



City of  
**OAKLAND**  
California

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## News from: Economic & Workforce Development Department

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 2017

## Oakland City Council Approves \$1.1 million in Cultural Funding Grants

*78 Local Arts Groups and Artists to Receive Support  
Applications for next funding cycle to be released Friday*

*Oakland, CA* – At its meeting on Tuesday, February 7, the Oakland City Council approved \$1.1 million in fiscal year 2016-2017 grants to Oakland-based nonprofit organizations and individual artists through the City’s Cultural Funding Program. The Cultural Funding Program will distribute \$1,121,853 in grants ranging from \$3,000 to \$37,500 to 78 different recipients. These grants will promote the health and stabilization of Oakland’s nonprofit arts groups as well as assist a diverse number of organizations and artists to present arts programming in Oakland and bring art to young people via the classroom or after school.

“The cultural arts grants are a vital tool in our efforts to strengthen and preserve Oakland’s rich and diverse arts tradition,” said Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf. “I encourage the artists and arts organizations in our community, particularly those that serve our young people, to apply for and spread the word about this City-provided funding opportunity.”

This year’s large applicant pool includes school residencies, community festivals, public exhibitions, cultural commemorations, art classes and workshops held throughout the City’s seven council districts. Included in this year’s grantee pool is filmmaker Tony Nguyen who will begin work on his film “Fresh Frozen,” a documentary that looks at a small sandwich shop trying to stay afloat in a rapidly changing neighborhood in Oakland. A grant from the Cultural Funding Program will also support the 3rd annual Black-Eyed Pea Festival, a cultural celebration of African American traditional food, music and art held at Mosswood Park. Grant funds will support more than 8,000 arts events and activities, the majority of them offered free or low-cost to the public, and will expose over 300,000 participants to cultural arts services.

“Interest in the Cultural Funding grant program has really grown – we’ve seen a 74% increase in the number of applications received in the last four years,” said Roberto Bedoya, Cultural Affairs Manager. “Through these grants, Oakland artists and arts organization have the opportunity to showcase their talents by bringing innovative work to adults and youth throughout Oakland.”

The Cultural Funding Program has four core funding categories: *Organization Project* grant supports Oakland-based nonprofit organizations producing arts activities for the Oakland public’s benefit; *Art in the Schools* funds activities that expose young people in Oakland public schools to quality, hands-on arts experiences in a school setting; *Individual Artist Project* funding supports work by Oakland artists that culminates in a local public activity or event for the benefit of the community; and the final funding category, *Organizational Assistance*, a two-part program that promotes the health and stabilization of Oakland’s nonprofit arts providers.

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Following the grant application deadline in May 2016, review panels in June and July 2016 comprised of Bay Area professional artists and arts administrators combed through the 172 eligible applications. In December 2016, the panels' recommendations were approved by the Funding Advisory Committee prior to advancing to the Oakland City Council's Life Enrichment Committee on January 24, 2017. The recommendations received Oakland City Council approval at the February 7, 2017 meeting. To view the staff report and resolution, please visit <http://bit.ly/2mybN9p>.

Funding for the grants includes \$730,120 from the General Fund and \$391,733.39 from a dedicated portion of the Transient Occupancy Tax Fund as part of voter-approved Measure C.

**Applications for the Cultural Funding Program's 2017-2018 fiscal year cycle** are expected to be **released on Friday, March 17, 2017**, with submission deadlines in May 2017. When released, the applications will be available at **[oaklandculturalarts.org](http://oaklandculturalarts.org)** or by contacting Denise Pate, Cultural Funding Program Coordinator, at [dpate@oaklandnet.com](mailto:dpate@oaklandnet.com) or (510) 238-7561.

Below is a listing of grant recipients by funding category.

**FY2016-17 CULTURAL FUNDING GRANTS**

***Funding Category***

Organization/Individual Name	Grant Amount
<b><i>Individual Artist Project</i></b>	
Amara Smith	\$4,999
Amie Cota	\$4,999
Ayodele Nzinga	\$4,999
Camille Thomas	\$4,999
David Washburn	\$4,999
Debra Wilson	\$4,999
Destiny Muhummad	\$4,999
Diallo Jeffery	\$4,000
Dohee Lee	\$4,999
Elizabeth Dougherty	\$4,999
Ellen Lake	\$4,999
Ellen Oppenheimer	\$4,999
Ephrata Tesfahun	\$4,999
Ina A. Ray	\$4,000
Johanna Poethig	\$4,999
Julia Davis	\$3,000
Jun Yamagishi	\$4,999
Kaitlin Nagraj	\$4,999
Kehinde Kujichagulia-Seitu	\$4,000
Laurel Nathanson	\$4,999
Lori Anne Fischer	\$4,999
Madelyn Jordan-Davis	\$4,999
Mateen Kemet	\$4,999
Naima Shalhoub	\$4,999
Nicole Klaymoon	\$4,999

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***Individual Artist Project*** (continued)

Nkeiruka Oruche	\$4,999
Ramon Ramos Alayo	\$4,999
Sam Mulberry	\$4,999
Tamara Roberts	\$4,000
Tony Nguyen	\$4,999
<b>Category Subtotal</b>	<b>\$143,975</b>

***Organization Project***

Bay Area Girls Rock Camp	\$17,000
Connecting Health Institute	\$8,274.75
Conservatory of Music	\$17,000
Dandelion Dancetheater	\$4,845
Destiny Arts Center for Embodiment Project	\$3,863
Dimensions Dance Theater for Delinadream Productions	\$12,750
Dimensions Dance Theater for Fua Dia Congo	\$17,000
Dimensions Dance Theater for K* Star Productions	\$12,750
East Oakland Youth Development Center	\$17,000
Eastside Arts Alliance for dNaga	\$5,100
Ensemble Mik Nawooj	\$17,000
Ile Omode School	\$3,863
Islamic Cultural Center of Northern CA	\$8,500
Music is Extraordinary, Inc. dba Oakland Public Oakland Digital Arts & Literacy Center (ODALC)	\$13,260
Oakland Leaf Foundation	\$17,000
Oakland Parks & Recreation Foundation	\$4,999
Omnira Institute	\$4,999
Ragged Wing Ensemble	\$16,150
The Unity Council	\$17,000
Youth Radio	\$17,000
<b>Category Subtotal</b>	<b>\$235,353.75</b>

***Art-in-the-Schools***

Cantare Con Vivo	\$17,000
Claudia Goodman-Hough	\$17,000
Destiny Arts Center	\$17,000
Dimensions Dance Theater	\$17,000
East Bay Performing Arts	\$17,000
Living Jazz	\$17,000
Museum of Children's Art	\$17,000
Oakland Youth Chorus	\$17,000
Peralta Parent Teacher Group	\$17,000
Prescott Circus Theatre	\$17,000
Pro Arts	\$17,000
Sarah Norr	\$4,750
Stagebridge	\$16,000
Unity Schools	\$17,000
<b>Category Subtotal</b>	<b>\$224,750</b>

***Organizational Assistance***

API Cultural Center	\$16,128.90
Attitudinal Healing Connection	\$34,999.50
Axis Dance Company	\$34,999.50

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***Organizational Assistance*** (continued)

Cantare Con Vivo	\$11,847.60
Creative Growth Art Center	\$37,500
Crosspulse	\$7,545.60
Destiny Arts Center	\$37,500
Diamano Coura West African Dance	\$6,580
Dimensions Dance Theater	\$17,500
East Bay Performing Arts	\$37,500
Eastside Arts Alliance	\$18,274.80
Friends of Peralta Hacienda Historical Park	\$17,336.70
Kitka	\$17,653
Living Jazz	\$23,532.30
Museum of Children's Art	\$31,500
Oakland Ballet	\$11,340
Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir	\$20,118
Oakland Youth Chorus	\$18,528.75
Oaktown Jazz Workshops	\$7,668.99
Prescott Circus Theatre	\$13,500
Pro Arts	\$12,471
Project Bandaloop	\$33,750
Purple Silk Music Education Foundation	\$8,000
Stagebridge	\$12,000
The Crucible	\$30,000
<b>Category Subtotal</b>	<b>\$517,774.64</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,121,853.39</b>

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