

Creative Communities San Diego FY27 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: 88

Funding Awarded: \$1.8 million

Organization	FY27 Allocation	Project Description
A Reason to Survive (ARTS)	\$5,000.00	A Reason To Survive (ARTS) uplifts the creative voice of young people across South San Diego through place-based projects that inspire artistic exploration and community cohesion. In collaboration with local museums + galleries, youth in our Community ARTS program will produce an art exhibition that celebrates the artistic accomplishment of young people in San Diego. Guided by curatorial experts, youth will conceptualize + design and install an art exhibition—featuring sound, visual, textile, and fabrication artwork. This event is open to the public and free of charge. It'll include a youth-led community art activation as well as artists + curator talks that amplify youth voice. Our partners are MCASD and Balboa Park's Spanish Village.

Adams Avenue Business Association	\$19,115.00	The 44th Annual Adams Avenue Street Fair is scheduled for September 2026. San Diego's largest free music festival is staged on 10 city-blocks and features: 7 stages, 75 musical acts, 300 exhibitors, festival foods, beer gardens, carnival rides, Fern Street Circus performances and comedy shows. Music genres include rock, blues, alternative, indie, DJs, Latin, soul, gospel, world & folk.
All for Logan	\$5,000.00	All For Logan seeks funding for the 4th Annual Día de Muertos en Barrio Logan Festival, a free, family celebration of art, tradition and community. The festival activates Logan Avenue with music, dance, and immersive art honoring Día de Muertos and supporting local creatives. Our Artist Residency Program commissions local artists to create culturally rooted installations inspired by community stories. The event includes altars, performances, vendors, and workshops—all free and open to the public.
Alliance Francaise de San Diego	\$5,710.00	The Alliance Française de San Diego (AFSD) 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 and the French Literature and Arts Festival in October. We provide low-income students free access to films and Q&A sessions with industry professionals, broadening their exposure to French culture.
Autism Society San Diego	\$10,316.00	ASSD seeks funding for "Lights, Camera, Autism: A Year of Neurodivergent Spotlight"—12-mo expansion elevating autistic adults as mainstream creative leaders in SD arts. 4 phases across districts: Summer Series (Jul-Sep): 2 sensory-friendly pop-ups in D4/8/9; free events w/ LCA artists in art, film, music. Festival (Oct): LCA Pavilion at La Jolla Art & Wine Fest w/ established artists. Gala (Oct): LCA spotlight at Autism Society Gala—unveil artists, screen highlights, recruit. Culmination (Apr): Full LCA Showcase at Comic Con Museum; autistic-led, 500+ attendees. Integrates neurodivergent talent city-wide to normalize excellence.

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. We anticipate between 450-500 attendees this year.
Barrio Artists Partnership	\$5,000.00	The Imperial Avenue Paseo – Fall 2026 is a free, public arts and culture event that activates the Imperial Avenue corridor through murals, live art, student exhibitions, cultural performances, hands-on workshops, and local business participation. Produced by Barrio Artists Partnership in collaboration with muralist Mario Torero, King Chávez Academies, and neighborhood businesses, the event brings families, youth, and residents together to celebrate community identity and creativity. The Paseo increases access to the arts in an underserved corridor, supports small businesses through art-driven foot traffic, and strengthens neighborhood pride through inclusive, bilingual, and intergenerational programming.
Best Practice	\$6,875.00	Over the course of a one-year exhibition series at its location in Logan Heights, Best Practice will present five 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. This year, Best Practice will establish an official partnership with Sound Praxis, a San Diego-based avant-garde music event producer, to present experimental music and sound at the gallery.
Bocon	\$17,169.00	Our arts education initiative serves the broader San Diego community, with a flagship, long-standing partnership at Balboa Elementary and strong ties to the surrounding Shelltown neighborhood. Students engage with Chicano/a history through culturally rooted workshops and professional arts experiences. While

		some school-based workshops are not public, our summer camp performances, along with all professional play-development events, are open to the community and offered free or by donation. These new works highlight Filipino and Chicano stories and ensure accessible, high-quality arts experiences for families across San Diego.
Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest	\$23,390.00	Youth Arts Academy (YAA) inspires students with private music lessons, youth rock and jazz bands, group classes, and performance training, plus programs in Boys & Girls Club after-school sites and camps. Through our scholarship program, instruction and instrument rentals are offered at little to no cost, providing access to education for budding musicians, regardless of income. Each year, students shine at COMMOTION!, in an exciting showcase at Music Box in downtown San Diego, celebrating their growth, talent, and love of music.
California Lawyers for the Arts Incorporated	\$44,987.00	CLA aims to strengthen legal and business information services for the San Diego arts community by increasing outreach to the arts community and expanding our roster of attorney providers, while continuing to provide a robust schedule of low-cost and free educational programs, including in-person and virtual art/law workshops and networking events and INTERSECTIONS: Art & Law at the Border, our annual binational and bilingual symposium. The proposed project will also support Designing Creative Futures, our innovative workforce development program for persons in re-entry, which is comprised of paid internships with collaborating arts organizations, education/career counseling, social services support and alumni engagement and support.
Casa Familiar	\$24,411.00	A full season of arts + culture programming for San Ysidro + South San Diego, including: 3 major exhibitions, 2 festivals, 2 "Sidro Saturday" artist market events, and a 12-mo. podcast season 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.

Chicano Park Museum and Cultural Center	\$21,369.00	Chicano Park Museum and Cultural Center will expand four initiatives promoting equitable free arts access to the public and civic pride. Borderlands Creative Printmaker Residency: Provides stipends, mentorship, and exhibition opportunities for artists exploring identity, migration, and resilience. Youth Lowrider Bike Exhibition: Connects youth artists with original Chicano Park lowrider clubs to co-create works bridging cultural history and contemporary art. Quarterly Community Gallery Exhibitions: Showcases emerging and established artists with professional development, workshops, and free art sales. Chicano Park Day Annual Commemoration: Activates CPMCC with youth activities, exhibitions, and workshops during the city's largest community celebration.
City Heights Community Development Corporation	\$6,851.00	City Heights Community Development Corporation will continue to create multi-cultural programming that boosts the local economy and celebrates the cultural diversity of City Heights. Programming will include the Lunar New Year, Mid-Autumn Festival, City Heights Holiday Lighting Celebration, and Winter Extravaganza. These events bring community members, business owners, and local organizations together through music, dance, and culturally diverse food. Events are free to the public and allow local vendors to participate and sell their goods at no cost.
Clare Rose Foundation Center for Creative Youth Development	\$5,000.00	The project is to produce a creativity festival with community partners to celebrate creativity, arts, culture, and humanities. Activities will include: 1) inspirational conversations with creativity thought leaders & cultural workers; 2) performances by artists of all ages, 3) and collective art-making & experiential & embodied learning workshops. The festival will occur in the spring at a San Diego venue. Our audience is the general public. The public benefit will be to build a sense of belonging, wellbeing, resilience & community using creativity as an anchor for connection, arts as an anchor for healing, culture as an anchor for community storytelling, and humanities an anchor for understanding. The festival will be free to the public.

Contact Arts	\$80,659.00	The San Diego International Fringe Festival—produced with the World Fringe Creative Hub (emerging from the 2026 World Fringe Congress Bi-national Conference)—advances TOT funding purposes by strengthening San Diego’s creative economy, enhancing the region’s reputation as an international arts destination, and expanding equitable cultural access. The 2026–2027 cycle features 500+ affordable performances, binational programming with Tijuana, and global artist exchanges with New Zealand, India, Australia, and the United Kingdom. These initiatives enrich residents’ lives, build vibrant neighborhoods, and connect local artists with global industry presenters through the 2027 pilot Fringe Marketplace, modeled after Adelaide’s Honey Pot Program.
COTA Collaborations Teachers and Artists	\$5,000.00	CoTA’s free multi-day teacher institutes immerse elementary educators in arts-integrated, content-specific learning experiences. Our institutes offer a dynamic blend of hands-on activities designed to enrich classroom instruction through artmaking, inquiry, collaboration, and authentic tasks. Teachers explore innovative strategies to engage and inspire students while gaining practical tools to shift from traditional direct instruction to powerful, student-centered facilitation.
County of San Diego Black Chamber	\$5,000.00	The County of San Diego Black Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation is partnering with local nonprofits to create space making events like-Black Arts & Culture Music Festival is an exciting way to celebrate and uplift San Diego’s Black Arts and Culture District. The event brings together local and regional Black artists, musicians, and performers, giving them a stage to share their creativity and talent with the community in a free event. It also helps boost local businesses and vendors, drawing visitors into the district and supporting the local economy.

East County Youth Symphony	\$5,968.00	In 2027 East County Youth Symphony will be performing symphonic works of the young San Diego composers that have never been performed in our city before. Both concerts will be held at the Joan B. Kroc Theater. This project is designed to celebrate a remarkable talent we have in San Diego, and to promote a contemporary symphonic repertoire. One of these composers is barely 18 years old and he is now attending Stanford. The other one is ECYS alumna who is a soundtrack author to several Disney Movies. Others are currently launching their careers.
Educreate	\$5,000.00	Second Annual Educreate Youth Fashion Show: 16 weeks of preparation, 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.
Emilio Nares Foundation	\$17,738.00	ENF requests funding for Kumeyaay Cultural Education & Ethnobotany Sessions serving 150 BIPOC families of child cancer survivors. In partnership with San Diego River Park Foundation, we provide 6 sessions led by Kumeyaay educators featuring traditional storytelling, ethnobotany, nature-based art, and cultural performances. Sessions integrate indigenous knowledge with healing arts at San Diego River sites. ADA-accessible with free bilingual support, transportation, and materials.
Fourth District Seniors Resource Center	\$5,000.00	The project is free to the public. The Old Globe Theater offered a course in playwriting. Two of our clients attended and produce 2 plays that appeared on the Old Globe Stage. We have a partnership with the Old Globe where we bring classic and modern plays to our community. Our two senior play writes will be featured at the Senior Center with a showing of each of their plays. The cast will also include Old Globe Actors. Two members of the Globe wrote a play about the

		Executive Director of FDSRC, called Mother Wit and it was performed at the theater to rave reviews. That play and the other two will be featured at the Center during Black History Month a minimum of three presentations starring our center's local talent and Old Globe Actors.
Friends of International Friendship Park	\$15,730.00	Friends of Friendship Park seeks funding to further develop our On the Road program, which promotes arts and culture for community outreach by converting retired sections of the US–Mexico border wall from Friendship Park into symbols of unity. In collaboration with the Museum of Us, we transform salvaged wall panels into Tables of Amistad art installations. We are requesting renewal for: Free-to-the-public art exhibitions; an artistic transformation project using repurposed pieces of the decommissioned border wall; programming support. Funding would ensure we can continue this exhibit and deepen our ties with San Diegans through the arts and culture, as we move closer toward our vision of creating a truly International Friendship Park.
FUNDSTUME	\$5,120.00	Promoting, preserving, and celebrating the diverse cultural identities of San Diego's marginalized communities through a series of free, public costume-art events citywide. Events include design and crafting workshops at a makerspace and mobile exhibitions displayed on an art vehicle with performances at several street parades. Each representative costume and art vehicle produced will reflect the characters, values, and cultural narratives of the communities, addressing facets of ethnicity, race, gender, sexuality, age, and (neuro)diversity; fostering diversity, equality, inclusion, and social change, engaging local communities and bringing together arti(vi)sts, scholars, and organizations dedicated to social equity and access to public art.

Game Face Academy	\$6,381.00	The Game Face Academy (GFA) media arts program is fiscally sponsored by Fern Street Community Arts, Inc. The GFA program serves vulnerable youth/young adults, ages 12-25. GFA creative youth development and mentorship program trains youth to cover sporting/community events, fundraisers, parades, and performances throughout the City of San Diego as a platform to teach videography, photography, and media production. GFA equips youth/young adults with multimedia skills, professional development around portfolio creation, and professional relationships with businesses & community-based clients that create pathways to careers in photography/media. All GFA program activities and services are free to the public.
Generation STEAM	\$49,379.00	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, which 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	\$166,497.00	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 and will take place between July 2026 and June of 2027. Projects to include interactive experiences like urban gardening, robotic gardening, visual art displays, performing art exhibits, and more.

The Heartbeat Foundation Corp	\$13,286.00	Now celebrating its 15th year in Florida, the Annual Brazilian Festival, produced by The Heartbeat Foundation Corp., unites communities through music, art, food, and culture. After thousands of requests, it will expand beyond Florida for the first time, reaching San Diego, in August 2026. Each public edition supports local artists, minority-owned vendors, and nonprofits—featuring international headliners, and generating part-time jobs
High Level Dance Society	\$5,000.00	Force of July, now in its fourth year, is a free public street dance festival celebrating hip-hop, movement, and mentorship in San Diego. Honoring FULL FORCE SD, the city's pioneering breaking crew, the event unites local and international artists through workshops, showcases, and battles—an integral part of street dance culture that embodies creativity, respect, and community exchange. By providing an accessible platform for expression, cultural exchange, and youth engagement, Force of July strengthens community bonds, supports local tourism, and highlights San Diego's identity as a vibrant arts and culture destination.
Hillcrest Business Improvement Association	\$12,457.00	The funding will support Hillcrest CityFest — a celebration of everything that makes life in the City special. Now in its 41st year, this iconic one-day festival features two stages with more than 20 hours of live entertainment, hundreds of artist and craft vendors, children's activities, diverse food offerings, and interactive art experiences. Held on the second Sunday in August, CityFest draws more than 100,000 visitors to Hillcrest from across the region.
House of Chamorros	\$5,000.00	The House of Chamorros proudly hosts three annual cultural celebrations in Balboa Park, each honoring Chamorro heritage through music, dance, food, storytelling, and workshops. Free and open to all, these gatherings welcome families, elders, youth, and visitors of every background, fostering intergenerational learning and cultural exchange.

Imagine Creative Services	\$6,698.00	We produce theatre-based programs for elementary/middle/high students. Safa's Story teaches bullying prevention/cultural competency. Zion's Story addresses human trafficking awareness/prevention. We are proposing four public deliveries of each program (eight total) to intergenerational community groups for free/donation, during our annual tours and in partnership with local CBOs. The programs will include a forum theatre performance with professional actors, lived experience experts, and additional workshops.
Installation Gallery	\$51,931.00	Through newly commissioned works "The Spiritual Realm" explores spiritual societies of the San Diego/Baja California region, including religious, health, and theosophical communities. The centerpiece of the project is the creation of an original operatic production, In Search of the Ageless. Created in collaboration with composers, choreographers, and visual artists, the work weaves together new music, dance, sculpture, and stage design. "The Spiritual Realm" includes an issue of the INSITE Journal, and a series of public programs. "The Spiritual Realm" is the third and final chapter of INSITE's multi-year initiative, The Sedimentary Effect, which examines natural phenomena, architecture, and spirituality through regional microhistories.
Italian American Art and Culture Association of San Diego	\$7,550.00	The San Diego Italian Film Festival presents its 20th annual feStivale, showcasing the best in Italian cinema. This festival will premiere a diverse range of films, including dramas, comedies, and documentaries that explore key themes of Italian culture, inspiring meaningful dialogue and discovery. Scheduled for October 2026, it will be followed by a monthly series from January to June 2027. The 20th celebration features guest filmmakers, producers, and artists, along with the 8th annual Ristretto Awards short film competition. Attendees can enjoy Italian food and live music, culminating in the Ristretto Award ceremony. All events will take place at the Museum of Photographic Arts, the Museum of Art, and the Digital Gym Cinema.

Tiltshift Dance	\$7,973.00	AADF2026: Becoming Asian American enters its 2nd year as San Diego's only dance festival centering AAPI artists. A multi-day multi-venue event, it includes a Mainstage Showcase, Dance Film Screening, Community Day, and Residency Showcase. AAPI artists live the tension of belonging to multiple worlds—of marrying our American identity with our cultural lineage, of creating in Western spaces while carrying ancestral stories within our bodies. AADF is a dedicated platform for us to share our multicultural stories existing at the intersections of heritage, migration, assimilation & identity. In our own voices, we share not only amongst ourselves but with the greater community, fostering deeper empathy and understanding.
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.
Karen Organization of San Diego	\$5,000.00	Karen New Year Celebration will be held in January 2027 and is open to the public free of charge.. The event will include opening and closing ceremonies, a presentation on Karen New Year history, cultural arts performances, youth cultural fashion shows, cultural vendors, and cultural foods. Performers and volunteers are mainly from the community of refugees from Burma resettled in San Diego, and Karen Community Leaders are consulted closely during the preparations.
Kyoto Symposium Organization	\$49,224.00	The Kyoto Prize Symposium (KPS) held annually each March (and now for 25 years) is an international forum between the U.S., Japan and Mexico. In partnership with Japan's Inamori Foundation, the KPS hosts three Kyoto Prize Laureates each year, many of whom never/rarely visit San Diego. Each Laureate, awarded in the fields of "Advanced Technology," "Basic Sciences" and "Arts & Philosophy," provide a lecture and/or workshop at UC San Diego, and in

		partnership with other arts organizations. All programs are free and open to the public. In addition, KPS offers college scholarships and equitable opportunities, including sponsoring transportation for 550+ underserved San Diego high school students to attend the Laureate presentations.
La Maestra Family Clinic	\$36,844.00	The La Maestra Arts and Culture project is part of the La Maestra Circle of Care services, a holistic model of care that aims to improve the overall well-being of families in San Diego. Through the Generations Center for Youth & Adults, La Maestra offers completely free year-round art classes, music lessons, photography exhibitions, flower arranging, sewing classes, and performances for individuals of all ages in the community. The project offers access to arts and culture, providing a creative outlet for all, as well as opportunities for healing and personal growth through the arts. Participants learn new skills and engage with their community in a safe and creative space, with a focus on health and wellness.
Linda Vista Multi-Cultural Fair	\$5,000.00	This will be the 43rd annual Linda Vista Multi-Cultural Fair and Parade which is a free community one day event from 10am-5pm and strives to promote cultural awareness and understanding within the City of San Diego. It includes a parade, over 100 exhibits and vendor booths, ethnically diverse food, children's activities and performances on multiple stages.
Little Saigon San Diego	\$13,457.00	The San Diego Lunar New Year Festival celebrates one of Asia's most cherished holidays. This three-day event draws thousands with traditional performances, lion dances, arts, and a Cultural Village that recreates Southeast Asian village life. Named in 2023 among the nation's seven best Lunar New Year festivals, it's known for cultural richness and authenticity. The festival remains free and inclusive while celebrating the city's vibrant cultural diversity.

Majdal Community Center	\$5,000.00	The Majdal Center seeks funds for Homeland and Homemaking: Letters from the Future, a community-based art project with The AjA Project. The project engages Middle Eastern, East African, Asian, and Muslim immigrant communities, with all activities taking place in the City of San Diego at the AjA studio and PANA's Refugee and Immigrant Cultural Hub to promote potent cultural exchanges across diverse groups. The Majdal Center and AjA will host arts workshops to engage refugee and immigrant youth and adults through film, photography, embroidery, and intergenerational storytelling. Participants will create new works exploring displacement, migration, and belonging, culminating in public art installation and a traveling exhibit.
Mandate Project Impact	\$9,612.00	Concert and conference with free multi-media training; expose youth interns to industry professionals and real life experiences working on MPI's live concert production and projects; reach people of various cultures and ethnicities; promote cultural heritage appreciation and education for artists through the African American Gospel music art form; encourage entrepreneurship; engage start up and small businesses; recirculate dollars within the community; and draw international artists and arts enthusiasts to San Diego. BGCAM (annual) celebrates art and community; Independent Gospel Artist Music Matters Conference develops artists' and industry professionals' skills through workshops, master classes, and artist showcase.
Mariachi Scholarship Foundation	\$29,546.00	The 2026 San Diego International Mariachi Summit brings together the world's top mariachi musicians, teachers and historians for public performances, history presentations and educational student workshops across San Diego. There will be 4 days of educational workshops with free public performances, the Summit Gala Concert in the Summer, a cultural-themed concert in the Fall (Día de Muertos, Las Posadas, etc.), and another major concert in downtown San Diego early Spring.

Medium Photography	\$5,000.00	Medium Photo proposes the 2027 Medium Festival of Photography, a three-day public arts event held March 2027 in the City of San Diego. The festival features exhibitions, artist talks, workshops, a photography pop-up fair, a community photo walk, and neighborhood arts tours, serving an estimated 1,000 attendees. Most events are free and all are open to the public, designed to expand access to photography, support local artists, and activate San Diego's creative neighborhoods.
Mother Sponge for Set and Drift	\$5,000.00	An initiative co-directed by Set + Drift, Aquí y Allá / Here & There creates ongoing programming to forge lasting relationships between the San Diego and Tijuana creative communities, creating opportunities for cross-cultural and interdisciplinary exchange. Directed by designers Stacy Kelley (San Diego) and Katalina Silva (Tijuana), the spring 2027 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 presentation would be led by the resident, which would be free and open to the public with an event hosted at a partner location.
Musicians for Education	\$15,421.00	Street of Dreams will produce and deliver Street of Dreams Live! An original spoken word concert, scheduled for May 2026. The concert will take place at the Logan Heights Library. Operational since 1998, Musicians for Education's signature program, Street of Dreams (SOD), is an arts education/college bridge program for teen mothers who come from homeless shelters, group homes, foster care, and juvenile justice facilities. One hundred percent of our students complete our program, graduate from high school, and enroll in college. They are the first college attendees in their families. SOD uses the creative process, "word art," as a healing mechanism.

New Village Arts	\$6,859.00	A Walk with Yáamay is a series of site-specific guided art walks that blend natural exploration with excerpts from Yáamay: An Anthology of Feminine Perspectives Across Indigenous California. Led by Native artists, participants will pause along curated trails in the City of San Diego for moments of live poetry, song, and performance. Accessible to all ages, these walks will provide a powerful platform for Indigenous voices to engage with audiences through impactful artistic experiences. Through interactive elements such as journaling and photography, audiences will be invited to reflect on the land, its rightful stewards, and their own connections to both. All events will be free and accessible to the public.
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.	\$9,219.00	Pacific BeachFest is a celebration of arts, culture, and local spirit, presented annually by Discover Pacific Beach. Entering its 27th year, this free, family-friendly event brings together over 30K attendees to experience live music, local artists, cultural performances, interactive kids' activities, and the neighborhood's best food and beverage vendors. Set along the iconic PB boardwalk. The festival highlights PB's creative community with three music and performance stages and the "Best of the Beach" Fish Taco Contest featuring local restaurants. Pacific BeachFest fosters connection between residents, businesses, and visitors, promoting community pride and economic vitality while providing a platform for emerging artists and performers.
Pacific Beach Town Council	\$5,000.00	The Pacific Beach Town Council Concerts on the Green is a free, family-friendly summer concert series held at Kate Sessions Park in the Mission Bay / Pacific Beach area. Each year, COTG brings together thousands of San Diego residents

		and visitors on Sunday afternoons throughout July and August for an engaging outdoor musical experience. This series highlights San Diego's vibrant music scene by offering local artists a chance to perform, while also strengthening community ties and supporting local businesses through event partnerships and on-site promotion.
Particle FM	\$5,000.00	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, Burn All Books, a risograph press located in Normal Heights, and Scannners, a community zine archive in San Diego. 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.
PASACAT	\$5,000.00	PASACAT is seeking funding for the 90-minute Extravaganza Concert of traditional and traditionally inspired Philippine Dance in October 2026 at the Joan B. Kroc Theater with a matinee and evening performance. Twenty-eight dancers and musicians who will provide live musical accompaniment while they present a glimpse of the Philippines - its history, geography and indigenous cultures of the 7,100 plus island nation. PASACAT will celebrate 56 years in May of 2026, and the Extravaganza will serve as a celebration of this milestone.
Point Loma Summer Concerts	\$13,789.00	For 25 years, Point Loma Summer Concerts has hosted a beloved, family-friendly, free summer concert series for our community and beyond. These events not only offer a fun and memorable evening of live music across a variety of genres but also bring our community together in celebration of local talent. We're especially proud to provide a stage for young, local musicians to showcase their skills as opening acts for our headline performers.

Raimo Residence for The Block Club	\$18,528.00	The Block Club (TBC) is an ongoing community improvement solution from Raimo Residence. TBC provides free daily coworking and event series for entrepreneurs and creatives that anchors San Diego's Black Arts + Culture District. Visitors gain access to an inspiring space with complimentary printing, WiFi, a tool library and other art materials. Our space includes a conference room for private meetings, an exhibition space for creative showcases, an outdoor patio, and a rotating art gallery wall. Our living room gallery space can be reserved for free during designated hours for events that are open to the public.
Remember Us The Holocaust	\$77,077.00	Our organization seeks funding to support Remember Us The Holocaust, an educational exhibit displayed in public spaces such as city and county libraries. The exhibit shares the stories of Holocaust survivors and features authentic World War II memorabilia. Through exhibitions, educational programs, and community outreach, we preserve truth and history, combat antisemitism, and promote understanding.
RISE Urban Leadership Institute of	\$5,000.00	RISE San Diego's RISE Arts program supports coalition and community building, capacity building, and civic engagement and advocacy among San Diego's BIPOC and historically underrepresented artists, cultural practitioners, and arts and culture organizations in pursuit of a strong and vibrant regional arts and culture ecosystem. The annual RISE Arts Showcase is a platform for local artists to increase visibility of their work and voice in the community. Developed by a committee of artists initially brought together through RISE's role as a Far South/Border North Impact Hub, the April 2027 event aims to support the artist community via workshops, resource sharing, and networking with community, fellow artists, and potential patrons.
Rock N Roll Camp for Girls San Diego	\$5,000.00	Rock n' Roll Camp for Girls San Diego empowers girls, trans, and nonbinary youth through music education, mentorship, and performance. We create inclusive spaces where young people build confidence, skills, and community

		while developing their artistic voice. Our programs are designed to ensure that all youth—regardless of family income—have access to the arts.
Saikat	\$18,864.00	We will be organizing Fall Festival in October 2026, featuring prominent artists. We will invite renowned Indian and Bangladeshi classical, folk, and modern musicians to perform at "Krishti" in July and Fall Festival in October. In Summer 2027, 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 our organization plans to produce is the 44th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade, 5k Walk / Fun Run and Festival. The events take place during MLK weekend in 2027 in downtown San Diego along Harbor Dr. and in the Embarcadero area. The project entails a 5k walk / fun run using a portion of the parade route and use of the waterfront area in the Embarcadero. The 5k will end at Waterfront Park, where a festival will be set up. We'll also host the MLK parade starting at Harbor and Ash going southbound on Harbor Dr. and ending near Ruocco park.
San Diego Bird Alliance	\$17,543.00	The San Diego Bird Festival is a celebration of the wild birds, habitats and people of San Diego County. Over 1500 people from local communities and across the country gather 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.
San Diego Creative Youth Development Network	\$7,921.00	The San Diego Creative Youth Development Network will provide direct programming and services, including but not limited to, convening & networking opportunities, arts advocacy, information and research, professional development opportunities, and marketing, promotion, and audience development services to our City of San Diego-based Network of community-based artists, creators, tradition bearers, educators, and arts/culture

		organizations who are direct providers of creative youth development public programming. These include the organizations and the people who lead, support and provide artistic (e.g., in dance, music, theatre, playwriting, photography/film) and cultural programming.
San Diego Film Commission Foundation	\$5,000.00	San Diego on Screen is a citywide, self-guided, culturally immersive QR code film location tour that invites residents and visitors to discover and engage with San Diego's cinematic heritage. At each stop, participants scan a QR code to view curated film clips, filmmaker commentary, historical context, and local stories linking film to place. The project activates streets, parks, and neighborhoods across San Diego's city limits — from Balboa Park to Point Loma to Barrio Logan — fostering connection, tourism, and deeper awareness of the city's film legacy.
San Diego Film Foundation	\$89,946.00	The San Diego International Film Festival is celebrating its 25th year in 2026. This 5-day event attracts 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 discussion and education programming. The festival is free to high school students who participate in our FOCUS on Impact Education Program, which brings to light issues of social justice.
San Diego Fleet Week Foundation	\$75,384.00	The Big Bay Boom is San Diego's signature July 4th celebration, one of the largest fireworks shows in California, drawing over 300,000 spectators to the waterfront and reaching millions more through regional TV & radio broadcast. Produced and presented by the Port of San Diego in partnership with Fleet Week San Diego, this free, family-friendly event honors our military community. Fireworks launched from four barges across North San Diego Bay create a shared civic experience that unites residents and visitors through celebration, art, and community pride.

San Diego Jewish Arts Festival	\$44,525.00	"JFest: Being In Communities" is a festival and year-long season of community-based arts programs in eight diverse venues across the City of San Diego. Programs in theatre, music, dance, and lectures feature new work and collaborative partnerships with civic, education, and arts organizations to strengthen community bonds. Centered on Access, JFest celebrates multiple identities—Jewish and non-Jewish alike—uplifting diverse cultures through original plays like Women of Valor, Women of STEM, and Poderosas. Venues include The Balboa, Old Globe, UCSD, Conrad, and the JCC. Past impact—93% felt uplifted, 67% connected, 54% gained new perspective—shows how JFest is a vital engine for cultural enrichment and civic connection for all San Diegans.
San Diego Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Community Center	\$5,000.00	The Center seeks support for the Ageless Artists Art Show, a free, one-day community exhibition that celebrates the creativity and lived experiences of LGBTQ+ older adults. The annual show provides Senior artists (ages 50+) with a platform to display and sell their work at no cost, reducing social isolation and increasing community visibility for a population often overlooked in mainstream arts spaces. The 2026 event will expand to include an intentional intergenerational component, connecting Senior artists with LGBTQ+ youth through co-curation, mentorship, and shared storytelling. CCSD funding will support materials, marketing, and the staff time required to coordinate artists, volunteers, and youth participants.
San Diego LGBT Pride	\$246,760.00	San Diego LGBT 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 2026 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 Parks Foundation	\$12,232.00	"I Love My Park Day" will be held in May 2027 at Martin Luther King Jr. Community Park with the following objectives: 1) provide free 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. I Love My Park Day benefits all individuals and families, but the day is primarily focused on providing outside and arts and culture activities and resources to families living in areas of San Diego experiencing higher economic disparity. I Love My Park Day is free to the public.
San Diego State University Research Foundation for KPBS	\$20,347.00	One Book, One San Diego is the region's premier community reading program, presented by KPBS in partnership with over 80 libraries, schools, and organizations across San Diego County and beyond. Soon to be entering its 20th year, the program unites people of all ages through the shared experience of reading and discussing the same book. Each year, community nominations guide the selection of titles for adults, teens, kids, and Spanish readers. Free public events inspired by the chosen books foster connection, cultural understanding, and a love of reading across the region.
Save Starlight	\$5,000.00	Save Starlight is seeking funding for a free community concert series presented by Twilight in the Park and Save Starlight at Balboa Park's Spreckels Organ Pavilion. This project offers a series of evening performances featuring diverse local musicians and cultural groups, fostering accessible arts engagement for all San Diegans. The series strengthens Balboa Park's role as a gathering place for all communities, promoting cultural exchange, local talent, and neighborhood vibrancy through free public performances.
Scannners Archive	\$36,174.00	Scannners Archive Creative Programs is a series of weekly arts, culture, and music programs Scannners Archive offers to emergent community artists in San Diego. We host ongoing programs in mid-city San Diego and in Barrio Logan that include group workshops, classes, clubs, and events that inspire creative

		expression in collaborative environments. All of the programming in Scanners Creative Programs will culminate in a Scanners Creative Program showcase, open to the public.
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.
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 complimentary tickets available for low-income audiences to ensure accessibility. We prioritize affordability and inclusivity through our tiered pricing model. Nonprofit proceeds fuel our mission to elevate drag as a transformative art form. Through performances, workshops, and community outreach, we provide public benefit by celebrating diversity, fostering dialogue, and enriching cultural vitality while creating inclusive spaces for all.
Sound Future	\$6,387.00	The Sound Future Creative Career Expo provides hands-on training and culturally relevant mentorship in stable behind-the-scenes creative careers. The short-term public benefits of the Sound Future Expo include: Immediate Skill Acquisition: Participants gain hands-on, transferable skills in workshops that can be applied immediately to personal projects or entry-level opportunities; Network Access: Youth are instantly connected to professional mentors and industry collaborators, bridging a network gap and creating immediate job/internship leads; Positive Cultural Shift: The community witnesses a direct, visible investment in their youth, building confidence in them.

Spirit of the Fourth	\$6,801.00	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 we have a fireworks show with live music featuring our RB STAR vocal talent winners (see more info in Organization Documents). All events free except the Motor Show. In 2026 we will be emphasizing the America250 theme.
T3 Triple Threat Youth Mentors	\$5,000.00	T3's 2026 Summer Musical Theatre Intensive offers an eight-week performing arts program for up to 25 youth ages 7-17 (with additional spots available based on interest), culminating in public performances of Into the Woods JR at the North Park Recreation Center. Students train daily in acting, singing, and dance under the guidance of professional teaching artists, developing creativity, teamwork, and confidence. The program operates on a Pay-What-You-Can tuition model with donation-based performances, ensuring access regardless of financial ability and fostering community connection through shared artistic expression.
TEATRO MASCARA MAGICA: A COMMON GROUND COMPANY	\$5,000.00	TITLE FIGHT, a dramatic 2 act original play, recounts the true story of how Barrio girls and boys fought and defeated City Hall's 5-year effort to condemn their youth boxing gym. They spurned drugs and gangs in favor of acquiring the discipline and self-respect boxing requires. In the end, they fought for their safety, future, and the promise of better choices that the gym represented.
The Bon Temps Social Club of San Diego	\$71,351.00	Gator By The Bay Zydeco, Blues & Crawfish Festival is an annual 4-day Louisiana themed music & food festival held at Spanish Landing Park East on San Diego Bay. It is a zesty gumbo of music, food and fun with 100+ performances by some of the best local and national Cajun, Zydeco, Blues and Latin musicians.

The Cooper Family Foundation	\$7,415.00	For over 50 years, the Copper Family Foundation has celebrated the historical Emancipation Proclamation and the end of U.S. slavery, through a cultural festival known as Juneteenth. Our organization seeks funding to host a Juneteenth Celebration that honors the history and culture of African Americans while promoting education, unity, and community empowerment. The event will feature live performances, historical exhibits, local vendors, youth activities, and guest speakers highlighting the significance of Juneteenth as a day of freedom and reflection.
The High Steppers Drill Team	\$15,216.00	The High Steppers Drill Team, Inc. will provide social-emotional creative experiences in safe and nurturing environments through our project and core program, The High Steppers Drill Team. The High Steppers Drill Team empowers youth through the preservation, revitalization, and reclamation of the cultural practice of Step, a traditional artistic and cultural practice that dates to the aftermath of the slave rebellion of 1739 and is shaped out of the African American college movements at the turn of the 20th century. In addition, The High Steppers integrate Drill and Dance into their movement-based programs, with wraparound services such as mental health and wellness and academic support. The High Steppers Drill Team is free to the public.
The San Diego River Park Foundation	\$5,000.00	We aim to host a vibrant 2-day SD River Film & Arts Festival that connects people to the rich cultural, historical, and ecological stories of the San Diego River. It will bring 1000+ people outdoors to enjoy river-themed films, visual art, artist presentations, food, and drink. We'll invite an array of filmmakers and artists from diverse backgrounds, including Kumeyaay and underserved communities living along the river, to showcase their films and art, uplifting authentic perspectives and fostering cross-cultural understanding and river stewardship. A judges panel of respected artists and cultural leaders will honor standout filmmakers with cash awards, while visual artists will showcase and sell their work.

The Teaching and Learning Collaborative	\$5,000.00	We use our classroom and shared garden space in North Park to offer multi-generational family arts classes and family art/gardening/cooking classes.
Vapa Foundation	\$12,093.00	Each year, the VAPA Foundation brings San Diego's arts community together through events that showcase the incredible talent of our city's students and highlight the importance of arts education.
Via International	\$17,353.00	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/performances open to the public. SLV celebrates Mexican and Chicano cultural heritage.
Vietnamese American Youth Alliance Corp	\$11,173.00	The San Diego Tet Festival offers an immersive celebration of vibrant Vietnamese culture during the Lunar New Year. The event is pivotal in preserving Vietnamese heritage, culture, and traditions, enriching San Diego's cultural diversity, and fostering community unity.
Visionary Dance Theatre	\$5,000.00	Visionary Dance Theatre (dba Mounarath Powell Dance) presents a modern/contemporary dance concert production that celebrates artistic diversity and amplifies underrepresented voices and faces within the performing arts. The production features new and re-staged works, created and performed by a culturally diverse ensemble of artists, including choreographers and dancers whose backgrounds reflect a broad range of perspectives, identities, and movement traditions.
Words Alive	\$5,379.00	For a decade, Words Alive's Art & Lit projects have activated hundreds of young people to explore the abundance of mediums through which stories can be expressed. By partnering with community artists, we design an engaging creative project that empowers teens to delve into themes of a chosen book. In our

		“Graphic Tales” Art & Lit project, 250 youth across the City of San Diego will explore a curated graphic novel – which is theirs to keep – and are guided through the process to create their own graphic novels. The project culminates in a two-week exhibit of participant-created graphic novels in downtown San Diego open to the public at no charge. The exhibit kicks off with a free event for the youth artists and the wider community.
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