



Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County

SUPPORTING ALL THE ARTS

Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County 1025 Escobar Street, 4th Floor, Martinez, CA 94553
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Dear Measure X Community Advisory Board,

The Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County would like to thank you for the opportunity to present at the July 28th meeting!

As demonstrated by our inspiring panelists and public speakers, we're fortunate to represent every community throughout our County.

As a follow-up, we wanted to share the latest data on California Arts Council funding (CAC). The state arts agency has made it clear they're looking for organizations that have secure investment. In 2020, the CAC granted Contra Costa County organizations 31 grants to 14 recipients for a total of \$587,097. In 2021, Contra Costa County organizations only received 5 grants to 5 recipients for a total of \$138,000. The lack of County arts investment and infrastructure is having an impact.

The time is now to build an arts foundation to secure signature programs such as *ABOUTFACE*, *Poetry Out Loud*, *Arts and Culture Prospectus*, *Youth Advisor*, *Art Passages*, *Arts Cafe*, *Arts Recognition Awards*, and *Arts Directory & Calendar*. Transformational proposed programs include a *District Public Art Program*, *Community Art Fund*, *Youth Advisor* in each District, *Artist-in-Residency in the School* pilot program, *Arts Connection*, and *Build Structures* initiative.

\$625,000 will truly make a difference!

Let's build an art legacy for Contra Costa County!

With your support, we can do this!

Sincerely,

Jenny Balisle
Managing Director
Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County

Arts and Culture Commission Funding History and Summary:

- The Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County was established on December 13th, 1994. Since then, funding has historically been a grant match to the California Arts Council (CAC).
- As a state agency, the California Arts Council supports local arts infrastructure and programming statewide through grants, programs, and services.
Link: <https://arts.ca.gov/about/about-us/>
- The average Contra Costa County grant match has been \$31,000.
- For the 21-22 funding cycle, the Arts Commission received a \$2,500 *Jump StArts* planning grant.
- In 2020, Contra Costa County received 31 CAC grants. In 2021, Contra Costa County received 5 CAC grants.
- If we're awarded Measure X funds, we've proposed *Art Connection* (connect artists and art organizations for quarterly meetings for advocacy, opportunities, and data collection.) This will help in grant writing, networking, and increasing applications for CCC artists/organizations.
- The lack of arts infrastructure investment is impacting arts organizations throughout Contra Costa County.

21-22 Arts and Culture Commission CAC Applications:

- In January 2021, the Arts and Culture Commission applied to three grants for the 21-22 cycle:
 1. *Arts and Cultural Organizations General Operating Relief*
 2. *Impact Projects*
 3. *Jump StArts*
- *Arts and Cultural Organizations General Operating Relief*: "Provide relief funding to arts and cultural organizations who have experienced economic hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicant organizations can request up to \$30,000 and matching funds required."
Link: https://arts.ca.gov/grant_program/arts-cultural-organizations-general-operating-relief/
- *Impact Projects*: "Grant program intends to support collaborative projects that center artists and artistic practice in responding to issues facing California at this time, including the pervasive social, political, and economic inequalities experienced by those communities most vulnerable to, and adversely affected by, the COVID-19 pandemic. Impact Projects grants support arts organizations for collaborations between local artist(s) and community members to develop and express their own creative and artistic goals and address a community-defined need. Applicant organizations can request up to \$18,000 for the grant period. This grant does not require matching funds."
Link: https://arts.ca.gov/grant_program/impact-projects/
- *Jump StArts*: "Program supports arts and culture education, apprenticeship and or mentorship via artists-in-residence programs for at-promise youth and young people through the age of 24. Activities may take place during or outside of traditional school hours in state- or county-operated correctional facilities; public settings; online; and in arts and culture venues, community centers, school sites, youth centers, and intergenerational settings. Projects should prioritize system-engaged youth or youth who are especially vulnerable to being engaged in or by the justice system, and the project should be tailored specifically to respond to their needs. Applicant organizations can request: \$2,500 for a planning grant and up to \$50,000 for a full project grant."
Link: https://arts.ca.gov/grant_program/jump-starts/

Contra Costa County CAC 2020 & 2021 Granting Results:

2020: Contra Costa County art organizations received 31 grants to 14 recipients for a total of \$587,097

2021: Contra Costa County art organizations received 5 grants to 5 recipients for a total of \$138,000

CAC 2021 Contra Costa County Grantees:

Arts and Cultural Organizations General Operating Relief:

Grown Women Dance Collective \$30,000

Los Cenzontles Mexican Arts Center \$30,000

East Bay Center for The Performing Arts \$28,500

Impact Projects:

No Awardees: 0

Jump StArts:

Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County \$2,500

RYSE \$50,000

Link: <https://arts.ca.gov/grants/our-grantees/>

Arts and Culture Commission CAC 2021 Grant Ranking:

Arts and Cultural Organizations General Operating Relief (GEN) 2021 Panel Ranks scores from 6 to 2.6:

1. Our score 4.6.
2. 1,069 applications received and 270 grants awarded (top 25%).
3. Unfortunately, we didn't receive the grant. Program specialist feedback stated that CAC is looking for organizations that have adequate investment (not using previous CAC grant funds as a match). In addition, our main signature programs are CAC based POL and ABOUTFACE (which is discontinued). The lack of investment is showing.

Impact Projects 2021 Panel Ranks scores from 6 to 2.5.

1. Our score 5.
2. 554 applications received and 91 grants awarded (top 17%).
3. Unfortunately, we didn't receive the grant. Program specialist feedback in regards to the utility box program: "Most County organizations and councils have public art programs."

Jump StArts 2021 Panel Ranks scores from 5.6 to 1.67:

1. Our score 5.6 and we ranked #2.
2. 140 Applications received and 18 grants awarded (top 12%).
3. We were granted a \$2,500 planning grant to develop an arts program at Juvenile Hall! This is consistent with CAC looking for organizations to invest in programs!

CAC Summary:

1. The California Arts Council received a high amount of applications!
2. Secure stable funds will make the Arts and Culture Commission and community arts organizations competitive in grant applications.
3. Measure X will be an opportunity for a secure investment!