



CITY OF
OAKLAND

Cultural Affairs Updates

Arts, Culture & Creativity Month, Resources, and Opportunities

April 2025



Thank you for engaging with Oakland's cultural communities through this newsletter.

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**Mayor Kevin Jenkins Declares April 2025 as
Arts, Culture & Creativity Month**



In 2019, the California Senate declared April as Arts, Culture & Creativity Month to recognize and celebrate the arts in California. In recognition of this state-wide resolution, City of Oakland Mayor Kevin Jenkins has declared April 2025 as Arts, Culture & Creativity Month in Oakland! [Read the full Mayoral Proclamation here](#), highlighting the importance of arts, culture, and creativity to our city's economic vitality, safety, and wellness.

The City of Oakland's Cultural Affairs Division is partnering with CA for the Arts to raise visibility and awareness about the value of our sector, to empower arts advocates to take action, and to spur greater investments in our industry and workforce. See a list of special events below, including an Oakland-wide celebration at the Oakland Museum of California on April 18.

Special Arts, Culture & Creativity Month Events



ACCM 2025
Oakland Kickoff Event

Celebration of Arts, Culture & Creativity Month Event in Oakland

April 18th, 2025
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

@ Oakland Museum of California
1000 Oak St, Oakland, CA 94607
Third Level Terrace above the Garden



OMCA



Celebration of Arts, Culture & Creativity Month Event in Oakland

Friday, April 18, 4:00 – 5:00 pm at the Oakland Museum of California, Third Level Terrace above the Garden

Everyone is invited to join us in celebrating and advocating for arts, culture, and creativity in communities throughout Oakland, the East Bay, and California. The celebration will feature inspiring speakers, performers, and the opportunity to network with the East Bay arts community, including city, county, and state leaders! This year's Arts, Culture & Creativity Month theme is Health, Healing, & Hope to support the role of the arts for our whole community.

Attendees of all ages are welcome to join this Celebration of Arts, Culture & Creativity Month and enjoy the [OMCA Friday Nights at the Museum](#), which includes

live music, food trucks, and activities.

This free event is open to the public. **Please RSVP to confirm your attendance.**

Oakland arts leaders are partnering with [CA for the Arts](#) and the [Alameda County Arts Commission](#) to present this important recognition of Arts, Culture & Creativity Month. For questions, please contact NeFesha Yisra'el, CA for the Arts, Director of Programs: nefsha@caforthearts.org



The 3rd Annual CA Arts & Culture Summit

Tuesday April 22, 8:00am-8:00pm at the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium and the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center Sacramento, CA

The 3rd Annual CA Arts & Culture Summit's theme is dedicated to the vital role of arts and culture in promoting health, healing, and hope within our communities. This summit is a confluence of artists, cultural workers, advocates, and policymakers all united by a shared vision to connect and relate, guiding us into a space of belonging in our community practices. This summit delves into innovative policies and programs that embed these principles into advocacy work, recognizing artists as essential "second responders" who facilitate community wellness and recovery.

To learn more and purchase tickets, visit [California for the Arts | CA Arts & Culture Summit 2025](#)



Arts Advocacy Day 2025

Wednesday April 23, 8:30am - 2:30pm at Capital Park Sacramento, CA

Join CA Arts Advocates and bring your voice to Sacramento for Arts Advocacy Day on Wednesday, April 23, 2025.

The morning kicks off with a rally and press conference and advocates will then meet with their state lawmakers to talk about the power of the arts, our challenges, and needed policy solutions.

CA Arts Advocates will provide talking points and resources you'll need to have fun, effective, game-changing, relationship-building conversations.

Arts Advocacy Day is held in conjunction with the CA Arts & Culture Summit on April 22.

Although CA for the Arts is no longer scheduling additional meetings for Lawmakers, you are still welcome to attend the rally and leave behind Policy Priority packets. For the latest news and updates, visit [Arts Advocacy Day](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Emergency Resources for Artists

[Center for Cultural Innovation](#) has created a comprehensive list of emergency resources for Artists and Freelancers. View the [CCI List Here](#).

California Arts Council

Details for 2025 state arts grant opportunities are available below. More information, including grant-specific details, dates, guidelines, and staff contacts can be found at <https://arts.ca.gov/grants/grant-programs>.

All application submissions are due by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday June 5, 2025.

[Administering Organization: Folk and Traditional Arts](#) – Up to \$1,000,000 per year for two years of support to administer funding for artists and arts organizations' work in folk and traditional arts expressions.

[Administering Organization: Individual Artists Fellowship](#) – Support starting at \$300,000 to develop and administer a regional regranting program to individual artists.

[General Operating Support](#) – Up to \$30,000 in direct funding to arts and cultural organizations in support of ongoing operations.

[Arts and Youth](#) – Up to \$25,000 in support of meaningful arts participation and learning in diverse settings and contexts for infants, children, and youth ages 0-25 by prioritizing programs that directly bridge barriers to access and participation.

[Impact Projects](#) – Up to \$25,000 in support collaborative projects that center artists and artistic practice in responding to issues experienced by California's historically and systemically under-resourced communities.

[State-Local Partners](#) – Up to \$75,000 for support and technical assistance for county-designated local arts agencies.

[State-Local Partner Mentorship](#) - Up to \$50,000 in support for the establishment of a county-designated local arts agency in counties in which no such agency has currently been identified. Establishment must be with an existing State-Local Partner.

California Humanities

What: Humanities for All Quick Grants - Grants of \$1,000 to \$5,000 available to organizations with total annual operating budgets under \$500,000. These grants

support public humanities projects, including program-related expenses ranging from project-related programmatic and administrative staff salaries, supplies and equipment, venue rental fees, evaluation, and travel among several other eligible expenses.

Deadline: Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, subject to availability of funding. Applications should be submitted 10-12 weeks in advance of your program start date.

Learn more & apply: [Humanities for All Quick Grants - California Humanities](#)

Center for Cultural Innovation

What: INVESTING IN ARTISTS: ARTISTIC INNOVATION - *Project grants of up to \$9,000 supporting individual Bay Area artists who are creating new work in the performing or media arts.*

Opens: Monday June 9 at 9:00 am

Deadline: Friday July 25 at 11:59 am

Info Session: Wednesday June 25 at 12:00 pm via Zoom

Learn More & Apply: <https://www.cciarts.org/grantsprogram.htm>

What: INVESTING IN ARTISTS: TOOLS & EQUIPMENT - *Grants of \$1,000-\$5,000 supporting individual craft artists in the U.S. to purchase tools and equipment.*

Opens: Monday June 23 at 9:00 am

Deadline: Friday August 8 at 11:59 am

Info Session: Wednesday July 9 at 12:00 pm via Zoom

Learn More & apply: https://www.cciarts.org/tools_equipment.html

Kenneth Rainin Foundation

What: Open Spaces Program - *Grants or \$15k to \$175k support the development or production of artist-driven temporary, place-based public art projects that resonate with communities*

Deadline: Accepting applications Wednesday May 21 – Tuesday June 17, 2025 11:59PM

Learn more & apply: [Open Spaces Program - Kenneth Rainin Foundation](#)

The Svane Family Foundation

What: The Culture Forward Program - *Grants support arts and culture projects that attract families, students, and young professionals to Downtown San Francisco. Grants are open to individual artists, collectives, and arts and culture organizations.*

Deadline: Sunday June 1, 2025 at 11:59PM

Learn more & apply: svaneff.org/cultureforward

The Vilcek Foundation

What: Year-Round Grant Program - *Grants to support 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that work with immigrant artists and communities, and that promote diversity in the arts, sciences, education, and humanities.*

Deadline: Monday June 30

Learn more & apply: [Grants - Vilcek Foundation](#)

Zellerbach Family Foundation

What: Community Arts Grant Program - Grants of \$5k to \$15k to individual artists and nonprofit arts and culture organizations in the Bay Area. 501(c)(3) organizations and fiscally-sponsored individual artists, organizations, collectives, and groups are eligible.

Deadline: Monday April 14, 5:00PM

Learn more & apply: <https://communityarts.zff.org/>

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

There are a number of free and low-cost resources for organizations seeking legal aid:

SF Bar Association: Community Organization Representation Project and the Racial Equity Partnership

Since 1996, CORP provides pro bono assistance to Northern California nonprofit organizations, and those seeking to acquire nonprofit status, that provide direct services to low-income and underserved people. They assist these organizations, which do not have sufficient funds to pay attorneys, in the following areas: employment law, corporate governance and structuring, commercial leases, reinstatement with IRS, risk management, intellectual property and business contract issues.

SCORE: Mentor Matching

SCORE matches small businesses, including established or startup nonprofits, with mentors who support success by providing experienced advice, consulting on best practices, and education on small business topics. One of the benefits of SCORE is the pragmatic insight that volunteers, often retirees with a long track record, can offer regarding contracts and policies. This service is free.

CVLA: California Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts

CVLA provides specialized legal services and referrals for artists and members of the creative arts community. They offer **free, on-demand webinars** on topics including copyright basics and entity formation as well as arbitration and mediation services with specialized knowledge or arts-relevant disputes such as intellectual property, damage or delayed return of artwork

PUBLIC MEETINGS

CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

The Cultural Affairs Commission (CAC) is an advisory body to the Mayor, City Council, and City Administrator on matters affecting cultural development in Oakland. The Cultural Affairs Commission meets quarterly at Oakland City Hall, 1 Frank Ogawa Plaza:

- Regular Meeting: Monday April 28th, 5:30-8:30PM

Meeting details, including Room Location, Agenda Reports, and Zoom Details will be shared several days prior to the meeting on [our website](#).

PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) works with staff to develop program policies and procedures and approves sites, budgets, selection methods, and proposals for public art in Oakland. The PAAC meets the first Monday of each month at Oakland City Hall. The next meeting of the Committee is:

- Monday May 5th, 5:30-7:30PM

Meeting details, including Agenda Reports and Zoom Details, are posted 72 hours prior to the meeting on [our website](#).

CITY COUNCIL

The Oakland City Council meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 3:30PM. Meeting details, including Agenda Reports, information on how to submit Public Comment, and Zoom Details will be shared prior to the meeting at their designated links: [Oakland City Council](#) and [City of Oakland - Calendar](#)

Please review the Council Calendar for more information on upcoming meetings [City of Oakland – Calendar](#). *Please note meeting dates and times are subject to change.*

STAY ENGAGED

Thank you for engaging with Oakland's cultural communities through this newsletter. Please share with others who would like to [subscribe](#) and stay "in the know." For

questions and inquiries, please contact the Cultural Affairs Division staff at culturalaffairs@oaklandca.gov

About the Cultural Affairs Division

Oakland's Cultural Affairs Division is housed in the City's Economic & Workforce Development Department. The Division supports public art and artists to foster a sense of belonging and enliven the urban environment, cultivates cultural investments through municipal and philanthropic partnership, and connects Oakland artists, culture-bearers, and organizations to resources.

Additional information about the Division, including public meeting agendas and opportunities, can be found here: [City of Oakland | Arts and Culture in Oakland](#).



City of Oakland, 1 Frank H Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, CA 94612

[Manage preferences](#)