



Creative Communities San Diego FY26 Awards and Project Descriptions

Creative Communities San Diego provides project support for nonprofit organizations to deliver dynamic projects in San Diego neighborhoods that: engage diverse communities in arts, culture, and creativity; and contribute to a more accessible and sustainable creative ecosystem. Projects can take a variety of artistic and cultural forms, from film and video screenings, art exhibitions and performances to festivals, parades, and other activities in a similar vein.

Funded Projects: 70

Funding Awarded: \$1,717,304

Organization	Award Amount	Project Description
A Reason to Survive	\$5,000.00	During Pride month, ARTS will celebrate the contributions made by the LGBTQIA+ community in San Diego. ARTS will facilitate “Pride in our Neighborhoods”, a creative art workshop rooted in self expression where community comes together to create a safe, supportive, and creative space where we collectively amplify traditionally unheard voices. Offered free of charge to the community, the workshop will be facilitated by our teaching artists and delivered in the San Ysidro Cultural corridor.

Adams Avenue Business Association	\$19,705.00	The 43rd Annual Adams Avenue Street Fair is scheduled for September 20 & 21, 2025. San Diego's largest free music festival is staged on 10 city-blocks and features: 7 stages, 75 musical acts, 300 exhibitors, festival food, beer gardens, carnival rides and the Fern Street Circus. The event generates \$2.5 Million in direct spending and draws a cultural and economically diverse base of attendees. Music genres include: ska, jazz, gospel, world, blues, rock, folk & DJs.
Alliance Francaise De San Diego	\$5,826.00	The Alliance Française de San Diego promotes the French language and culture as part of a global network. We organize 80+ cultural events annually, including our flagship event, the San Diego French Film Festival in May. We provide low-income students free access to films and Q&A sessions with industry professionals, broadening their exposure to French culture.
Armed Services YMCA – San Diego Branch	\$120,178.00	The Big Bay Boom is San Diego's annual 4th of July fireworks show, one of the largest in the U.S., drawing in over 400,000 people locally and broadcast to over 25 million people in the region. The 18 minute fireworks show launched from 4 barges in the San Diego Bay generates an economic impact of \$100M from attendees, promotes community connection, and encourages families and visitors to come together for a stunning celebration of Independence Day.
Asian Culture and Media Alliance	\$5,000.00	ACMA's Annual Asian Pacific Cultural Festival, entering its 13th year in 2026, is a free, family-friendly event celebrating the rich heritage and contributions of San Diego's Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities. The festival promotes cultural awareness, cross-cultural understanding, and community empowerment by featuring vibrant cultural performances, music, dance, arts and crafts, educational exhibits, and authentic cuisine.

Asian Story Theater	\$5,000.00	FOREIGN MAGIC AND NATIVE GOLD is a story of historical fiction, set in the 19th century as American ambitions overrun California, to the Pacific coast and beyond. As ensuing culture wars turn increasingly deadly, peace requires exceptional ingenuity. The general public can buy tickets, while free tickets will be provided to members of each organization who collaborates to develop this program--to encourage participation and growth of their own community organization.
Ballet Folklórico El Tapatio	\$5,000.00	Ballet Folklórico San Diego Dance Company requests funding to support the 5th Annual "Celebración Mexicana: Celebrating Cultural Inclusion" dance festival to be held in San Diego, CA. Celebración Mexicana premiered in 2022 and is dedicated to sharing the culture, music, dance, and Mexican experience with the community. While there will be a charge for tickets, a portion of event tickets will be free for low-to-moderate income residents.
Best Practice	\$7,602.00	Over the course of a one-year exhibition series at its location in Logan Heights, Best Practice will present six 5-week long exhibitions of visual art from regional, national, and international artists. These free events will be organized to engage with the local community and to collaborate with other culture creators in the immediate region.
BIPOC Support Foundation	\$8,992.00	The Explore Next Door: Voices of Change is a six-week initiative empowering twenty youth in San Diego through media production, arts, culture and environmental education. Participants will create a documentary and art installations that reflect their perspectives on community and conservation. The program culminates in a public showcase, where the youth's work will be displayed and screened for the community. This program is free and open to the public, promoting broad community access.

Black San Diego Empowering Our Community dba Black San Diego	\$5,209.00	Kinfolk Fest is a Juneteenth celebration honoring Black culture, history, & community produced by SD Melanin and Black San Diego. 2026 will be the 8th annual celebration & feature live music performances, art exhibitions, wellness workshops, local vendors, & more. The festival draws residents & tourists to Waterfront Park to connect with each other through art, music, education, & community.
Bocón	\$30,257.00	Our arts education initiative enriches Balboa Elementary, Knox Middle, and Shelltown with free, culturally inspired programming. Students explore Chicano/a history through workshops and professional arts experiences, including dance and theater assemblies. This season, we premiere Filipino-themed plays Hip Hop Don't Stop and Babble, performed on a donation basis. All school programming is free, ensuring accessibility for students and families while celebrating cultural heritage.
Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest San Diego	\$23,317.00	Serving over 250 youth, Youth Arts Academy offers instrumental and vocal music lessons, youth rock and jazz bands, outreach to Boys & Girls Club afterschool programs, group music classes, performance training, school break camps, and more. All programming and instrument rentals are available at little to no cost for low-income students through our scholarship program. We also prioritize traditionally underserved communities.
California Lawyers for the Arts	\$46,647.00	CLA aims to strengthen legal services for the San Diego arts community by expanding our roster of attorney providers and increasing outreach to the arts community, while continuing to provide a robust schedule of low-cost educational programs, including monthly art/law workshops and an annual binational symposium on Art and Law at the Border. The proposed project will also support Designing Creative Futures, our innovative workforce development program for persons in re-entry.

Casa Familiar	\$24,603.00	A full season of arts + culture programming for San Ysidro, including: 3 major exhibitions, 2 festivals, 2 "Sidro Saturday" artist market events, a 12 mo. podcast season, + staff salaries. All activities are free and aim to engage a wider array of transborder and BIPOC artists with the goal of providing better access to arts, culture + creativity in our community.
Central San Diego Black Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation	\$5,000.00	Our event will be an outdoor block party held in District 4 of the City of San Diego. This event will be a festival in celebration of Juneteenth with live music, entertainment, and vendors to bring the community together and provide a stronger sense of place and unique community identity to residents & small business owners of District 4, as well as residents of greater San Diego. The event will provide a platform for local artists and musicians to raise their profile with their local audience.
City Heights Community Development Corporation	\$7,104.00	City Heights Community Development Corporation will create multi-cultural programming to boost the local economy and celebrate the cultural diversity in City Heights (CH). Programming includes Lunar New Year, Mid-Autumn Festival, CH Holiday Lighting Celebration, and Winter Extravaganza. The series of events brings community, business owners, and CBOs together with music and culturally diverse food. Events are free to the community and allow vendors participate and sell their goods at no cost.
Contact Arts dba San Diego Fringe Festival	\$41,260.00	The San Diego International Fringe Festival is a dynamic and exciting event that celebrates theater and various art forms. Our mission is to support and promote artists while engaging the community and making arts and culture accessible to all in the city. The festival serves as a platform for local talent to showcase their work and also attracts artists and tourists from the U.S. and around the world. Lineup may include theater, circus, dance, & countless other forms of art.

CoTA Collaborations Teachers and Artists Inc.	\$5,000.00	CoTA's free multi-day teacher institutes engage educators in content-specific arts integration learning experiences. Institutes provide a rich mix of experiential activities that enhance classroom instruction with art making, inquiry, group work and authentic tasks. Teachers discover creative strategies they can incorporate to engage and motivate students and also gain tools to transform their instructional approach from direct instruction to powerful facilitation of student-centered learning.
Creative Engagement dba Blanket Sounds	\$6,265.00	Blanket Sounds is a free, family-friendly arts & culture experience for all. We will produce four free concerts that encourage community connection, culture, the Arts, & the outdoors. We work with local musicians, DJs, & visual artists. We will partner with local creatives on hands-on creative workshops. Concerts will be at Waterfront Park & workshops will be at San Diego community centers.
Dreams & Ducats	\$5,000.00	GATHER+GROW is a series of free, open-to-the-public professional learning and social events designed exclusively for artists, creators, and creative entrepreneurs to help them build capacity and expand their mission to enrich, innovate, and inspire. Programming includes workshops, trainings, networking events, and a culminating event offering participants year-round access to tools, resources, and relationship building opportunities that foster growth and strengthen local creative communities.
Educreate	\$5,000.00	This two-part exhibition will inspire, educate, and celebrate. The first segment invites 200+ attendees; students, families, educators, & artists—to explore sustainable fashion, textile design, & fiber arts technology through hands-on learning and engaging displays. Following a social hour for networking and connection, the event concludes with a spectacular fashion show featuring 15 talented youth and their innovative collections, celebrating creativity and community.

Friends of International Friendship Park Inc.	\$16,311.00	Friendship Park is on the U.S.-Mexico border. While the Park hosts robust activities on the Mexican side, federal authorities in the U.S. have not allowed activities since 2020. Friends of Friendship Park is organizing "Taking Amistad on the Road," an initiative centered in the city of San Diego that includes art exhibitions, repurposed pieces of dismantled border walls, and a documentary film.
FUNDSTUME	\$5,742.00	Promoting the diverse identities of San Diego's marginalized communities through a year-long series of free, public costume-art events. The project creates spaces to express identities, amplify voices & build connections. Rooted in DEAI, education, well-being & sustainability, it uplifts their strengths & empowers them with visibility, recognition & celebration—reshaping social perceptions & driving change.
Generation STEAM	\$49,144.00	Free and open to the public, the SDFS&E welcomes ~20,000 San Diegans to Petco Park each year with 150+ educational activations and performances. Performances include rapping mathematicians, folklorico dancing, etc. Interactive activations, including painting, weaving, creating art with lasers, etc. are provided throughout the venue and in the Art Pavilion. The Art Pavilion allows community groups to showcase their work and provides a space to celebrate arts and culture at this community event.
Gray Area Foundation for the Arts	\$144,585.00	The Artists in Residence Program is catalyzing positive social and environmental change in Logan Heights by commissioning talented artists and promoting tactical urbanism. Creatives will partake in various forms of artistic expression that engage Logan Heights residents. Several events will be free to the public. Projects to include interactive experiences like urban gardening, robotic gardening, visual art displays, performing art exhibits, and more.

Ilan-Lael, Inc.	\$5,000.00	The Ilan-Lael Foundation's annual Pacific Rim Park Friendship Walk at Shoreline Park on Shelter Island will be on Saturday August 23, 2025. This one-mile walk honors the PRP community and the power of art to build bridges of understanding among cultures. This year the event will also include an exhibition of ceramic artworks by James Hubbell and his brother Bert who was a practicing artist in Japan. The event is free and open to the public and includes an art fair for hands on art activities.
Indian Fine Arts Academy of San Diego	\$19,400.00	Festival Theme – Oneness of the Universe. This project involves two festivals namely 19th annual music and dance festival professional artists from all over the world) from March 24 through March 29, 2026 and 8th annual Youth festival (North American youths below 30 years) from August 30 through September 1, 2025. During the festivals, specially curated novel events including world music, Gypsy music, Hindustani-Carnatic music, percussion fusion, and Bollywood and classical dances will be held.
Installation Gallery	\$38,302.00	Erratic Fields is an exhibition emerging from the commission of new artists/artist collective works that explore how nature, ecology, and landscape intersect geopolitical, social structures, and history in the San Diego/Baja California border region. The exhibition will also feature works by previously commissioned INSITE artists. A dedicated issue of the INSITE Journal, as well as multiple public programs will accompany the exhibition. The exhibition and public programs are free to the public.
Italian American Art and Culture Association of San Diego	\$7,294.00	For FY26, the San Diego Italian Film Festival (SDIFF) presents a film program that keeps our mission at the forefront. The curated selection of 10 feature films and 15 shorts will bring the best in Italian cinema, explore the "core" elements that make us human, and unite us with varied realities and lived experiences. Screenings are enhanced with Q&As with directors, screenwriters, producers, musicians, and other artists involved in the film and the Ristretto Awards.

Karama	\$5,000.00	KARAMA seeks funding for the San Diego Arab Film Festival, which presents films from and about the Arab World that provide realistic perspectives on Arab people, culture, art, history and politics. The Festival presents a mix of feature length and short films, both narrative and documentary. It also strives to include presentations by filmmakers. The project is not free to the public.
La Maestra Family Clinic Inc.	\$39,012.00	The La Maestra Arts and Culture project is part of the La Maestra Circle of Care® services that strives to improve the overall well-being of families. Through the Generations Center, La Maestra offers free year-round art classes, music lessons, photography exhibitions, flower arranging, sewing classes, and performances for all ages in the community. The project provides healing and personal growth opportunities through arts focusing on health and wellness.
Linda Vista Multi-Cultural Fair Inc.	\$5,448.00	The annual Linda Vista Multi-Cultural Fair & Parade promotes cultural awareness and understanding within the City of San Diego. The Linda Vista community has 22 languages/ dialects spoken and the Fair aims to represent that through its numerous cultural exhibits, varied ethnic food offerings, Kid's Zone and rides, Parade, and artistic multi-cultural performances across 3 stages.
Mandate Project Impact Inc.	\$19,201.00	CONCERTS (ticketed) & MULTI-MEDIA TRAINING (free): expose youth interns to industry professionals and real life experiences working on MPI's live concert productions; reach people of various cultures and ethnicities, promote cultural heritage appreciation through American art forms of African American Gospel and Jazz music, encourage entrepreneurship, engage start up and small businesses, recycle dollars within the community, and draw international artists and arts enthusiasts to San Diego.

Media Heritage Inc.	\$6,299.00	FilmOut San Diego will host our area's 25th annual LGBTQ+ film festival at various locations throughout Balboa Park from August 21-24, 2025. The festival not only screens approximately 30 films that tell LGBTQ+ stories and support LGBTQ+ artists, but it brings together our local LGBTQ+ community to reinforce our existence, our value, and our narratives. Attendees pay a ticket price for entry, though discounted tickets are offered to students and older adults.
Monarch School Project	\$12,046.00	In 2021, Monarch School Project launched The Chrysalis: Monarch Center for the Arts, a creative community center with 100-seat black box theater, dance studio, visual arts classroom, and gallery in Barrio Logan. Our free, all-ages programs include 3 weekly art and music classes for caregivers and children (0-5YO), 6 weekly classes for adults, 4 weekly "Creative Youth Development Model" classes and summer camps for students (11-17YO), and Community Art Exhibits and Theater Productions.
Mother Sponge Inc. dba Set + Drift	\$5,000.00	Directed by designers Stacy Kelley (San Diego) and Katalina Silva (Tijuana), the spring 2026 design residency of Here & There would take place in San Diego, inviting an international designer to stay in the region to further their practice and share their work, creating meaningful connections in SD-TJ creative community. A workshop or exhibition would be led by the designer, which would be free and open to the public with a one-day event hosted at a partner location.
Musicians for Education Inc.	\$17,001.00	Street of Dreams Live! spoken word community concert. Logan Library Community Room/Cultural Center for Programs, Exhibits and Displays. May 3, 2026, 2 p.m. 587 S. 26th St., San Diego, 92113. Event is free to the public. Includes the screening of student video, performance of spoken word and poetry demonstrating the power of art education in achieved social change and resolve the problems of drug addiction, alcoholism, and generational poetry, exhibit of student photographs and poetry.

Ocean Beach Merchants Association Inc.	\$15,052.00	The OB Street Fair & Chili Cook-Off is a free one-day community event in the heart of eclectic Ocean Beach. Tens of thousands of attendees enjoy live music on two stages; over 80 artisans showcase their unique trade; dozens of food vendors serve cuisine from around the world; children of all ages enjoy creating art with the Rad Hatter & Artist Outpost; and a community favorite the Ocean Beach mural project where locals & visitors alike paint a piece of OB history.
Olongapo Disco	\$5,000.00	Olongapo Disco: Archiving Joy Across the Diaspora from 1950 to the Future: This project is an ode to past and future. It will be part autoethnographic and communal installation, sound archive, and visual portal of joy within the BIPOC communities of San Diego, CA. It will ask artists to create work answering the following question: What are the joy technologies from our ancestral legacies, present and future that we need to remember and create to survive and thrive?
Pacific Beach Community Development Corp.	\$8,948.00	Pacific BeachFest is a free, public event celebrating the unique culture of Pacific Beach. The annual festival features activities for all ages, including a 5K run, half marathon, beach volleyball tournament, and a popular fish taco contest. Attendees can also enjoy performances by local bands and community acts. This family-friendly event unites residents and visitors alike, providing an accessible and vibrant celebration of community spirit.
Particle FM	\$5,000.00	COMPRESSED (particle.fm/compressed) is an annual zine and music fair, as well as a series of events and workshops hosted by San Diego community internet radio station Particle FM and Burn All Books, a risograph press located in Normal Heights. The goal of this project is to bring together (or compress!) the music, zine, arts, and activist community in the San Diego-Baja California region through free and public events where artists can showcase their art and skills to the community.

RISE San Diego	\$5,000.00	RISE Arts supports the leadership development, advocacy, and capacity building of historically underrepresented artists, cultural practitioners, and arts and culture organizations in creating a strong and vibrant regional arts community. The 3rd annual RISE Arts Showcase (ECC in D4, Apr 2026)—free and open to the public—provides a platform for talented artists of color to share their work and services, network, and connect with potential clients/funders, enriching San Diego’s cultural diversity.
Rock N Roll Camp for Girls San Diego	\$5,000.00	Annual week-long summer camp for girls and non-binary youth ages 8-17 that focuses on music education, instrument instruction, songwriting, empowerment workshops, cross-generational mentorships and a finale performance for the public. We provide scholarships and free tickets to performances.
Rolando Community Council, Inc.	\$5,000.00	The annual Rolando Street Fair is a free community event. This well-loved street fair includes: an all-day free concert featuring popular San Diego bands representing many different genres of music performed by a diverse (gender/ethnicity/race/sexual orientation) group of artists. There is a \$5 Play-all-day Kids Zone (featuring inflatables, climbing walls, games, crafts and entertainment for young people), 130+ local artists/makers booths, 20 local food vendors, and a craft beer garden.
Saikat	\$24,909.00	Organizing a Bollywood Concert in October 2025, featuring a prominent Bollywood singer. Additionally, we plan to invite renowned Indian and Bangladeshi classical, folk, and modern musicians to perform at "Krishti" in July and "Sharod Utsob" in October, with an anticipated attendance of over 1,000 people. In Summer 2026, we will host Theater Festival, a drama festival showcasing performances in English and Bengali by various drama groups from both local areas and cities across the USA.
San Diego Alpha Foundation	\$5,000.00	The project is the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. parade and festival. The parade and festival are free to the public.

San Diego American Indian Health Center	\$5,000.00	The San Diego American Indian Health Center's annual Balboa Park Pow Wow is a vibrant celebration featuring traditional music, dance, art, and food, fostering cultural exchange, understanding, and pride. More than 3,000 attendees learn about the rich culture of Native American people. It is free and open to the public.
San Diego Art Matters	\$9,933.00	San Diego Artists Count is the first comprehensive census and assessment of the San Diego region's professional artist community. The project will quantify the number of artists living and working in the San Diego region, assess their role in our local economy, and determine what they need to survive and thrive. Funds will support the project's data collection and artist engagement activities and the preparation of a report on the survey's findings.
San Diego Audubon Society	\$17,324.00	The San Diego Bird Festival is a celebration of the wild birds, habitats and people of San Diego County. Over 1000 people from local communities and across the country gather together to celebrate what birds mean to us and what we mean to birds. This is an inclusive event, open to all people regardless of their race, age, or ability. Some of the activities have an activity fee, many are free to the public.
San Diego Diplomacy Council	\$67,890.00	Our Cultural Exchange Project hosts 600+ cultural leaders from 120+ countries thru 50+ events across SD to share culture, connect, and enrich our communities, engaging San Diegans via monthly free events, workshops, and dialogues promoting two-way cultural sharing (music, dance, entrepreneurship, youth empowerment, storytelling, etc.), connecting them with our cultural leaders and strengthening San Diego's global identity and reputation as an international creative cultural destination.

San Diego Film Foundation	\$94,215.00	The San Diego International Film Festival is a 5-day event attracting 12,000+ attendees. The Festival boasts more than 100 films, including studio premiers and the best of independent films, international filmmakers; red carpet events; industry panel discussions and education programming. Tickets can be purchased, but it is free to high school students who participate in our FOCUS on Impact series, which brings to light issues of social justice.
San Diego LGBT Pride	\$376,564.00	San Diego Pride offers over a week of joyful arts, cultural, and civic events to celebrate the diversity of San Diego's LGBTQIA+ community. These free and ticketed events include a festival, parade, rally, and other celebrations. The San Diego Pride Celebration will take place in July 2025 all across San Diego and be comprised of both virtual and in-person components which celebrate and highlight the breadth, beauty, and diversity of the LGBTQIA+ movement.
San Diego Made	\$27,421.00	A year-long series of large-scale handmade market events, each showcasing 140+ local artisans, workshops, live music, and family-friendly activities. Free for youth, with a nominal suggested donation (\$6 or less) for adults, these events foster small business growth while celebrating local creative talent and innovation. By tracking attendance, sales, and engagement, we ensure measurable impact—supporting San Diego's creative economy, strengthening community ties, and boosting local tourism.
San Diego Parks Foundation	\$15,296.00	"I Love My Park Day" is a free event to be held on May 16, 2026, from 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. at Martin Luther King Jr. Community Park with the following objectives: 1) provide recreation programming and resources to promote health and wellness, 2) offer equitable and consistent programming in neighborhoods with the lowest income and other challenges, and 3) present various arts and culture activities and performances that teach and inspire.

San Diego State University Research Foundation for KPBS	\$20,742.00	One Book, One San Diego is the region's leading community reading program. A collaboration between KPBS and some 25 partner organizations—including the county's public library systems—One Book seeks to serve our local communities with inspiring, intelligent and literary reading with education at its core. The program draws a diverse demographic and literally thousands of people—adults, teens and kids—participate every year.
Sherman Heights Community Center Corporation	\$5,000.00	Our Día de los Muertos festivity is a joyous occasion when the memory of our ancestors & the continuity of life is celebrated. The decades-long, grassroots tradition attracts thousands of visitors from across San Diego County, Los Angeles, Arizona and Baja Region. The weeks-long celebration includes community altars, crafts, tours, performances, a procession and 50+ families in Sherman building altars in their front yards. The celebration is free with the exception of some craft workshops.
Sisters Of St. James Productions	\$5,000.00	Sisters of St. James Productions, a premier drag production organization, presents 6–10 shows per season, all open to the public, with discounted and some free tickets for low-income audiences to ensure accessibility. Nonprofit proceeds fuel our mission to elevate drag as transformative artform. Through performances, workshops, and outreach, we provide public benefit by celebrating diversity, fostering dialogue, and enriching cultural vitality, creating inclusive spaces for all.
Spirit of the Fourth Inc.	\$5,000.00	This day-long event begins with a Community Fair which includes a Motor Show, a Patriotic Pet Contest, a Military Ceremony for veterans, kids' games, a quilt show and vendor booths. In the afternoon a parade is held with over 80 entries including veterans, high school bands, community groups and elected officials. In the evening there is a fireworks show with live music featuring our RB STAR vocal talent winners. All events free except the Motor Show.

T3 Triple Threat Youth Mentors	\$5,000.00	T3's 2025 Summer Musical Theatre Intensive for marginalized youth is an 8-week program every July-Aug for up to 20 youth (allowing for more if greater demand) ages 7-17, culminating in student-led performances at North Park Rec Center. T3 nurtures creative talent and provides skills for success in school and life. Scholarships ensure access, and performances are Pay-What-You-Can, allowing public participation for free if needed, making the program impactful both for students and the community.
Teatro Mascara Magica	\$5,000.00	TMM will produce a series of shows including: FELONS by Luis Aragon, a musical set in a modern-day prison, following the lives of 5 felons; CATRINA: DIA DE LOS MUERTOS, an original play with music written and performed by Agustin Castañeda and Joseph Molina, celebrating the Day of the Dead; LA PASTORELA, San Diego's critically acclaimed holiday musical tradition, sharing the culture of the border region while promoting peace, tolerance and respect for others.
The Bon Temps Social Club of San Diego	\$85,801.00	Gator By The Bay Zydeco, Blues & Crawfish Festival is an annual 4-day Louisiana themed music & food festival held at Spanish Landing Park on San Diego Bay. It is a zesty gumbo of music, food and fun with 100+ performances by some of the best Cajun, Zydeco, Blues and Latin musicians. The event is all ages. Children under 18 are free. Complimentary & discounted tickets are made available in the community. Free admission is provided in exchange for volunteer hours.
The Cooper Family Foundation	\$9,339.00	Our Juneteenth Festival is a celebration of the end of slavery and the historical Emancipation Proclamation. This community festival, which is free to the public, is a cultural and educational experience featuring African drummers and dancers spiritual dance, poetry and spoken word performances, R&B music, blues band, hip-hop, and jazz saxophonist performances. The festival includes community members who often are excluded from such events because of cost. The event is free to the public.

The High Steppers Drill Team	\$16,474.00	The High Steppers Drill Team strengthens San Diego's arts/culture sector by exposing youth to the art of military drill technique, dance & step routine. Our free public performances help create vital & uplifting community connections. Through the Drill Team's performances in local festivals & parades, such as the MLK, Jr. Parade, Veterans Day Parade, and Mother Goose Parade, we support & uplift our community through our deep shared cultural connection to percussive Step.
The Mariachi Scholarship Foundation	\$24,905.00	The San Diego International Mariachi Summit brings together the world's top mariachi musicians, teachers and historians for public performances and educational student workshops across San Diego. There will be 4 days of educational workshops with free public performances, plus the Summit Gala Concert, our annual Día de Muertos concert, and Las Posadas performance in downtown San Diego.
The San Diego River Park Foundation	\$5,000.00	We aim to host a SD River Community Art Day that connects people to the San Diego River in July of 2025 at Grant Park in Mission Valley. It will be free for all attendees and bring people outdoors to enjoy art, a picnic, and learn about the San Diego River. We will invite a diverse array of visual artists, including Kumeyaay artists, and storytellers to showcase art and stories with an emphasis on the culture and history of the San Diego River. The art will also be compiled into an e-book.
Tiltshift Dance	\$5,000.00	AADF 2025: Becoming Asian-American will be San Diego's first Asian-American Dance Festival, centering AAPI dance artists. Planned as a multi-day event, it will include a main stage showcase, a film screening, a day of cultural dance, and a student/community showcase. AADF provides a platform for AAPI dance artists to tell our stories in our own voices, sharing these stories not just amongst ourselves but with the greater community, fostering deeper empathy and understanding. Some events free.

Tuyo Theatre Inc.	\$12,335.00	"Las Voces de las Mujeres" brings together three dynamic theater productions—Our Lady of the San Diego Convention Center, Mouth of the Beast, and A Skeptic and a Bruja—to celebrate the voices, journeys, and strength of Mexican-American women. Each production centers women as agents of change and connection, exploring their roles as storytellers, guardians of tradition, and fearless seekers of truth. This season will be open to the public without ticket cost barriers.
VAPA Foundation	\$15,113.00	VAPA Foundation supports SDUSD and the community through a series of public events; student honor concerts hosted at our world-class performance venues, student art exhibits, elementary school fiddle festivals, and community lectures and guest speakers. The student performances are free to the public and parents. Our lecture series is open to the public and charges a nominal ticket price.
Via International	\$12,730.00	Somos La Voz (SLV) provides culturally-responsive art and music programming led by teaching artists to Chicano and Mexican youth in San Diego, culminating in a series of live youth pop-up events/performance open to the public. Entering Year 2, SLV has been successful in helping San Diego youth access their artistic voice and leadership potential while bridging generational divides and offering a safe space for self-expression and creativity. SLV celebrates Mexican and Chicano cultural heritage.
Vietnamese American Youth Alliance Corp.	\$10,563.00	The San Diego Tet Festival offers an immersive experience celebrating the vibrant Vietnamese culture during the Lunar New Year. Over the years, this festival has blossomed into Southern California's second-largest event of its kind (and largest in San Diego County), drawing 20,000 to 30,000 visitors across three days. The event is pivotal in preserving Vietnamese heritage, culture and traditions, as well as enriching San Diego's cultural diversity and fostering community unity.