



Creative Communities San Diego
FY25 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: 63

Funding Awarded: \$2,040,912

Organization	Award Amount	Project Description
Adams Avenue Business Association	\$ 26,945	The 42nd Annual Adams Avenue Street Fair is San Diego's largest free music festival & street fair, scheduled for Sept 21 & 22, 2024. The celebration is held on ten blocks of Adams Avenue and in Adams Ave Park in the community of Normal Heights. The event features 90 bands performing on 7 stages, 300 exhibitors, beer gardens, beer tasting, festival food and giant carnival rides. Hours are from 10 am-10 pm on Saturday, 9-21-24 and 10 am-6 pm on Sunday, 9-22-24.
Armed Services YMCA - San Diego	\$ 178,205	The Port of San Diego Big Bay Boom July 4th Fireworks show will take place at 9pm on Thursday, July 4, 2024. This is a Tideland's Signature Event that requires extraordinary pyrotechnics choreographed with adapted musical selections on TV and radio on up to four barges across North San Diego Bay. This event is free to the public with an expected 300,000 viewers around the bay in the various parks as well as tens of thousands of homes and condominiums, boats, hotels and restaurants.

Asian Culture and Media Alliance	\$ 8,801	Asian Culture and Media Alliance or ACMA will host the 12th Annual Asian & Pacific Cultural Festival on May 17, 2025, at Mira Mesa community park to celebrate the diversity of AANHPI cultures and ethnicity while building inter-generational and intercultural bridges across all communities. Attendees will enjoy various ethnic foods, traditional and contemporary performances, cultural experiences, and much more. This event is free to the public
Asian Story Theater	\$ 5,000	To develop and present a new play about the US Census, and our collective attitude toward this increasingly antiquated every-ten-years undertaking. A ticket value will be established, though the collaborating organizations will have great flexibility in actual price (if any).
Best Practice	\$ 12,475	Over the course of a one-year exhibition and event 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. Some of these exhibitions and events will be the work of one artist while others will be group exhibitions presented by guest curators. During this series, events will be organized to engage with the local community and to collaborate with other culture creators in the immediate region.
Bocon Inc.	\$ 46,894	Our arts education initiative aims to transform Balboa Elementary and Knox Middle into hubs of creative learning and community engagement. This program continues our 20-week arts residency, enriched with after-school youth development activities. With the involvement of the community, two original plays will be developed: a Filipina superhero story and "Memory's Mixtape," a hip-hop journey exploring parenting through our inner child. This program will be free or significantly reduced costs.

Bodhi Tree Concerts	\$ 5,000	Bodhi Tree Concerts will present our annual free international music festival – Music en la Calle. We hire 25+ local artists to perform music and dance from Mexico, West Africa, Native, Karen, Latin America, Japan, and more. Music en la Calle is held in the heart of City Heights and serves approximately 1000 attendees each year. Audiences come from across SD County, bringing a wide array of people to the neighborhood to celebrate the vibrant & diverse artists who call San Diego home.
California Lawyers for the Arts	\$ 76,548	The proposed project will expand CLA's free and low-cost art/law educational programming and bi-national symposium, Intersections: Art & Law at the Border, for the benefit of artists and arts organizations and will expand Designing Creative Futures, our creative workforce development program for previously incarcerated individuals, which provides paid arts internships, career/education counseling, personal and professional development workshops and social services support for people on re-entry.
Casa Familiar	\$ 40,374	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, 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.
Centro Cultural de la Raza	\$ 7,641	Day of the Dead Altar Viewing and Procession. Each year community members and artists build about 20 altars in our gallery space. We have a formal viewing/explanation event. Prep for event includes craft-making educational workshops to teach about the meaning and process of building an altar. On November 2nd we have a procession. All events related to this project are free to the public.

Contact Arts DBA San Diego Fringe Festival	\$ 118,628	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. Our diverse lineup includes theater, cabaret, circus, dance, & countless other forms of art.
CoTA (Collaborations: Teachers and Artists)	\$ 11,096	CoTA's free multi-day teacher Institutes offer educators the opportunity to collaborate with artists and educators while exploring the power of project-based learning through the arts. Institutes provide a rich mix of learning experiences designed to enhance instruction with hands-on art activities, inquiry, group work, and authentic performance tasks. Teachers discover how the arts can be incorporated to engage and motivate students in studying social studies, science, language arts, and math.
Design Forward Alliance	\$ 55,874	San Diego Design Week is a community-driven event that represent the diverse design disciplines in the region. Since 2020, SDDW is a celebration showcasing the region's binational, multicultural, and interdisciplinary design community with programs as: installations, workshops, and presentations. In past editions, San Diego Design Week has had over 100+ program events. Learn more about the 2022 program here: https://sddesignweek.org/ - It will be the World Design Capital Design Experience.
Director of Public Realm	\$ 7,747	The project will transform 10 vacant storefronts in Downtown San Diego into vibrant hubs of artistic expression that reflects the city's cultural diversity and artistic dynamism. As pedestrians explore Downtown, they will encounter a curated art walk that not only beautifies the area but also stimulates conversation and fosters a deeper connection between the public and the artistic community.

Gente Unida	\$ 5,000	"Our Walls Speak", inspires all community stakeholders to join voices to articulate a path for mural education, preservation and advocacy in the face of the challenges of gentrification, encroaching developers and the bureaucratic hurdles that immigrant, minority, and the poor face protecting their own, "Painted history books on walls". Veteran Chicano Muralists, Conservation Experts and Mural Artists share best practices, case studies and innovations from across the USA and abroad.
Get Empowered Today, Inc.	\$ 7,068	Arts Amplifying Youth (AAY!) is a program for young artists to explore and develop their creativity and leadership skills. Each year we work together to design and host a summit that offers a platform for youth to identify the changes they want to see in their communities and through the arts lead the way in making a difference. AAY! offers a paid opportunity for young artists to develop the tools they need to activate and amplify their voices by providing coaching, mentorship, and resources.
Gray Area Foundation for the Arts	\$ 204,091	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 7/2024 and 6/2025. Projects to include interactive experiences like urban gardening, robotic gardening, visual art displays, performing art exhibits, and more.
Hillcrest Business Improvement Association	\$ 19,172	The funding will be for Hillcrest CityFest~ a celebration of everything that's wonderful about living in the city. This event is celebrating its 40th year in Hillcrest. This one-day event features two stages with over 20 hours of live performances, hundreds of artist and crafter vendors, children's art and activities, diverse food vendors, and interactive arts activities. The event draws over 100,000 people to Hillcrest from across the region on the second Sunday in August.

House of Panama	\$ 5,000	The House of Panama requests support for free educational activities that exposes those visiting Balboa Park to the culture and history of Panama. This includes the Lawn Program in August with a parade of Polleras and a presentation about Panama's Indigenous groups, sharing our holiday traditions at December Nights, highlighting Afro-Panamanian art and literature during Black History Month in February, and sharing our vibrant and unique cuisine at the May Ethnic Food Fair.
Ilan-Lael Inc.	\$ 5,000	Lado a Lado showcases artist James Hubbell and his work of fostering cross-border understanding. Hubbell challenged preconceived notions about the San Diego-Tijuana border enlisting artists and non-artists alike from both countries to work lado a lado (side by side) on works of art and architecture that benefited many facets of Mexican society. The exhibit will be spread across four San Diego City Library satellite branches and will be free to the public.
Indian Fine Arts Academy of San Diego	\$ 27,628	The festival theme is, "oneness of the universe." We are incorporating specially curated several novel events including world music, Gypsy music, Hindustani-Carnatic violin jugalbandhi, percussion fusion, and Bollywood dance as a continuation from 2024 festival. This festival involves 71 artists from India, 26 from USA and 125 students from San Diego. During this festival IFAASD pays musical homage to musicians like Maestro Ravi Shankar. Most of the events are ticketed.
Italian American Art and Culture Association of San Diego	\$ 14,034	The 18th Annual San Diego Italian Film Festival (SDIFF) will be held from October 3 through October 13, 2024, at the MOPA at the San Diego Museum of Art in Balboa Park and at UC San Diego's Park and Market. The festival will feature the best in Italian recently released films with themes of social justice, women's voices, immigration, a retrospective film series, a short-film series competition, guest artists Q/As, and a feSta event with food, live music and the Ristretto awards ceremony.

Karama	\$ 5,000	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.
Karen Organization of San Diego	\$ 5,000	Karen New Year celebration is the biggest cultural celebration for refugees from Burma resettled in San Diego. Sharing various cultural dance and music performances with audiences, this event allows the general public in San Diego to learn about their new neighbors from Burma and the rich and beautiful culture that they bring with them to San Diego. In FY 2025, we are planning to host the 2764 Karen New Year celebration on Saturday, January 11, 2025. The event is free to the public.
Kyoto Symposium Organization	\$ 84,347	With the Inamori Foundation, the KPS hosts three Laureates each year in mid-March, many of whom never visit San Diego. Each Laureate, awarded in the fields of "Advanced Technology," "Basic Sciences" and "Arts & Philosophy," will provide a lecture and/or workshop at UC San Diego and at other arts organizations/venues. All lectures/workshops are free and open to the public. We invite and bus 1,000 high school students throughout San Diego and the Tijuana region each year to these presentations.
La Maestra Family Clinic Inc.	\$ 72,679	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 opportunities for healing and personal growth through arts with a focus on health and wellness.

Linda Vista Multi-Cultural Fair Inc.	\$ 8,941	The Linda Vista Multi-Cultural Fair and Parade, now in its fortieth year, will produce a one-day festival on April 26, 2025. This festival is free to the public and strives to promote cultural awareness and understanding within the City of San Diego.
Little Saigon San Diego	\$ 23,096	2025 San Diego Lunar New Year Festival will be a 3-day celebration features dazzling lanterns, folk and traditional performances, arts and cultural exhibitions, lion dances and firecrackers, and plenty of family fun activities for the kids. More importantly, the festival is inclusive and free.
Mandate Project Impact, Inc.	\$ 25,027	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.
Mariachi Scholarship Foundation	\$ 34,094	The 2024 San Diego International Mariachi Summit features performances by some of the world's greatest mariachis, San Diego's own Mariachi Champana Nevin and the San Diego Binational Symphony Orchestra at the Balboa Theatre, Civic and other venues. The Summit features 3 days of mariachi and ballet folklorico student workshops led by these visiting artists, plus seminars for teachers, mariachi history museum, free student performances, and a holiday "Las posadas" Mexican Christmas concert.

Media Heritage Inc.	\$ 9,560	The annual FilmOut LGBTQ film festival will showcase over 30 documentary, short, and feature films from local and global filmmakers who affirm and validate the stories of LGBTQ individuals that have largely been repressed by the motion picture industry. The festival increases visibility of LGBTQ individuals and highlights LGBTQ artists, all while engaging audiences with LGBTQ-inclusive cinema in multiple venues throughout Balboa Park. The public may purchase screening or festival tickets.
Medium Photography Inc.	\$ 14,074	The Medium Festival of Photography is a signature arts and cultural program presenting educational workshops, artist talks, studio tours and exhibitions across San Diego County and Tijuana. We offer free and ticketed resources to students, educators, photographers and arts professionals, including professional development programs that connect artists with curators, publishers and gallery owners across the spectrum of fine art photography.
Monarch School Project	\$ 34,625	The Monarch School Project is a 501 (c)(3) organization. We established our very own epicenter for our arts programming, The Chrysalis: Monarch School's Center for the Arts in the Barrio Logan community. The arts programming follows a Creative Youth Development model, and we seek funding for our free community arts programming. This includes (1) Art and Music Classes for children (0-5) and their families/caregivers; (2) Two-Culminating Community Exhibits; and (3) Two- Community Productions.
Mother Sponge Inc. dba Set + Drift	\$ 5,000	Through a two-week stay hosted by a designer in San Diego, a Tijuana based designer is invited to further their practice and engage with the local community, sharing their work through a workshop/exhibition at a community venue (free, open to the public). This project is part of an ongoing dialogue that will later include a Tijuana residency hosting a designer from San Diego. Directors: Stacy Kelley (San Diego, Set + Drift), Katalina Silva (Enigma Creative, Tijuana Design Week, CreativeMornings).

Musicians for Education Inc.	\$ 19,976	Street of Dreams Live! spoken word community concert. Logan Library Community Room/Cultural Center for Programs, Exhibits, & Displays. May 4, 2025, 2 p.m., 567 S. 28th St., San Diego, 92113. Event is free, donations accepted. Screening of student video, performance of spoken word and poetry demonstrating the power of art education to achieve social change and solve the problems of drug addiction, alcoholism, and generational poverty, exhibit of student photography and poetry, Q & A social hour.
North Park Organization of Businesses, Inc.	\$ 25,296	North Park Music Festival - This event has existed in various iterations over the past 20 years. The festival will strongly emphasize the diversity of the community around us. Our goal is to have performances by people that represent a wide range of cultures and heritages. The festival will feature live and curated art, dance, music, spoken word, street vendors, and food. The ultimate goal is to showcase North Park as a community that celebrates inclusivity.
Ocean Beach Merchant's Association Inc.	\$ 24,851	The 45th Annual Ocean Beach Street Fair & Chili Cook-Off will be held on June 28, 2025 in the heart of the eclectic community of Ocean Beach. This free event which has been a San Diego tradition since 1980 showcases our community to attendees of all ages. The event includes 3 stages of live music featuring local artists, a community mural project, a community chili cook-off, family fun zone, Artist Alley highlighting local artisans, merchandise and food vendors, a beer garden and more.
Pacific Beach Community Development Corp	\$ 17,906	Pacific BeachFest is a vibrant coastal celebration. Featuring an eclectic lineup of bands on 3 stages and 60+ artisan vendors. Other activities at BeachFest include a beach volleyball tournament, 5k and half marathon, interactive art installations, a family-friendly Kids' Zone, and a diverse range of food and beverage, in the food court. The festival unites the community in a celebration of music, art, and the sun-kissed spirit of Pacific Beach. 30-50k attendees enjoy BeachFest annually.

Pacific Beach Town Council	\$ 7,157	We are seeking funding for Concerts on the Green(COTG), a free family friendly concert series located at Kate Sessions Park which easily attracts crowds in the thousands, providing an incredible opportunity to local artists from all across San Diego. Additionally the PBTC has included underserved communities by increasing outreach in these areas and prominently featuring bands from the Promise Zone in the concerts. Historically we have held 4 concerts per year, but this year we are planning 6.
Poway Center for the Performing Arts Foundation	\$ 11,724	We will offer 7, FREE, Virtual Performance Curriculum (VPCs) to City of San Diego students. VPCs are multi-disciplinary performances that include learning modules, show videos, 3-D theater tour and in-person workshops/assemblies. VFT includes assemblies at NORTH CITY high schools (Del Norte, Westview, Mt. Carmel) for 1,900 4th grade students. VFTs will reach 49,000+ City of San Diego students to increase access to performing arts and will include IN-PERSON workshops in 20+ classrooms.
Rolando Community Council Inc.	\$ 7,447	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 Kid's Zone (featuring inflatables, climbing walls, games, crafts and entertainment for young people), 130+ local artists/makers booths, 20 local food vendors, and a local craft beer garden.
Saikat	\$ 23,071	We plan to conduct workshops (3 months, free to public) on Indian Classical & Folk Dance (final performance in July and in October). We will also invite artists (renowned Indian/Bangladeshi classical/folk/modern musicians) to perform at ""Krishti"" (July) & ""Sharod Utsav""(October). The expected number of attendees would be >1000. ""Natyomela"" (a drama festival) will be held in summer to cater different drama groups both from local & from different cities in USA (in English & in Bengali).

San Diego Alpha Foundation	\$ 5,000	The project we're seeking funding for is the 43rd annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. parade and festival. These events commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. King and his dream while striving to bring the community together for peace and harmony in a fun filled package. What makes the MLK Parade and festival a desirable attraction is that it's a celebration of a dream of unity, togetherness and equality. It's about being all inclusive and celebrating our differences. The events are free.
San Diego Audubon Society	\$ 25,836	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 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 Film Foundation	\$ 152,620	The San Diego International Film Festival, celebrates its 23rd year in 2024 with 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 programs. The festival is free to high school students who participate in our FOCUS on Impact series, which brings to light issues of social justice. Discounted tickets are available.
San Diego Guild of Puppetry Inc.	\$ 16,933	Our "Community Puppetry Project" will bring free, exciting, often bilingual, puppetry arts experiences to students, families, rec centers, parks, etc., as requested, and at times co-designed, by those living in the Promise Zone, City Heights, SE San Diego and adjoining neighborhoods, to meet their needs. As always, they center on creating interactive, empowering arts experiences, growing the work we have long brought to these deserving, but low income, multicultural communities.

San Diego LGBT Pride	\$ 204,091	The week long San Diego Pride celebration will be held in July 2024. These events will highlight the broad range of artistic and cultural diversity within San Diego's LGBTQ+ community and include She Fest, Stonewall Rally, a Pride Parade, and Festival highlighting music and dance by hundreds of LGBTQ+ artists. San Diego Pride also seeks support for year-round programming that includes Arts and Culture components. Tickets for this program are low-cost, free, and open to the public.
San Diego Made	\$ 7,366	San Diego Made: LIVE, a free bi-annual event at the San Diego Made Factory in District 8, showcases local craftsmanship with interactive art demos, performances, and exhibitions. Focused on celebrating San Diego's creative talent, it features makers in their studios, offering a participatory experience to spread creative knowledge and inspire innovation. Targeting 1,500 attendees from the public and city visitors, this event is distinct and independent from the IMPACT grant event series.
San Diego Parks Foundation	\$ 25,102	SDPF is requesting support for "I Love My Park Day," May 17, 2025, 2 p.m.–6 p.m. at NTC Park. The event will feature multicultural, multigenerational, engaging activities including arts, culture, music, dance, food, and opportunities for community members to access health and social services resources and support. Arts and Culture activities: multicultural performers-professional international dancers to world singers, an art exhibition, film, and video screenings. See Project Summary attached.
San Diego Performing Arts League	\$ 5,000	San Diego Theatre Month is a month-long celebration of the live arts, where tickets are offered at \$15, \$30 and \$45 price points for theatre, dance and music performances. This project is not free to the public but increases access to the arts by enabling patrons to experience live shows at a substantially discounted price. We promote this event through multiple media formats with special emphasis on underserved communities in San Diego County.

<p>San Diego State University Research Foundation for KPBS</p>	<p>\$ 26,446</p>	<p>One Book, One San Diego is the region's premier community-wide reading program. Through One Book, KPBS seeks to draw the community together by encouraging everyone to read and discuss the same book.</p>
<p>San Diego Synergy Arts Network</p>	<p>\$ 5,000</p>	<p>To fund a free art exhibition opportunity that features three artists from the San Diego/Tijuana border region. This opportunity allows three, local artists to gain exposure, career progression, and helps highlight San Diego as a creative center locally and internationally. The exhibition costs will include an advertisement in ArtForum, Videography services, catalogue text, design and print, volunteer payment, curation, transportation and delivery of artwork, free public lecture series and tour.</p>
<p>San Diego Underground Arts</p>	<p>\$ 5,000</p>	<p>We are seeking funding for our annual arts festival which celebrates the experimentation in film, video, audio, and performance-based mediums. This involves curating screenings, musical acts, and expanded cinema performances that showcase the work of artists from diverse backgrounds, including those who have been historically marginalized or underrepresented. We prioritize accessibility as much as we can afford, which is why this event is free and open to the public.</p>
<p>Sherman Heights Community Center</p>	<p>\$ 5,000</p>	<p>Our 30th Día de los Muertos festivity is a joyous occasion when the memory of our ancestors & the continuity of life is celebrated. This is a long-standing, grassroots tradition in Sherman Heights attracting thousands of visitors from across San Diego County, Los Angeles, Arizona, and the neighboring Baja Region during this weeks-long celebration. Festivities include community altars, workshops, tours, a youth celebration & procession. Participation is free except for fundraising activities.</p>

<p>Spirit of the Fourth, Inc.</p>	<p>\$ 9,944</p>	<p>This day-long event begins with a Community Fair. Its activities include: a Car Show, a Patriotic Pet Contest, a food court, a Military Ceremony for veterans, kids' games, a quilt show and vendor booths. In the afternoon the Spirit of the Fourth parade is held over a 1.25 mile route with over 80 entries including veterans, high school bands, community groups and elected officials. In the evening we have a fireworks show. The Car Show has an entry fee but all other events are free to the public.</p>
<p>T3 Triple Threat Youth Mentors</p>	<p>\$ 5,000</p>	<p>T3's summer program is a 10-week musical theatre training camp for youth ages 6-18 in a conservatory setting. Sixty students (allowing more participation if demand increases) gain enriching opportunities to learn or improve their dance, voice, and acting abilities. The program culminates with a multi-performance production at the City's North Park Recreation Center in a safe environment where students learn to express themselves clearly and creatively through theatre-based education.</p>
<p>Teatro San Diego</p>	<p>\$ 5,000</p>	<p>TMM's 2024-25 Discovery Series will include two shows: ECHOES OF VALOR: MEMO'S JOURNEY, a play set against the backdrop of the Vietnam War, that pays tribute to Manuel "Memo" Cavada, a distinguished Air Force veteran and two-time Purple Heart recipient from San Diego. MANILA SKY by Paul James Kruse, a love story with music based in the Filipino community, will be presented as a staged reading featuring a multicultural cast.</p>
<p>The Bon Temps Social Club of San Diego</p>	<p>\$ 115,781</p>	<p>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. Tickets range from \$35-\$225. Children under 18 are free. Complimentary & discounted tickets are made available in the community. Free admission is provided in exchange for volunteer hours.</p>

<p>The Cooper Family Foundation</p>	<p>\$ 14,632</p>	<p>Our Juneteenth Festival (6/21/25) will be a celebration of the end of slavery and the historical Emancipation Proclamation. This community festival, free to the public, is a cultural and educational experience featuring African drummers and spiritual dance, poetry and spoken word performances, R&B music, blues band, hip-hop, and jazz saxophonist performances. Free food is provided to all who attend. The festival includes community members who often are excluded from such events because of cost.</p>
<p>The High Steppers Drill Team</p>	<p>\$ 24,259</p>	<p>The High Steppers seeks funding for its Drill Team to strengthen 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.</p>
<p>Two Rooms</p>	<p>\$ 5,000</p>	<p>Two Rooms seeks funding to support a year's worth of two-person exhibitions and solo performances. Two Rooms will curate five to six independent exhibitions that showcase and uplift emerging artists from San Diego and Tijuana. Pairing artists who work across media, Two Rooms puts artists in direct conversation with one another and fosters a local dialogue around contemporary art. All exhibitions, artist-talks, and events are free and engage the artistic community and the general public.</p>
<p>VAPA Foundation</p>	<p>\$ 25,810</p>	<p>The VAPA Foundation is the only nonprofit arts education organization in San Diego with a partnership with SDUSD to provide targeted arts education for schools otherwise under resourced. We do so through honor concerts and recognition events, public facing events for the community, and collaboration with arts organization partners.</p>

<p>Viet Voices</p>	<p>\$ 5,000</p>	<p>Viet Voices is partnering w/ a Vietnamese artist, Trang Nguyen, the lead on this project to collaborate w/ other AAPI artists to curate an exhibition of artwork & performances to raise awareness on mental health in the AAPI culture. The issue of mental health isn't discussed in our households enough, contributing to communication breakdown between our elders & the younger generation growing up in America that we're hoping to heal. The exhibit is potentially named, "Conversations w/ Our Parents".</p>
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