



CITY OF
OAKLAND

Cultural Affairs Updates

Resource Opportunities and Upcoming Meetings

March 2025



Pictured: ARTogether's Art Lab for Newcomer Students is a safe space for newcomer high school students to explore creativity, build social skills, and develop leadership through art and community-focused activities. To learn more about how ARTogether is supporting Oakland's immigrant and refugee community through the arts, visit [ARTogether - ARTogether](#). Photo by Sarah Dawson McClean.

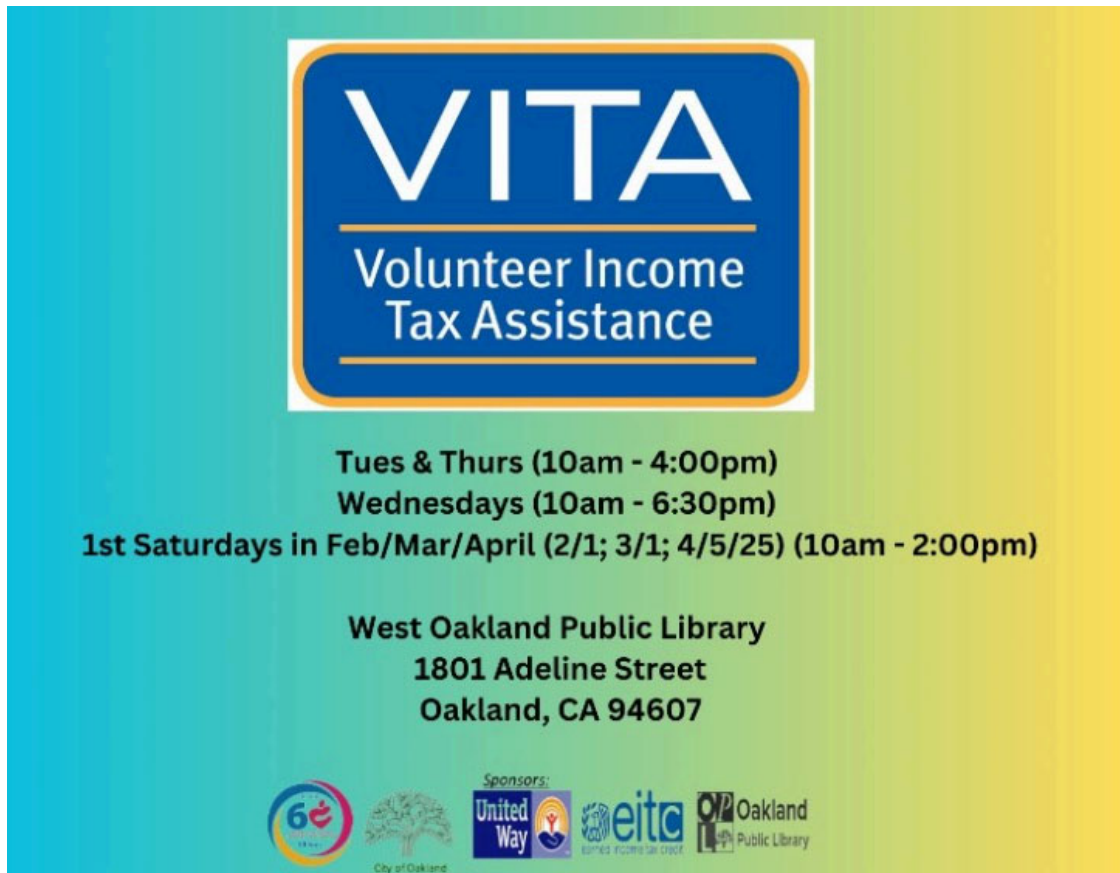
Equity is the Driving Force, Culture is the Frame, and Belonging is the Goal

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."

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 ANNOUNCEMENTS



The poster features a blue rounded rectangle with the word "VITA" in large white letters, followed by "Volunteer Income Tax Assistance" in smaller white letters. Below this, the schedule is listed: "Tues & Thurs (10am - 4:00pm)", "Wednesdays (10am - 6:30pm)", and "1st Saturdays in Feb/Mar/April (2/1; 3/1; 4/5/25) (10am - 2:00pm)". The location is "West Oakland Public Library, 1801 Adeline Street, Oakland, CA 94607". At the bottom, there are logos for sponsors: City of Oakland, United Way, eitc (earned income tax credit), and Oakland Public Library.

VITA
**Volunteer Income
Tax Assistance**

Tues & Thurs (10am - 4:00pm)
Wednesdays (10am - 6:30pm)
1st Saturdays in Feb/Mar/April (2/1; 3/1; 4/5/25) (10am - 2:00pm)

West Oakland Public Library
1801 Adeline Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Sponsors:
City of Oakland, United Way, eitc, Oakland Public Library

Once again, the City of Oakland is providing **no-cost tax preparation** for low-moderate income residents from February 1 thru April 10, 2025. Please help spread the word to your communities!

Spanish and English appointments are available.

[City of Oakland | The City of Oakland's VITA Site - No Cost Tax Prep...](#)

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & CAPACITY BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES

/INTERSECTION
FOR THE ARTS

APPLY NOW
deadline March 15

THRIVE

A BIPOC ARTS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

cultivate
community with Bay
Area arts leaders

develop your
leadership voice,
values, & vision

explore
individual &
collective power

10-week program
meets virtually
& in-person

theintersection.org/thrive

May 3 - July 12, 2025

Intersection for the Arts proudly announces their new **[THRIVE: A BIPOC Arts Leadership Program](#)**. The **[application](#)** deadline is **March 15, 2025, by 12 AM (midnight) PST**.

THRIVE provides BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) arts leaders, visionaries, changemakers, and culture bearers resources and skills so they can grow community, belonging, and confidence rooted in power.

This **10-week program** (May 3 – July 12, 2025) features a **15 participant cohort** selected from an application process. The program is facilitated by fellow leaders Aimee Espiritu, Anthem Salgado, and Yesenia Sanchez.

ADVANCING THE CREATIVE ECONOMY

BRIDGING ART, CULTURE, INCLUSIVE TECHNOLOGY & OPPORTUNITY



Randolph Belle



Ajuan Mance



Bridge to A

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025 • 8:30 AM-5:00 PM

C2C IMPACT ENGINE - ANNUAL CONFERENCE
IN COLLABORATION WITH YOUTH UPRISING, CENTER FOR TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION,
AND THE MILLS INSTITUTE



Northeastern University - Mills College
Lisser Hall, 5000 MacArthur, Oakland, CA



The C2C Oakland Spring Conference: Advancing the Creative Economy comes at a time when collaboration across sectors is essential to creating opportunity, representation, and belonging in the Bay Area and beyond. Attendees will explore themes such as cultural placemaking and heritage keeping, creative technology, art and wellness, industry trends, educational resources, and emerging opportunities. The conference will also include live poetry, music, and networking opportunities to foster connection and inspiration. Lunch will also be provided for attendees. Donations to cover speaker honoraria are encouraged. No one turned away.

Date: Friday, March 21st, 2025

Time: 8:30 am – 6:00 pm

Location: Lisser Hall, Northeastern University, 5000 MacArthur Blvd, Oakland, CA 94613

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advancing-the-creative-economy-arts-media-technology-conference-tickets-1217095959779?aff=oddtcreator>

SAVE THE DATE

3RD ANNUAL
**CA ARTS
& CULTURE
SUMMIT**
WHERE CREATIVITY MEETS

Tuesday, April 22, 2025
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. We will delve into innovative policies and programs that embed these principles into advocacy work, recognizing artists as essential "second responders" who facilitate community wellness and recovery.

The CA Arts & Culture Summit will be in Sacramento on Tuesday, April 22, 2025. To learn more and purchase tickets, visit [California for the Arts | CA Arts & Culture Summit 2025](#)

Technical Assistance

Community Vision is offering free Rapid Response Technical Assistance to Bay Area and Central Valley arts and culture, direct service, and other community-serving organizations working in disinvested and underinvested communities and communities of color. Book a free appointment with financial and real estate experts here ([RAPID RESPONSE - Community Vision](#))

California Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts is offering the following webinar in March:

AI Essentials for Creatives and Startups: Legal Insights, Best Practices, and Industry Pitfalls

Tuesday, March 25th, 2025, 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM

Via Zoom

Sign up here: [California Lawyers for the Arts - AI Essentials for Creatives and Startups: Legal Insights, Best Practices, and Industry Pitfalls \(MCLE AVAILABLE\)](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

California Humanities

What: Humanities for All Quick Grants

Due Date: 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.

Grants of \$1k to \$5k available to organizations with total annual operating budgets under \$500,000. Program supports 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.

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

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](#).

CA for the Arts

What: Performing Arts Equitable Payroll Fund

Due Date: Applications opened March 10th and accepted until funding runs out
Grants support small nonprofit performing arts organizations (SNPAOs) with adjusted gross revenue under \$2 million, in hiring and retaining employees.*

Learn more & apply: [California for the Arts | Performing Arts Equitable Payroll Fund \(PAEPF\)](#)

Kenneth Rainin Foundation

What: New & Experimental Works (NEW) Program

Due date: March 24, 11:59 PM

Grants of \$5k to \$30k enable Bay Area artists to produce visionary projects relevant to the communities they serve.

Learn more & apply: [New & Experimental Works \(NEW\) Program - Kenneth Rainin Foundation](#)

What: Open Spaces Program

Due Date: Accepting applications May 21 – June 17, 2025 11:59PM

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

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

The Svane Family Foundation

What: The Culture Forward Program

Due Date: June 1, 11:59PM

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.

Learn more & apply: svaneff.org/cultureforward

The Vilcek Foundation

What: Year-Round Grant Program

Due Date: June 30

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.

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

Zellerbach Family Foundation

What: Community Arts Grant Program

Due Date: April 14, 5:00PM

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.

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

PROGRAM UPDATES: PUBLIC ART



Exciting news! Oakland-based artist [Adia Millett](#) (pictured top right) was selected through a competitive, community-based selection panel process and approved by the Public Art Advisory Committee on March 3, 2025, to create a permanent artwork for the building entrance of the new Mosswood Community Center (pictured top left).

Adia is a highly respected graduate of UC Berkeley and the California College for Arts (and Crafts). The artist will work with community and project stakeholders to develop an artwork design that celebrates the Mosswood community, parks users, and Oakland. This will be Adia's first commission with the Oakland Public Art Program.

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 April 7th, 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](#)

The Cultural Funding Program will be presenting grant recommendations at the following Life Enrichment Committee Meeting:

- Tuesday April 8th, 4:00PM

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.*

PUBLIC SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



Cultural Affairs Commissioners and Division staff in April 2024. Pictured Left to Right: Raquel Iglesias (staff), Commissioner Ebhodaghe Esoimeme, Former Commissioner Candi Martinez, Commission Chair Vanessa Whang, Commissioner Mandolyn Ludlum, Commissioner Kev Choice, Roberto Bedoya (former staff), Commissioner Olaywa Austin, Vice Chair Jim Santi Owen, Commissioner Michelle Mush Lee, Commissioner Ilana Lipsett, Kristen Zaremba (staff), and Josie de Mira (staff).

Want to make a difference in Oakland's arts and culture scene? Interested in local government and policy? If you live in Oakland and have related arts and cultural experience, [click here to apply](#) to serve on either the [Public Art Advisory Committee](#) or the [Cultural Affairs Commission](#). You can also learn more about these two Mayoral-appointed volunteer bodies on our website.

STAY ENGAGED

Thank you for reading. The Oakland Cultural Affairs Division shares reports, program information, and opportunities on our website. For questions and inquiries, please contact the Cultural Affairs Division staff at culturalaffairs@oaklandca.gov



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

[Manage preferences](#)