



City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: **Economic & Workforce
Development Department**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Festival Organizers Encouraged to Apply for City Grants
to Support Vibrant Festival Culture, Bringing
Oaklanders Together to Celebrate Community**
*Grant applications available starting May 16; City also announces
recipients of 2021-22 grant awards*

Oakland, CA – Beginning Monday, May 16, festival organizers may apply for grants from the City of Oakland’s *Neighborhood Voices for Festivals* program for next year: 2022-23. Applicants must be Oakland-based nonprofits and all festival activities must be presented in Oakland between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023. Interested nonprofit organizations may access the grant guidelines and application at www.oaklandca.gov/festivalgrants. The application portal will remain open until the submission deadline of Thursday, July 7, 2022, at 5 p.m.

“We are very happy to support festivals throughout Oakland with these grants, highlighting the cultural expressions, stories, histories, and heritage of our many communities and neighborhoods,” said **Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf**. “Since we have been apart from our friends, neighbors, and communities during the pandemic, there’s a great need to reconnect and affirm our sense of belonging – the *Neighborhood Voices for Festivals* grants seek to support just that.”

To assist applicants, **Festival Grant Informational Webinars** are scheduled for Tuesday, May 24, and Thursday, June 2. Details on the webinars will be posted on www.oaklandca.gov/festivalgrants. All grant applicants are strongly encouraged to attend one of the free webinars. Webinar participants should R.S.V.P. to riglesias@oaklandca.gov.

“This grant opportunity seeks to affirm the expression, recognition and understanding of the array of diverse communities that make Oakland unique and vibrant,” said City of Oakland Cultural Affairs Manager **Roberto Bedoya**.

The *Neighborhood Voices for Festivals* grant program aims to bring Oaklanders together to create and support a sense of belonging within a community, foster social connections that lift our spirits, feed our community well-being, and offer visions for our collective future. The program will award grants of up to \$20,000 to Oakland-based non-profit organizations creating festivals in Oakland. Grantees will be required to demonstrate a funding match of 1:1 for the City funding.

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Festivals are defined as a wide variety of in-person events that are free and open to the public, including small-scale and first-time festivals to large-scale and established festivals. Eligible events may include, but are not limited to, cultural heritage practices; performances in dance, music, or theater; visual art and public arts exhibitions/events; and literary presentations that are rooted in a sense of place.

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Grant Application Review Process

The Cultural Funding Program relies on a competitive panel process to determine award recipients and funding allocations. Among the criteria reviewed by the selection panel is a racial equity category that seeks to direct these grants to Oakland events that leverage cultural opportunities for communities impacted by racial disparities and supports programming led by and includes groups and communities impacted by racial disparities.

Grant recommendations from the selection review panel go before the Funding Advisory Committee and must be approved by City Council before contracts are awarded.

City Announces 2021-22 Festival Grant Awards

On April 19, 2022, the Oakland City Council approved \$316,250 in fiscal year 2021-22 grants to Oakland-based nonprofit organizations through the *Neighborhood Voices for Festivals* grant program. In its first year, the program awarded grants of \$5,000 to \$20,000 to 19 different Oakland-based festivals, detailed in the table below.

Grant recipients include annual festivals, as well as first-time festivals in Oakland’s neighborhoods. For example, the American Indian Child Resource Center will present a new festival, *Many Nations on One Land*, in collaboration with Sogorea Te’ Land Trust at La Escuelita School in June. The event will be a cultural celebration of the ancestral lands of the Confederated Bands of Lisjan Ohlone people, now called Oakland, and other people from tribal nations across the continent. The festival will feature American Indian dancing, singing, and drumming; contemporary Native musicians and comedy artists; and cultural arts and crafts.

Following the grant application deadline of December 1, 2021, the applications were reviewed following the process detailed above before being approved by City Council.

Funding for the 19 grants comes from General Purpose Fund allocation as outlined in the City’s Adopted FY 2021-22 Biennial Budget.

(more)

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NEIGHBORHOOD VOICES for FESTIVALS	
ORGANIZATION	GRANT AMOUNT
American Indian Child Resource Center	\$8,750
Attitudinal Healing Connection, Inc.	\$20,000
B.H. Brilliant Minds Project, Inc.	\$20,000
Black Cultural Zone Community Development Corporation	\$20,000
Chapter 510 Ink	\$10,000
Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice	\$20,000
EastSide Arts Alliance	\$20,000

Eastside Arts Alliance for School of The Getdown	\$20,000
Friends of Peralta Hacienda Historical Park	\$20,000
HipHopForChange, Inc.	\$12,500
Koreatown Oakland	\$20,000
Oakland Black Pride	\$20,000
Oakland Communities United for Equity and Justice	\$10,000
Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation for Friends of Lincoln Square Park	\$5,000
Oakland Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce	\$20,000
Oaklash	\$20,000
Social Good Fund, Inc. for BAY-Peace	\$20,000
The Asian Pacific Environmental Network for AYPAL: Building API Community Power	\$10,000
West Oakland Mural Project	\$20,000
TOTAL	\$316, 250

The *Neighborhood Voice for Festivals* grant program is administered by the City’s Cultural Affairs Division. For more information, please visit www.oaklandculturalarts.org or contact Raquel Iglesias at (510) 238-2212 or riglesias@oaklandca.gov.

About the Cultural Affairs Division

The Cultural Affairs Division is housed in the City’s Economic & Workforce Development Department. The division includes the City’s cultural funding program, which provides approximately \$1.5 million in grants to support the arts in Oakland and the public art program, which has more than \$1 million in funds currently dedicated for public art installations across Oakland.

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