

Transient Occupancy Tax Fund

2020-2021 CULTURAL GRANT AWARDS

By Ordinance, the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Fund provides funding for Convention Facilities Operations and Maintenance, Cultural Development, and the San José Convention and Visitors Bureau. TOT revenues allocated for Cultural Development provide funding for the cultural grant and Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) programs. Each year, the OCA promotes grant opportunities and solicits applications. Applications for funding are evaluated based on guidelines and criteria approved by the City Council. Grant awards are made based on a competitive application-based peer review process and available funding.

The City Council-adopted *Cultural Connection: San José's Cultural Plan for 2011-2020* reflects the strategic goals and top priorities for cultural development in San José. A key strategy to advance the goals of *Cultural Connection* is through partnerships and grant agreements with community-based organizations across grant program areas aimed at promoting cultural vibrancy, cultural diversity, and economic development in San José, including:

- Operating Grants provide financial support for selected San José arts organizations of various disciplines, sizes and stages of development.
- Festival, Parade & Celebration Grants enable access for all City residents to a wide range of diverse cultural events, large and small. These events are often held in public spaces and are always open to the public.
- take pART Grants support arts activities offered by volunteer-driven arts organizations, community service organizations, and small semi-professional and professional arts organizations.
- Capitalization and Sustainability Grants support activities of nonprofit art organizations that will increase their working financial capital and promote fiscal soundness.
- Programmatic Partnerships advance the goals and recommendations outlined in *Cultural Connection*.

Grant awards are based on available funding and cultural development funding priorities. Initial recommendations are reviewed by a panel of Arts Commissioners, arts and culture professionals, and community representatives; forwarded to the Arts Commission for formal review; and then submitted for the City Council's approval in May of each year as part of the budget process.

Due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on both TOT revenues and the ability to deliver cultural programming due to physical distancing, OCA modified the approach to cultural grant recommendations for the 2020-2021 fiscal year to provide for a phased release of award recommendations. Priority was given to the Operating Grants Program as these unrestricted grants collectively serve a broad and diverse constituency throughout the City and produce the largest number of public programming and outreach/arts education initiatives that impact residents year-round. Because accumulated reserves were depleted to mitigate significant TOT shortfalls in 2019-2020, a total of \$1.2 million has been recommended for initial allocation in 2020-2021. As actual collected TOT amounts become clearer and more guidelines are issued about public gatherings as they impact the ability to safely deliver art projects and programs, recommendations on grants for specific arts projects and events such as *take pART* and FPC Program Grants will be considered next, likely in early fall 2020 when the Administration prepares the 2019-2020 Annual Report for the City Council, which will provide a more refined estimate of available TOT funding.

Organization	Core Program	Funding
Abhinaya Dance Company of San Jose	Operating Grants	\$13,499
Aimusic School	Operating Grants	\$21,081
Bay Area Glass Institute	Operating Grants	\$28,127
Cashion Cultural Legacy	Operating Grants	\$11,658
Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose	Operating Grants	\$95,100
Children's Musical Theater San Jose	Operating Grants	\$77,560
Chinese Performing Arts of America	Operating Grants	\$23,574
Cinequest Film Festival	Operating Grants	\$50,117
City Lights Theater Company of San Jose	Operating Grants	\$36,262
Kaisahan of San Jose Dance Company	Operating Grants	\$9,925
MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana	Operating Grants	\$37,312
Opera San Jose	Operating Grants	\$85,835
San Jose Chamber Orchestra	Operating Grants	\$19,713
San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art	Operating Grants	\$34,470
San Jose Jazz	Operating Grants	\$80,081
San Jose Multicultural Artists Guild	Operating Grants	\$7,771
San Jose Museum of Art	Operating Grants	\$82,928
San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles	Operating Grants	\$30,913
San Jose Stage Company	Operating Grants	\$36,170
San Jose Symphonic Choir	Operating Grants	\$8,045
San Jose Taiko	Operating Grants	\$27,424
San Jose Youth Symphony	Operating Grants	\$37,743
School of Arts and Culture at MHP	Operating Grants	\$77,849
Silicon Valley Shakespeare	Operating Grants	\$10,370
sjDANCEco	Operating Grants	\$9,088
Starting Arts	Operating Grants	\$54,984
Steinway Society - The Bay Area	Operating Grants	\$9,022
Symphony Silicon Valley	Operating Grants	\$85,017
Teatro Vision	Operating Grants	\$12,866
The New Ballet School	Operating Grants	\$45,012
The Tabard Theatre Company	Operating Grants	\$27,974
Vivace Youth Chorus	Operating Grants	\$12,510
Total Cultural Development Grants for 2020-2021		\$1,200,000