



Memorandum

TO: ARTS COMMISSION

FROM: Kerry Adams Hapner

**SUBJECT: ARTS AND CULTURAL
EXCHANGE GRANT
PROPOSED ROUND 4 AWARDS**

DATE: November 6, 2018

Approved

11/8/18

RECOMMENDATION

That the Arts Commission review and accept the panel's recommendations for the Arts and Cultural Exchange Grant, Round 4 awards.

BACKGROUND

On January 25, 2016, the Arts Commission reviewed the guidelines for the Arts and Cultural Exchange Grant program. This program seeks to promote cross-cultural understanding and relationship-building through international artistic exchange.

Project-based support is awarded on a competitive basis to San Jose-based nonprofit organizations, artists, and arts professionals for arts-related activities abroad or to bring international artists to San Jose for arts-related activities.

Priority is given to exchanges that advance the relationship between the City of San Jose and cities with significant ties to San Jose, including its Sister Cities, cities connected to San Jose via direct international flights, and cities culturally reflected in the population of San Jose. All projects, including those taking place abroad, must include documentation that is shared with the public in San Jose.

Three previous rounds of funding have been offered through the Arts and Cultural Exchange Grant program since 2016. The grants awarded in the first three rounds can be viewed [here](#).

ANALYSIS

Arts and Cultural Exchange Grants – Round 4 Awards

A total of \$25,000 was available for Round 4 of the Arts and Cultural Exchange Grant program. Applicants could request between \$2,500 and \$5,000 in grant funding. A total of 12 eligible applications, requesting a total of \$63,825 were received from San Jose nonprofits and artists. These applications were reviewed by a panel on October 26, 2018.

The review panel was comprised of community members with cultural exchange experience and a member of the Arts Commission. These individuals included:

- *Nancy Bavor, Executive Director, San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles*
- *Mazyar Lotfalian, Member, San Jose Arts Commission*
- *Shoko Michael, Executive Director, San Jose Youth Symphony*
- *Amanda Rawson, Major Gifts Officer, San Jose Museum of Art*
- *Bobbi Vie, Co-Founder, Future Arts Now!*

Proposals were evaluated according to the following published criteria:

1. **Artistic track record** of applicant artist or organization and invited artist(s) as applicable.
2. **Strength and feasibility** of project, including ability to leverage city funds with additional financial support and the likelihood of implementation as planned.
3. **Uniqueness and timeliness** of the artistic or professional opportunity represented by the exchange.
4. **Depth of cross-cultural exchange** and interaction among participants including artists, audiences, and sponsoring organizations.
5. **Relevance** of the exchange to San Jose residents and relevance of local public programming component.
6. **Demonstrated international support** for the project, including support from international sponsor organization, consulate or similar entity.

After careful deliberation, the panel recommended awards to the five highest scoring proposals for a total funding recommendation of \$23,830. Their decision was based on the review criteria and a scoring range of 0 – 54. The following grants were recommended:

- 1) **[Pantea Karimi](#)**
City and Country of Exchange: Dublin, Ireland

Score: 45.6 Recommended Award: \$3,830

Proposed Project: To teach art workshops and create a STEAM Learning Resource for Dublin teens focused on the intersection of art and science, and to share the results with San Jose educational communities using blog-posts.

2) **Teatro Visión**

City and Country of Exchange: Mexico City, Mexico

Score: 41.8 Recommended Award: \$5,000

Proposed Project: To bring La Quinta Teatro, a street theater ensemble from Mexico City, to San José to do a mini-performance and workshop at which San José community members will build a large-scale puppet as an offering for La Quinta Teatro's community in Mexico.

3) **Sonido Clash**

City and Country of Exchange: Tokyo, Japan

Score: 39.6 Recommended Award: \$5,000

Proposed Project: To explore and bridge Chicano culture and Cumbia record collecting scene from San José to Tokyo through performances, events, and documentation of the journey to share at the 4th Annual Sonido Clash Music Fest.

4) **Ray Furuta**

City and Country of Exchange: Guadalajara, Mexico

Score: 38.8 Recommended Award: \$5,000

Proposed Project: To collaborate with Guadalajara-based Bassist Vico Diaz on the project titled, "Pasión," which will repurpose classic Spanish boleros and Spanish popular music covers for Flute Solo, Jazz Trio, and String Quartet.

5) **San Jose Tainan Sister City**

City and Country of Exchange: Tainan, Taiwan

Score: 36.8 Recommended Award: \$5,000

Proposed Project: For the one-month artist residency project, "Spread: Dialogue between Contemporary Art and Technology in San Jose-Tainan" with Taiwanese media artists Chaong-Wen Ting and Cia Hsinyuan Lee.

Funded projects are required to submit a final report with documentation of project activities at the end of the grant period. Evaluation of outcomes will be based on a review of final reports and will assess the depth and reach of funded activities in their ability to further cross-cultural exchange among participants and audiences, and the impact of the exchange on the career of applicant artist or organization.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The guidelines were posted on the City's website and disseminated through the Office of Cultural Affairs distribution lists and with the assistance of San Jose's Sister Cities program staff. The

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application opportunity was also promoted on Facebook. A public information session for potential applicants was held at City Hall on August 15, 2018.

At its November 5, 2018 regular meeting, the Executive Committee recommended that the Arts Commission review and accept the panel's recommendations for the Arts and Cultural Exchange Grant, Round 4 awards, which will be forwarded as a recommendation to the City Manager.


KERRY ADAMS HAPNER
Director of Cultural Affairs

Attachments:

Full List of Arts and Cultural Exchange Program Round 4 Applicants and Scores (in alphabetical order)

**City of San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs
2019 Arts and Cultural Exchange Grant Applications Received**

Organization	website	Score	Request	Country of Exchange	Project Description
Ashton Miyako Rounds	www.ashtonmiyako.info	16.4	\$ 5,000	Okayama, Japan/Pune, India	Empowering others to travel abroad by connecting with our sister cities.
Dad Bod Rap Pod	www.dadbodrappod.com	28.5	\$ 4,995	Tokyo, Japan	To document the vibrant Hip Hop culture of Tokyo, Japan and expose that city's tastemakers to the work of creatives from San Jose.
Kalaawishkar Dance Academy	www.kalaawishkar.com	18	\$ 5,000	Pune, India	"Glory of Pune: A celebration of rich cultural heritage of Pune," to introduce San Jose Residents to the history of Pune through the powerful and expressive medium of dance.
Pantea Karimi	www.panteneakarimiart.com	45.6	\$ 3,830	Dublin, Ireland	Teaching art workshops and creating a STEAM Learning Resource for Dublin teens, focused on the intersection of art and science, and sharing the results with San Jose educational communities using blog-posts
Ray Furuta	www.rayfuruta.com	38.8	\$ 5,000	Guadalajara, Mexico	In collaboration with Guadalajara-based Bassist, Vico Diaz, Flutist Ray Furuta will launch his newest project titled: "Pasión," which will repurpose classic Spanish boleros and Spanish popular music covers for Flute Solo, Jazz Trio, and String Quartet
San Jose Guadalajara Sister City Committee	https://www.facebook.com/sanjoseguadalajarasistercitycommittee/	22.4	\$ 5,000	Guadalajara, Mexico	Enhance the academic and cultural experience for students from sister city Guadalajara, Mexico and San Jose students through a cooperative experience with local government, educational institutions, technology companies and San
San Jose Tainan Sister City	www.sanjose-tainan.org	36.8	\$ 5,000	Tainan, Taiwan	"Spread: Dialogue between Contemporary Art and Technology in San Jose-Tainan", an exchange program to promote Taiwan media arts in San Jose.
Sonido Clash	www.sonidoclash.com	39.6	\$ 5,000	Tokyo, Japan	To explore and bridge Chicano culture and Cumbia record collecting scene from San José, CA to Tokyo, Japan through performances, events, and documentation of the journey to share back home at the 4th Annual Sonido Clash Music Fest

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Teatro Vision	www.teartovision.org	41.8	\$ 5,000	Mexico City, Mexico	Teatro Visión will bring La Quinta Teatro, a street theater ensemble from Mexico City, to San José to do a mini-performance and workshop at which San Jose community members will build a large-scale puppet as an offering for La Quinta Teatro's community in Mexico .
The Tech Museum of Innovation	www.thetech.org	28	\$ 5,000	Linz, Austria	We are hosting a reception in April to unveil the first two installations created in our global Tech & Arts Incubator program.
Vivace Youth Chorus	www.vivaceyouthchorus.org	34.2	\$ 5,000	SanJose, Costa Rica	To engage our youth as ambassadors by sharing a message of peace, tolerance, and understanding through the power and poetry of song with our sister city, San José, Costa Rica.
Xpressions	www.xpressionsdancemusic.com	29.8	\$ 5,000	Pune and Mumbai, India	"Aaja Nachle-Let's Dance" Dance Workshop and Performance Series