

CITY OF OAKLAND

**Cultural Affairs Commission
Special Meeting Agenda
Monday, February 10, 2025
5:30 – 8:30 PM**

Please note that this meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission will be conducted in person at:

**Oakland City Hall
City Council Chambers
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza Oakland, CA 94612**

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84739120236>

Phone one-tap:

+14086380968,,84739120236# US (San Jose) 16694449171,,84739120236# US

Join via audio:

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 205 0468 US

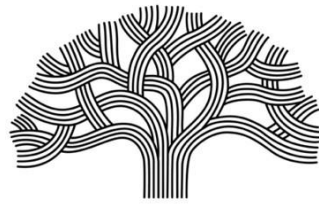
Webinar ID: 847 3912 0236

International numbers available: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84739120236>

RE: ZOOM PARTICIPATION + COMMENT PERIODS

All Cultural Affairs Commission meetings will be conducted in person. The Cultural Affairs Commission is no longer accepting public comments via Zoom or telephone. Therefore, live comments must be made in-person. There are two opportunities for the public to address the Cultural Affairs Commission and City staff. The first opportunity is during the "Public Comment" period. The second opportunity is during the "Open Forum" period. Dialogue during the meeting with Commissioners, City staff, or its guest speakers is not permitted outside of the two comment periods.

You can also choose to submit a written comment by 5:00 PM THE DAY BEFORE the meeting starts to culturalaffairs@oaklandca.gov. Any comments received via email during the duration or after the meeting may not be entered into public record but will be shared with the Commission and City staff later.



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Special Meeting Agenda

Monday, February 10, 2025

5:30 – 8:30 PM

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order / Roll Call**
- II. Land Acknowledgement + Official City of Oakland Love Life Acknowledgement**
- III. Cultural Funding Program Presentation: Grantmaking Scenarios for FY24-25**
- IV. Public Comment**
- V. Action Item: Advise on Approach for Allocating FY24-25 Cultural Funding**
- VI. Open Forum**
- VII. Announcements & Acknowledgements**
- VIII. Adjournment**

**Next regular meeting: Monday, April 28, 2025 from 5:30 – 8:30 PM at
Oakland City Hall – 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, CA 94612**

Oakland Cultural Affairs Commission, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 9th fl. Oakland, CA 94612

www.oaklandculturalarts.org

This meeting location is wheelchair accessible. To request disability-related accommodations or to request American Sign Language (ASL), Cantonese, Mandarin, or Spanish language interpreter, please email riglesias@oaklandca.gov or call (510) 238-2212 Or 711 (for Relay Service) at least five (5) business days before the meeting. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting as a courtesy to attendees with chemical sensitivities.

Esta reunión es accesible para sillas de ruedas. Si desea solicitar adaptaciones relacionadas con discapacidades, o para pedir un intérprete de en español, Cantones, mandarín o de lenguaje de señas (ASL) por favor envíe un correo electrónico a riglesias@oaklandca.gov o llame al (510) 238-2212 o al 711 para servicio de retransmisión (Relay service) por lo menos cinco días hábiles antes de la reunión. Se le pide de favor que no use perfumes a esta reunión como cortesía para los que tienen sensibilidad a los productos químicos. Gracias.

會場有適合輪椅出入設施。需要殘障輔助設施,手語,西班牙語,粵語或國語翻譯服務,請在會議前五個工作天電郵riglesias@oaklandca.gov 或致電 (510) 238-2212或 711 (電話傳達服務)。請避免塗搽香氛產品,參加者可能對化學成分敏感

Địa điểm tổ chức cuộc họp có đường dành riêng cho xe lăn. Để yêu cầu các phương tiện hỗ trợ phục vụ người khuyết tật hoặc yêu cầu thông dịch viên ASL, tiếng Quảng Đông, tiếng Quan Thoại hoặc tiếng Tây Ban Nha, vui lòng gửi email đến địa chỉ riglesias@oaklandca.gov hoặc gọi đến số (510) 238-2212 hoặc 711 (với Dịch vụ Tiếp âm) ít nhất năm (5) ngày làm việc trước khi cuộc họp diễn ra. Vui lòng không sử dụng các sản phẩm có mùi thơm khi tham gia cuộc họp này như một phép lịch sự đối với những người tham dự nhạy cảm đối với các chất hóa học.

**Cultural Affairs Division - Economic & Workforce Development Department Cultural Affairs
Commission Contacts – Raquel Iglesias, Cultural Funding Coordinator, and Pamela
Mattera, Assistant Cultural Funding Coordinator
Email: culturalaffairs@oaklandca.gov
Phone: (510) 238-2212
Telecommunications Relay Service: 711**

Land Acknowledgement

On behalf of the Cultural Affairs Commission & Public Art Advisory Committee:

We want to take a moment to honor the traditions and territory we are a part of. Those of us on the land we now know as Oakland and lands all the way up to Albany are in Huichin (*Hooch-yoon*), the unceded territory of the Chochenyo (*Cho-Chen-yo*)-speaking Confederated Villages of Lisjan (*Lih-Shawn*) Ohlone. We stand with the Lisjan people and their right to legal recognition and benefits from the US Government.

LIFE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (abridged version)

We acknowledge that in service to our beloved city of Oakland, and all its citizens, adhering to the city of Oakland’s official motto, “Oakland Love Life” we enter into this space committed to embody love as our guiding principle.

We acknowledge Love Life as our motto as we denounce violence in all forms and the conditions that create it.

We acknowledge that when we demonstrate love, we also exhibit respect and kindness towards each other.

We commit to acts of love as an intentional force to generate tangible solutions, in regards to all of our actions.

We recognize as leaders, we must set an example and precedent for those in community who have entrusted us with these duties.

We welcome and appreciate all contributions to this space, and even when expressing disagreement, we request that we lead with love in your heart.

We seek to find common ground, and tangible solutions that demonstrate love for our city, its residents, and all constituents.

We acknowledge that when we lead with love we are able to uplift a thriving city rooted in equity, equality, justice, inclusion, and opportunity for all.

We commit to the action of “Love Life” as our motto and mantra.



To: Vanessa Whang, Chair, Cultural Affairs Commission

From: Raquel Iglesias

Cc: Ashleigh Kanat, Lex Leifheit, Kristen Zaremba, Pamela Mattera, Josie De Mira, Kev Choice, Olaywa Austin, Jennifer Easton, Ebhodaghe Esoimeme, Michelle Mush Lee, Ilana Lipsett, Mandolyn Ludlum, Jim Santi Owen

RE: Fiscal Year 2024-25 Cultural Funding Program Grant Scenarios

Date: February 5, 2025

	IMMEDIATE RESPONSE NEEDED	X	PLEASE REVIEW		FYI
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On December 17, 2024 the Oakland City Council voted to eliminate the General Purpose Fund allocation for the Cultural Funding Program. This memo outlines three scenarios for allocation of the Transient Occupancy Tax funds available for cultural grants. In consideration of their duties as advisors, Commissioners are requested by staff to review the three scenarios and recommend how staff should proceed in deploying available resources. Recommendations are contingent upon legal review and approval by City Councilmembers.

- **Scenario #1: Optimizes Cultural Organization Grants and Permit Subsidies for Festivals**
- **Scenario #2: Maximizes Cultural Organization Grants with No Support for Festivals**
- **Scenario #3: Reduces Grantmaking and Expands Reach Through Technical Assistance**

BACKGROUND

The Fiscal Year 2024-25 contingency budget included \$835,500 to be granted to cultural organizations to support general operating needs and festivals, including \$587,000 from the General Purpose Fund and \$248,500 from the Transient Occupancy Tax Fund. Through public peer reviews, 48 organizations were recommended for grants, pending the approval of allocations by City Council.

Due to a substantial City budget deficit, the general purpose fund allocation to the Cultural Affairs Division was reduced by \$683,532—an amount exceeding the planned general fund allocation for Cultural Affairs grants.

Currently, the remaining Transient Occupancy Tax Funds for FY24-25 is at or below \$188,000.

In public hearings, recommended awardees provided testimony on how the delay and reduction in funding has impacted them. Several cited reduced ability to provide services, including activities that provide access to culturally-responsive arts for low-income youth and seniors.

Compounding the impact of City cuts are both funding reductions and elimination of support for arts organizations from the state, private foundations, corporations, and individual donors. General operating grantees Sarah Webster Fabio Center for Social Justice and Youth Radio DBA YR Media have announced their closure in the last several months. Furthermore, in site visits two organizations disclosed that they have reduced staff and/or worked reduced hours.

See **Attachment A** for grant program descriptions, and **Attachment B** for a complete list of organizations and their original grant amounts.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

The funding available for FY24-25 is limited to the unobligated Transient Occupancy Tax funds.

Funding Type	Available for FY24-25
Transient Occupancy Tax Allocation	\$188,000
Total	\$188,000

GRANTMAKING SCENARIOS

The scenarios listed below take into account:

- ◆ Access to Arts & Culture:
 - Visitor attraction: Our General Operating grantees conduct year-long programming and special events that attract thousands of visitors to Oakland.
 - Benefit to Oaklanders: Our General Operating grantees conduct year-long programming across the City, maintaining a consistent presence for Oaklanders. These programs include providing impactful arts education for thousands of Oakland students and providing services, support, and employment to Oakland artists.
- ◆ Effectiveness: How can the Division maintain the objectives of the funding programs with limited grant dollars? What approach will minimize administrative costs and preserve the most positive impacts for Oakland residents and visitors?
- ◆ Contracting with the City of Oakland: Receiving a grant of any amount from the City of Oakland requires that the organization go through the City’s contracting process. This process may include outlining the organization’s activities and compliance to City regulations, signing a 19-page grant agreement, providing a business tax certificate, and maintaining good standing with all state agencies.

Furthermore, the organization needs to meet all City insurance requirements as enforced by the Risk Department. Meeting the City's insurance requirements can range from \$500-\$5,000+ annually depending on the organization's scope of work. The entire contracting process can take one to six months to complete and needs to be reviewed by as many as seven employees representing four City agencies.

- ◆ Festival Permit Fees: The cost of City fees for festivals can range widely depending on the festival scope, location, and expected attendance. Below are the most common fees and their price range:
 - Special Event Permit Fees: \$94 to \$5,562
 - Fire inspection/permit fees: \$357 to \$2,550
 - Oakland Police Department (OPD) services: Starting at \$3,000 and can exceed \$15,000

Transient Occupancy Tax funds cover permit fees for a select few Oakland Festivals via the Special Activities Division. Festivals already receiving permit subsidies through the Permit Festival Fund are excluded from the scenarios listed below. Staff are exploring updates to the Fairs and Festival Fund eligibility process.

We invite the Commission to discuss and evaluate the scenarios on the following pages (4-6) and we welcome your funding (or other) recommendations to disburse the limited FY24-25 resources. Oakland City Council has approving authority and can request modifications to the Commission's recommendations.

Scenario #1: Optimizes Cultural Organization Grants and Permit Subsidies for Festivals

Category	# of Orgs Supported	\$ of Support	\$ per org
Cultural Organization Assistance (General Operating Support Grants)	25	\$162,500	\$6,500
Neighborhood Voices for Festivals	18	\$25,500	Up to \$1,416 (subsidy)
TOTAL	43	\$188,000	\$188,000

Pros:

- Provides support in various ways to all groups originally recommended for funding
- Limits the amount of contracting labor on organizations and staff by providing Festival subsidies rather than grants (referenced above on page 2)

Cons:

- Festivals recommended for funding would not receive grants
- Oakland’s cultural anchors will receive less financial support since the grantmaking dollars are being bifurcated between General Operating Support grants and Festival subsidies

Notes:

- Two organizations originally recommended for General Operating Support funding have sunsetted
- Festivals already receiving permit subsidies through the Permit Festival Fund are excluded from this list

Scenario #2: Maximizes Cultural Organization Grants with No Support for Festivals

Category	# of Orgs Supported	\$ of Support	\$ per org
Cultural Organization Assistance (Gen Op)	25	\$188,000	\$7,500
Neighborhood Voices for Festivals	0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	25	\$188,000	\$188,000

Pros:

- Oakland’s anchor cultural organizations receive more support
- Limits the amount of contracting labor on organizations and staff (referenced above on page 2)

Cons:

- Festivals recommended for funding would not receive any financial support from the Division

Scenario #3: Reduces Grantmaking and Expands Reach Through Technical Assistance

<u>Category</u>	<u># of Orgs Supported</u>	<u>\$ of Support</u>	<u>\$ per org</u>
Cultural Organization Assistance (Gen Op)	25	\$162,500	\$6,500
Neighborhood Voices for Festivals	18	\$22,500	Up to \$1,250 (subsidy)
Technical Assistance Support	50 approx.	\$3,000	NA
TOTAL	93	\$188,000	\$188,000

Pros:

- Expands the Division’s reach to support more members of Oakland’s cultural community through Technical Assistance
- Limits the amount of contracting labor on organizations and staff (referenced above on page 2)

Cons:

- Fewer grant dollars going to arts organizations
- Fewer dollars supporting Festival permit subsidies

Technical Assistance & Training for Cultural Community

To stretch limited resources while adding value for Oakland’s arts and culture community, the Cultural Affairs Division is exploring technical assistance (TA) programming based on needs expressed by recommended awardees. Technical assistance refers to any specialized service or skill that a nonprofit may need to extend the reach or deepen the impact of their activities. TA is especially critical as nonprofits are reimagining their operations or programming, exploring ways to sustain and/or grow operations, or seeking to enhance team skill sets. The Cultural Funding Program is meeting with TA providers and exploring possibilities for TA implementation next year.

NEXT STEPS

Deploy the financial resources currently available in FY24-25 and offer support beyond dollars to grantees and the wider arts and culture community in Oakland. Continue supporting arts and culture organizations through letters of recommendation, event promotion, networking opportunities, City navigation assistance, and beyond.

RE: Grant recommendations for FY24-25:

- **April:** Presentation at Life Enrichment Committee Meeting (LEC) to have revised grant recommendations reviewed.
- **April: City Council approves grants** (pending LEC review and recommendation)
- **April/May:** Cultural Affairs staff begin grant contracting process

RE: Other activities:

- Engaging with philanthropic partners to seek additional funding for these organizations. This engagement includes individual meetings with contacts at private foundations and collaborating with colleagues in the Arts Loan Fund and Just City initiatives.
- Pamela Mattera, Assistant Cultural Funding Coordinator, attended a Technical Assistance gathering hosted by the Zellerbach Foundation on January 30, an opportunity to advocate for and expand the TA opportunities for Oakland's cultural community.

ATTACHMENT A: Grant Program Descriptions

The **Cultural Organization Assistance program (OA)** is a two-year grant opportunity that supports Oakland-based 501(c)3 non-profit arts and culture organizations. Priority funding goes to groups deeply rooted in Oakland communities with general operating support. Twenty-seven awardees were originally recommended for renewal in FY24-25, reflecting \$567,000 in total grant awards.

Organization Assistance grant recommendations include groups who:

- Present forms of artistic expression which enhance the understanding of and respect for Oakland's diverse cultural traditions and heritages;
- Foster collaboration between Oakland community groups, artists, and organizations;
- Encourage the creative development and artistic education of Oaklanders;
- Work to advance cultural and racial equity in Oakland; AND
- Maintain a consistent presence and benefit for Oakland Communities.

Neighborhood Voices for Festivals is a grant opportunity that builds belonging in City of Oakland neighborhoods through culturally-engaged festivals. This grant program amplifies the cultural expressions, stories, and heritage found within Oakland's neighborhoods and their community members who historically have not received equitable investments of resources or recognition. This program supports in-person Oakland arts and cultural activities that are free and open to the public. Twenty-one organizations were originally recommended for funding in FY24-25, reflecting \$268,500 in total grant awards.

FY24-25 Neighborhood Voices for Festivals grant recommendations include:

- Festivals that lift up the cultural identity of a people or the historical significance of a neighborhood;
- Festival partners who are deeply grounded and engaged in the neighborhood where the festival is based; and
- Festivals that reinforce Oakland as a cultural destination.

These Oakland-based arts organizations create and facilitate community-oriented arts activities that sustain the cultural arts identity of Oakland, fortifying the City as a destination, bolstering the creative economy, and creating positive publicity resulting in economic benefit.

ATTACHMENT B: FY24-25 RECOMMENDED GRANTEES

ORGANIZATION NAMES	Recommended Award (As of 11/1)	Notes	Description
Fiscal Year 2024-25 Cultural Organization Assistance Grants (General Operating)			
API Cultural Center, Inc.	\$24,500		The Oakland Asian Cultural Center (OACC) builds vibrant communities through Asian and Pacific Islander arts and cultural programs that foster inter-generational and cross-cultural dialogue and understanding, collaboration, and social justice. The vision of OACC is vibrant, healthy, and just communities where diverse Asian and Pacific Islander identities and heritages are affirmed and celebrated through cross-cultural exchange, inter-generational dialogue, and educational programming. The Center offers Asian multi-ethnic programming in traditional, contemporary, and experimental arts and across the spectrum of performing, visual, literary, theatrical, media, healing/martial, and culinary arts. OACC is requesting \$35,000 in grant support.
ARTogether	\$21,000		ARTogether is an Oakland-based nonprofit organization with a mission to provide art programs that foster compassionate communities where refugees and immigrants can flourish. Their programs seek to support and strengthen refugee and immigrant communities through the creative arts, build new platforms for refugee and immigrant artists, and create public art projects that raise awareness about the immigrant experience. They envision a world where there are no barriers — or borders — to art and creative expression, where everyone is welcomed and their stories have impact. ARTogether is requesting \$30,000 in grant support.
Attitudinal Healing Connection, Inc.	\$24,500		Attitudinal Healing Connection (AHC), now known as The Center for ArtEsteem, is a Black-founded and Black-led nonprofit arts education organization in West Oakland. Equity and community engagement are essential to the organization’s mission, which is to empower individuals to be self-aware and inspired through art, creativity and education, and to make positive choices to break the cycle of violence for themselves and their communities. AHC was founded to be a community refuge for healing and today provides opportunities for creative expression to youth, adults, and families through art classes, workshops, public art, events, exhibitions, and healing circles. The Center for ArtEsteem is requesting \$35,000 in grant support.
Cantare Con Vivo	\$24,500		Cantare is an intergenerational, Oakland-based choral music organization that provides learning and performance opportunities for people ages 4 to 80. Cantare’s mission is to foster a diverse community of compassion and understanding across generational, cultural, and economic boundaries through the beauty and power of choral music. Through their adult, youth and intergenerational programs, with musical repertoire from a diverse range of genres and cultural traditions, they inspire people to live in harmony, treating one another with dignity and respect. Cantare is requesting \$35,000 in grant support.
Chapter 510 INK	\$24,500		Founded in 2013, Chapter 510 is a made-in-Oakland youth writing, bookmaking & publishing center. Their teaching artists and volunteers work side by side with educators to provide a safe space and supportive community so Black, brown, and queer youth ages 8-19 can bravely write. They believe that writing is an act of liberation; young people transform themselves and their communities when they write and get published, succeeding in work, school, and life. Chapter 510 is requesting \$35,000 in grant support.
Creative Growth Art Center, Inc.	\$24,500		Founded in 1974, Creative Growth Art Center located in Uptown Oakland provides a supportive studio environment and gallery representation for more than 140 contemporary East Bay artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities (i/DD). Creative Growth values access in all its forms, a culture of care and respect, diversity of people, and artistic expression. To support a full, creative life for all, Creative Growth champions policies, practices, and programs of cultural equity that empower a just, inclusive, and equitable community. They believe in art and access for everyone. Creative Growth Art Center is requesting \$35,000 in grant support.
DANCE ELIXIR	\$10,500		Founded in 2003, DANCE ELIXIR supports and produces collaborative, interdisciplinary cultural projects with local and international reach, under the vision of artist Leyya Mona Tawil. Under Tawil’s leadership and creative vision, ELIXIR has emerged as one of few US organizations that specifically presents experimental performance works from an Arab-American perspective. DANCE ELIXIR produces work in the form of live performance and hybrid practices, in a manner that supports local and international discourse and cultural empowerment. Their primary program, Arab.AMP, is a platform producing and supporting live art, music and ideas from the SWANA diaspora, the region and our allied BIPOC communities. DANCE ELIXIR also operates TAC: Temescal Art Center, a venue for experimental, healing and community arts in Oakland-CA. DANCE ELIXIR is requesting \$15,000 in grant support.
Destiny Arts Center	\$24,500		Destiny Arts Center (Destiny) is a pioneering arts and culture hub with 35 years of experience working with Oakland and San Francisco Bay Area youth and families, centering communities of color and low-income residents Destiny’s mission is to inspire and ignite social change through the arts. Founded in 1988, by two martial artists who were, shortly after, joined by a professional dancer, they committed to developing youths’ capacity to be more peaceful, powerful, and creative. When they are successful, young people grow up to live meaningful, connected, and secure lives in an inclusive society. Destiny is requesting \$35,000 in grant support.
Diamano Coura West African Dance Company	\$17,500		Diamano Coura, an Oakland-based not-for-profit organization, aims to share the rich and diverse African culture with the world through high-quality classes and performances showcasing the authentic stories and traditions of Senegal, Guinea, Mali, Liberia, and the Ivory Coast. Diamano Coura believes in the power of art to overcome barriers, promote social and economic growth, and enhance physical and mental well-being for all. Diamano Coura is dedicated to collaborating with other artists and community members to achieve this vision. Diamano Coura is requesting \$25,000 in grant support.

Dimensions Dance Theater, Incorporated.	\$17,500		Dimensions Dance Theater (DDT) is a dance company and school, founded in Oakland in 1972, and is the oldest and longest running African American dance company in California. Their mission is to preserve and perpetuate African diasporic dance through instruction and performance, and to create and perform social justice works reflecting the contemporary lives and historical experiences of Africans in the Diaspora. Through our year-round artistic and educational programming, they primarily serve African American families living below the poverty line in Oakland and the East Bay, although their offerings are open to all. Dimensions is requesting \$25,000 in grant support.
East Bay Performing Arts	\$24,500		The Oakland Symphony, Youth Orchestra and Chorus bring together orchestral music, choral music and youth education to strengthen the Oakland/East Bay community by providing quality live performances, education for lifetime enrichment and the perpetuation of the performing arts. The Oakland Symphony aims to make classical music accessible, particularly to those individuals in the community who might otherwise never hear live symphonic music. The Symphony is requesting \$35,000 in grant support.
EastSide Arts Alliance, Inc.	\$24,500		EastSide Arts Alliance (ESAA) is a collective of cultural workers who live and work in East Oakland. Our mission is to unite art with activism to work for community empowerment and cultural development and to build bridges between the disenfranchised, racially divided communities we serve. The EastSide Cultural Center is a multi-use theater, sound & visual arts studios, with 16 units of affordable housing and storefront spaces. The focus their work on the Black, Indigenous/Raza, and South East Asian working-class communities of East Oakland. Through progressive programming and cultural organizing, EastSide Arts Alliance promotes community sustainability for future generations through self-determination, political and cultural awareness, and leadership development. Eastside is requesting \$35,000 in grant support.
Friends of Peralta Hacienda Historical Park	\$24,500		As a community hub and nationally significant historical site in Oakland's Fruitvale district, Friends of Peralta Hacienda Historical Park's mission is to engage people of the many cultures that have formed, and are still transforming California, moving towards greater equity, environmental resilience and a sense of belonging for all. Exhibits, events and youth and community programs centered at Peralta Hacienda Historical Park bring people together to understand each other's cultures and heal historical wounds, take care of the land we depend on, celebrate our rich and varied identities through culture and the arts, and engage in civic life, creating a model for communities nationwide. Peralta Hacienda is requesting \$35,000 in grant funds.
Kitka, Inc.	\$21,000		Kitka is an Oakland-based women's vocal arts ensemble and institute that cultivates global community and cross-cultural understanding through the practice of harmony singing. Dedicated to fostering appreciation for, and participation in, music rooted in East European and Eurasian vocal traditions, Kitka strives to expand the boundaries of folk song as a living and evolving expressive art form through the creation and performance of new works that amplify women's voices. Kitka is requesting \$30,000 in grant support.
Living Jazz	\$24,500		Living Jazz transforms lives through the music, spirit, and culture of jazz in the Bay Area community, by educating students and artists of all ages and abilities. They believe that music is an inherent component of a healthy and vibrant society; and they support the multicultural roots of jazz by highlighting music rooted in African American and Latinx culture and by providing platforms to celebrate these cultures and uplift communities of color. Their programs are known for their artistic quality; commitment to building community based on diversity, inclusion, and accessibility; and the distinctive ways they encourage and support artists at all skill levels and foster artistic and personal growth. Living Jazz is requesting \$35,000 in grant support.
Museum of Children's Art	\$24,500		With a racial equity and social justice lens, MOCHA uses the arts as a vehicle to advocate for self-expression, culture and community-building, and the centering of youth voices. They achieve this through hands-on experiential arts education for Bay Area children, youth and their families, arts-integrated professional development and curriculum for educators. MOCHA is requesting \$35,000 in grant support.
Music Is Extraordinary, Inc.	\$17,500		The Oakland Public Conservatory of Music (OPC), is dedicated to providing access to affordable musical education, concerts, and workshops that are in the African American experience and its role in the development of American music and culture. OPC offers programs for people of all ages and is committed to serving under-served and under-resourced populations of Oakland. OPC is requesting \$25,000 in grant support.
Oakland Ballet Company	\$24,500		Oakland Ballet Company is a non-profit, performing arts organization that reflects the diversity of Oakland and the greater East Bay. The mission of the Oakland Ballet Company is to provide accessible, relevant, and exciting dance that inspires and educates all ages of our diverse community through an inspiring array of public performances and educational arts programming for local schools. The Oakland Ballet is requesting \$35,000 in grant support.
Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, Inc.	\$24,500		The mission of the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir (OIGC) is to inspire joy and unity among all people through Black gospel and spiritual music traditions. OIGC models unity through its multiracial, multicultural, interfaith membership; touches hearts and minds through its joyful performances; educates the public about the cultural, historical, and political context of spirituals and gospel music; and seeks to foster a world in which people celebrate their differences harmoniously. The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir is requesting \$35,000 in grant support.

Oaktown Jazz Workshops	\$10,500		Oaktown Jazz Workshops is an Oakland-based, cultural education organization dedicated to passing on the tradition of jazz music to young people through year-round classes and workshops with world-class musicians, performance opportunities, and multi-generational concerts and presentations for the entire community. Their mission is to provide youth – particularly underserved youth – with the support, opportunity, and agency to build their skills, creativity, and confidence within the uniquely American tradition of jazz music. Oaktown Jazz Workshops is requesting \$15,000 in grant support.
Prescott Circus Theatre	\$17,500		Through circus and theatre arts education, the Prescott Circus Theatre’s mission is to empower and engage youth as they develop confidence, teamwork, perseverance, artistic talent, and a dedication to working for success. By providing professional training, unique curriculum, and a safe environment for under-served youth, their Oakland-based non-profit youth development organization promotes skill mastery, physical activity, positive relationships with peers and adults, and opportunities to shine for the community. Prescott Circus Theatre is requesting \$25,000 in grant support.
Project Bandaloop	\$24,500		BANDALOOP celebrates the human spirit, nature, and communities through contemporary dance theater that uses climbing technology to expand and challenge what is possible. Based in Oakland, CA since 1991, the work has re-imagined dance, activating natural and public spaces to evoke wonder and imagination in audiences and students around the world. BANDALOOP serves the community with world-class public art and performance on a regular basis via: Free and fully-accessible open rehearsals and performance; Youth and adult dance education; Accessible space rental and artist residency program; and job opportunities and creative economy development. BANDALOOP is requesting \$35,000 in grant support.
Purple Silk Music Education Foundation, Inc.	\$10,500		The mission of the Purple Silk Music Education Foundation is "to instill in young people an appreciation of music from different cultures through instruction in traditional Chinese instruments, opera, and folk songs. Founded in 1995, for 28 years PSMEF has provided in-depth, sequential music education to public school students (grades K-12), offering them opportunities to train with professional musicians, increase musical knowledge and proficiency, and give back through school and community performances. Purple Silk Music Education Foundation is requesting \$15,000 in grant support.
Sarah Webster Fabio Center for Social Justice	\$10,500	Organization has closed	The Sarah Webster Fabio Center for Social Justice makes twenty years old this year and continues programming that is unapologetic about being focused on African American and African Diaspora experiences. They promote heroes that are our neighbors. SWFCenter shines its light on the acts of ordinary people. While they illuminate the boldness of resistance, resilience, and anticipation which has been central to the survival of Black folks; they also know it's time that Black folks get a chance to exhale! SWFCenter operates as a transdisciplinary, service-driven, community-based, youth-concerned, free-flowing nonprofit seeking social justice through the arts and by creating community connectedness. Their purpose is to support Black opportunity! SWFCenter is requesting \$15,000 in grant support.
The Crucible	\$24,500		The Crucible inspires creative exploration and expression through welcoming, hands-on arts education and experiences for people of diverse ages and backgrounds. As an innovative hub built around the industrial arts, The Crucible is a catalyst for individual growth and vibrant community connections. A leader in the Bay Area arts community, The Crucible is widely recognized for its exceptional learning experiences, rich and varied arts programs, skilled and committed faculty, and unparalleled educational facilities. The Crucible is requesting \$35,000 in grant support.
Ubuntu Theater Project, Inc.	\$21,000		Oakland Theater Project’s mission is to create exquisite theatrical experiences to inspire compassion and forge bonds across socio-political and racial barriers. Oakland Theater Project tells underrepresented stories that matter and creates theatrical performances and trainings that intentionally bring diverse communities together. We produce works that seek to unite disparate groups, dismantle unconscious bias, and challenge oppressive cultural and institutional norms. Oakland Theater Project is requesting \$30,000 in grant support.
Youth Radio DBA YR Media	\$24,500	Organization has closed	YR Media equips emerging content creators between the ages of 14-24, primarily BIPOC, with an immersive media and music education, top industry mentors, paid career-track employment and holistic support services including counseling and healthy food. Young people leverage these offerings to become civically engaged citizens driving systemic change and disruptors that diversify the traditional media landscape by creating stories, art and music that matter. YR Media is requesting \$35,000 in grant support.
FY24-25 OA TOTAL	\$567,000.00		
Fiscal Year 2024-25 Neighborhood Voices for Festival Grants			
American Indian Child Resource Center	\$12,500.00		American Indian Child Resource Center presents the 3rd annual Many Nations One Land (MNOL) Festival - a Native American cultural arts and music festival featuring a variety of Native talent and cultural expression. This event includes both traditional and contemporary artists covering a range of talent such as dance, music, comedy and cultural arts presentations. In addition to entertainment, MNOL supports the holistic community health and wellbeing. The festival will feature Native food and beverage cultural presenters, Native plant seed giveaways and presentations, and on-site massage therapy. The American Indian Child Resource Center is requesting \$12,500 in support for this festival.

Art & Soul Oakland	\$14,000.00		The 22nd Art + Soul Oakland in downtown Oakland will bring a festive, enriching, and plentiful mix of festival favorites and exciting new activities, including a special spotlight on emerging Oakland artists. Free to the public, the festival will blend music, art, culture, recreation, and family fun. Live R&B, Jazz, Blues, Gospel, Hip Hop and more will be featured on multiple stages connected by 150 artisan, business, nonprofit, and community booths, an interactive family fun zone, as well as two food courts brimming with a diverse range of foods. Art + Soul is requesting \$14,000 in support of this festival.
Asian Pacific Environmental Network for AYPAL: Building API Community Power	\$14,000.00		AYPAL presents the 2025 May Arts Festival - a youth lead and designed performance and visual arts festival that connects young people to their cultural and ethnic identities. The event amplifies youth voices and storytelling, and uplifts the experiences, issues, and joys of API youth in Oakland. Going into its 25th year and coinciding with Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month, the festival showcases cultural and traditional dances, spoken word, guerilla theater, and visual art. AYPAL is requesting \$14,000 in support of this festival.
BH Brilliant Minds Project, Inc.	\$10,000.00		In 2025 BH Brilliant Minds will present their 18th Annual Juneteenth Celebration and Street Festival. This festival seeks to educate, inspire and empower Oakland and Greater Bay Area Communities to remember and recognize the contributions of people of the African Diaspora and their journey to freedom. This festival brings together community members from all cultures, creed and ages together to educate themselves, commemorate, participate in, and enjoy the beauty and ambiance of the celebration. BH Brilliant Minds is requesting \$14,000 in support for this festival.
Black Joy Parade	\$14,000.00		On February 23, 2025, The Black Joy Parade will host its 8th Annual Parade to celebrate the Black experience and their cultural contributions to Oakland. The purpose is to inspire positivity, joy, and artistic expression within Oakland's Black community. This cultural event is open to all ages and includes a parade, festival, artist showcase, marketplace, and plenty of spaces to build community. Black Joy Parade is requesting \$14,000 in support for this festival.
Black Music Entrepreneurship Incubator	\$14,000.00		HiiiWAV Fest 2025 is the second annual immersive music and technology festival dedicated to celebrating the innovative spirit of Oakland's Black community. Building on the success of the inaugural event, HiiiWAV Fest 2025 will once again merge cultural heritage with cutting-edge technology, offering a dynamic platform for artists, musicians, technologists, and community members. The festival will feature performances from local artists, interactive AR/VR experiences, and demonstrations of emerging technologies, all rooted in the Afrofuturist ethos. HiiiWAV is requesting \$14,000 in support for this festival.
Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency	\$10,000.00		BOSS is holding its 4th Annual Black August Block Party on Saturday August 30, 2025 at Frank H. Ogawa Plaza in Downtown Oakland. The Block Party is a dynamic celebration dedicated to community empowerment and social justice. Black August brings together artists, teachers, elders, and change-makers to commemorate Black August and uplift our community. The event will honor Black August's principles and acknowledge the ongoing plight of our Brothers and Sisters in prison, as well as celebrate the powerful contributions of individuals and groups striving to create positive change. BOSS is requesting \$10,000 in support of this festival.
Philanthropic Ventures Foundation for Civic Design Studio	\$14,000.00		Civic Design Studio presents the "2025 Oakland Creative Expo" - an annual spring celebration to uplift youth, arts, culture, and creativity. It is held along the streets of Old Oakland Historic District and has been a longstanding tradition for nearly over half a decade now. This community-led arts and cultural exposition showcases youth art, creative industries, schools, educators, artists, and the cultural change makers that are reflective of Oakland. In partnership with E14 Gallery, Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), and community partners, the festival will have an outdoor market, performances, art, live music, dance, poetry, interactive activities, and more. The goal for this festival is to empower and build pathways for youth creatives, hold space for our creative well-being, and cultivate an environment of belonging. Civic Design Studio is requesting \$14,000 in support of this festival.
Lao Family Community Development, Inc for East Bay Refugee and Immigrant Forum	\$14,000.00		The East Bay Refugee and Immigrant Forum (EBRIF) is partnering with community organizations and leaders to organize the 2025 World Refugee and Immigrant Day Festival, an inclusive, welcoming and belonging event to raise awareness and celebrate the contributions of refugees and immigrants to Oakland and around the world. Free to the public, the Festival will feature interactive arts and performances by Oakland-based refugee and immigrant artists and arts groups. The Festival will be hosted in Oakland's Clinton Park on June 14, 2025, and will include free halal and vegan-friendly food, storytelling, cultural performances, social, health, and wellness resources, and interactive activities led by artists and leaders of Oakland's refugee and immigrant communities. EBRIF is requesting \$14,000 in support for this festival.
Floreciendo	\$14,000.00		Oakland Bloom & partners present their annual Lantern Festival Event - a special event bringing together the community in support, celebration, and healing of Oakland Chinatown in February 2025. Celebrating cultures, intergenerational connections, food and storytelling, this festival features a performance program, East Asian healing activities and offerings, intergenerational art making activities, a night market featuring heritage foods, and API makers and artists, alongside art installations by local artists. Oakland Bloom is requesting \$14,000 in support of this festival.
Dancers Group for Grown Women Dance Collective	\$14,000.00		Grown Women Dance Collective presents the 2025 "Juneteenth Celebration Through Dance" Festival in June 2025, hosted in Old Oakland. This event leverages dance, music, and U.S History to create a neutral ground for people of different ages, races, and economic "classes" to "see themselves", "see each other," and be inspired to connect, heal, and engage with movements for social change. In addition to an all-star cast giving powerhouse performances for the 16th annual "Fallen Heroes, Rising Stars: A Juneteenth Celebration Through Dance" concert, GWDC will offer 3 days of free, uplifting, health-enhancing arts and wellness activities, workshops, food vendors, and resource booths. GWDC is requesting requesting \$14,000 in support for this festival.

Koreatown Oakland	\$10,000.00	Festival Permit Fund Recipient	Koreatown Oakland Presents the 2025 Korean Culturefest - a celebratory event designed to uplift and showcase the rich cultural identity and historical significance of the Korean-American community in Oakland. By focusing on an ethnic-specific community that has historically been underrepresented and under-resourced, we intend to promote cross-cultural understanding and address long-standing inequities in the city. The event will feature a range of cultural performances, art installations, traditional food demonstrations, and exhibitions, providing a platform for local Korean artists, performers, and community members to share their talents and traditions with a wider audience. Koreatown Oakland is requesting \$14,000 in support for this festival.
Laurel District Association	\$10,000.00	Festival Permit Fund Recipient	The Laurel District Association presents the Laurel StreetFair World Music Festival - a festival committed to honoring the diversity and unapologetic creativity that dwells within Oakland while highlighting the beauty and promise of East Oakland. This admission-free, family-friendly public event is a thoughtful curation of live music, dance, cuisine, and art that represents and celebrates traditional & folkloric practices from the African, Latin/x, Indigenous, Asian and Pacific Islander diasporas. This event centers communities that have been historically excluded with the goal of helping to build a more engaged and interconnected neighborhood and town. The Laurel District is requesting \$14,000 in support of this festival.
Oakland Chinatown Improvement Council	\$10,000.00		Oakland Chinatown Improvement Council is presenting the 3rd Annual Lunar New Year Parade and Festival at Wilma Chan Park on February 9, 2025. Inspired by the success of the last two years', the organizers seek to further elevate the cultural richness and visual spectacle of this cherished community event. The festival will feature cultural performance groups and outdoor installation artists, who will create and stage their performances in and around Wilma Chan Park. These performances will seamlessly integrate into the parade as it winds through Oakland Chinatown, adding layers of artistic depth to the festival. Oakland Chinatown Improvement Council is requesting \$14,000 in support for this festival.
Oakland Communities United for Equity & Justice	\$14,000.00		Oakland Communities United for Equity & Justice (OCUEJ) presents 'Empowering Our Youth And Our Future,' a festival recognizing and empowering our community's children, youth and transition-age young adults. Held on July 20th 2025 at at Jasper P. Driver Plaza Park, Stanford Avenue & Adeline Street, this event features musicians, spoken word poetry, community service organizations, youth activities, artist vendors, and an opening ceremony, honoring the Earth, the Ohlone Native Californians, and Oakland Community Leaders who preceded us. OCUEJ is requesting \$14,000 in support for this festival.
Oaklash	\$14,000.00		Oaklash presents their eighth annual festival of Drag and queer performance throughout Oakland on the weekend of Friday May 16th 2025. The festival includes their flagship block party event in Old Oakland on Saturday May 17th which will feature more than 60 queer and trans artists and performers, a majority of whom are people of color, who will push the boundaries of drag, theater, and dance during a full day of live entertainment, art, vendors, community resources, and music. Over 5,000 attendees will join together for this free and accessible public celebration of creative self-expression, regional folk performance, and the local queer and trans community. Oaklash is requesting \$14,000 in support for this festival.
Omnira Institute	\$14,000.00		On September 13, 2024 the Omnira Institute will present the 10th Annual Black-Eyed Pea Festival - a celebration of African American tradition and legacy through music, food and art. Activities focus on wellness, including gardening , massage, dance, jumprope and children's crafts with an eye to African and Black history. Through the food vendors, attendees will get a taste of legacy as black-eyed peas are served up in a variety of ways - stewed, patties, even a gumbo. Furthermore, Black growers from urban gardens and rural farms will sell fresh, organically grown produce, including black-eyed peas. The Omnira Institute is requesting \$14,000 in support of this festival.
Intersection for School of The Getdown	\$14,000.00		School of The Getdown will present the fourth annual "Black Music Month Festival," featuring a multigenerational, cross-genre array of Black Oakland musical acts. Held at Oakland Technical High School Auditorium for an audience of 1000 on Saturday June 7, 2025, this free community program will celebrate the month of June as Black Music Month, showcasing Black Oakland artists of several generations - from youth to senior citizens - from the genres of jazz, blues, gospel, zydeco, hip-hop, R&B, dance, spoken word, and more. The festival will also feature vendors and tables from community organizations. School of the Getdown is requesting \$14,000 in support for this festival.
Spanish Speaking Unity Council of Alameda County, Inc.	\$10,000.00	Festival Permit Fund Recipient	In 2025, The Spanish Speaking Unity Council will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Dia de los Muertos Festival - "Treinta Años de Cultura y Comunidad." The Festival will reflect the longevity of this event and thirty years of joy, resilience, tradition, and honoring our ancestors. For 29 years, the Oakland Día de los Muertos Festival has welcomed visitors to the vibrant, culturally rich Fruitvale District for a free, outdoor, family-friendly event taking place to commemorate the Dia traditions. Festival attendees enjoy local music and food, and the stunning ofrendas created by community members paying homage to los Muertos. Unity Council is requesting \$14,000 in support of this festival.
The Center for Independent Living	\$14,000.00		The Center for Independent Living presents "Fruitvale Fiesta," a festival showcasing local artists and culture, while engaging neighborhood residents, workers and community partners. Performers will include poets, dancers, musicians, vocalists, DJs from Latinx, Chinese, Filipinx, African American and other cultures reflective of Fruitvale's diverse communities. The festival will also feature Aztec Dancers, Oakland High's Ballet Folklorico Mexicano de Carlos Moreno, Marimba Maya, Axis Dance Company, Mariachi de Colima, SINS Invalid and more. Local community partners and artists will be given tables to do outreach, showcase their work and provide resources. CIL is requesting \$14,000 in support of this festival.

Walk Oakland Bike Oakland	\$14,000.00	Walk Oakland Bike Oakland Presents The East Oakland Futures Fest - a half-day car-free on-street festival along the Scrapper Bike Way (90th Avenue) that invites residents to celebrate East Oakland as it exists today and envision a future where Black people thrive. The event provides free activities for all participants across the festival's eight zones (Mobility, Power in Place, Food Sovereignty, Youth Activism, Afrofutures, Arts & Culture, Health & Healing, and Building Prosperity), and produces a multi-set line-up of local musicians and performers at its performance stage showcasing the diverse talents of hyper-local BIPOC artists. Walk Oakland Bike Oakland is requesting \$14,000 in support of this festival.
FY24-25 Neighborhood Voices for Festivals	\$268,500.00	
FY24-25 Cultural Funding Recommendations	\$835,500.00	
TOTAL		