



CITY OF
OAKLAND

Cultural Affairs Updates

Resource Opportunities and Upcoming Meetings

Winter 2025



Drag Artist Janpi Star performing at the [Oaklash 2024 Festival](#). Photo by Sloane Kanter.

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

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.

NEW YEAR, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

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."

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 Cultural Affairs Division is pleased to welcome Interim Mayor **Kevin Jenkins (D6)**, City Council President **Noel Gallo (D5)**, and Councilmember **Rebecca Kaplan (Interim D2)** to their new roles, and new Councilmembers **Rowena Brown (At-Large)**, **Zac Unger (District 1)**, and **Ken Houston (District 7)** to their newly-elected positions. We look forward to working with you and Councilmembers **Caroll Fife (D3)** and **Janani Ramachandran (D4)**, in 2025.

Lex Leifheit has joined the Cultural Affairs Division as Cultural Affairs Manager, as an exempt limited duration employment (ELDE) position. She has held previous roles in cultural, community and economic development and will support the Division temporarily in the coming months. Lex is currently an appointed member of [California's Creative Economy Workgroup.](#)

Pamela Mattera joined the Cultural Affairs Division in October as the new Assistant Cultural Funding Coordinator. Pamela previously worked in the museum sector for nearly two decades, building community through membership programs. Most recently, she served as the Arts Program Fellow at the Kenneth Rainin Foundation, exploring new ways to engage the Bay Area's cultural community.

Oakland FY 25-27 Budget Resident Survey

The city's Budget Advisory Commission, a volunteer panel of 15 residents appointed by the mayor, is collecting feedback from residents about what to prioritize in Oakland's next spending plan.

[Oakland FY 25-27 Budget Resident Survey \(English\)](#)

[Oakland FY 25-27 Budget Resident Survey \(Spanish\)](#)

[Oakland FY25-27 Budget Resident Survey \(Chinese\)](#)

Deadline for responses is Friday, January 31, at 5:00 pm.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & CAPACITY BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES



[The Culture + Climate Exchange: World Café](#) is an opportunity for the Bay Area cultural community to lead, identify the resources the cultural sector needs to do critical climate work, and build a network of practitioners dedicated to addressing climate change. Hear from other arts and cultural groups addressing the impact of climate change on their organizations and constituency and build community with your peers. Together, participants will exchange ideas on how they want to engage with climate change and what they need to advance that work.

Thursday January 30, 2025 10:30am to 5pm

Oakstop, 1721 Broadway, Oakland

[RSVP and Learn More.](#)

Rapid Response 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](#))

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Berkeley Civic Arts Grants

Applications due February 19 – March 12, 2025 (see below for deadlines by category): Up to \$5k for programs and \$7k for festivals located in Berkeley.

Individual artists, festival organizers, and nonprofits are eligible. [Civic Arts Grants | City of Berkeley](#)

- Individual artists living in Berkeley apply by February 19, 2025.
- Nonprofits based in Berkeley or nonprofits based in the greater Bay Area producing programming in Berkeley apply for program support by February 26, 2025.
- Community festivals and special events in Berkeley apply by March 5, 2025.
- Berkeley-based nonprofit arts and cultural organizations apply for general operating support by March 12, 2025.

California Humanities

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.

Humanities for All is a grant program that supports locally-initiated public humanities projects. This program responds to the needs and interests of Californians, encourages greater public participation in humanities programming, particularly by new and/or underserved audiences. It aims to promote understanding and empathy among all our state's peoples in order to cultivate a thriving democracy. California-based nonprofit organizations with annual operating budgets of \$500,000 or under are eligible. Learn more: [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](#).

National Endowment for the Arts

Applications due February 13, 2025: Nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3), U.S. organizations; units of state or local government; and federally recognized tribal communities or tribes are eligible. Applicant organizations must have completed at least 3 years of arts programming prior to the application deadline. There are multiple application stages and two funding cycles (February and July) per year. The

initial deadline for the February 2025 cycle is February 13. [GRANTS FOR ARTS PROJECTS | National Endowment for the Arts](#)

NBA Foundation

Applications due March 14, 2025: The NBA Foundation supports projects or programs focused on college attainment, career readiness, job training, youth employment, school-to-career pathways, credentialing, entrepreneurship, or internships that target Black youth aged 14-24. The next application cycle will launch February 3rd and be open until March 14th. Registered 501(c)3 tax-exempt organizations serving at least 25 youth annually in NBA markets are eligible. Learn more and apply here: [Grants – NBA Foundation](#)

The Svane Family Foundation

Applications due March 1, 2025: With \$5M committed, The Svane Family Foundation is inviting artists, collectives, and arts + culture organizations to dream BIG and bring their creative visions to life. The Culture Forward program is all about creating POSSIBILITY. Applications are now open and being considered on a quarterly basis. The first deadline is March 1, 2025. Individual artists and collectives are required to have a confirmed fiscal sponsor to apply. Learn more and apply here: svaneff.org/cultureforward

The Vilcek Foundation

Applications due June 30, 2025: The Vilcek Foundation invites applications for 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. Applications are accepted year-round. The current open call cycle for grant applications extends until June 30, 2025. Learn more and apply here: [Grants - Vilcek Foundation](#)

Zellerbach Family Foundation

Applications due February 10 and April 14, 2025

Community Arts: This year, through a quarterly open application process, Community Arts will award approximately \$1 million in grants 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. Grants will be awarded in \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$15,000 amounts and considered quarterly. The next deadline is April 14, 2025. Learn more and apply here: <https://communityarts.zff.org/> ;

Together in Community: Grants support fairs, festivals and other public gatherings and events that celebrate and uplift historically underserved communities, create opportunities to connect and share space, and articulate a meaningful cultural component and/or purposeful community engagement. 501(c)(3) and fiscally-

sponsored organizations are eligible, and events must take place in Alameda, Contra Costa, or San Francisco Counties. Grants will be made in \$5,000 or \$10,000 amounts to eligible grantseekers. There are three annual application cycles; the next deadline is February 10, 2025. Learn more and apply here: <https://zff.org/together-in-community/>

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 Jan. 27th, 5:30-8:30 PM
- Special Meeting: Monday Feb. 10th, 5:30-8:30 PM

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 Feb. 3rd, 5:30-7:30 PM

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 Affairs Division intends to bring several items to City Council in March and April (to be announced). 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, Commission Vice Chair Kev Choice, Roberto Bedoya (former staff), Commissioner Olaywa Austin, Commissioner 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

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