



Memorandum

TO: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

FROM: Kerry Adams Hapner

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED FY 2024-25
take pART GRANT AWARDS**

DATE: May 3, 2024

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive Committee forward a recommendation to the Arts Commission to recommend that the City Council approve the proposed FY 2024-25 take pART Grant awards specified in Attachment A and subject to the availability of funds appropriated in the City's FY 2024-25 Operating Budget.

BACKGROUND

The *take pART* Grants are a support resource for specific arts activities offered by non-professional arts organizations and community service organizations with continuing arts programs, as well as very small semi-professional and professional arts organizations seeking to secure City support for specific arts activities, rather than general operating support.

take pART Grants are intended to encourage:

- Opportunities for public participation in arts and cultural activities;
- Life-long arts and cultural education programs outside the school setting;
- Expressions of culturally-specific traditions of San Jose's diverse population;
- Opportunities to experience the arts in neighborhood and community settings; and
- Programs that serve the needs of the clients of health and social service institutions.

As noted in the *take pART* 2024-25 guidelines, funding is granted through a competitive process. Applications are weighed each year by a review panel for their responsiveness to the evaluation criteria published in the program information booklet.

ANALYSIS

The Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) received 14 eligible applications in the FY 2024-25 cycle of *take pART*. The applications included grant requests ranging between \$4,800 and \$25,000.

The Grant Review Panel met on March 8, 2024, to complete its evaluation of the *take pART* grant applications. The panel considered each application against the four evaluation criteria established in the FY 2024-25 *take pART* Grant Program guidelines: Project/Program Quality (40%); Organizational Capacity (30%); Appropriateness of Budget/Grant Request (20%); and Community Impact (10%).

The grant review panel was comprised of the following experienced arts management professionals. Due to a last-minute emergency, the representative from the Arts Commission was unable to serve on the panel:

- **Dr. Jonathan Fung**, *Documentary Filmmaker, Photographer, Lecturer at San Jose State University*
- **Shelby Taketa**, *Arts Commissioner, District 10*
- **Amina Yee**, *Program Officer, David & Lucile Packard Foundation*
- **Eduardo Robles**, *Communications Manager, Californians for the Arts*
- **Esther Young**, *Community Engagement Specialist, School of Arts and Culture at MHP*

Overall scores for the 14 applications ranged from a high of 94.0 to a low of 66.0, out of a maximum of 100. Due to the City's pending development of the proposed Operating Budget for FY 2024-25, the panel did not have specific dollar amounts to recommend for distribution at the time of its meeting. Instead, the panel made recommendations for approximate funding percentages, to be adjusted proportionally, when the final amount for grant distribution was available. The panel recommended funding for 12 of the 14 eligible applications based on the ranking of their scores.

The percentage recommendations were translated into actual dollars after the specific funding amount was available. Given an increase over the previous year's funding for the *take pART* grants, adjustments to recommended percentages and specific dollar amounts were made that take into consideration panel evaluation/scoring, total funding available, and sustainability of program support over time. An amount of \$297,386 is recommended for *take pART*. The OCA takes a fluid approach to its recommended portfolio distribution based on applications across programs based on available funding, the number of applications, and the requested grant amounts. The recommendations are contained in Attachment A.

Of the eligible 14 take pART applications, 37% are BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) led organizations, 58% are BIPOC serving organizations, and 37% are both BIPOC-led and BIPOC serving organizations.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Notices of granting opportunities were distributed to the OCA’s e-mail contacts lists, posted on the OCA website, uploaded on the City of San José WebGrants platform, and shared via social media.

/s/
KERRY ADAMS HAPNER
Director of Cultural Affairs

Attachments

- A. List of FY 2024-25 take pART Grant applicants, in descending order of scores, with proposed grant award amounts
- B. Project descriptions for FY 2024-25 take pART applicants recommended for funding
- C. Grant review panel qualifications

ATTACHMENT A
FY 2024-25 take pART Grant Recommendations organized by score

	Applicant	Score	% of funding	Grant Amount
1	genARTS	94	88%	*\$6,068
2	San Jose Downtown Foundation	93	87%	\$13,050
3	Red Ladder Theatre	90	86%	\$21,500
4	Works/San Jose	89	80%	\$12,000
5	History San Jose	89	80%	\$4,800
6	More Mas Marami	88	78%	\$11,700
7	San Jose Center for Poetry & Lit.	85	75%	\$11,250
8	Recovery Cafe	85	75%	\$18,750
9	Chamber Music Silicon Valley	85	75%	\$13,500
10	Together We Create	84	73%	\$6,411
11	CATS	83	73%	\$4,745
12	Playful People Productions	82	70%	\$14,000
13	HomeFirst	82	70%	\$8,750
14	Winchester Orchestra	80	68%	\$8,500
15	ICAN	80	68%	\$12,814
16	Alliance for Youth Achievement	79	67%	\$16,750
17	Opera Cultura	76	64%	\$16,000
18	La Raiz Magazine	76	64%	\$5,760
19	Lyric Theatre	74	63%	\$15,750
20	Chopsticks Alley Art	73	61%	\$15,250
21	Santa Clara Valley Performing Arts Association	73	61%	\$9,150
22	Voices of Silicon Valley	73	61%	\$8,235
23	PARTI	72	61%	\$13,420
24	CreaTV San Jose	70	60%	\$9,596
23	South Bay Guitar Society of San Jose	70	60%	\$8,400
26	San Jose Chamber Music Society	63	50%	\$11,238
27	Joyful Learning Center	67	0%	\$0
28	CompassPoint Mentorship	66	0%	\$0
			TOTAL PROPOSED:	\$297,386

*Capped at request amount

** Final recommendations pending approval of funds by City Council.

Proposed dollar amounts calculated based on total available funds.

ATTACHMENT B
FY 2024-25 take pART Grants Project Descriptions

Alliance for Youth Achievement

Grant will support the Art & Design Thinking Camp, an adventure in making and imagining. This project-based camp engages middle school youth in exploring design thinking processes, digital tools, and visual arts with a focus on arts and culture. There will be nine weeks of camp in 2024-25. The full day summer camp will run from July to August

Contemporary Asian Theater Scene (CATS)

CATS is producing the 3rd Annual AAPI Staged Reading program which provides a unique and immersive theater experience for young AAPI artists to experience the work of an award-winning AAPI playwright and empowered to perform in a transformed environment in San Jose Japantown.

Chopsticks Alley Art

Grant will continue a monthly Chopsticks Alley Art hosted CreativiTEA Open Mic for Asian artists. The open mics will feature AAPI voices and talents in all artistic mediums.

Chamber Music Silicon Valley

Chamber Music Silicon Valley (CMSV) seeks support for its 13th Annual Silicon Valley Music Festival at the Mexican Heritage Plaza in East San Jose. The festival will feature five free concerts, a workshop for local songwriters and youth, the commissioning of new music and digital media art by local artists of color and aims to reach 1550 attendees. The project embodies CMSV's mission to enrich the region's cultural landscape through accessible, innovative, and community-relevant presentations of classical music programming, with a focus on diversity and community engagement.

CompassPoint Mentorship (Not recommended for funding)

CompassPoint Mentorship aims to create a vibrant, educational mural at Hellyer Park's restroom facility. This project will showcase local flora and fauna, celebrating the natural beauty of the Coyote Creek area. Our goal is to engage the community, particularly youth, in environmental stewardship through artistic expression.

CreaTV San Jose

Grant will support CreaTV Presents which delivers monthly media art-based local artist film screenings, panels with artists, and other culturally-rich programs that encourage and activate the community to explore, engage, share perspectives, collaborate, and create.

genARTS

“Creative Conversations: How to Art” is a year-long program featuring a series of career development events that will provide San Jose and Santa Clara County artists and arts professionals, from emerging to established, the opportunity to have open dialogue and learn valuable, hands-on, skills needed to build a sustainable practice and career in the arts. Four events will take place in four different districts and will feature an opening performance by a local artist, a presentation/workshop element, and a dedicated time for networking, 1:1 advising, and focused discussion.

History San Jose

The Women's Heritage Day will take place on Saturday, March 22nd, 2025 at History Park and is expected to draw 1,000 attendees. Aligned with History San José's mission, the gathering is a dynamic program that utilizes arts activities to pay tribute to women in Santa Clara Valley and bring artists and the general public to History Park for a day of enrichment. In addition to opening most of History Parks' exhibits and cultural museums for free, the day will include a book fair, featuring literary artists from across genres; a co-curated outdoor exhibit with La Raza Historical Society of Santa Clara County featuring lowriders owned by women; craft stations and demonstrations in partnership with the women-forward organization National Charity League; and a kaleidoscope of cultural performances and workshops co-curated with Mosaic America, showcasing women across Silicon Valley.

HomeFirst

“Home Is Where the Art Is” is a therapeutic art-making workshop series facilitated by local artists that gives San Jose residents who are staying at HomeFirst's emergency shelter and interim housing sites an opportunity to learn new artistic skills, build connections and community, and pursue creative outlets while they work towards their permanent housing goals.

Int. Childrens Assistance Network (ICAN)

We propose to collect 20 oral histories from American Born Vietnamese people who grew up in San Jose between the years 1975 - present. We plan to work with the CSU system to provide stories that can be used in an academic setting so that it can be documented to be studied and will be posted on our website for the public to read. When doing our work, we realized that there has been much documentation from community members who were refugees, most notably from Nancy Bui's work at the Vietnamese American Heritage Museum in Southern California. However, there has still been a digital archive to narrate the memories of the children of Vietnamese refugees. ICAN would like to support the stories of second generations of Vietnamese Americans so that their histories are not forgotten by acculturation. We plan on recording the stories of the individuals, transcribing, and releasing them to the public.

Joyful Learning Center (Not recommended for funding)

Our project focuses on fostering creativity, inclusivity, and community engagement among low-income, homeless, foster, and special needs children and families in San Jose. Through diverse activities such as community art workshops, photography programs, and inclusive dance classes (dance for all abilities), we aim to instill a love for the arts, promote cultural pluralism, and enhance the well-being of our community.

LaRaiz Magazine

La Raíz Magazine: Art & Poetry Event Series will provide arts workshops and showcases for the creation and presentation of artistic works by people of color and women with a focus on outreach to community members based in San José, California. The project is made accessible to the public via free events, bilingual hosting, translation to Spanish, and online events with closed captioning. Over the grant period, we plan to offer two visual arts workshops, three poetry workshops, and four Creative Showcases to serve at least 300 people.

Lyric Theatre

Lyric Theatre will continue to grow its program to reach diverse and new audiences by presenting the third annual San José Light Opera Festival. This festival will feature shows intended to reach across communities and introduce attendees to the historical foundations of musical theater.

More Mas Marami

More Más Marami Arts (MMM) is seeking funding to support their 5th annual playwriting and emerging arts festival, MMM Fest, in July 2024, while supporting the creation of new art in the months leading up to the festival. MMM Fest will feature stage readings of four plays by local playwrights and three community-devised theater pieces, alongside film, poetry, and music readings put on by partner organizations. This funding will support the development of the devised works portion of the festival, and allow MMM to direct more funding towards artists and marketing efforts.

Opera Cultura

We will present La Llorona, which opens this coming June 22nd at the School of Arts and Culture at the Mexican Heritage Theater. We've revised it, with a feminist lens and with a predominantly female-identifying production team, including the stage director. New music and dialogue will be incorporated into the piece. Additionally, students from our La Escuela program, currently taking place at Hoover Theater and the HUB, will join the production as artists onstage and behind the scenes.

Positive Alternative Recreation Teambuilding Impact (P.A.R.T.I.)

Grant will support African American historical stepping, Polynesian dance, and four youth led community events which include youth painting and drawing exhibits. Grant will also support the 25th anniversary celebration of PARTI.

Playful People Productions

Grant will support Summer Stock season of theater production camps, which is paired with Teen and Young Adult Internship program.

Recovery Café (Not recommended for funding)

Recovery Cafe San Jose creates a healing community for individuals who have experienced or continue to experience trauma. An important part of the healing can happen through opportunities for artistic expression in a variety of mediums and forms. If received, take pArt funding will support programming in Theater, Music/Choir and visual art classes for people experiencing mental health, substance abuse, homelessness and other traumas in downtown San Jose.

Red Ladder Theatre

Grant will support Imagination Ignited - Creative engAGEment with Japantown Seniors, intended to provide an opportunity for seniors in San José's Japantown neighborhood to connect with their creativity and, using the tools of theatre, tell stories of their own devising. A total of three sessions of twelve workshops (36 total workshops) will be take place throughout 2024-25.

San Jose Center for Poetry and Literature (Poetry San Jose)

Grant will support Poetry & Spoken Word community engagement projects including VeteransWrite, Well-RED Readings at Works/San José, Willow Glen Library Poetry Series, publishing Caesura, and workshops and writing groups at Markham House. Various locations include Willow Glen Public Library, Los Gatos Public Library, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, Works/San Jose, Tabard Theatre and our home, Markham House at History Park.

San Jose Chamber Music Society

Grant will support San José Chamber Music Society's 38th season in 2024-25 which will include six concerts of diverse chamber music by top quality professional artists and ensembles in a mix of touring and Bay Area-based.

San Jose Downtown Foundation

Grant will support Downtown Doors, an award-winning competition/exhibit for 2024-25. The program provides students real-life experience to express themselves publicly through art. The program also enlivens downtown's urban spaces. The Downtown San José community has enjoyed 350+ works from 25 schools on 115 sites for over 20 years.

Santa Clara Performing Arts Association

Grant will support The Santa Clara Valley Performing Arts Association presentation of Mission Chamber Orchestra in a season of live classical orchestral music in San José. 4 concerts to be held at the Hammer Theatre in the Fall and Winter of 2024.

South Bay Guitar Society

Grant will support four ticketed concerts in San Jose and take artists out to local San Jose schools and small performance venues for performances and "meet the artist" talks. The grant would also support four masterclasses (4 students in each) to be given by these concert artists.

Together We Create

Together We Create is organizing an event series titled "The TWC Series" made up of 2 art events for San Jose which involves community engagement through live painting, community murals, break dance competitions, art vendors, and skate competitions.

Voices of Silicon Valley

The Voices of Silicon Valley's "Promoting Diversity of South Bay" program will commission emerging BIPOC composers from the San Jose and South Bay community to write new works that elevate the VOSV mission of incorporating technology in vocal performance while amplifying community voices and raising awareness about socioeconomic concerns.

Winchester Orchestra

Grant will support four classical/Pops concerts at Lincoln Glen Church in San Jose, CA.

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Works/San Jose

Grant will support a year-long series of community exhibitions and performances in an exciting new Downtown San José collaborative arts center, with additional gallery activations with partners at the Mexican Heritage Plaza.

ATTACHMENT C
FY 2024-2025 *take pART* Grants Review Panel Qualifications

Dr. Jonathan Fung

Dr. Jonathan Fung is a Bay Area interdisciplinary artist, filmmaker and social activist. Fung teaches photography at San Jose State University through a social justice and narrative lens. He has been featured in exhibitions at The Triton Museum of Art, the Guggenheim Museum, and the Holly Solomon Gallery, just to name a few.

For the past 11 years, Fung's work has been a platform to expose the darkness of human trafficking and create a call to action to educate and spread awareness. His video installation Down the Rabbit Hole was part of the Wonderland exhibition in the San Francisco's Tenderloin District. His award-winning short film Hark was screened at many film festivals, including the Cannes Film Festival Court Mètrage.

Shelby Taketa (Arts Commissioner)

Currently serving as Arts Commissioner for District 10 in San José, Ms. Taketa is a Cal Poly, SLO graduate with a B.A. in Business Marketing, weaving together her experience as a collegiate athlete, a co-founder in the early dot com, and a world traveler. She blends her dynamic background and varied business experience by using her "always keep evolving" motto. Sometimes referred to as the "Jill of All Trades," she's a seeker and connector of all possibilities while maintaining core principles for integrating teamwork, creativity, and innovation. Her skills are further threaded together by her love of fashion, music, and tech. Savvy and committed to innovation with a focus on analytics/metrics for organizational growth and success, Shelby's professional experience spans B2B and B2C management of software and business services across all channels, with special emphasis on data-driven website/app development and marketing/advertising campaigns.

Amina Yee

Amina is a program associate for the Local Grantmaking Program in support of the Vibrant Communities portfolio at the David and Lucile Packard Foundation in San Jose. Prior to joining the Foundation in 2020, she contributed to the Oakland Museum of California's interdisciplinary art, history, and natural science exhibitions and public programs in her roles as curatorial assistant, education programs assistant, and museum teacher.

Amina is most recently a member of the Funding Advisory Committee for the City of Oakland's Cultural Funding Program. She holds a B.A. in History of Art from the University of California, Berkeley.

Eduardo Robles

Communications Manager – Californians for the Arts (CFTA) Mr. Robles works to advance programs and policies that bring greater equity and inclusion to the field of arts, culture, and creativity. He formerly served as an Arts Associate for the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, administering the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Our Town grant Promise Zone Arts and assisting the agency’s global cities and cultural policy initiatives. Prior to this position, Eduardo was a graduate student intern at the City of Providence Department of Art, Culture + Tourism, specializing in public art policy, community planning, and creative placemaking. He currently serves as a Committee Co-Chair for Partnerships and Resourcing with the Creative States Coalition and liaises CFTA’s Racial and Cultural Equity Committee. Eduardo earned a B.A. in History from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and an M.A. in Public Humanities from Brown University.

Esther Young

Esther is the Community Engagement Specialist at the School of Arts and Culture at Mexican Heritage Plaza in East San Jose. As a writer and a musician, she has conducted extensive research on artistic communities and their relationships to city development. She is applying and furthering her understanding as a songwriter and a performing artist, while working with multicultural organizations that advocate for artists, especially immigrant and artists of color.

Her life-long mission is to tell conscious stories and foster gatherings that facilitate our desires to understand ourselves. She believes that every neighborhood and person is brimming with creation and complexity, and that paying attention to how is one of the best uses of my time.