



Memorandum

TO: ARTS COMMISSION

FROM: Kerry Adams Hapner

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED FY 2023-24
take pART GRANT AWARDS**

DATE: May 8, 2023

Approved /s/ Nanci Klein

Date May 8, 2023

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that the City Council approve the proposed FY 2023-24 *take pART* Grant awards as specified in Attachment A and subject to the availability of funds appropriated in the City's FY 2023-24 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* 2023-24 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 19 eligible applications in the FY 2023-24 cycle of *take pART*. The applications included grant requests ranging between \$3,287 and \$25,000, the maximum possible individual grant amount in the program. Important to note is that the Arts Commission approved multiple revisions to guidelines for the programs in the Cultural Funding Portfolio, an important one being the increase of the maximum *take pART* grant award to \$25,000.

The Grant Review Panel met on March 23, 2023 to complete its evaluation of the *take pART* grant applications. The panel considered each application against the four evaluation criteria established in the FY 2023-24 *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:

- **Tasi Alabastro**, *Multi-Disciplinary Artist*
- **Sarah Billings**, *Street Life Plan Manager, San José Downtown Association*
- **Robertino Ragazza**, *Executive Director, Lorde & Grayson Productions*
- **Amina Yee**, *Program Officer, David & Lucile Packard Foundation*

Overall scores for the 19 applications ranged from a high of 93.0 to a low of 54.0, out of a maximum of 100. The panel considered and ranked applications with similar concentrated, clustered scores. Due to the City's pending development of the proposed Operating Budget for FY 2023-24, 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 18 of the 19 eligible applications based on the ranking of their scores in each budget category.

Of the eligible 19 *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.

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 \$278,386 is recommended for *take pART*. The recommended percentages for *take pART* for FY 2023-24 are changed from the prior years. 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.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Executive Committee reviewed these recommendations at a publicly noticed meeting on May 1, 2023. 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 2023-24 take pART Grant applicants, in descending order of scores, with proposed grant awards
- B. Project descriptions for FY 2023-24 take pART applicants recommended for funding (listed in alphabetical order)
- C. Grant review panel qualifications

ATTACHMENT A
FY 2023-24 take pART Grant Recommendations

Applicant	Review Score	Grant Request	Panel Recommendation**	Proposed Award**
San Jose Downtown Foundation	93	\$15,000	Fund at approx. 100% of grant request	\$15,000
Red Ladder Theatre Company	90	\$25,000		\$25,000
Works/San Jose	89	\$15,000		\$15,000
San Jose Center for Poetry & Literature	85	\$15,000	Fund at approx. 98% of grant request	\$14,700
Playful People Productions	82	\$20,000		\$19,600
La Raiz Magazine	81	\$4,000		\$3,920
Contemporary Asian Theatre Scene	80	\$8,700		\$8,526
Winchester Orchestra	80	\$12,500		\$12,250
Alliance for Youth Achievement	79	\$25,000		\$24,500
genARTS	76	\$3,287		\$3,221
Opera Cultura La Escuela Program	76	\$25,000		\$24,500
Chopsticks Alley Art	73	\$25,000	Fund at approx. 95% of grant request	\$23,750
Santa Clara Valley Performing Arts	73	\$15,000		\$14,250
PARTI	72	\$22,000		\$20,900
CreaTV Presents	70	\$15,993		\$15,193
South Bay Guitar Society	70	\$14,000		\$13,300
Voices of Silicon Valley	70	\$4,788		\$4,548
San Jose Chamber Music Society	63	\$22,475		Fund at approx. 90% of grant request
To Be Empowered	54	\$15,000	Recommend No Funding	\$0.00

TOTAL PROPOSED AWARDS: \$278,386

** Final recommendations pending approval of funds by City Council.
 Proposed dollar amounts calculated based on total available funds.

ATTACHMENT B

FY 2023-24 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 2023-24. The full day summer camp will run from July to August.

Chopsticks Alley Art

Grant will support a monthly Chopsticks Alley Art hosted CreativiTEA Open Mic for Asian artists from August 2023 - June 2024 (10 events total). The open mics will feature AAPI voices and talents in all artistic mediums.

Contemporary Asian Theater Scene (CATS)

Grant will support young AAPI artists with theater and creative writing through staged readings of AAPI plays and creative writing workshops to develop their unique stories.

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 Silicon Valley (Fiscal Sponsor: SVCreates)

Grant will support the genARTS Experimental Exhibition, a month-long program that provides exhibition, networking, and career-building opportunities for emerging and established artists and arts professionals in Santa Clara County.

La Raíz Magazine (Fiscal Sponsor: School of Arts & Culture @ MHP)

Grant will support La Raíz Magazine: Art & Poetry Event Series to 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. La Raíz Magazine: Art & Poetry Event Series is made accessible to the public via free events, bilingual hosting, translation to Spanish, and online events with closed captioning.

Opera Cultura

Grant will support the Northern California premiere production of *Zorro - the Opera* at the School of Arts & Culture @ Mexican Heritage Plaza on June 21 & 23, 2024.

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

Grant will support four cohorts, two months each, of African American historical stepping, Polynesian dance, and four youth led community events which include youth painting and drawing exhibits. Cohort 2023-24 launch dates: June, September, January, and April. 2023-24 Event dates: July, October, February, and May.

Playful People Productions

Grant will support Summer Stock season of theater production camps, which is paired with Teen and Young Adult Internship program, currently planned for July 10-30, 2023.

Red Ladder Theatre Company

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 2023-24.

Santa Clara Valley Performing Arts Association (Mission Chamber Orchestra)

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 on September 30, 2023; December 2, 2023; February 24, 2024, and April 6, 2024.

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

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 José Chamber Music Society

Grant will support San José Chamber Music Society's 37th season in 2023-24: six concerts of diverse chamber music by top quality professional artists and ensembles in a mix of touring and Bay Area-based. 2023-24 will include four concerts, and two Bartok concerts presented by San Jose State University.

San José Downtown Foundation

Grant will support Downtown Doors, an award-winning competition/exhibit for 2023-24. 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.

South Bay Guitar Society of San Jose

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.

Voices of Silicon Valley

Grant will support emerging BIPOC composers from the San Jose community to write new works that elevate the VOSV mission: incorporating technology in vocal performance while amplifying community voices, raising awareness on socioeconomic concerns.

Winchester Orchestra

Grant will support four classical/Pops concerts at Lincoln Glen Church in San Jose, CA. The concerts will be performed in October 2023, December 2023, March 2024, and May 2024.

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 2023-2024 take pART Grants Review Panel Qualifications

Tasi Alabastro

Multi-Disciplinary Artist

Tasi Alabastro is an actor, multi-disciplinary artist, and self-proclaimed flaneur. He is a member of the Multicultural Arts Leadership Institute (MALI) which provides career development, collaborative opportunities, and networking within the arts ecosystem and the community they serve. He has been featured in the SF Chronicle Datebook highlighting his efforts with local arts organizations and virtual programming which includes co-hosting Our Digital Stories (.org) with Playwright and Director, Jeffrey Lo. Professional credits include A Christmas Carol (A.C.T); Twelfth Night, musical adaptation (SF Playhouse); Every Brilliant Thing, VIETGONE, and Stupid F**king Bird (City Lights Theatre Company); Sisters Matsumoto (CenterRep); Peter and the Starcatcher (Hillbarn Theatre); Macbeth, and Three Days of Rain (Dragon Theatre). Alabastro is a recipient of the 2019 Leigh Weimers Emerging Artist Award and the 2018 SVCcreates Emerging Artist Laureate. He is a senior company member of the Red Ladder Theatre Company, a nationally acclaimed, award-winning social justice theatre company.

Sarah Billings

Street Life Plan Manager, San Jose Downtown Association

Sarah Billings manages the San José Downtown Association's Street Life Plan and beautification projects which includes mural installations, greening and street tree initiatives, and other streetscape improvements that enhance downtown's vibrancy, attract investment, and encourage stewardship of downtown San José. Ms. Billings has a background in consulting utility forestry and assuring legal vegetation compliance as a contractor for a major utility company. She is fluent in Spanish and has experience in customer service, public interaction, and government relations. Ms. Billings has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies and Political Science from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Robertino Ragazza

Executive Director, Lorde & Grayson Productions

Mr. Robertino Ragazza is the founder and executive director of Lorde & Grayson, an arts-based production company which produces various local events such as the "All Womyn's Showcase" and San José Nuevo Flamenco's "Flamenco Friday Series" throughout San José and the Bay Area. Mr. Ragazza is an active participant in San José's arts and cultural community events. He is an award-winning photographer and ceramics artist, and a teaching assistant in San José City College Photography Department. Mr. Ragazza has served on grant review panels for the Center for Cultural Innovation and Silicon Valley Creates. He was a 2013 Silicon Valley Creates Emerging Artist Laureate. Born in the Philippines and raised in San Jose, Mr. Ragazza dedicates many hours of his time, as well as his artwork, to supporting the local arts community.

ARTS COMMISSION

May 15, 2023

Subject: Proposed FY 2023-24 take pART Grants

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Amina Yee

Program Associate – Local Grantmaking Program, David & Lucile Packard Foundation

Amina is the program associate with the David & Lucile Packard Foundation for the Local Grantmaking Program in support of the Vibrant Communities portfolio. Prior to joining the Packard 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 has served the arts community in various roles, most recently as 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.