



CalFund.org/LAartsfund

LA Arts Recovery Fund Grantee Statements for Editorial Use

Attributable to Patricia Wyatt, President and CEO, Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC):

“This groundbreaking gift from the LA Arts Recovery Fund will solidify a robust future for the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center. JACCC has proudly served the Japanese, Japanese American, and neighboring communities for more than 40 years, committing its purpose to uplifting our shared history and affirming diverse voices. We accept the award with immense gratitude to all funders of the LA Arts Recovery Fund, including the funders of America's Cultural Treasures, for entrusting these funds to our organization and acknowledging our cultural significance to Los Angeles and the world.”

Attributable to Maia Jasper White, Executive Director and Co-Artistic Director, Salastina:

“Salastina is honored by the LA Arts Recovery Fund’s vote of confidence in our organization. 2020 presented us all with unimaginable challenges. It was incumbent on us to turn these constraints into creative opportunities. It is difficult to adequately express what it means to have our tireless work seen and rewarded in this way. We have no doubt we are in remarkable company.”

Attributable to Linda Dishman, President and CEO, Los Angeles Conservancy:

“This grant changes the playing field for us in so many ways. It means that we don’t need to be worried every day about meeting our monthly/yearly operating expenses. We can rehire our three vacant positions that we didn’t fill during the pandemic in order to keep our existing staff fully employed. We’ll be able to do all of the things we hoped to do with our new website to sustain and grow our online community. And we will have some flexibility to continue trying new ways to reach people.”

Attributable to Emmanuel Deleage, Executive Director, CASA 0101 Theater:

“The LA Arts Recovery Fund is a gift from the universe. Casa 0101 has always sought to use arts as a way of healing—as a way of telling the stories that were not being told elsewhere, about uplifting and creating visibility in the Latino community. The LA Arts Recovery fund has taken a bold step to help Casa 0101 achieve its mission.”

Attributable to Francis Cullado, Executive Director, Visual Communications:

“The traumatic events of the past year necessitated us to focus on the present and adapt to survive. But they also gave us the opportunity to pause and reflect, to reimagine our futures—ideal worlds built on shared values of equity and justice. Support from the LA Arts Recovery Fund is a catalyst for Visual Communications Media to reignite our work of rebuilding towards our shared future.”

Attributable to Ben Guillory, Co-Founder, CEO, and Producing Artistic Director, The Robey Theatre Company:

“This financial commitment by the California Community Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and the funding partners is a considerable investment in our mission to produce plays by and about the Black

experience and to preserve the Black theatrical canon for generations to come. It will make a world of difference as we navigate reopening and the shifting socio-economic landscape in Los Angeles post-pandemic. We are truly grateful.”

Attributable to Shelby Williams-González, President and CEO, Inner-City Arts:

“Inner-City Arts’ founding vision came about in response to the crisis of arts being removed from schools. This moment, and the LA Arts Recovery Fund’s incredible infusion of support, harkens back to our organization’s roots and the need for responsive action to ensure the youth in our community and their creative life force remain as vibrant as ever.”

Attributable to Dorothy Dubrulle, Director, Pieter Performance Space:

“When we left our studio, which at the time felt like the biggest part of our identity as an organization, in August 2020, it was an enormous loss. Since then, we have come to realize that the ‘space’ of Pieter Performance Space actually exists between the people that make up our community, leadership, and staff, all of whom we’ve been able to lean on heavily over the last year. Two years of funding from the LA Arts Recovery Fund will mean that we are able to give back to the community in the form of artist opportunities, new programming, and increased staff pay. It will mean a supportive hand during our first steps into an uncertain, post-pandemic world. We are profoundly grateful!”

Attributable to Heidi Duckler, Founder and Artistic Director, Heidi Duckler Dance:

“The LA Arts Recovery Fund is a gift of hope, possibility, and sustainability. This investment in arts organizations in Los Angeles like Heidi Duckler Dance is reassurance that our community and creative contributions are valued and will continue to thrive.”

Attributable to Bryan Yamami, Executive Director, TAIKOPROJECT:

“The ACT grant is the biggest grant award we have ever received and will ensure us financial and institutional stability for many years past the initial three-year period. It will allow us to invest in equipment and services that will sharply increase the production level of our performances and to invest in our artists’ development and training. The grant has made possible a more exciting and vibrant future for TAIKOPROJECT than we ever dreamed possible.”

Attributable to Lucia Torres, Executive Director, Las Fotos Project:

“We are extremely excited to have been selected for the LA Arts Recovery Fund grant, and grateful to all who contributed to the Fund. Like many other organizations, Las Fotos Project has endured a trying year, but our supportive community has enabled us to keep our doors open and our programs accessible. The LA Arts Recovery Fund grant has now provided a catalyst into our next chapter of growth and renewal, wherein we can return the favor to our community through rejuvenated programs and services.”

Attributable to Laura A. Hyatt, Executive Director, LAND (Los Angeles Nomadic Division):

“The support of the LA Arts Recovery Fund provides a transformative bridge for LAND as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. It is rare to receive such unrestricted support and this gives us hope for the possibility of collective change among arts philanthropy. The funds will bolster our ability to support staff while we reimagine the arts landscape in this unprecedented moment, as we unitedly chart a course forward in the service of artists.”

Attributable to David Kipen, Founder and Co-Director, Libros Schmibros Lending Library:

“Libros Schmibros is overjoyed that we get to put books into people’s hands again—ideally for *another* 10 years. Thanks in part to the LA Arts Recovery Fund, our work continues: the lending library itself, our cultural and educational initiatives, and our current work resurrecting the Federal Writers’ Project. This gift reaffirms our faith in Angelenos’ capacity for hope—and their belief in the power of good reading to change lives.”

Attributable to Carmelita Ramirez-Sanchez, Executive Director, Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory:

“With the support of the LA Arts Recovery Fund grant award Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory will expand our ability to provide career development programming to our BIPOC youth and their families, with a focus on Restorative Cultural Arts praxis, emphasizing economic equity for those who have been historically excluded from the creative and entertainment industries. The fund will also allow us to launch the T.E.A.C.H. (Transformative Education through Arts and Cultural Healing) collaborative, as a way to directly train and prepare a workforce that is reflective of Los Angeles in ethnicity, age, gender, social, and economic measures.”

Attributable to David A. Herrera, Chairman of the Board, The Harmony Project:

“Musical excellence is at the core of The Harmony Project’s mission. But our work runs much deeper than a child learning to perform the right notes—we empower children to find their voice, connect with their community, celebrate diversity, and unleash their incredibly unique potential. This award from the LA Arts Recovery Fund benefits our young people and supports a team of over 100 teaching artists who have continuously doubled down on their commitment as mentors.”

Attributable to Karen Mack, Founder and Executive Director, LA Commons:

“This grant through the LA Arts Recovery Fund will allow LA Commons to continue bringing together artists, youth, and communities to tell their stories for social change. We give heartfelt thanks to all the participating funders for changing the game by leveraging this moment to further cultural equity and make possible the cross-sector benefits that only the arts can deliver.”

Attributable to Ji Ahn, Executive Director, Million Little:

“For our youth in Million Little’s programs, art is not just a form of expression; it is also the tool for healing and connection. This grant from the LA Arts Recovery Fund will give Million Little the capacity to develop coordinated support systems for our youth both inside and outside the juvenile justice system; creating personally meaningful opportunities for them to transform their lives through the power of creativity.”

Attributable to Michael John Garcés, Artistic Director, and Megan Wanlass, Managing Director, Cornerstone Theater Company:

“The LA Arts Recovery Fund is a new paradigm for the philanthropic collaboration needed in the arts and culture sector to begin to recover from the destructive impact of the pandemic. Significant funding like this offers Cornerstone Theater Company the stability needed to interrogate our company’s practices as we seek to embed anti-racism in everything we do. This award from the LA Arts Recovery Fund ensures our ability to keep our artistic ensemble and staff employed as we work to center community voices and spark change through art-making toward a more equitable and just future.”

Attributable to Manuel Prieto, Executive Director, Los Angeles Music and Art School (LAMusArt):

"We at LAMusArt are thrilled to have earned the multi-year support of the groundbreaking LA Arts Recovery Fund. This support enables us to work toward a just recovery for our community of East Los Angeles and further our ongoing pursuit to provide equitable access to the arts.

This grant comes at a crucial time for the organization. It allows us to innovate in an ever-changing environment, empowers us to reinvest in our mission, and enables our small team to further scale our fundraising opportunities. We can continue to build an organization that reflects the young people that we serve and place staff, teaching artists, and mentors into leadership roles.

Now hundreds of youth from our immediate communities of East LA, Boyle Heights, and beyond can look forward to a safe return, free of barriers to arts education and filled with the joyful artistic experience that they deserve. This is a major step toward an equitable recovery in our communities and we are honored to be part of creating a more inclusive arts sector throughout Los Angeles."

Attributable to Melissa Denton, Executive Director, The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company (US):

"Throughout the last year, The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company (US), was able to provide virtual programs for youth in LA County schools, juvenile detention facilities, and community centers. The funding from the LA Arts Recovery Fund will not only help US to expand our re-imagined programs, but also ensure that our theatre-arts education and vital mentoring are available to as many youth and families from Los Angeles' under-resourced communities as possible. This transformational funding enables US to offer our free-of-charge programs to more families and more communities during this unpredictable period."

Attributable to Ronald C. Nelson, Executive Director, Long Beach Museum of Art:

"This past year has underscored the museum's vital role in the community that we've called home for 71 years. The unprecedented circumstances of 2020 pushed us not only to rethink and reorganize but reach out to our local and regional constituencies for the strength and support to endure. This grant will ensure the continued vibrancy of the Long Beach Museum of Art, enabling us to move forward with strategic, mission-driven arts innovation and engagement."

Attributable to Elizabeth Cline, Executive Director, The Industry:

"The LA Arts Recovery Fund emboldens us to continue embracing risk and to have the courage to increase programming and thrive. This grant is an investment in artist-driven and experimental new work. It helps The Industry remain essential to LA as leaders in the arts ecosystem and as part of the civic identity."

Attributable to Anne Ellegood, Good Works Executive Director, Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (ICA LA):

"ICA LA is extremely grateful and honored to receive this significant grant from the LA Arts Recovery Fund. Support from the LA Arts Recovery Fund will allow us not only to successfully tackle day-to-day operations but to take steps toward realizing our vision for the future. We believe ICA LA has enormous potential to flourish, and this vote of confidence from the LA Arts Recovery Fund is energizing and emboldening. ICA LA will continue to respond to this moment with urgency by building our capacity in ways that are sustainable, equitable, and forward-thinking."

Attributable to Jean Davidson, President and CEO, Los Angeles Master Chorale:

“The artists, staff, and Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Master Chorale are immensely grateful to all the funders of the LA Arts Recovery Fund. With this grant, the Los Angeles Master Chorale will recover losses from more than a year of cancelled performances and be given resources to create a more inclusive, diverse, equitable, and accessible organization while continuing to innovate the choral art form.”

Attributable to Gregg T. Daniel, Artistic Director, Lower Depth Theatre:

“Lower Depth Theatre is thrilled to have received a grant from the LA Arts Recovery Fund. The grant will allow the company to make substantial improvements to our infrastructure and immediately aid us in the development of future programming. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic effectively crippled our ability to service and communicate with the communities we serve. The grant will in effect reinstate planning, streamline implementation, and maintain the personnel needed to continue crafting and presenting BIPOC-centered narratives. The significance of this grant cannot be overstated, as it will support the continued existence of our theatre company.”

Attributable to Sonia Marie De Leon de Vega, Director, Santa Cecilia Orchestra:

“Santa Cecilia Orchestra is thrilled to be the recipient of an LA Arts Recovery Fund grant. The pandemic resulted in an entire year with no revenue sources to support our artistic mission, so our need and potential for working capital is tremendous. The grant will help us restart vital activities like our in-person concerts and community programs in underserved Latino neighborhoods, as well as upgrade our infrastructure to address post-pandemic safety measures for our musicians, our audiences, and our students. Every part of our artistic outreach will benefit from this generous gift.”

Attributable to Luis Antonio Pichardo, Founder and Executive Director, DSTL Arts:

“DSTL Arts is blessed to receive support through the LA Arts Recovery Fund at such a transformative time in our organization’s history. With this financial support, our organization’s mission to inspire, teach, and hire emerging artists from underserved communities will continue to guide our programs as they evolve to meet the needs of our community—primarily, creating greater access to technology, instruction, and other materials for the creation and reproduction of new works of literary and visual art. Our Mobile Art Lab has been bolstered during this pandemic with funds like these and will now form a crucial part of bringing arts experiences and opportunities to the historically marginalized and underserved communities DSTL Arts serves. Our organizational purpose, as stated by the acronym in our name, is to mentor emerging artists as they Develop Skills and Transcend Limits through the Arts, and the support we are receiving through the LA Arts Recovery Fund is opening new doors for not just our organization, but for the many emerging artists whose voices will shape the cultural landscape of Los Angeles and beyond.”

Attributable to Dustin Seo, Assistant Artistic Director, and Vivo, Operations Manager, Street Symphony:

“With the generous support of the LA Arts Recovery Fund, Street Symphony can continue to share music as a catalyst for human connection with communities affected by homelessness and incarceration in Los Angeles. As Street Symphony returns to in-person programming at its partner facilities in Skid Row, support from the LA Arts Recovery Fund allows Street Symphony to dive deeper in relationship with participants, work more intentionally with partner facility staff, and practice protocols to ensure the safety of all participants. Funding directly supports the artistry of Street Symphony musicians to show up and share their world-class artistry with the communities Street Symphony serves.”

Attributable to Kate Gale, Managing Editor, Red Hen Press:

“As we have moved through 2021, the effects of the pandemic have caused us to spend ever more time on the day-to-day struggle for survival. This grant allows us to focus on the work we do in the community as independent book publishers, literary event programmers, and stewards of the Writing in the Schools program that hires published authors to teach poetry workshops to underserved students in Los Angeles schools. We feel immense gratitude to the LA Arts Recovery Fund supporters who have enabled us to make the shift from scarcity to sustainability.”

Attributable to Steven Y. Wong, Director, Vincent Price Art Museum at East Los Angeles College:

“The LA Arts Recovery Fund grant award is critical for the Vincent Price Art Museum as we plan and adapt to the impact of COVID-19. It will allow the museum to boldly reimagine the role of the museum, its place and relevance in our campus community at East Los Angeles College, and the broader Los Angeles arts community through the development of a post-pandemic strategic plan.”

Attributable to Ann Burroughs, President and CEO, Japanese American National Museum (JANM):

“The Japanese American National Museum is honored to be part of this distinguished cohort of sister arts and cultural organizations that have been given the designation of American Cultural Treasures, especially coming out of a difficult year of pandemic. At this time of racial reckoning and increased hate against Asians, it is more important than ever that we are able to offer transformative programs and be a place of refuge, healing, and hope for communities across Los Angeles. We are deeply grateful for this support that will help us meet our immediate needs and continue to build for our future.”

Attributable to Betty Avila, Executive Director, Self Help Graphics:

“BIPOC artists and the organizations that support and create space for BIPOC communities are cultural anchors that have had to navigate in a kind of survival mode that mainstream arts organizations have not ever had to. This critical multi-year support of longstanding Los Angeles art gems is a first step toward more equitable distribution of resources, so that organizations like Self Help Graphics and our peers can focus on fulfilling the creative needs of our communities and not having to manage through precarity, particularly in this post-COVID time.”

Attributable to Corrie Siegel, Executive Director, Museum of Neon Arts (MONA):

“Artworks are time machines, engines of wonder, keepers of possibility. As our doors were forced closed during the pandemic, the urgency grew to educate, spark curiosity, and honor the historic legacy of our communities. Small museums like MONA are in constant fear of extinction, and a year-long closure could have turned our lights off for good. With support from the LA Arts Recovery Fund, we can plan toward a bright future.”

Attributable to Diane Luby Lane, Founder and Executive Director, Get Lit — Words Ignite:

“We are so grateful for the generosity of the LA Arts Recovery Fund! No students or schools are ever turned away from our services for lack of funds—from our unlimited in-school programs to free summer camps to media career training. This year we have had to pivot, quickly working to convert our award-winning curriculum online for hybrid learning. This grant comes at such a critical time and will allow us to continue to serve our students and teachers who have been so severely and traumatically impacted by the pandemic.”

Attributable to Sarah Williams, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Women’s Center for Creative Work:

“We are incredibly grateful to receive this grant from the LA Arts Recovery Fund during this very destabilizing period. This kind of overarching support is desperately needed to keep people employed and to help smaller arts organizations weather the months and years to come. Multi-year support of this kind allows for us to evolve thoughtfully and sustainably, and will go a long way in ensuring a meaningful arts landscape on the other side of the pandemic.”

Attributable to John Malpede, Director, Los Angeles Poverty Department:

“Los Angeles Poverty Department is a very grateful recipient of the LA Arts Recovery Fund grant. In a time of continued uncertainty, receiving a sizable two-year grant will not only support our arts programming in Skid Row, but will allow us to make better decisions as we continue to develop activities that respond to community needs.”

Nancy Cheryll Davis-Bellamy, Artistic Producing Director, Towne Street Theatre:

“The Towne Street Theatre is very grateful for the funding received from the LA Arts Recovery Fund. It will assist us with sustainability, a critical element for all small arts organizations, and help us continue to provide theatre as a service to the community.”

Attributable to DJ Kurs, Artistic Director, Deaf West Theatre:

“We are grateful to the LA Arts Recovery Fund for meaningful support that comes at a critical time for our company and our artists. We look forward to returning to our stages and to reuniting with the extraordinary community comprised of Deaf and hearing artists and patrons for our 30th anniversary. We have used the ‘quiet’ time during the pandemic to experiment and to plan for a new normal where streaming technology allows for increased accessibility. This grant will allow us to implement many of the things we dreamed about during the pandemic.”

Attributable to Carol A. Wells, Founder and Executive Director, Center for the Study of Political Graphics:

“The Center for the Study of Political Graphics is an activist, educational, and research archive with more than 90,000 human rights and protest posters from throughout California and the world. For more than 30 years, CSPG has been collecting and exhibiting posters created by and about historically marginalized communities and their struggles for justice. However, accessing the collection has always been a challenge for the artists, activists, students, teachers, researchers, and curators who want to use our resources. When COVID-19 prevented onsite visits, we looked for innovative ways to expand online access. This generous grant from the LA Arts Recovery Fund will support the creation and staffing of an in-house digitization station that will enable us to digitize thousands of posters annually. It will transform our capacity for adding images online and tremendously broaden free public access to the collection.”

Attributable to Christopher Mack, Co-Founder, Urban Voices Project:

“Music models how to grow healthy in community, or in relationship with others. It is the catalyst for agency. Urban Voices Project is on the cutting edge of support and community; our values are to listen louder, work together, and share yourself with others. The LA Arts Recovery Fund grant will help UVP build the base to improve programs for our community members, create a better workplace, and inspire others to become their own resource for positive change.”

Attributable to Joanelle Romero, Founder, President, and CEO, Red Nation Celebration Institute:

“Red Nation Celebration Institute is honored to receive this grant from the LA Arts Recovery Fund. This award will impact our work in effecting systemic change through film, television, new media, and the arts and amplifying the voices of American Indian and Indigenous Nations.”

Attributable to Kimberly Bautista, Founder and Executive Director, Justice For My Sister Collective:

“The LA Arts Recovery Fund is a big deal for Justice for My Sister. With it, we're hiring an Operations Manager for the summer to help us streamline our administrative processes, so that we can continue our work to train young people of color to make movies with a racial justice, gender-inclusive, trauma-informed lens. This is a crucial juncture for us as an organization, as we're expanding our services in the coming months to shift the tide and ensure that the TV and film industry elevates stories marked by agency, healing, consent, and justice.”

Attributable to Snehal Desai, Artistic Director, East West Players, Inc.:

“East West Players is tremendously grateful to the LA Arts Recovery Fund for providing us with this support. This award allows us to keep moving forward during a time when visibility for Asian Americans is urgently vital to combatting the violence against our communities. This grant will allow us to utilize the transformative power of storytelling to empower and reframe outdated narratives of the Asian American experience.”

Attributable to Damien S. Navarro, Executive Director, Outfest:

“This grant from the LA Arts Recovery Fund will support the expansion of Outfest programs dedicated to developing the careers of our LGBTQ+ and BIPOC creators, helping pave the way for their stories to be more easily told.”

Attributable to Kerri Stoughton-Jackson, Deputy Director, Outfest:

“A grant of this size is a tremendous acknowledgement of Outfest's historical reach and roots within Los Angeles. Like so many other arts organizations in LA, we furloughed employees to address the loss of income due to the pandemic. This award from the LA Arts Recovery Fund will allow us to recover these positions and create new ones to support the digital expansion that occurred in the last year.”

Attributable to Sarah Russin, Executive Director, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE):

“This significant grant from the LA Arts Recovery Fund arrives at an important time, helping us to bolster our operations, acknowledge our cultural workers, and engage our diverse audiences in anticipation of the challenging years ahead. We are thrilled by this show of support for LACE, which fortifies our ability to serve as the longest-running incubator for contemporary artists and curators in Los Angeles.”

Attributable to Jilly Canizares, Executive Director, Filipino American Symphony Orchestra (FASO):

“With this grant, the Filipino American Symphony Orchestra (FASO) will be able to sustain its staff and recover its music education services to serve 400 youth and their families throughout Los Angeles County. This grant is pivotal to furthering FASO's mission to advance Asian Pacific American music on the world stage.”

Attributable to Jan Williamson, Executive Director, 18th Street Arts Center:

“18th Street Arts Center recognizes the capacity of artmaking to transform and reimagine our communities. This award from the LA Arts Recovery Fund is transformative. Not only will it impact the lives of over 100 contemporary artists during the grant period but generations more in the decades to come. It will allow us to enhance our artist-in-residence experience and significantly expand our work with diverse community partners.”

Attributable to Frank Escamilla, Alyesha Wise, Matthew Cuban Hernandez, Chris Henrikson, Art Quiros, Directors Council, Street Poets Inc:

“Street Poets Inc is deeply grateful to receive this generous award at this exciting, pivotal time in our organization’s history. The LA Arts Recovery Fund grant will serve both to water the deep roots of our creative community in Los Angeles and to further activate the kind of visionary, poetic imagination that is so desperately needed in the world today.”