were re-released on October 19, 2020 with an application deadline of November 4, 2020.

## **Panel Composition**

The three-member internal review panel convened on November 10, 2020 to rank applications according to the stated review criteria in the published Sankofa Initiative 2020-2021 guidelines.

The racial demographics of the panelists include one African American male, one Pacific Islander/Latinx female, 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 Re-Release Funding Recommendation**

The panelists reviewed four applications according to the stated review criteria. The funding recommendation includes one applicant for a total of \$225,000 for the Professional & Wellness Development project area. The detailed recommendation for the project area is described below.

**Project Area 3, Professional & Wellness Development:** Four grant applications were received requesting a total of \$900,000.

The recommended application demonstrated a deep engagement and legacy of redistributing resources in collaboration with BIPOC communities throughout San Francisco such as: Hunter's Point, Tenderloin, Visitacion Valley, and the Mission neighborhoods. The applicant centered youth and community voices throughout the proposal, in addition to providing a detailed strategy for outreach and accessibility for distributing the funds.

## **Attachments**

Attachments to this memo include the list of the Sankofa Professional & Wellness Development applicants with scores and project descriptions.

Applicant Category Grant Amount	Average Score	Project Description
Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco Professional & Wellness Development \$225,000	81.67	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support BGCSF's regranting program to disburse \$180,000 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 invest in the professional and wellness development of artists, cultural workers, and arts administrators. These activities include attending webinars, workshops, trainings and events to develop skills for remote work, education in the arts, healing and wellness taking place locally and nationally. The program will center its regranting through a lens of racial equity and social justice. All funds will be disbursed in a timely manner.
Kultivate Labs Professional & Wellness Development \$225,000	80.67	Through our Balay Kreative program, Kultivate Labs presents local Filipinx artists that uplift diasporic expressions of Filipinx experiences so that artists may sustain and grow artistically within SOMA Pilipinas. In order to receive grants, the arduously selected cohort of artists attend professional development workshops receiving tech support and other business-minded skill sets to endure any economic climate. The artists selected will counter the lack of Filipinx artists in Bay Area institutions. Artist's projects will be presented in SOMA Pilipinas and serve as a home for diverse Bay Area audiences to see artworks that reflect our intersectional realities.
Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center Professional & Wellness Development \$225,000	78.67	<p>APICC, in partnership with AAACC, requests \$225,000 to conduct the Aya Healing Initiative--a professional workforce and leadership development re-granting program designed to serve San Francisco's BIPOC communities severely impacted by the COVID pandemic.</p> <p>The re-granting program will support 10-to-15 arts projects that will advance specific groups of cultural workers's skills: for example, a grantwriting training program that will increase the fundraising capacities of BIPOC organizations, or training classes that will strengthen their use of social media.</p> <p>BIPOC cultural workers will be able to self-identify their needs; our staff will refer them to appropriate training programs, arts services providers or individual</p>

		<p>consultants; for example, individual artists or organizations can secure access to technology experts who will assist them to launch on-line programming.</p> <p>A review panel of BIPOC artists will evaluate all proposals and make funding recommendations; the applicant will negotiate contracts, write checks and serve as liaison to SFAC.</p>
<p>World Arts West Professional &amp; Wellness Development \$225,000</p>	72.67	<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. 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>