

Youth in Arts®

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 14, 2020

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YOUTH IN ARTS WINS STATE GRANT TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS

SAN RAFAEL, CA – The California Arts Council has announced multiple grant awards totalling more than \$50,000 to Youth in Arts to support various initiatives to reach students, teachers and families with arts education.

The largest grant award was \$20,000 for Youth in Arts' Artists in Schools program in partnership with San Rafael City Schools bringing visual arts, architecture and dance directly into classrooms. Youth in Arts also received a \$12,540 Arts Exposure grant supporting assemblies with professional artists during the school day; \$12,350 for Youth Arts Action grant in support of 'Til Dawn, Youth in Arts' award-winning teen *a cappella* group; \$4,750 for Arts Integration Training for professional mentor artists; and \$1,250 for staff professional development regarding the development and training of STEAM programs (Science, Technology, Arts, Math).

"We are honored and thrilled to receive such recognition by the California Arts Council," said Youth in Arts Executive Director Kristen Jacobson. "It enables us to provide vital programs in the schools, including direct service to students and ongoing support for teachers at the forefront of developing new STEAM curriculum in Marin. During these unprecedented times, we are thankful for the innovation and flexibility encouraged by the CAC to continue this work even through the lens of social distance learning. Our communities need access to creativity now more than ever, and Youth in Arts is working hard to answer that call."

Youth in Arts was featured as part of a [larger announcement](#) from the California Arts Council of more than 1,500 grants awarded to nonprofit organizations and units of government throughout the state for their work in support of the agency's mission to strengthen arts, culture, and creative expression as the tools to cultivate a better California for all. The investment of nearly \$30 million marks a more than \$5 million increase over the previous fiscal year, and the largest in California Arts Council history.

Organizations were awarded grants across 15 different program areas addressing access, equity, and inclusion; community vibrancy; and arts learning and engagement; and directly benefiting our state's communities, with youth, veterans, returned citizens, and California's historically marginalized communities key among them. Successful projects aligned closely with the agency's vision of a California where all people flourish with universal access to and participation in the arts.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the California Arts Council recognizes that some grantees may need to postpone, modify, or cancel their planned activities supported by CAC funds, due to state and local public health guidelines. The state arts agency is prioritizing flexibility in addressing these changes and supporting appropriate solutions for grantees.

"Creativity sits at the very heart of our identity as Californians and as a people. In this unprecedented moment, the need to understand, endure, and transcend our lived experiences through arts and culture is all the more relevant for each of us," said Nashormeh Lindo, Chair of the California Arts Council. "The California Arts Council is proud to be able to offer more support through our grant programs than ever before, at a time when our communities' need is perhaps greater than ever before. These grants will support immediate and lasting community impact by investing in arts businesses and cultural workers across the state."

Youth in Arts is an arts education nonprofit that has served more than a million children since it was founded nearly 50 years ago. We strive to support creativity, confidence and compassion with innovative programs in visual art, music, theater and dance that are designed to reach all learners of all abilities. Currently, the Youth in Arts team is working to provide ongoing opportunities for digital/distance learning for schools in the Fall. Until then, families and students can join us on Facebook or Instagram weekdays at 11:08 am PDT for **#YIACre8tes**: live streamed art activities to help families sheltering in place.

The **California Arts Council** is a state agency with a mission of strengthening arts, culture, and creative expression as the tools to cultivate a better California for all. It supports local arts infrastructure and programming statewide through grants, initiatives, and services. The California Arts Council envisions a California where all people flourish with universal access to and participation in the arts.

Members of the California Arts Council include: Chair Nashormeh Lindo, Vice Chair Jaime Galli, Larry Baza, Lilia Gonzales Chavez, Jodie Evans, Kathleen Gallegos, Stanlee Gatti, Donn K. Harris, Alex Israel, Consuelo Montoya, and Jonathan Moscone. Learn more at www.arts.ca.gov.

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