



San Francisco Arts Commission
Community Investments
FY 2025 Grantees

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Community Investments
 FY25 Arts Impact Endowment (AIE)
 Funding Channel: Sustaining Ongoing Initiatives (SOI)
 Individual Artist Grantees



| Grantee Name Pronouns | Grant Amount | Project Summary |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Afrolistic she/her/hers | \$50,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support completion of the documentary, Afrolistic: Black healing from Zimbabwe to the Bay, costs to apply to film festivals, merchandise and marketing materials to promote the documentary, & to host 5 film screenings with panel discussions and community sound baths at SF community centers, universities, and libraries.</p> |
| Andrea Horne she/her/hers | \$50,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Andrea Horne’s publication of the series How Black Transgender Women Changed the World. Additionally, two public events will be held: one, a participatory exploration of transgender history, stories, and culture focused on preserving transgender experience in San Francisco; the other, a book launch featuring a spoken word and musical performance by Andrea. These events engage audiences to contribute to living historical memory, honoring transgender history.</p> |
| Angela Han she/her/hers | \$50,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support an ongoing multidisciplinary initiative called, “Realms of Courage: Celebrating Asian Women Composers,” that amplifies fifteen contemporary composers. Angela Han will continue to advance the visibility and recognition of these phenomenal composers through visual art, written reflections, and educational programming. This programming includes dynamic panel discussions that highlight the composers’ music and lived experiences.</p> |

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|---|--------------|---|
| Caroline Julia Cabading she/her/hers | \$50,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support "Manilatown Ancestral," a pre-colonial Philippine music program led by Caroline Julia Cabading. Offering free monthly beginner workshops, weekly advanced classes, and community performances throughout San Francisco, this program highlights music from the Maguindanao, Maranao, Teduray, Tausug, and Kalinga ethnolinguistic groups. Manilatown Ancestral will provide cultural education and hands-on instruction, fostering connections to Philippine heritage and enriching San Francisco's appreciation of traditional world music forms.</p> |
| David R. Molina he/him/his Fiscal Sponsor (Brava for Women in the Arts) | \$50,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the development of ACT 2 of the multimedia concert "The Long Walk Home: A Mayan Family's Journey In Search of Refuge", (TLWH). It continues the true story of an indigenous family who fled violence in Guatemala; survived a dangerous journey to the USA, kidnapping in Mexico, separation in U.S. detention centers; and their miraculous reunification, and talent as a professional clown troupe.</p> |
| Emmanuel David Blackwell III he/him/his | \$50,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to sustain my ongoing initiative to emerge as a leader in the vibrant arts community by providing a truly unique experience via an affordable subscription model for 35mm film as well as supporting photographers by offering approachable analog photo lab services and education. Funding will help provide a solution to the cost-entry barrier associated with film photography, expand community-impact, and continue to promote equity across artistic disciplines.</p> |

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| Kim Requesto she series & they series | \$50,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support "Pangalay Circle: Philippine Dance in the Diaspora", a workshop series focused on pre-colonial and folkloric Philippine dances, culminating in a vibrant community celebration with dialogues and performances. These workshops connect participants with experienced practitioners, fostering cultural exchange and a deeper appreciation for traditional dance forms. The final community gathering serves as a space to celebrate heritage, showcase collective learning, and honor the rich traditions passed down through generations.</p> |
| Michael Gene Sullivan he/him/his Fiscal Sponsor (San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company) | \$25,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation of an original musical drama about a Black family trying to protect their home in the Western Addition district of San Francisco during the "urban renewal" of the 1950's and 1960's, overlapped with a contemporary story of a Black family attempting to buy that same home during today's wave of tech gentrification. The musical drama will be open to all.</p> |
| MS WHITE 1ST LADY OF FRISCO she/her/hers | \$50,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support San Francisco artists and community members with performing arts workforce development training, technical assistance and continued live performance platforms. These funds will benefit historically underserved communities, including for example African Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans, and other communities who have historically faced a lack of music programming offerings. Providing opportunities to become educated, grow and expand within the music entertainment industry.</p> |

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| Rhea Joseph she/her/hers | \$50,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Poolside Poets, a Tenderloin public series blending poetry, music, and dance to showcase diverse voices. The project trains artists to hold creative leadership positions through its rotating host/curator program. Each month, 15 artists perform themed work for an audience of 50-75 people. Funds secure artist payments for 24 events and the publication of a Poolside Poets Anthology, set for Spring 2026.</p> |
| Rhodessa Jones she/her/hers Fiscal Sponsor (Brava for Women in the Arts) | \$50,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support creating a base for The Medea Project’s healing performance work, which centers women who currently or have previously experienced significant trauma, such as HIV, incarceration, addiction, and mental illness. Funding will enable securing a physical space for meeting/ rehearsing, ensure the continuation of community workshops, leadership development within the company, and pay for founder / director Rhodessa Jones, and the core members who are teacher - facilitators. Even though this work centers women, all are welcome regardless of gender identity.</p> |
| Susan Terence she series & they series Fiscal Sponsor (Friends of School of the Art Foundation) | \$50,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support writing sessions for over 900 SFUSD students who will be guided in creating visual arts projects to accompany their poems and Poetry/Art public workshops for over 250 participants at SF libraries on the theme of appreciation for reading, writing, poetry, books and libraries. Students’ poetry/visual arts projects on families, social justice, and books will be displayed at SF Art Museums and SF public libraries.</p> |

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| William Rhodes he/him/his | \$50,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation of a children’s book based on my Hunters Point Shipyard History Quilt Project. This book will feature stories and artwork about the Hunters Point Shipyard’s significance to Bayview’s Black community, connecting young readers with their local history. Working with historian Stacey Carter, I’ll incorporate historic documents and contextual narratives. This funding supports the preservation of these important cultural stories for future San Franciscans.</p> |
| Yayoi Kambara she series & they series | \$50,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the local, yearly performances of IKKAI means once: a transplanted pilgrimage and showing of Out of the Dust film for Day of Remembrance of Japanese American Incarceration During World War II during the grant period. Yayoi Kambara will present these performances and the film to all San Franciscans, including the Japanese Americans communities which is the ecosystem that supports them.</p> |

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| Anne Bluethenthal and Dancers (AKA Skywatchers) | \$100,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission Funds will be used to support Skywatchers' ongoing arts engagement/performance work with Tenderloin residents, creating rigorous, experimental artworks that speak to the social, cultural, and physical identity of the neighborhood. Skywatchers artists will co-create "Calling Us In", a collaboration with guest choreographer Sarah Crowell in partnership with Glide, exploring radical inclusion and community accountability from the front lines of our most intractable crises. |
| Audium Incorporated | \$100,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the continuation of Audium's Residency Program, which provides Bay Area artists from underrepresented communities with paid opportunities to create and perform spatial sound compositions. Resulting performances expose audiences to new voices with socially-imperative messages and spark dialogue around community experience. Funds will be used to pay nine local artists and support the wages of the staff members who make the program possible. |
| Brava for Women in the Arts | \$100,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Brava's Artists-in-Residence and Presenting programs and celebrate the 100th anniversary of our historic theater. These programs provide abundant multi-year support for local artists including performance and rehearsal space, production management, grant and fiscal sponsorship services, and a permanent home to create within and beyond Brava's walls. Brava will use the funds to pay Artists fees, productions costs and facility expenses related to these cornerstone programs. |

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| Fictional Artists Contemporary Theatre San Francisco (FACTSF) | \$100,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation and performance of a contemporary dance diptych choreographed by Charles Slender-White, two iterations of FACT/SF's annual Summer Dance Festival, two iterations of FACT/SF's Winter Dance Salon, and seven Production Support Grants. Together, these activities will engage and support the work of 55 contemporary dance artists and reach more than 2,400 audience members via 32 performances across San Francisco.</p> |
| Fresh Meat Productions | \$100,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the 25th Anniversary and 26th annual FRESH MEAT FESTIVALS of transgender and queer performance, in June 2026 and 2027, at Z Space in San Francisco. These events will be open to all. SFAC funds will also support our festival's annual FRESH WORKS! commissioning program. Each year, Fresh Meat Productions will award 5 commissions to artists, presenting the world premieres of these commissioned works at our 2026 and 2027 Festivals.</p> |
| San Francisco Mime Troupe | \$100,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the San Francisco Mime Troupe's community-based theater programs, ensuring fair wages for local artists and covering essential production costs. This support will allow us to continue delivering free, socially relevant performances and workshops across San Francisco's neighborhoods, empowering marginalized voices and fostering community dialogue. By keeping our artists thriving, this grant secures our ability to serve as an enduring cultural force within the city.</p> |

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| Shakespeare-San Francisco | \$100,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Shakespeare-San Francisco’s arts programming actively serving diverse communities across the city and supporting equitable employment for local artists through: Free Shakespeare in the Park, Shakespeare on Tour, Shakespeare’s Heartbeat in SFUSD special day classes, Paid Internship Programs providing youth hands on training and mentorship; Shakespeare Camps with subsidized tuition for students in need; and Shakespeare for All Neighbors storytelling workshops in the Tenderloin community.</p> |
| Stagewrite: Building Literacy through Theatre Fiscal Sponsor (Intersection for the Arts) | \$100,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support StageWrite’s multi-year partnerships with San Francisco public elementary schools, building on years of successful integrated theatre and literacy residency programs. Funding will support StageWrite’s artist mentorship program, with outreach efforts including outreach to BIPOC teaching artists to ensure they are aware of this opportunity and support our annual culminating events celebrating students’ creativity with a professionally-produced performance and published anthologies of original student writing to be shared with the public, honoring students’ voice and vision.</p> |
| Support for Intertribal Gatherings Fiscal Sponsor (Independent Arts & Media) | \$100,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support, Support for Intertribal Gatherings (SIG’s) ongoing initiatives with Ohlone/Chumash, Miwok, and Pomo dance groups. The endowment will sustain two “Big-Time” dance festivals in the Presidio, a fish blessing ceremony at Fort Funston, two intertribal water-song cycles on the Bay and the community outreach that drives these events. These events will be open to all. Our goal is to strengthen young dance leaders as tribal elders pass on and secure Indigenous presence here in the cultural capital of our region.</p> |

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| The Lab SF | \$100,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support The Lab’s multidisciplinary living-wage-based commissioning and residency program, providing 1-3 artists annually with significant funds (\$20K-\$150K each), quality of life benefits, time, space, and the option to reconfigure aspects of the organization’s operating model. Since 2014, this program has provided over \$1,000,000 to more than a dozen artists, and fast-tracked the careers for a variety of artists including BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and female artists. |

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 Individual Artist Grantees

| Grantee Name Pronouns | Grant Amount | Project Summary |
|--|-----------------|---|
| <p>Johnny Huy Nguyễn he/him/his Fiscal Sponsor (Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center)</p> | <p>\$50,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support my artistic resilience and growth - needs for physical space, professional development, and capacity-building by paying for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Monthly rental and conversion of 650+ sq ft art studio into 24/7 dance space 2) Small business arts coaching from Anthem Salgado (Art of Hustle) 3) Website redevelopment and branding with Felicitas Fischer |
| <p>Vampi She/her/hers They/them/theirs</p> | <p>\$50,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Third Bass, a reality film series documenting the repurposing and activation of a vacant SoMA warehouse by QTBIPOC artists. Through this project, a diverse group of queer San Francisco nightlife artists transform the space into a collaborative art space. Each episode highlights the community’s resilience against socio-political challenges, creating a lasting record of their stories and providing a DIY manual for future queer spaces.</p> |

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|--|--------------|--|
| Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits Fiscal Sponsor (QCC- The Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Arts & Culture) | \$100,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support occupancy expenses related to BAAITS’ new community center in the American Indian Cultural District, allowing BAAITS to maintain and grow their annual cultural programming held in the new community space while reaching new community members. |
| Kultivate Labs | \$100,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support access to free studio space for underserved artists, including for example Asian/Pacific Islander and Filipinx communities per the Cultural Equity Endowment Legislation. This access is vital to helping artists remain in San Francisco, preserving the city’s diverse arts. The current studio space, which has served these artists for three years, will close due to upcoming construction, making this funding critical to sustaining free, inclusive creative spaces. |
| Roxie Theater | \$100,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support upgrades to the projector, screen, and sound in the Roxie theater. |
| Uptown Tenderloin Inc. (AKA Tenderloin Museum) | \$100,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the Tenderloin Museum’s expansion, creating new spaces to keep underrepresented artists rooted in San Francisco. The renovated 6,850 sq ft facility will showcase racially diverse artists, including for example exhibits celebrating Black, AAPI, and LGBTQ+ histories, fostering a supportive community for artists facing displacement. By offering dedicated spaces for exhibitions, performances, and community programming, the museum strengthens artists’ presence and provides vital opportunities within San Francisco’s vibrant Tenderloin neighborhood. |

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| Grantee Name Pronouns | Grant Amount | Project Summary |
|---|--------------|--|
| Celeste Chan she/her/hers | \$50,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Celeste Chan in creating Third World Liberation Front (TWLF) for the Future (SF-based social practice events). Building on her successful 2024 SFPL residency, Chan will expand the project to offer: 1) a multimedia artist presentation from her research, 2) a zine-making workshop to discuss student activism, and 3) a panel consisting of TWLF student strikers and subject matter experts.</p> |
| Clara Hsu she/her/hers | \$50,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Clara Hsu’s writing and production of her second Cantonese play, “A Lantern Riddle” (working title) with English Subtitles, premiering in the summer of 2026. The play is about the discovery of stories behind an intricate calligraphy found on a lantern at the Chinatown night market.</p> |
| Jethro Patalinghug they/them/theirs | \$50,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support my multidisciplinary arts project, “Manghihilot” (Healer). Inspired by pre-colonial queer identities that existed in the Philippines, the Babaylans. The project will include the creation of an immersive installation and 4 human-sized sculptures made up of used drag materials - costumes, jewelry, wigs, mannequins, and Philippine indigenous fabrics. The installation will be mounted during the LGBTQIA+ History month and Filipino Heritage month in October 2026.</p> |

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|---|--------------|---|
| Jocelyn Reyes she/her/hers | \$50,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation, development and premiere of my new evening length dance work, titled String Quartet No. Ate. Inspired by my recent Type 2 diabetes diagnosis, this work will explore the complexities of food, health and identity within my Latinx heritage with the aim to find a balance between honoring cultural roots while building a healthier future.</p> |
| Juan de Dios Soto he/him/his Fiscal Sponsor (Cultura Y Nativa De Las Americas) | \$50,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the “Change Makers” after-school program, which will engage 20 participants in hands-on art, music, dance and theater. The program will run Monday-Friday, 4-6pm in two sessions: August-December and January-May. Through culturally enriching activities, students gain self-esteem, celebrate diverse traditions, and understand art’s role in social change. The program’s focus empowers students as stewards of their cultural heritage, counteracting gentrification pressures that threaten local cultural identity.</p> |
| Kevin Simmonds he/him/his | \$50,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support “re/sound,” an exploratory clinic and performance for people to observe, diagnose, and treat their speaking voices so as to protect, retain, and share the sounds of their chosen linguistic community/communities.</p> |

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| La Doña she series & they series Fiscal Sponsor (Brava for Women in the Arts) | \$50,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support an album of boleros and sones which map the deep historical and cultural relationships between Mexico and Cuba. These genres emerge at the intersection of African, Indigenous and Colonial European roots. This album will engage with San Francisco youth and elders to map and compose in Afro-Indigenous music of resistance and place keeping. |
| Mabel Valdiviezo she series & they series | \$50,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support “Art for Healing,” a multidisciplinary and wellness art project featuring a documentary film, community art workshops, art installation, and a final exhibit that explores the nexus of immigration, family reconnection, mental health, identity, and belonging. Presented at a Latino cultural center in the Mission, the project will uplift the Latino immigrant experience and the complex narratives of belonging that embody their experiences. The completion date is July 2027. This art project will be open to all. |
| Maria Soledad Sanchez she/her/hers | \$49,350 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the making of the short film TOO DONE. Set entirely in San Francisco, TOO DONE is a shout out for respect for all and empowerment of the invisible and abused. LOGLINE: When a prissy woman steals a cleaning lady’s seat on the tram, Cleaning Lady’s anger spurs her to exact her vengeance on Miss Prissy and unravel the baggage in her own sorry life. |

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| Mary M Guzmán she/her/hers | \$50,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the production of LOST DOG, a short narrative film. |
| Oscar Penaranda he/him/his | \$50,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support publishing my book, From the Belly of the Beast: Stories, Essays, Poems based on Real Life. My current residence at the San Francisco International Hotel anchors my historic past through new writing that takes place across San Francisco, United States, and Philippines. This book will have more poems, essays, with short stories and memoir, culminating in book events across San Francisco, and life’s work website/archive. |
| Ranko Ogura she/her/hers | \$50,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a performance, “Invisible Atlas” which shows the current crisis of water and radioactive waste in specific San Francisco sites during the evening: a Buddhist temple, forest, theater, museum, and beach. It is an immersive performance that combines Butoh and contemporary dance, acting, poetry, animation, immersive installation projections and live music, and brings the audience into a deep awareness of their daily environment. |

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| <p>Tamu She/her/hers</p> | <p>\$50,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support COCOON CEREMONIES: MASQUERADE, a series of intentional sculpture-based workshops combining plaster casting of faces with the rich symbolism of African mask making. This project explores the question, "What do we mask?" Through the creation of masks, the series empowers participants to unmask their authentic selves, celebrate body positivity, and explore personal and spiritual enrichment through creativity. Fostering a deeper connection to identity and self-expression.</p> |
| <p>Veronica Blair She/her/hers</p> | <p>\$50,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation of my new work, The Body Electric—a performance art piece celebrating the resilience of bodies of color and the ancestral energy passed down to empower us today. The funds will cover research, studio rental, aerial and dance training, rehearsals, original music, costumes, and necessary permits for public performances.</p> |

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| Flyaway Productions | \$100,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support DOWN ON THE CORNER, a public art project in the Tenderloin featuring site-specific dance, original music, and video projection. The project joins transgender visibility with prison systems change and supports the transformation of 111 Taylor Street from a carceral stronghold into a trans-centric space, honoring the building's legacy of resistance as the site of Compton's Cafeteria Riot. Our coalition partner is the Turk x Taylor Initiative. This public art project will be open to all. |
| Joe Goode Performance Group | \$92,900 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support "Are You Okay?", which will be an immersive dance theater work to premier in San Francisco in the Fall of 2025. At a precarious time when our lives, health, jobs, governments and the technologies that connect us are in constant flux, "Are You Okay?" asks how we are managing in a world that is personally and collectively unstable. |
| La Lengua Teatro en Español Fiscal Sponsor (Brava for Women in the Arts) | \$50,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the production of the US premiere of "Amalia & The Life of Things" by Maricel Santin, in Spanish with English subtitles. This exciting new play about technology, identity, and longing will involve video projections, puppetry, and a moving set. It will employ dozens of artists and technicians, advancing La Lengua's mission to promote linguistic equity while producing new and original professional-quality theater. |

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| REALSOUL Fiscal Sponsor (Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center) | \$100,000 | The San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support 'The Memory of War: Stories of 1st and 2nd Gen Refugee Artists', the commission of four performance artists to create eight lesson plans for grades 6-12. Educators will receive a free 3-hour professional development workshop with funds to invite artists for a total of twelve school-wide assemblies. |

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| Mestra Cigarra She/Her/Hers | \$75,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support an archival project culminating in a two-day festival featuring a photo and video exhibition, storytelling, lectures, and a performance featuring artists who've been a part of Mestra Cigarra's journey. The project commemorates her 60th birthday, celebrates her contribution to San Francisco's arts and culture ecosystem, and highlights her efforts to advance equity in Capoeira. The festival will be presented at ABADA-Capoeira SF's Capoeira Arts Center. |

Community Investments
 FY25 Cultural Equity Initiatives (CEI) Grantees

| Grantee Name | Grant Amount | Project Summary |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Abada-Capoeira San Francisco | \$100,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the salaries of artistic staff, essential for sustaining and expanding artistic leadership and programs. This grant will foster new artistic expression and promote leadership that reflects San Francisco’s rich cultural heritage. Additionally, it will enhance Abada-Capoeira San Francisco’s capacity to conduct and expand programs, meet strategic goals, and address bandwidth challenges to meet community demand.</p> |
| Accion Latina | \$100,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will support the retention of our Cultural Arts Manager, the only full-time staff position who leads the planning and execution of over 20 events year round, supervises our Artist-in-Residence and strengthens our arts revenue through corporate sponsorships, art auctions and concert ticket sales.</p> |
| Arab Film and Media Institute | \$75,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the Arab Film and Media Institute’s (AFMI) capacity-building efforts through the hiring of a Development Director. This role will enhance AFMI’s fundraising capacity, enabling sustainable growth and expanding impactful programming. By securing additional resources, AFMI can deepen its commitment to providing culturally enriching experiences that celebrate and represent San Francisco’s Arab and Arab-American communities.</p> |

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| Asian Improv aRts Fiscal Sponsor (Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center) | \$75,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a \$75,000 two-year CEI grant for Asian Improv aRt's (AIR) Expanding Impact Initiative supplementing staff and consultant fees: 1) Executive Director. 2) Project Manager. 3) Program Associate. 4) Marketing Consultant. 5) Development Consultant. 6) Bookkeeper, who will work with AIR artists and partners 2025-2027, to implement the AIR Fellowship Program, performances/events in music, dance, film, visual art featuring artists rooted in Chinatown, Japantown, Tenderloin, SOMA.</p> |
| Chinatown Media and Arts Collaborative | \$100,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support ongoing innovative multidisciplinary arts programs at Edge on the Square, a community-driven vision and contemporary art platform in Chinatown. Core programs include rotating exhibitions, storefront art, festivals, temporary public art and projections, art education, and community cultural engagement at its 800 Grant location and throughout Chinatown. Our artist community is diverse, comprising for example API and BIPOC artists attracting a diverse audience of traditionally underserved communities.</p> |
| Cubacaribe | \$75,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the staff salary of the Executive Director. During the grant period, she will engage in activities that are essential to the ongoing financial stability of the organization and its ability to serve its community and provide opportunities to artists and respond to their changing needs.</p> |

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|---|--------------|---|
| Cuicacalli Fiscal Sponsor (Brava for Women in the Arts) | \$75,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Cuicacalli to build organizational sustainability and capacity. Funds will support raises for our Artistic Director and Mariachi Program Director/Organization Administrator, Assistant Teacher and Grant Specialist to better reflect their labor, and cover fees for our Photographer, Costume Repair/Prop Master, costume dry cleaning and materials, and will support Cuicacalli to create a 4 person Advisory Board composed of community members.</p> |
| David Herrera Performance Company Fiscal Sponsor (Dancers Group) | \$50,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support David Herrera Performance Company’s (DHPCo.) artistic and community impact programs, and administrative capacity. DHPCo. programming centers and uplifts intersectional Latinx communities and includes performances, including a home season in San Francisco, commissioned works, festivals, and touring. DHPCo. community impact offerings LatinXtensions mentorship, Latinx Hispanic Dancers United initiative, and community collaborations provide spaces, events, networks, familia y comunidad, and resources to dancer community, including the greater Latinx dance community.</p> |
| Embodiment Project | \$75,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support keeping the Get Free Festival, free by offsetting administrative, marketing, and artist fees. Funds will support scholarships for youth in Embodiment Project’s Seeds Youth Dance Company by offsetting administrative costs and teacher salaries. Funds will also allow Embodiment Project to transition its leadership team from independent contractors to full-time employees ensuring their ability to sustain the organization.</p> |

Community Investments
 FY25 Cultural Equity Initiatives (CEI) Grantees

| Grantee Name | Grant Amount | Project Summary |
|--|--------------|---|
| Fools Fury Theater (AKA Aviva Arts) | \$50,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Aviva Arts to strengthen organizational capacity, increase outreach, and grow our audiences by supporting contract staff with full yearly stipends (vs. the current 10 months), hiring a marketing director, and developing and hiring the new position of Artistic Producer to support design and execution of specific projects. We will ensure our outreach efforts reach applicants from historically excluded communities.</p> |
| Friends of Scrap Inc. | \$100,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission Funds will be used to support implementation of SCRAP’s impactful Bayview arts programming, focusing on providing arts education and programming to families and youth. SFAC funds will support the six core programs.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SCRAP in a Box arts education programs 2. Sustainable Fashion Design arts education programs 3. Accessible Arts Workshops 4. Community Collage Workshops 5. Fix It + Creative Design Clinics 6. Teacher Support Programs for the Arts in Classrooms |
| Golden Thread Productions | \$100,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission will be used to support Golden Thread’s new artistic vision to prioritize and expand our production and development of high-quality, full-length, mainstage plays from and about the Middle East with funds that will help us maintain equitable compensation and benefits for artists and staff, sustain our rehearsal space, and invest in additional staff members to enhance our artistic capacity, community outreach, and engagement.</p> |

Community Investments
 FY25 Cultural Equity Initiatives (CEI) Grantees

| Grantee Name | Grant Amount | Project Summary |
|---|--------------|--|
| Kearny Street Workshop Inc. | \$75,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Kearny Street Workshop (KSW) core work empowering San Francisco residents, including Asian Pacific American communities, through the arts. These funds will strengthen organizational capacity so that KSW may more deeply serve our artists and audience members. This includes hiring support staff, providing compensation for the existing Co-Executive Directors, undergoing strategic planning and supporting coalition building efforts to amplify our impact.</p> |
| Lenora Lee Dance Fiscal Sponsor (Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center) | \$75,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a \$75,000 two-year CEI grant for Lenora Lee Dance’s (LLD) Advancing Impact Initiative supplementing staff, consultant, and artist fees: 1) A paid 1/3 FTE Artistic Director. 2) A paid 1/4 FTE Project Consultant. 3) A paid Publicist. 4) A paid Organizational/Development Consultant, who will work with LLD artists, collaborators, organizational partners, and community participants throughout its 2025-2027 seasons to include film screenings, presentations, performances, and touring.</p> |
| Loco Bloco Fiscal Sponsor (Brava for Women in the Arts) | \$75,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support more equitable compensation for the essential position of Managing Director, by increasing hours from .75 to 1.0 FTE. Equity is a key value for us. This meaningful, transformative support from the Commission will expand and diversify contributed income through grants and individual giving campaigns and sharpened financial planning and management. Increasing overall revenue would in turn allow for increased equitable compensation for other core staff.</p> |

Community Investments
 FY25 Cultural Equity Initiatives (CEI) Grantees

| Grantee Name | Grant Amount | Project Summary |
|---|--------------|---|
| Magic Theatre Inc. | \$100,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support three essential positions in our leadership team- Managing Director, Artistic Director, and Making Magic: Art & Community Director. SFAC support will also be used to support artist and commission fees for six artists, and the Magic Theatre’s rent at Fort Mason Center for Art & Culture. Our facility stabilizes local artists and organizations through commissions and the provision of subsidized rental rates at 50-30% off standard prices.</p> |
| Marigold Project Inc, | \$75,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support our signature event, the annual Day of the Dead Festival of Altars in San Francisco’s Mission District 2025-2026, which includes community altars, live performances, interactive arts and crafts stations and cultural ceremonies. The festival provides a space to learn cultural traditions, honor ancestors, centering life-giving elements: air, fire, water, earth, and love; indigenous ecological principles for the health and preservation of the planet and humanity.</p> |
| Megan Lowe Dances Fiscal Sponsor (Dancers Group) | \$50,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Megan Lowe Dances (MLD) hire administrative staff and invest in access services for blind/visually-impaired (BVI) and Deaf communities. Currently, Megan is the sole staff member. Expanding staff to execute grant-writing, scheduling, and marketing to increase the diversity of individuals who can access this work, including for example BIPOC, Deaf, and BVI audiences, to improve long-term sustainability. MLD is working towards integrating accessibility infrastructurally by partnering with an access services provider to provide audio description services and ASL interpreters for MLD productions.</p> |

Community Investments
 FY25 Cultural Equity Initiatives (CEI) Grantees

| Grantee Name | Grant Amount | Project Summary |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Nava Dance Theatre | \$75,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Nava Dance Theatre’s production of bharatanatyam dance works as a medium for artistic reflection and discovery by supporting the hiring of additional administrative staff, increasing capacity to rent rehearsal space, and establishing a salary for long-time organizational leadership. This will allow programmatic staff to spend more time focusing on the creation of art while expanding organizational capacity to further its mission. |
| Performing Arts Workshop Inc. | \$100,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Performing Arts Workshop’s operations and performance space to sustain and promote our new adult artist commissioning program (Seismic Shift) alongside our culturally affirming youth arts education work. Seismic Shift grew out of our 50+ year history supporting artists in SF and invests in communities that have been historically underrepresented in the arts, including for example Artists of Color and ensuring the Geneva Powerhouse is an accessible cultural hub for all artists, including BIPOC artists, and audiences of all ages. |
| Presidio Performing Arts Foundation | \$75,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Presidio Performing Arts Foundation (PPAF) DANCEOUT! program, which provides free dance education and performance opportunities for youth from historically underserved communities. The funds will directly support cultural workshops, instructor salaries, and venue rentals for culminating public performances at SF War Memorial Opera House, Herbst Theater, and other community spaces, advancing equitable access to culturally responsive, community-driven arts education and programming that celebrates diversity. |

Community Investments
 FY25 Cultural Equity Initiatives (CEI) Grantees

| Grantee Name | Grant Amount | Project Summary |
|--|--------------|---|
| Queer Rebel Productions Fiscal Sponsor (Intersection for the Arts) | \$75,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Queer Rebel Productions' (QRP) staff, programming, and access services for disabled people. Strengthening our infrastructure and better supporting our disabled constituency, funds will support the contracting of a Communications Manager, increasing accessibility, and the development of artist-centered programs, thereby positioning QRP to build capacity and improve access for communities that do not always have access to artistic spaces, including Queer and Trans Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.</p> |
| San Francisco Transgender Film Festival Fiscal Sponsor (Fresh Meat Productions) | \$75,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support expanding the San Francisco Transgender Film Festival's staff infrastructure and capacity and position our organization to be well-resourced in this critical moment for Trans communities as we prepare to celebrate our 30th Anniversary. The initiative will raise the annual compensation of our staff (Artistic Director, Managing Director, Program Manager, Communications Director), support the hiring of a seasonal part-time Production Assistant, and expand disability access accommodations.</p> |
| Sew Productions Inc. | \$75,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support production costs for Sunset Baby, specifically, Salary expenses for 1 Stage Manager and 3 Equity Actors, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre employer taxes and AEA Pension Benefits, Advertising, Facility Rental, Health Insurance for 2 office staff, and Program Costs (Set Materials).</p> |

Community Investments
 FY25 Cultural Equity Initiatives (CEI) Grantees

| Grantee Name | Grant Amount | Project Summary |
|---|--------------|---|
| Sharp and Fine | \$50,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the next two years of Sharp & Fine’s (S&F) sustainability, growth, and community impact in the following three areas. (1) Allow S&F to compensate our organization’s Co-Directors for the first time. (2) Support the creation of new performances, including the launch of an annual salon-style performance series through artist compensation and production expenses. (3) Allow S&F to provide accessibility support, such as American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation, audio description, or translation services, for select performances/workshops. |
| Southern Exposure | \$100,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Southern Exposure’s 2025–27 programming, staffing, and operational costs as the organization develops new projects and exhibitions, offers dynamic youth arts programming, and enacts upcoming rounds of our regranting program. Across these three core program streams, Southern Exposure is focused on presenting the work of historically marginalized communities, including, Black and Indigenous artists, artists of color, and LGBTQIA+ artists, and immigrant artists. |
| The Dance Brigade A New Group From Wallflower Order | \$100,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Dance Mission Theater’s operational capacity to produce our fourth and fifth seasons of Liberation Academy for African Diasporic Arts, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stipends for 6 project leaders to plan and design program curriculum -Administration expenses to produce 24 in-person and 24 virtual events -Artist/teacher and ASL interpreter fees for two seasons of panels, workshops, and performances focused on Liberation Academy themes |

Community Investments
 FY25 Cultural Equity Initiatives (CEI) Grantees

| Grantee Name | Grant Amount | Project Summary |
|---|--------------|--|
| Three Girls Theatre Company Inc | \$75,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to sustain and grow 3Girls Theatre’s community building efforts with Bay Area artists and other arts organizations, including: forging new partnerships with KALW public radio and Mannakin’s iMPACT Center for Art & Dance; providing free educational workshops for marginalized artists; expanding our marketing and outreach efforts to attract new audiences; and offering professional development and training for our new leadership team.</p> |
| TurkxTaylor Initiative Fiscal Sponsor (Uptown Tenderloin Inc.) | \$50,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support two part-time community organizers, each focused on distinct arts-based programs. One organizer will lead the Envisioning Project, facilitating creative storytelling through oral histories and participatory workshops, while the other will drive Campaign Advocacy with arts-based political education, community storytelling, and surveys. This support will allow us to work on a collaborative and artistic vision for 111 Taylor Street that centers on community-led empowerment and justice.</p> |

Community Investments
 FY25 San Francisco Artist Grant (SFA) Grantees

| Grantee Name Pronouns | Grant Amount | Project Summary |
|---|--------------|---|
| Allan Samson Manalo He/Him/His | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support TAGALOG 2026, a festival of one-act plays written and performed in the national language of the Philippines, with live English translation creatively woven using projected super titles. Staged in San Francisco’s Bindlestiff Studio for it’s fifth year, Tagalog 2026 will bring to life, stories deeply specific in the Filipin@ language and culture and yet universal in our human experiences of love and heartache. |
| Calixto Robles He/Him/His | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a body of work investigating Cochinilla works on amate paper and ceramics addressing issues of earth justice and climate change through the lens of the four elements water, earth, fire, and air. This body of work will reference myths, symbols, and histories of first nation people. |
| Camille Mai or Rebirth Canal She, her, hers; They/them/theirs | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support an album of original jazz music expressing my perspective as an autistic, physically disabled Vietnamese woman in San Francisco. The album will feature 7 original songs, and 4 original arrangements of traditional Vietnamese music, with voice, piano, bass, drums, winds, and percussion, and a video of the recording for each song. The album will be released at a free outdoor concert in San Francisco. |
| Chinchin Hsu She, her, hers; They/them/theirs | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commision funds will be used to support the expenses of creating and presenting my dance production, Every Grain of Us 米力 (working title), including but not limited to rehearsal space and performance space rental fee, artists and production staff compensation, marketing, costumes and props, over the course of 18 months. And most importantly, this fund will support levitating the financial stress for me as a working artist/mother lives in San Francisco. |

| Grantee Name Pronouns | Grant Amount | Project Summary |
|--|-----------------|--|
| <p>Cruz Chan She, her, hers Fiscal Sponsor (Clarion Performing Arts Center)</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support development and production of a Cantonese version of "I'm Still Standing", a theatre work about gender identity and the female experience in China under the one child policy, based on my own experience growing up as the youngest of three daughters. Performances can benefit all, and will also serve as social support groups for immigrants and domestic violence survivors, with focus on the Asian queer experience.</p> |
| <p>Crystal Vielula She, her, hers</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission Funds will be used to support Collective Visions of Utopia. For this multimedia project I will be crowdsourcing dreams of utopia from my larger community of friends, viewers, students, and neighbors to create collective visions of utopia.</p> <p>Inside of wooden boxes, I will create multidimensional collage worlds reflecting these utopias, and place pepper's ghost projections of people dancing inside, including a livestream, allowing participants to "dance" in our collective paradise.</p> |
| <p>Dan Lee (Scrabbel) He/Him/His</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the writing of a children's book that will introduce readers to Korean culture. The concept has two goals: empowering Korean children with representation of their culture and introducing other children to that culture with an entertaining story. This project will draw on my experience as a preschool teacher working with children, as a father, and as an artist creating works highlighting and celebrating Korean culture.</p> |
| <p>Daniel Parada He/Him/His</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the graphic novel project Dream Rider, a mesoamerican scifi comic set in a fictional indigenous futuristic world. The work will be an extensive book of over 300 pages, in black and white and seeks to show a different kind of sci-fi world we typically see that is both imaginative, research-based, non-eurocentric and perhaps show a new way to push the genre and comics in general.</p> |

| Grantee Name Pronouns | Grant Amount | Project Summary |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| David James He/Him/His | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the final phase of my song cycle project, “Mission Rebel No. 1” including an audio recording of the work for instrumental sextet and voices, a video rendering of the work, an online archive (website) that will include research materials-news articles, interviews and other ephemera-relating to Rev. Jesse James, and the Mission Rebels and an album release celebration. |
| Dj Juanny He/Him/His | \$25,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the recording, promotion and production of an album meant to be an homage to the city’s dance music history. The funds will be used to support participant stipends, produce vinyl records and organize the release (album rollout & events). |
| Dregs One He/Him/His | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a hip-hop album celebrating San Francisco’s culture, and a documentary capturing its creation and today’s local art scene. These projects aim to challenge the perception of San Francisco as a city in decline, showcasing how artists shape the community’s resilience. Funding also enables two public events to premiere both the album and the documentary, expanding community access and engagement with San Francisco’s vibrant creative landscape. |
| D’Vine Angel Riley She, her, hers | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation and development of my EP, facilitate a community based roll out, as well as curate a pre-release party to assess the impact of the work on its target audience. The piece will acknowledge the life of the young Black adult, existentialism in the midst of sobering realities, and cultural preservation through spiritual investigation. Visual elements will be essential for representation, resonance, and access. |

Community Investments
 FY25 San Francisco Artist Grant (SFA) Grantees

| Grantee Name Pronouns | Grant Amount | Project Summary |
|--|--------------|---|
| Ebti She, her, hers | \$30,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will support the creation of an immersive installation of my photographic work titled “All Windows Lead to Home”. This installation is part of an ongoing photographic exploration of windows between my two homes, San Francisco and Cairo. The grant will support the production of multi-layered images of windows (collapsing Cairo and SF), quality printing on various materials, audio recordings, and cover installation and presentation costs.</p> |
| Eddy Navia He/Him/His | \$30,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support artistic development of Eddy Navia’s original compositions, inspired by Bolivian tradition, previously supported by a past SFAC grant. Collaborating with SF Civic Symphony’s conductor, this project blends indigenous Andean instruments with classical symphony, accompanied by traditionally-costumed Andean dancers. Featuring a casual symphony across 10 unique intimate concerts, towards a formal performance at SF Conservatory’s Concert Hall, broadening cultural diversity in the city’s music scene.</p> |
| Elizabeth Stephens She, her, hers; They/them/theirs | \$30,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support and expand the SF Oral Art History Archive by supporting 12 new 90-minute interviews with SF-based artists, including Queer and BIPOC artists, whose careers were launched by Cultural Equity Grants Program. The original archive comprised 12 interviews with the artists who established the Grants Program in 1992; the new interviews will feature artists who emerged in the post-millennium period. In June 2026, a panel discussion about cultural equity will feature four artists.</p> |

Community Investments
 FY25 San Francisco Artist Grant (SFA) Grantees

| Grantee Name Pronouns | Grant Amount | Project Summary |
|---|--------------|--|
| Erin Persley She, her, hers | \$30,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the completion of the feature documentary HUMAN SHIELD. Facing a far-right extremist movement, HUMAN SHIELD is an intimate portrait of abortion clinic escorts protecting vulnerable patients as they endure one of the most hostile 30-second walks of their lives. Told through the perspective of three clinic escort leaders, this film investigates the struggle to maintain safety and battle mental exhaustion on the front lines.</p> |
| Evelyn Donají She, her, hers Fiscal Sponsor (Galeria Studio 24) | \$30,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the development of a unique musical repertoire of the all-femme Son Jarocho and Arabic folk group, Corazón de Cedro. Corazón de Cedro will produce a series of queer, femme-led performances called fandanguitos that aim to create a celebratory and participatory space for strengthening connections among our queer Chicanx/Latinx and Palestinian community in San Francisco. This performance will be open to all.</p> |
| Evie Leder She, her, hers; He/Him/His; They/them/theirs | \$30,000 | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Gender Rebel, a photographic portrait series celebrating diverse gender non-conforming individuals across age and race. Funds will cover an artist fee, curator fee, subject stipends, large-scale prints (life-sized), framing, and promotional materials (posters, flyers). The project includes an opening reception, a panel discussion with curator Rhiannon Evans MacFadyen, Beatrice L. Thomas, and others, as well as a closing celebration honoring the lives and images of San Francisco gender rebels.</p> |

Community Investments

FY25 San Francisco Artist Grant (SFA) Grantees

| Grantee Name Pronouns | Grant Amount | Project Summary |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Goya_Goon He/Him/His | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support “Echoes of Absence and Mythos: The Un-Archivists of Shitocracy” a multidisciplinary exhibition by artist Christopher Burch in collaboration with The Internet Archive. Combining Afro-Surrealism, Black folklore, and mythology, the project critiques the erasure of Black identity in digital archives. It features mythological figures called Un-Archivists, who confront oppressive systems, deconstruct false narratives, and restore hidden truths through large-scale artworks, immersive installations, and interactive experiences. |
| Harry Williams He/Him/His | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support materials costs, including high-quality printing paper, wheat paste, mounting supplies, and protective coatings to create durable outdoor displays. Public installations will be showcased on community walls and business exteriors across the Tenderloin and other accessible San Francisco neighborhoods, inviting residents and visitors alike to engage with the art in their everyday spaces. |
| Hope A. Mohr She, her, hers | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support “Ghost Period: A Menopausal Fugue,” a new feminist work of devised physical theater creating an empowering mythology for menopause. Directed by Hope Mohr in collaboration with performer Atosa Babaoff and drawing on the multidisciplinary contributions from a wide range of menopausal artists, “Ghost Period” reclaims menopause as a liberatory transition. |

Community Investments
 FY25 San Francisco Artist Grant (SFA) Grantees

| Grantee Name Pronouns | Grant Amount | Project Summary |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Jarrel Phillips He/Him/His | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the development of a documentary called Wajumbe highlighting Black performing artists and their impact on the development of Black consciousness in the Bay Area. Wajumbe was a program introducing San Francisco youth to African artforms, known as “a vanguard of the Black Arts Movement on the West Coast”. The film will celebrate this program and its creators. The grant will help pay for research and development, principal photography, and a premiere event. |
| Jazmine Wilson She, her, hers | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a collection of wearable hair art sculptures made out of hair. This 12- piece collection will be debuted in the Bayview Hunters Point Futurism Fashion experience, which is a free black history community event in February. |
| Jose Esteban Abad They/them/theirs | \$30,000 | San Francisco Art Commission funds will be used to support the premiere of Diasporadica, an evening of choreographic experiments conducted in three parts: Kickback, Performance, and Function. This experimental process-based work integrates contemporary dance, installation, sound production, and community engagement to blur the lines between Black sociality, spectatorship, and performance. The work will premiere at Fort Mason Center For the Arts in August 2025 in collaboration with the RUPTURE collective. |
| Jose Rivera He/Him/His | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support my project of “Ritmos Comunitarios” which will be free weekly percussion class offerings to community members. The classes will be offered at Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts and will provide an opportunity for drummers to perform at yearly cultural free events like SF Carnaval, Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras and Dia de los Muertos all in SF’s Mission District in collaboration with Fogo Na Roupa. |

| Grantee Name Pronouns | Grant Amount | Project Summary |
|------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Jun Yang He/Him/His | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a solo exhibition “The Path We Create” and two workshops entitled “Sum” (Korean for “room to breathe”) on creating soft sculpture featuring themes of family history, healing, and love. The exhibition will feature new paintings and fabric sculptures at Pacific Felt Factory. The workshops at Ruth’s Table will provide participants the opportunity to create their own fabric sculptures, encouraging personal expression and fostering community engagement. |
| Keith Hennessy He/Him/His | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Figure it out, a new work of collaborative performance and a two-month community-nurturing pop up studio for local artists. Directed by choreographer Keith Hennessy in collaboration with Clarissa Dyas, Figure it out creates a context for queer, cross-racial, and intergenerational collaboration centering politically-engaged dance and somatic practices. Figure it out will be a series of workshops, talks, commissioned performances, and culminate in a world premiere. |
| Kim Shuck She, her, hers | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation of a series of no fewer than 12 beaded effigies paired with poems. The effigies will be of extinct or endangered biota from the Pacific coast. This will include both plants and animals. I will present the images and read the poems to an audience at the San Francisco Main Library. |
| Laura Gao She, her, hers; | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will support The Four Aunties of the Apocalypse, a comedic-horror graphic novel about a queer, nonbinary Chinese American teenager and their local dim sum bakery aunties as they stave off the apocalypse and anti-Asian xenophobia in San Francisco. Highlighting the rich history and culture of SF’s queer and Asian communities, the funds will support a local artists including for example, AAPI-focused art exhibit, drag queen storytime, and a comic-making booth at the Sunset Night Market. |

Community Investments
 FY25 San Francisco Artist Grant (SFA) Grantees

| Grantee Name Pronouns | Grant Amount | Project Summary |
|--|--------------|--|
| Leonard Reidelbach He/Him/His | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the production of an immersive experience exploring trans embodiment, visibility politics, and technology. Participants enter an installation and wear a virtual reality headset to experience an alternate reality of the space from the point of view of an ever-transforming sculpture. |
| Liz Cahill She, her, hers | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a multidisciplinary community art project (Piles x J.Ehren). This work addresses how overconsumption, capitalism and colonialism manifest in San Francisco. I will harvest, document and alter trash textiles, collaborate with fashion designer J.ehren to create a collection displayed in a public fashion show. Accompanying photography, text and data visuals will delve into the origins of the textiles, their environmental and human impact. |
| Lorena Jimenez Lopez She, her, hers | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation of ‘Cicatrices’, a body of photography work portraying Latinas in San Francisco and their experiences with scars as symbols of resilience, transformation, and identity, honoring their personal histories. The photographs will be exhibited at a show celebrated in the Mission District in the fall of 2026, fostering connections between the community and organizations that provide direct services for women. |
| Magué Calanche She, her, hers | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a visual arts project, “Rights, Realities, and Resoluteness”, to raise public awareness of working conditions of immigrant women. The goal is for two San Francisco exhibitions of eight-to-ten large-scale paintings executed by myself with recorded interviews by these women of their day-to-day challenges living and working here. I will include local grass-root advocacy organizations who inform immigrant women of their workers’ rights. |

| Grantee Name Pronouns | Grant Amount | Project Summary |
|--|-----------------|--|
| <p>Marcia Aguilar She, her, hers; They/them/theirs</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Heart to Heart PlayLab: a BIWOC Centered Collective. This is an Interactive and Immersive Play Experience with artists, including LGBTQ and BIPOC women, utilizing embodied art practice, Developmental Transformations (DvT). Marcia Aguilar will lead six community workshops, culminating in an experimental theater experience of DvT as performance.</p> |
| <p>Mia J. Chong She, her, hers; They/them/theirs Fiscal Sponsor (InterMusic SF)</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation, rehearsal, and performance of Wasteland, a dance work exploring the environmental impact of overconsumption, waste, and pollution. Choreographed by Mia J. Chong in collaboration with artists of various mediums (costume, set, music, and poetry) and performed by EIGHT/MOVES, this work will examine the human desire to acquire, own, and then discard things and the disregard we have for the collapsing natural world.</p> |
| <p>Michael Warr He/Him/His</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support “A San Franciscan in Addis Ababa” which will use poetry, prose, and digital images to create an online book capturing my wild experiences as a twenty year old foreign correspondent, such as covering a warfront for the first time, visiting the ancient site where Ethiopia claims to hold the Ark of the Covenant, being jailed and interrogated in the Emperor’ Haile Selassie’s Palace, and more.</p> |
| <p>Mimi Lok She, her, hers</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the development of a novel, THE CLIPPED, OR ANTIDOTES TO VARIOUS APOCALYPSES, about people who stop growing through accident or design—the “clipped” of the title. The novel will unfold through a core narrative set in 13th century China, interwoven with vignettes spanning continents and millennia. Blending fable, wuxia odyssey (historical martial arts), speculative fiction, and poetry, this project will explore survival, desire, bioethics, and societal collapse and renewal.</p> |

| Grantee Name Pronouns | Grant Amount | Project Summary |
|--|-----------------|---|
| <p>Natasha Adorlee She, her, hers</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the development and premiere of "PIT," a contemporary and aerial dance piece exploring power dynamics within an abstracted battle ring. Led by SF-based Asian-American choreographer Natasha Adorlee, "PIT" blends aerial and contemporary choreography with immersive projections to highlight BIPOC perspectives, confronting themes of control and autonomy. "PIT" premieres in September 2025 at Zaccho Dance Theater. Plans include various outreach activities to engage the BIPOC community. The event will be open to all.</p> |
| <p>NICO CORONA He/Him/His; they/them/theirs</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the completion of Sanctuary, a new body of metal sculptures for my debut solo exhibition slated for January - February 2026. Featuring sculptural jewelry, functional home pieces, and abstract forms, Sanctuary explores resilience and preservation within Queer, Latinx, and immigrant communities. The exhibition includes opening and closing receptions, an artist talk, collaborations with SF based Queer BIPOC serving organizations, and a limited-edition zine featuring graphic design, photography and narrative expanding exhibition concepts. The exhibition will be open to all.</p> |
| <p>Pamela Z She, her, hers</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support "Generation", a new work for chamber ensemble and fixed media, to be composed by Pamela Z and premiered by San Francisco Contemporary Music Players with the composer on voice and electronics. "Generation" will explore the wide range of ages in San Francisco, and interactions between long time residents and young people and/or recent transplants, using recorded interviews with people in multi-generational working relationships from various San Francisco communities.</p> |

Community Investments
 FY25 San Francisco Artist Grant (SFA) Grantees

| Grantee Name Pronouns | Grant Amount | Project Summary |
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| <p>Paul S. Flores He/Him/His</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Clothes On Fire by Paul S. Flores, a multidisciplinary theater project highlighting the history and impact of Carnaval San Francisco by telling the story of Carlos Aceituno, founder of the award winning AfroBrazilian Carnaval drum and dance company Fogo Na Roupa. Flores will collaborate with members of Fogo Na Roupa including codirectors Metzti Henriquez and Jose Rivera, CANA SF, and important Carnaval artists and organizers.</p> |
| <p>Preeti Vangani She, her, hers; They/them/theirs</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a two-pronged project ‘Let the Body Sing’: (i) A short story collection and (ii) Free writing workshops on sex and desire. Our outreach efforts will include San Francisco women, trans and non-binary POC. In the workshops we’ll explore the expansive possibilities of desire, and the nuances of shame, guilt, and societal pressures that thwart our yearnings. The project will culminate in readings from my manuscript and works by participants.</p> |
| <p>Rachel Bundoc Lucero She, her, hers</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a documentary series by Rachel Lucero exploring Filipino migration and activism in San Francisco through storytelling and foodways. By blending interviews, archival footage, and cooking segments, the series uniquely brings to life the community spirit and determination of Filipino Americans, connecting past struggles to present-day activism. The project culminates in community screenings, where attendees can reflect on the commitment to justice showcased in the series.</p> |

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| <p>Raffaella Falchi Macias She, her, hers</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support dancer/choreographer, architect, and costume designer Raffaella Falchi Macias in the exploration of how these disciplines interact and manifest together through Samba and its connection to Brazilian culture. Raffaella will focus on the development of intricate, handmade one-of-a-kind costuming, incorporating both architecture and its relationship to movement through dance as dancers from Sambaxé Dance Company perform at Carnaval and in other public spaces.</p> |
| <p>Raissa Simpson She, her, hers</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a series of workshops, talkbacks and performances called, REVISITED. The project is a multimedia dance and technology performance exploring the themes of housing rights activism in San Francisco, with a focus on the impact of the Black history’s “Big Five” activists.</p> |
| <p>Ramon Abad He/Him/His</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support “The Big Whoop Dee Do,” a family-friendly 30-45 minute, dialogue-free, theater/dance performance. Twenty dancers using props will form a series of tableaux to create large-scale “puppet” characters. A live video feed from a drone camera positioned above the dancers will capture their movements for the audience to see. The final iteration will be an art installation of the puppets and video of the performance.</p> |
| <p>RedBone She, her, hers</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Black Ass Weekend (BAW) 2026-A Celebration of Black Queer Fringe Arts is a multi-venue festival featuring an intergenerational cast dedicated to celebrating and highlighting Black entertainment by showcasing art forms often relegated to the margins of the performance art world. BAW is a reminder of art’s ability to connect, educate and empower especially when centering these overlooked lived experiences. BAW is open to all.</p> |

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| <p>Rotimi Agbabiaka ALL</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Beauty's Successive Heir, a solo show that explores a queer, black actor's quest to reconcile his love for Shakespeare with the restrictions of the entertainment industry and his fears of cultural inauthenticity. By interweaving his contemporary struggle with the long history of BIPOC and queer engagement with Shakespeare, the play will explore what it means to have a cultural exchange devoid of bigotry and exploitation.</p> |
| <p>Sabina Shanti Kariat She, her, hers; They/them/theirs</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will support the South Asian Radical Visualization Project-North Beach (SARVP), led by artist Sabina Kariat in collaboration with historians Barnali Ghosh and Anirvan Chatterjee. The project will create a mural honoring early South Asian radical woman immigrants, particularly Kartar Dhillon (1915-2008), a Punjabi Sikh activist. The mural's creation process will include community paint days, educational teach-ins, and community meals, highlighting Dhillon's activism, union work, and solidarity efforts in North Beach.</p> |
| <p>SAMI SEE She, her, hers; They/them/theirs</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the production of ISLAND BOUND, a multi-disciplinary project featuring production and screening of the micro-film FLOOD, climate resilience skill-building workshops, and community dialogues that explore climate change impacts on diasporic Islander communities. This project creates platforms for a variety of artists, including for example, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Caribbean artists to share stories of resilience and identity through art. Funds support San Francisco based artists to engage in cross-cultural collaborations.</p> |

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| <p>Samuel Melecio-Zambrano They/them/theirs</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support TODO, a dance-based performance piece by Samuel Melecio-Zambrano and gizeh muñiz vengal devised alongside a team of creative collaborators who are rooted in a movement practice that dismantles and questions embodied eurocentric aesthetics with a focus on the dramaturgy of the body exploring perreo, salsa, cumbia, floorwork, and bachata dancing.</p> |
| <p>Shelley Wong She, her, hers</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a series of poems focusing on the labor and contributions of Chinese immigrants in the late 1800s and early 1900s American West. I will research their migration journey to the San Francisco Bay Area, Montana copper mines, Pacific Northwest fisheries, our present-day national parks, and the gold rush and railroad landscapes along the West Coast to honor their enduring legacy with dignity and humanity.</p> |
| <p>Shizue Seigel She, her, hers Fiscal Sponsor (Intersection for the Arts)</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Shizue Seigel's visual art memoir "Double Vision." The book will trace transitions by BIPOC women from traditional family and workplace roles to agency, creative freedom and social justice through the arts. The book will be supported by readings, workshops, and an art exhibition at Medicine for Nightmares.</p> |
| <p>Shruti Swamy She, her, hers</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the research and writing of a memoir, Land Kid, about coming of age as an Indian-American teen in an all white yoga community in Northern California, as well as a broader exploration of the impacts of cultural appropriation in the wellness world on people of color. The grant will also support a panel on writing personal non-fiction, geared towards beginning and aspiring memoirists.</p> |

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| <p>Simone Bailey She, her, hers</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Across the Aisle, a series of 20 black and white photographic portraits. Across the Aisle will explore disenfranchisement at the intersection of race, class, and political alliance by examining Black folks who identify as MAGA Republicans. Funds will additionally support a publication featuring the photographs, as well as statements by each person who is photographed about how they came to identify with the far right.</p> |
| <p>SirJoQ He/Him/His; they/them/theirs</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the first annual Golden Gate Grand Ball: A Dazzling Celebration of Legacy and Liberation – a world-class dance event that honors the dancers and history of the vogue ballroom community. The project will be created through a collaboration with San Francisco vogue trailblazer, SirJoQ (Jocquese Whitfield) and Dance Mission Theater’s Liberation Academy, creating a uniquely accessible vogue ball that puts our city on the vogue map.</p> |
| <p>Spencer Chang He/Him/His; they/them/theirs</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support computing shrines, a series of interactive public art installations that co-opt our devices to foster deeper neighborhood bonds. Each shrine is a site-specific sculpture embedded with a digital experience facilitating the exchange of the sights, sounds, and feelings between visitors creating interventions for community exchange in everyday locations.</p> |

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| <p>Stephanie Sherman She, her, hers</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a contemporary dance performance inspired by Jewish rituals which emphasize democratic, anti-genocidal, humanitarian ideals that decolonize nationalist, settler-colonial, white-supremacist Zionist constructs of Jewishness. Both the process and performances will engage dialogue between anti-Zionist Jews, Palestinians, Palestine activists, and members of the S.F. Jewish community to undermine the harmful (yet common and antisemitism-provoking) belief that most Jews are Zionists, and inspire greater mutual understanding and coalition-building. The dance performance will be open to all.</p> |
| <p>SUKAY/Pachamama She, her, hers</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support 30 high-energy performances of traditional Andean music, costumed Bolivian & Peruvian dancers at our intimate, artist-owned venue. Recently granted a new ten-year lease, Peña Pachamama has been awarded Legacy Business status by the City of San Francisco as 'a longstanding community-serving establishment, a valuable cultural asset and soul of the city.</p> |
| <p>Tara Dorabji She, her, hers Fiscal Sponsor (Independent Arts & Media)</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> | <p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation of the novel, Exposure, which looks at how lies and family secrets overlay with violence and militarization. Exploring generational healing, racial identity and environmental justice, Jessica unravels family secrets in order to understand her own roots and ultimately discovers that the work which sustained her family contaminated her town. Funding will support SF-based community engaged research, drafting the novel and a community showcase.</p> |

| Grantee Name Pronouns | Grant Amount | Project Summary |
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| Tatiana Luboviski-Acosta They/them/theirs | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to maintain financial equilibrium and residence in San Francisco while I research and write a novel. As someone who works a full-time, minimum wage job that is physically exerting and comes with limited paid time off, funding will allow me to take time to research, write, and edit without jeopardizing my or my family's financial equilibrium or residency in San Francisco. |
| Terrence He/Him/His | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation of a new Dance, Theater project called Yoko - Season of the Fox. A solo performance that combines Bruk up (A Jamaican dance form developed from dancehall) with contemporary dance forms such as Ballet, Modern and inspiration from traditional ceremonial masked dance rituals. |
| Therese Davis She, her, hers | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the production of the SF Songbird Music and Film Festival. I will perform/artistically curate throughout the festival with community music event professionals, crucial to my development as an artist. The festival's 6 music events, presentations, panel discussions, opening and closing night receptions will explore social justice issues such as white supremacy, cultural equity, police violence, and economic justice. |
| Toshio Meronek They/them/theirs | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support an audio podcast series and a live premier event exploring the life and times of Bay Area-based prison abolitionist and icon of the Left, Linda Evans. |
| Tossie Long She, her, hers (Independent Arts & Media) | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creative development and presentation of Sacred Sounds of San Francisco, a site-specific immersive sound project focusing on sonic archival of one of the city's Black churches, capturing both their decline and the fading musical traditions central to their identity. Composed by Tossie Long, Sacred Sounds will feature gospel songs and soundscapes inspired by people, objects, architecture, and histories of the church and its members. |

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|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| William Underwood III He/Him/His | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts funds will be used to support my project, "Symphonic Soul: A Black American Soundscape." This innovative live performance and recording, centered on the flute, explores Black life in America through original immersive music that draws from classical, R&B, and electronic genres. Challenging the status quo, Symphonic Soul fosters inclusivity and delivers sonorous insights on identity for engaged listeners. |
| Wren Farrell He/Him/His | \$30,000 | San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the completion of my proposed fiction manuscript "Fly Me To You". The novel interweaves the perspectives and experiences of four trans-masculine sex-workers and a mutual client of theirs named John. "Fly Me To You" uses humor and empathy to explore the class and racial tensions that arise in sex work, while also subverting readers expectations about power, intimacy, and masculinity. |