

Emerging Organization Project Specific Support

Project Name: Mood Kemistry

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Root Access Hackerspace

Address: 6153 E Fountain Way, 93727

Funding Request: \$48,500.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Mood Kemistry's project will elevate the mind, body and spirit through art, regardless of background. Fresno represents a diverse array of cultures and ethnicities. The wonderful thing about art is that it's universal. It sees no color, no age, no zip code, no boundaries. When it comes from the heart, art can uplift anyone—both creating and appreciating it. This project aims to bring to Fresno an immersive experience and intersection between art and wellbeing—opportunities to promote artistic expression with elevated ways of thinking, feeling, consuming and creating. By providing a series of unique events open to Fresno residents of all types of backgrounds, we aim to integrate art into everyday life with a spiritual element. The intent is to use art to reach thousands to elevate our mood, and to elevate our chemistry.

Anticipated Impact:

- Engage as many diverse niches from our community as possible
- Deliver presentations that serve as inspiration for participants and our audience that will elevate their mood and chemistry through art

Organization Council District: District Four (4): Councilmember Tyler Maxwell

City Service Area: My home address is 93727. However, we are also looking to serve 93728, 93722, and 93702.

Project Name: The Daedalus Workshop

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 1440 North Calaveras Street, 93728

Funding Request: \$41,855.00

Project Statement: The Daedalus Workshop’s mission is to empower our fellow artists and fellow Fresnans to navigate the communications structures standing between their art and their audiences. Whether these structures are that of community outreach, grant funding, accessibility, or advocacy — they represent barriers that are systemic and constantly overwhelming. Too many of our Fresno artists lack access to the secret words, the inside tips, or the institutional knowledge to advocate their art past these barriers. Our project will be a creative foundry for the literary skills needed to overcome those barriers. In doing so, we will bring more Fresnans into more art spaces, both on the audience’s side and on the artists’ side of the curtain.

Anticipated Impact:

- Provide creatives with written tutorials, workshop seminars, 1-on-1 guidance, “fireside chat” live webinars, and media content designed to guide them through the resources and tools available to them
- Give creatives enhanced skill sets and wider access to resource topics
- Facilitate strategic workshop and mentorship plans to serve the specific needs of participating creatives and support the infrastructure they aim to develop
- Facilitate community-based mentorships among creatives
- Allow our creatives to respond rapidly to new opportunities and resources they wish to pursue

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: This project will serve all residents within the City of Fresno. The focus neighborhoods include 93721, 93722, 93727, 93728, 93701, 93702, 93703, 93706.

Project Name: Her Voice Rises: Women's Conference

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 5256 West Yale Avenue, 93722

Funding Request: \$37,785.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Venture Method will present Her Voice Rises: Women's Conference, a multidisciplinary arts gathering in Downtown Fresno projected for Spring 2026.

This 1-day conference will engage 100–200 participants, including teens and adults (ages 15+), with free access offered to high school students. Hosted at a central venue such as the DoubleTree Hotel (TBA), the event will spotlight culturally rooted performances, storytelling, and literary arts led by women of color artists and speakers.

A free, pre-conference literary arts workshop facilitated by director Ana Roybal will serve as an entry point for youth and community members to explore voice and creative expression before the main event.

Her Voice Rises is designed to increase access to meaningful arts engagement, elevate underrepresented perspectives, and celebrate the power of voice. The project will deepen community connection and representation through story, performance, and creative leadership.

Anticipated Impact:

- Amplify women's voices through arts-centered storytelling and performance
- Create a high-quality arts experience centering women of color in Fresno
- Expand access to arts and cultural tools that foster personal development and visibility
- Deliver three pre-conference workshops with 30+ participants each, including teen girls and women of all ages
- Anticipate 100–200 attendees at the conference, with 75%+ speakers, vendors, and staff identifying as BIPOC
- Anticipate 20+ high school-aged youth as audience members

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: Ana Roybal, Director of Her Voice Rises, primarily serves Downtown Fresno (ZIP code 93721), focusing on neighborhoods near Fulton Street to the Tower District. This includes, but is not limited to, 93721, 93728, 93741, and the surrounding arts corridor. The project also actively engages participants, especially for teen girls in high school interest in the arts, from adjacent Central Valley ZIP codes 93701, 93702, 93703, 93704, and 93705.

Project Name: The Fresno Multicultural Art Expo Festival

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 6317 N. Palm Ave, 93704

Funding Request: \$49,999.40

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, we present the Fresno Multicultural Art Expo Festival, a FREE, family centered cultural celebration on May 1, 2026, at Granite Park Sports Complex. Designed for all ages, it will serve 2,000 to 4,000 attendees, prioritizing children, families, and underserved Fresno neighborhoods. A child will be surrounded by the arts captivated by cultural drumming, moved by traditional dances, inspired by multilingual singers, and amazed by vibrant visual art. A grandmother will explore handcrafted goods that reflect her memories. A father will connect with a poet whose words echo his own life. With FREE admission, FREE performances, and no vendor fees, the festival ensures dignified access to creativity. More than an event, it is a harmonious gathering where every culture is honored, every voice is welcomed, and the spirit of “Art for All. Culture for Everyone.” comes to life.

Anticipated Impact:

- Create a free, joyful expo festival that brings people from every neighborhood and culture together
- Turn Granite Park into a lively, cultural space for one unforgettable night where:
 - Over 100 local artists and vendors will get to share their talents
 - There will be drumming, live performance, and hands on creative activities to inspire expression and understanding
 - Artists and performers will get paid, vendors will earn income, and the whole space will shine with art and live music
 - Everything is free: entry, performances, vendor space, and kids’ activities
 - Kids and adults will learn about different cultures through dance, music, and storytelling

Organization Council District: District Two (2): Council President Mike Karbassi

City Service Area: Our primary service areas include Central, Southeast, and South Fresno, particularly the zip codes 93701, 93702, 93703, 93706, 93721, and 93725. Because the festival is free and open to all, we also expect and welcome participation from across the city, including 93704, 93705, and Northern Fresno neighborhoods.

Project Name: The Arts & Fútbol Festival

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 2055 E. Lewis Ave, 93701

Funding Request: \$22,759.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Love, Peace & Fútbol (LPF) will present The Arts & Fútbol Festival—a free, all-ages cultural event that blends live music, mural painting, dance, screen printing, and a small-sided 5v5 fútbol tournament. The event will be held at Holmes Park in Central Fresno and is expected to serve over 600 youth, families, and community members, with a focus on engaging youth ages 10 to 25 from under-resourced neighborhoods. In collaboration with historian Dr. Romeo Guzmán, the project will also produce a new 10-minute documentary that captures rich and multi-ethnic and immigrant history of fútbol in Fresno. To ensure the success of the festival, LPF will offer weekly music, movement, and fútbol-centered activities that unite residents of all ages and backgrounds. This project aims to increase cultural access, celebrate, and acknowledge Fresno’s diverse communities, and build lasting community connections.

Anticipated Impact:

- Increase access to arts and cultural experiences in Central Fresno
- Foster connections among diverse populations through cultural activities
- Engage young people in positive, creative outlets
- Document and share Fresno's multi-ethnic and immigrant soccer history
- Engage with Fresno’s underserved communities by hosting events in accessible locations, offering free programming, and actively reaching out to marginalized groups

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: LPF primarily serves Central Fresno, focusing on the following ZIP codes: 93701, 93702, 93703, 93704, 93705, 93721, 93725, 93726, and 93727.

Project Name: Composer & Arranger Recording Collective

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 4784 N. Vagedes Ave, 93705

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Remote Recording Collective will create a recording economy in Fresno that sustains composers, musicians, engineers, and videographers, which is an estimated 80 people to be served in the Composers and Arrangers Recording Collective project for 2025-2026. We'll provide composers and arrangers aged 18-22, the opportunity to perform and record their music with professional musicians at Maximus Media Inc., with photo and video documentation by Meza Studios. Our desired impact is for the participants to have recordings and footage for their professional portfolios while our collective uses these materials as work samples to advertise to future clients. Educational seminars with music educators and professionals on the topics of session preparation and orchestration will take place remotely and in my home studio, located near Old Fig Garden, to equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to execute a recording session.

Anticipated Impact:

- Create a mutual exchange between composers and Remote Recording Collective by providing education, recording sessions, and audio and visual content for both parties' portfolios
- Encourage composers to work with the Collective on future works and see us as indispensable to their artistic process.
- Cultivate working relationships and build excellent rapport with our collaborators
- Provide opportunities for professionals to participate and receive wages for their work

Organization Council District: District Four (4): Councilmember Tyler Maxwell

City Service Area: Our project primarily takes place at Maximus Media Inc. in the 93727 zip code, near the Fresno Yosemite Airport, but we will be hiring people from various zip codes in the City of Fresno.

Project Name: Mural Academy

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 4407 N. Van Dyke, 93705

Funding Request: \$48,268.00

Project Statement: With the support of an Expanded Access to Art and Culture grant Mural Academy will provide a two-part program centered on both education and artistic collaboration to young adults of all backgrounds. The participants will receive instruction in a studio setting and will have the opportunity to apply the lessons learned in the mural site. Studio time will consist of workshops. These workshops will provide hands-on creative learning opportunities and serve as an entry point for community members interested in mural art. The funding will be used to rent a dedicated working space and to buy the necessary materials. The venue will serve as both a classroom and as a collective's production hub, for workshops and to prepare materials for the murals. We aim to produce three small community murals in the City of Fresno, allowing participants a chance to contribute to the visual landscape of their neighborhoods.

Anticipated Impact:

- Deliver hands-on learning experiences to young adults of all backgrounds through workshops and working in mural sites
- Teach young adults the fundamentals of mural art, and transferable skills they can take with them outside of Mural Academy
- Produce three small community murals in the City of Fresno, building a stronger sense of community

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: We will use the funding to pay for the expenses to rent a suitable space, (location is yet to be decided but would like to stay within the downtown area) that will serve as our studio location and that will allow us to comfortably accommodate the participants were part of the instruction will take place and will be also working out in the field. We plan to produce a series of three small mural within the downtown area of Fresno.

Project Name: Fresno CREATES: Community Resources Elevating Artists Through Entrepreneurship & Sustainability

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 921 E Voorman Ave, 93701

Funding Request: \$49,995.00

Project Statement: With support from an EAAC grant, Fresno CREATES will provide culturally competent technical assistance and business training to artists in Fresno. Activities will take place in community-based venues across ZIP codes most impacted by poverty, including 93706, 93721, 93702, and 93701. We will serve artists ages 18 and up, prioritizing low-income creatives with limited access to traditional support. The program includes two business workshops per quarter and one-on-one advising from our Creative Resource Partners (CRPs)—a team of strategists, advisors, and consultants, many of whom are artists themselves. CRPs will help artists strengthen business skills, price their work, meet deadlines, and build or grow businesses or nonprofits. Funds will support program development, CRP compensation, artist filing fees, space rentals, and the creation of a resource website. We have budgeted over 180 hours of one-on-one technical assistance to help artists build sustainable creative careers rooted in Fresno.

Anticipated Impact:

- Equip artists with business knowledge, confidence, and a support system that allows them to sustain their creativity
- Provide support for artists tailored to their needs and stage of development through over 180 hours of individualized technical assistance from our Creative Resource Partners
- Help artists formally register businesses or nonprofits, establish consistent pricing structures, meet project deadlines, and improve how they manage collaborations, client relationships, and strategic growth
- Host group workshops that offer guidance to a wider audience of Fresno-based creatives throughout the year
- Give participating artists clarity, structure, and confidence to grow their creative practices into professional, income-generating enterprises

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: Our primary ZIP codes include: 93706, 93721, 93702, 93701, 93650, 93728, 93703, 93726, 93725, 93705, 93710, 93727, 93704, and 93722.

Project Name: HASHTAG MAGANDA PRESENTS: FIL FIESTA 559

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Community Media Access Collaborative

Address: 1424 Fulton Street, 93721

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, FIL FIESTA 559 will be able to continue its goal to uplift and celebrate Filipino heritage through music, food, art, and education. This is an intergenerational experience featuring live performances, hands-on workshops, traditional cuisine, and curated exhibits. Our goal is to make Filipino culture more visible and accessible to Filipino communities and to the broader public. Through culturally immersive programming, economic opportunities for local vendors, and public storytelling, FIL FIESTA 559 fosters joy, pride, and cross-cultural connection. With renewed funding, we aim to expand our impact, deepen partnerships, and continue building one of the Central Valley's most anticipated cultural events.

Anticipated Impact:

- Celebrate and amplify Filipino culture through a free/low-cost transit-accessible event for all to attend
- Reach a bigger audience (3,000 guests attended in 2024)
- Provide an economic opportunity for Filipino vendors, artists, and small businesses
- Increase access and participation in arts and culture by anchoring the event in a central location (like FCC or Downtown Fresno)
- Create accessible and culturally resonant ways for Filipino attendees to feel seen and celebrated by centering food, music, and dance

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: Because FIL FIESTA 559 is intentionally designed as an inclusive, citywide event which welcomes ALL communities, we are going to shift our focus to Fresno as a whole, rather than a single geographic area or primary zip code.

Project Name: Sonic Harmonic at the Crest Theatre

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 2060 N. Winery #101, 93703

Funding Request: \$22,088.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Sonic Harmonic Arts Collective will present Sonic Harmonic at the Crest, a series of four free, immersive sound bath concerts at the historic Crest Theatre in Downtown Fresno, which has a capacity of up to 975 attendees per event.

This Saturday afternoon series will feature layered soundscapes—blending instruments, music, harmonic vibrations, and projected visual art on the theater walls—crafted to promote imagination, creative inspiration, and catharsis.

Events are open to all ages and backgrounds, intentionally fostering diversity, equity, and access by welcoming youth, elders, and multigenerational families, with outreach focused on underserved and underrepresented communities. We aim to serve 300+ attendees per event.

The desired impact is to provide an inclusive, transformative space where participants can experience immersive artistic musical experience, build intercultural connections, leave energized, inspired, and creatively enriched—advancing greater access to multicultural, community-centered arts experiences in Fresno.

Anticipated Impact:

- Introduce all Fresno residents to a new, innovative, collaborative art form blending immersive sound baths with live music and projected visual art
- Support and showcase diverse local artists, musicians, and culture bearers through paid, collaborative opportunities and meaningful creative exchange
- Revitalize Downtown Fresno through vibrant public arts programming
- Host 4 free concerts at the Crest Theatre, serving 200+ attendees per event, with potential capacity of 975
- Engage ~7 artistic collaborators per event, including BIPOC musicians, sound artists, visual artists, and culture bearers, fostering cross-disciplinary artistic innovation
- Partner with local cultural groups, BIPOC-serving organizations, and Downtown-based collaborators such as Tribe of All Nations

Organization Council District: District Four (4): Councilmember Tyler Maxwell

City Service Area: Our events will take place at the Crest Theatre, located in 93721. We anticipate drawing audiences from across the city, including 93701, 93702, 93703, 93704, 93705, 93706, 93710, and other surrounding ZIP codes.

Project Name: Feeding Our Roots

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Gender Alchemy

Address: 541 N Fulton St #211, 93728

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Roots and Wings: The Alchemy of Becoming will mentor and train trans and gender expansive adults (ages 18+) in Fresno County to become facilitators and cultural leaders. Through hands-on training in peer group facilitation, event planning, and accessible community care, participants will gain the tools to sustain cultural programs that reflect their identities and lived experiences.

The project will take place in community spaces across Fresno—including Southeast Fresno, the Tower District, and Downtown—and aims to serve 12 emerging cultural bearers and hundreds of community members through public-facing events.

In a region where affirming cultural spaces are rare and often maintained by a single person, Roots and Wings shifts that burden by developing a network of skilled, supported leaders. The desired impact is a stronger, more sustainable cultural ecosystem rooted in trans wisdom, joy, and intergenerational care.

Anticipated Impact:

- Successful mentorship of 10–15 participants
- Increase community access to cultural leadership by preparing trans and gender expansive adults to design and lead peer-based programs rooted in identity, creativity, and collective care
- Increase culturally relevant programming offered by/for trans people in Fresno County
- Prioritize institutionally underserved populations, including those experiencing housing insecurity or living below the poverty line
- Offer stipends, transportation support, and free access to participants

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: Primary zip codes served include: 93721, 93728, 93727, 93704, 93612, and 93626. Event locations for Roots and Wings: The Alchemy of Becoming will be concentrated in the Tower District, Downtown Fresno, and Southeast Fresno. Some programming may also take place in neighboring cities like Clovis.

Project Name: ¡Raiz Y Resistencia!

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 1745 W Clinton Avenue, 93705

Funding Request: \$49,445.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, ¡Raiz Y Resistencia! will create a multidiscipline art festival focused on empowering urban Chicanx Youth of Fresno and celebrating the Wisdom of our Elders. We will provide a platform for emerging youth writers, performance artists and creatives to showcase their talents centered around the intersectional experiences of Mexican Indigenous queer and trans communities, using cultural expression as a tool for resistance, healing, and activism. Through storytelling, performance, and visual arts, we explore the connections between identity, heritage, and activism, focusing on the Chicanx and Indigenous struggles for justice, land, and cultural preservation. Our project will be held at Arte Americas. Our participant demographics will range from Mexican & Indigenous backgrounds, ages 15-55+ with varying migrant status. We hope to host a minimum of 500 participants who will engage in our art workshops and exhibitions.

Anticipated Impact:

- Strengthen community identity, build intergenerational connections, and uplift marginalized voices
- Foster community dialogue around resistance, liberation, and identity
- Increase visibility of Queer, Trans, and Latinx artists and creators
- Work directly with local grassroots organizations, queer and trans-led groups, cultural centers, and mutual aid networks across Fresno
- Build partnerships with organizers embedded in Black, Brown, Indigenous, and immigrant neighborhoods
- Offer free access to all components of the event
- Create a vibrant, affirming, and politically conscious space for the Chicanx, Mexican, Latinx, Queer, and Trans communities of Fresno to come together through art, poetry, and music

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: We currently serve Western Fresno, Highway City, The Tower District, and Downtown Fresno, hoping to expand our outreach to Southwest and Southeast Fresno. Our current zip codes we serve are 93705, 93726, 93721 and 93711.

Project Name: Sage Social Club

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 1235 E Hampton Way, 93704

Funding Request: \$20,201.50

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Sage Social Club will host a series of outdoor events that center movement, mental health, and art. The series will culminate in a zine showcasing participants' creative work. These intergenerational events are designed for families, welcoming children of all ages, young adults, and elders. Activities will take place across Fresno at locations such as Sycamore Island, the Cesar Chavez Bike Trail, Woodward Park, the Tower District, Fancher Creek Trail, and the San Joaquin River Trail. Participants will engage in walking, hiking, mindfulness, watersports, biking, photography, painting, poetry, journaling, birdwatching, and gardening. Across eight events, the club will serve over 200 people, with many more reached through the zine. The goal is to break down barriers that prevent BIPOC and underrepresented communities from accessing the outdoors. This project empowers participants to incorporate movement, wellness, and art into daily life.

Anticipated Impact:

- Empower participants with the confidence to engage in outdoor activities and creative expression beyond each scheduled event
- Work with local cultural organizations to conduct outreach and extend invitations
- Offer inclusive, no-cost activities that center connection to self, to others, and to the environment

Organization Council District: District Four (4): Councilmember Tyler Maxwell

City Service Area: 93701, 93702, 93703, 93706, 93721, 93725, 93726

Project Name: Chicanismo in Color

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: ALLIANCE FOR CALIFORNIA TRADITIONAL ARTS

Address: 5494 E Lamona Ave Suite #102, 93727

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Chicanismo in Color will offer a yearlong workshop series focused on Chicano visual art and cultural expression. The program will provide hands-on instruction in traditional and contemporary techniques, explore the cultural history of pinstriping, and support participants in developing their creative voice. Through multi-level workshops and community events, the project will foster pride in cultural heritage, expand access to meaningful arts learning, and strengthen connections across neighborhoods through shared creative experience.

Anticipated Impact:

- Increase access to culturally relevant arts education and professional development for Chicano/Latino residents of Fresno, particularly those from underserved neighborhoods in South and Central Fresno
- Sustain traditional and contemporary forms of Chicano visual expression
- Build technical and entrepreneurial skills among participants
- Create meaningful pathways for community connection through art
- Increase participant confidence in artistic identity
- Improve skill in visual design and pinstriping
- Support emerging artists in developing portfolios, building branding strategies, and preparing to participate in vendor and exhibition spaces

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: The primary zip codes served are 93706, 93721, and 93702

Project Name: Tower Arts Project (TAP)

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Root Access Hackerspace

Address: 1127 N Wilson Ave, 93728

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: With support from the Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, the Tower Arts Project (TAP), an independent art collective consisting of four artists, will provide semi-permanent/permanent art installations on the fence, murals/multimedia art on walls, decomposed granite land art, yard art/sculptures both permanent and rotating. If awarded, TAP will have the capacity to create and maintain a free, inviting, and innovative space available to everyone who desires to grow artistically, regardless of their background, age, race, or income status. TAP takes place at an 11,000 square foot outdoor property in the Tower District, at 1127 N Wilson Ave. We plan to continue hosting events like Art Hop, small artist gatherings, and music workshops. We also would like to apply for a conditional use permit that will allow us to hold future events to further expand access to arts and culture in the surrounding area and throughout the community.

Anticipated Impact:

- Transform an 11,000-square-foot outdoor space into a vibrant arts hub
- Foster artistic collaboration, community engagement, and cultural enrichment
- Create semi-permanent and permanent art installations, geometric land art, and multimedia murals that will make the property both functional and inviting
- Engage underserved communities by offering free-to-low-cost programs
- Increase access to arts and culture by hosting events like Art Hop, live art demonstrations, and cultural activities such as live music and craft shows
- Collaborate with local organizations and support local artists
- Ensure that art and culture are celebrated as accessible and transformative forces for the community by targeting neglected areas and inviting individuals from all backgrounds

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: The Tower Arts Project primarily takes place in the Tower District (District 3) at 1127 N Wilson Ave, Fresno, CA 93728. With our 10 passenger pedi-cab “Tiki Bike” service, we also serve the Downtown Fresno area.

Project Name: ArtHopper

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 2507 N Fresno Street, 93703

Funding Request: \$44,231.00

Project Statement: Publish an ARTHOP focused newspaper to help communicate event details and answer FAQs while showcasing the talents of exhibitors and provide valuable contact information for increased inclusion and engagement.

Anticipated Impact:

- Create an independent source hosting art specific content for the arts community
- Increase ArtHop attendees (through our support, the event has grown from approximately 2,000 attendees to over 16,000 last year)
- Increase outreach through social media (our current social media platforms are reporting over 30,000 views a month on Instagram and over 75,000 on Facebook)

Organization Council District: District Seven (7): Councilmember Nelson Esparza

City Service Area: 93720, 93650, 93728, and 93721 are the primary ARTHOP Event areas but this serves all citizens citywide

Project Name: Nadtasin Lao Lanxang

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: ALLIANCE FOR CALIFORNIA TRADITIONAL ARTS

Address: 1823 W Ashlan Ave, 93705

Funding Request: \$49,500.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Nadtasin Lao Lanxang will embrace and promote Lao culture through traditional dance. Rehearsals will be held at the instructor's home, with performances projected at schools, Lao temples, nonprofits, and multicultural events across Fresno. The organization serves youth ages 12–17, teaching Lao traditional dance and culture. Under the guidance of renowned culture bearer Choummaly Keodara, students will share traditional Lao dance throughout the Fresno community. Grant funds will support the purchase of traditional costumes—reflecting attire from the Laotian monarchy—compensate the instructor to keep classes free, and help the group expand and grow. The project aims to educate students in Lao dance, language, history, and traditions, while continuing to showcase Lao dance as an art form. Ultimately, it seeks to foster cross-cultural connections and ensure the preservation and transmission of Lao cultural arts to the next generation.

Anticipated Impact:

- Foster a deeper connection to Lao culture and heritage among youth through traditional Lao dance, using culturally-rooted instruction to preserve and share this vibrant artform
- Immerse students in Lao language, history, and traditions
- Spark community engagement through performances and conversations with prospective students and parents, signifying its broader cultural impact
- Serve institutionally and geographically underserved neighborhoods across all Fresno zip codes, with performances at schools, nonprofit organizations, temples, and multicultural events citywide
- Increase access and participation in the arts by bringing Lao dance to public audiences and providing free, culturally relevant programming

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: Nadtasin Lao Lanxang has historically served through all of Fresno but has continuously had a strong presence in the following zip codes: 93721, 93706, 93705. Nadtasin Lao Lanxang will continue to attempt to serve communities in Fresno in all zipcodes: 93650, 93701, 93702, 93703, 93704, 93710, 93711, 93720, 93722, 93723, 93725, 93726, 93727, 93728, 93730

Project Name: A is A, Print Workshops & Artist Residency Program

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Arte Americas the Mexican Arts Center

Address: 1060 W. Sierra Ave, Ste 101, 93711

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, A is A will launch the Printed in Fresno Workshop & Artist Residency Program to provide free and low-cost Risograph printmaking workshops and a pilot artist residency in Fresno, CA. Activities will take place across multiple zip codes including Downtown (93706, 93721), Southeast (93702), and Tower District (93728), hosted at cultural venues and local businesses. The program will serve a diverse, intergenerational population—youth ages 12+, BIPOC, and early-career artists—with a focus on historically underserved communities. We aim to engage over 150 participants through 5 hands-on workshops, monthly open studios, and 3 pop-up exhibitions. Our desired impact is to foster creative skill-building, preserve cultural storytelling traditions, and establish long-term access to printmaking resources in the Central Valley.

Anticipated Impact:

- Increase access to printmaking, particularly for underserved artists
- Support 3–4 artist residencies annually
- Host at least six public workshops or open studio sessions
- Build a community archive of printed work that documents local stories easily accessible on our website

Organization Council District: District Two (2): Council President Mike Karbassi

City Service Area: Our service areas include: Downtown/Civic Center (93706, 93721), Southeast Fresno (93702), Tower District (93728), Fulton Corridor (93701), College Area (93726, 93727).

Project Name: Palette of Possibilities

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Arts Enrichment for All Inc

Address: 2803 E Teaberry Dr, 93730

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Palette of Possibilities will offer free after school art classes for youth ages 6–18 in downtown Fresno. Classes will be held at Scarab Creative Arts and will include weekly sessions in painting, drawing, and mixed media. This grant will allow us to grow from occasional workshops to four weekly classes during the school year, all held outside of school hours. Students will get to use professional art materials, learn about different styles and techniques, and create original works in a supportive studio setting. Funding will cover the cost of instruction, supplies, venue rental, and class fees for students who otherwise couldn't participate. We expect to serve about 100 youth through regular weekly classes, with additional reach through student showcases. This project gives young people in Fresno the chance to learn new skills and enjoy making art.

Anticipated Impact:

- Free, consistent place to learn and grow through visual arts, particularly for youth
- Four weekly after-school classes focused on acrylic painting, drawing, and mixed media
- Two public showcases where students display their artwork

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: Palette of Possibilities service areas include Fresno's downtown and nearby neighborhoods, focusing on zip codes in Downtown/Civic Center (93721, 93706) and Southeast Fresno (93702).

Project Name: Joy to the People, Parks for the People

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Mighty Community Advocacy

Address: 1807 Broadway Ave, 93721

Funding Request: \$48,653.00

Project Statement: The JoyCore Project, in partnership with lead artists Goku and Adrienne and educator Amy Sepulveda, will host a three-part interactive arts series at the Cultural Arts District Park in Fresno's Mural District. This community-rooted initiative centers joy, cultural expression, and collective healing through participatory art, youth collaboration, and live creation. Ethnic Studies students from Fort Miller Middle School will support event production, applying classroom learning in real-world creative spaces. Through vibrant activations and interactive evaluation methods, the project fosters belonging, creative agency, and intergenerational connection—advancing Fresno's Cultural Plan goals of equity, youth engagement, and inclusive public arts programming.

Anticipated Impact:

- 3 free, cultural art events
- A public art piece created with public involvement led by Adrienne Diaz
- A short video series produced by Goku McAfee highlighting artists, youth, and community stories
- Free wellness resources

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: This project primarily serves Downtown Fresno (93721). Additional nearby zip codes indirectly served through outreach, youth participation, and community partnerships include: Tower District (93728), Southwest Fresno (93706) and East and Southeast Fresno, where many youths from Fort Miller reside (93701 & 93702).

Project Name: The Smiley G. Stand-Up Evening of Comedy and Open Mic Show

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 2960 E. Illinois, 93701

Funding Request: \$27,500.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, the Smiley G. Stand-Up Evening of Comedy and Open Mic Show production team will share the powerful and exciting genre of live spoken performing arts with the Fresno community. This monthly live show will serve a diverse population, including families, youth (with parent or guardian present), young adults to retirees—anyone in Fresno who wants to get in front of a live audience and perform any kind of spoken word art—stand-up comedy, storytelling, monologues, poetry, prose. It is estimated that this show will serve about 40-100 people each month. The show will promote engagement and encourage involvement within the community and incorporate videography and also print media coverage. The primary location of the show will be at Dulce Upfront in the Tower District but will also collaborate with Art Groove's Got Jokes at Riverpark to serve North Fresno as well.

Anticipated Impact:

- Increase access and exposure to the genre of live spoken word performance
- Community engagement and involvement through Open Mic opportunities at each show

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: This project primarily serves the Tower District. This includes residents living in zip codes 93704 and 93705 in addition to neighboring communities in 93728, 93726, 93722, 93711, 93706, 93705, 93703, 93701. we will also aim to perform and provide services in North Fresno, serving the zip code areas of 93704, 93710, 93711, 93720, 93650.

Project Name: Movement by Amaya: Sense of Play(list)

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 1440 N Calaveras St, 93728

Funding Request: \$48,980.80

Project Statement: The Sense of Playlist project will bring to fruition the concept of yoga as culture, and music as culture and art, providing expanded access to the cultural practice of Yoga and the artistry of meditative music to as many Fresnans as possible. By addressing barriers that inhibit a consistent yoga practice, while also exposing participants to recognizable Black inspired meditation music via special mixes made in collaboration with a multi-genre composer. Fostering a safe space for students to practice and be introduced to cultural sounds reflective of their cultural fabric and history in a manner that calls the student to embody safety and belonging. The intention is to provide recurring classes to foster autonomy and ability to access other self-reflective and meditative services offered by explicitly Fresno-located providers. Virtual yoga instruction and specially crafted playlists classes will be provided online to expand access to community members for the foreseeable future.

Anticipated Impact:

- Increase access to participate in the Art of Yoga
- Increase exposure to Black-Inspired Meditation music

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: Our project will serve the entirety of the Fresno area, but will include a grounded focus serving those impacted by severely cost-burdened households (families spending more than 50% of income on housing), industrial land use and pollution, lack of green spaces, lack of community gathering spaces and immigration status focus. These focused neighborhoods include but are not limited to the zip codes of 9371, 93650, 93704, 93706, 93741, 93722, 93727, and 93728.

Project Name: High School Folklórico Showoffs

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Arte Americas the Mexican Arts Center

Address: 9202 N Jade Ave, 93720

Funding Request: \$16,665.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, the Danzantes del Valle Coalition (DDV) will present the High School Folklorico Showoffs (HSFSO), a cultural showcase featuring 10 to 12 local high school groups. The event is held at historic Fresno High School, situated in an area with a high poverty rate. It aims to highlight the talent of high school dancers, and it attracts an estimated audience of 1,200 to 1,500 diverse community members of all ages. The grant will cover the integration of live music to accompany the dancers—a first-time endeavor. Furthermore, it will allow us to provide a stipend to the participating artistic groups, many of which come from high schools located in marginalized and underfunded communities. Offering live music and financial support to young artistic groups not only enhances their experience but also fosters their artistic and creative growth.

Anticipated Impact:

- Increase youth engagement in the Art of Mexican Folklorico Dance
- A high-quality, low-cost public Folklorico Showcase at Fresno High School
- An empowering performance opportunity for student performers, many of whom come from low-income communities, to showcase their artistry on a large stage

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: The HSFSO utilizes the historic Fresno High School Theater (93704), located in a community characterized by high poverty rates (with an estimated 90% of residents being economically disadvantaged) and low educational achievement.

Project Name: BCD Magic: Resilient Voices: A Multimodal Expressive Arts Series for Connection and Joy

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 4726 East Grant Ave, 93702

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Alex Colvard of BCD Magic will present Resilient Voices: A Multimodal Expressive Arts Series for Connection and Joy — a sliding scale, monthly expressive arts workshop series hosted at Scarab Creative Arts in downtown Fresno. The project will serve intergenerational families and underserved individuals through six, 3-hour sessions from January 2026 to June 2026, held twice monthly. Each workshop will incorporate high-quality expressive arts activities such as collage, ceramics, movement, watercolor, zine-making, and art journaling, guided by trauma-informed facilitator Alex Colvard with support from community artists. The program includes an open studio after each workshop to foster deeper engagement and connection. We anticipate serving 15-30 participants for each workshop. This project will build emotional resilience, inspire joy, highlight the diverse cultures of the Central Valley and create lasting community bonds through collaborative creative expression.

Anticipated Impact:

- Increased equitable access to Arts Education and Art Programs
- Six monthly art workshop sessions
- Six open studio sessions
- Facilitation of over 25 unique art pieces or journals
- The production a culminating community zine

Organization Council District: District Seven (7): Councilmember Nelson Esparza

City Service Area: We serve primarily Downtown Fresno (93721), Central Fresno (93701), Southeast Fresno (93702), and Southwest Fresno (93706). These areas include high populations of low-income families, youth, and underrepresented cultural groups.

Project Name: See, Feel, Understand: Cultural Journeys Through Visual and Performing Arts

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Possibilities Center

Address: 5621 W Beechwood Ave, 93722

Funding Request: \$48,370.96

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, the Possibilities Center will launch "See, Feel, Understand: Cultural Journeys Through Visual and Performing Arts (SFU)," a project designed to engage autistic youth between the ages of 5 and 17 and their families through culturally inclusive art experiences. Centered on visual and theatre arts, SFU will provide accessible, developmentally appropriate programming that celebrates neurodiversity and cultural identity. Through hands-on workshops, performances, and community events held at local schools, participants will explore diverse cultural narratives while developing artistic expression. The project places a special emphasis on reaching families from underrepresented ethnic backgrounds who lack equitable access to culturally meaningful enrichment opportunities. By combining artistic exploration with cultural education, SFU will increase cultural awareness and strengthen community connections through the arts. This initiative ensures equitable access to creative arts while highlighting the value of every individual's cultural and neurodiverse perspective.

Anticipated Impact:

- Free hands-on art workshops in dance, storytelling and music, particularly for youth
- Free, frequent, multicultural performances

Organization Council District: District Two (2): Council President Mike Karbassi

City Service Area: The Possibilities Center serves communities within a 50-mile radius of 93722, which includes zip codes encompassing various communities within Fresno County, such as Clovis, Sanger, Reedley, and Selma. Those zip codes are Central Fresno (93701, 93703, 93704), Southeast Fresno (93702), Southwest Fresno (93706) and the following: 93705, 93707, 93708, 93709, 93710, 93711, 93712, 93714, 93715, 93716, 93717, 93718, 93720, 93721, 93722, 93723, 93725, 93726, 93727, 93728, 93729, 93730, 93737, 93744, 93745, 93747, 93750, 93755, 93760, 93761, 93764, 93765, 93771, 93772, 93773, 93774, 93775, 93776, 93777, 93778, 93779, 93780, 93784, 93786, 93790, 93791, 93792, 93793, 93794, 93844, 93888

Project Name: Under the Ash Tree

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Mighty Community Advocacy

Address: 519 S 11th St Apt C, 93702

Funding Request: \$49,176.60

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Goku McAfee will produce Under the Ash Tree, a multimedia storytelling project documenting Fresno's rich, intergenerational art scene. Through filmed interviews with both emerging and established artists—including figures like Stan Bitters, Robert Ogata, William Raines, Audio Dixon, Pam Flores, and Jerry Blessing—McAfee will create visual works inspired by each conversation. The project will feature a full-color magazine showcasing each artist's profile alongside their own artwork and McAfee's corresponding visual works. Serving neighborhoods like 93721, 93702, and 93706, Under the Ash Tree will foster intergenerational dialogue, connecting diverse artists and audiences. The project aims to elevate Fresno's talent on a global stage, preserving cultural memory while building a lasting platform for future artistic collaborations, educational programs, and community engagement, ensuring Fresno's arts continue to thrive for generations to come.

Anticipated Impact:

- Create a permanent, shareable archive (print + digital)

Organization Council District: District Five (5):

City Service Area: This project will primarily serve these Fresno zip codes: Downtown Fresno (93721), Southeast Fresno (93702), and Southwest Fresno (93706). These zip codes reflect the city's historic and contemporary creative neighborhoods, as well as communities underrepresented in traditional arts funding.

Project Name: Compañía de Danza El Sol

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 735 N Fulton St, 93728

Funding Request: \$31,647.00

Project Statement: With support from the Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Compañía de Danza el Sol will produce a series of community performances that celebrate and share the rich traditions of folklórico dance, live music, and Mexican history with the city of Fresno. These performances serve as the culminating experience for students enrolled in our dance program, who develop a deeper understanding and pride in their cultural heritage through learning traditional dances. The grant funding will directly support the production of these shows which include costumes, venue costs, and live music. The goal of the project is to strengthen cultural identity among participants, foster cross-cultural appreciation, and build meaningful community connections through the power of the performing arts.

Anticipated Impact:

- The Preservation and Celebration of Mexican Cultural Heritage through Performance
- Low cost or no cost Folklórico Dance instruction to Youth and Adults in Fresno, CA
- Public Performances that showcase Student Growth
- Increased Student Enrollment in Folklorico Dance
- Improved Student Confidence and Cultural Identity
- Higher Community Engagement with Folklórico Dance

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: Compañía de Danza El Sol is located in Fresno City Council District 3 and is in Central West (93728). However, the students that attend our classes are from all areas of Fresno.

Project Name: The B-Side Collective Artistic Odyssey Summer Workshop Series: Create, Connect, Chronicle

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Arts Enrichment for All Inc

Address: 736 Fulton St. Suite 237, 93721

Funding Request: \$49,912.50

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, The B-Side Collective will launch "The B-Side Collective Artistic Odyssey Summer Workshop Series: Create, Connect, Chronicle," a multifaceted youth arts program serving Fresno. This initiative includes four in-depth workshops led by professional artists, a cultural field trip, and a culminating artist showcase—all offered at zero cost to participants. New this year, the program will also publish "The Art Adjacent," a quarterly print and digital magazine featuring original work from participants alongside educational and professional resources for young creatives. Activities will take place at partner venues including Arte Américas and regional institutions. The program will serve approximately 50 Fresno-area youth ages 16–22, prioritizing high school juniors, seniors, and community college students from underrepresented communities. The desired impact is to equip emerging artists with tools, visibility, and mentorship to fuel their creative development and strengthen Fresno's cultural landscape.

Anticipated Impact:

- Four free in-depth art workshops led by professional local artists
- A free cultural field trip
- A culminating artist showcase
- A quarterly print and digital magazine featuring original work from participants

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: City Service Area: We serve youth citywide but concentrate efforts in Central Fresno (93701), Southeast Fresno (93702), East Fresno (93727), West Fresno (93706) and primarily in Downtown Fresno (93721). In these areas, youth face significant barriers to creative engagement, including lack of transportation, limited access to arts supplies or spaces, and minimal representation in institutional arts programs.

Project Name: All Things Fresno: LIVE!

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 5553 W Bedford Ave, 93722

Funding Request: \$25,739.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, All Things Fresno: LIVE! will implement a performance-based artist development program rooted in equity, collaboration, and cultural representation. The project includes two rehearsal days (unpaid) focused on performance coaching and production support, followed by two paid warm-up shows and a two-day paid showcase event. Activities will take place at local venues in central and south Fresno, serving BIPOC artists and community members, with a focus on ages 18–45. We anticipate engaging approximately 200 audience members and 20 artists across the project timeline. This initiative provides sustained support across multiple performances, helping emerging artists grow their creative practice while building public connection and visibility. The desired impact is to expand access to high-quality arts experiences, elevate underrepresented voices, and model a replicable framework for BIPOC artist support in Fresno.

Anticipated Impact:

- Artistic Development of 10 Emerging BIPOC and LGBTQ+ Artists in Fresno, CA
- 3 Paid Public Performance opportunities to showcase Artist's work in accessible, nontraditional venues open to the public

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: The primary zip codes we serve include: Central Fresno (93701), Southeast Fresno (93702), Southwest Fresno (93706), Downtown Fresno (93721), and Central West Fresno (93728).

Project Name: Third Space

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 1459 N Van Ness Ave, Suite 115, 93728

Funding Request: \$45,000.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Third Space will create a late-night community arts venue in Fresno operating from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m., two or more nights weekly. This flexible, informal space will serve as a Third Space: a gathering spot outside of home and work, for spontaneous arts interactions, collaboration, and relaxed socializing for creatives. Offering an inclusive alternative to traditional nightlife, the venue features workstations for private or collaborative projects, a music station, and message boards for sharing works-in-progress. Occasional workshops and events will enrich the environment. Third Space encourages creative exploration in a safe, welcoming setting for people of all backgrounds. Serving approximately 30 people per session and engage an estimated 500–700 unique community members annually, it increases access to arts and culture during late hours when few public options exist, for community cohesion through shared creativity and low-barrier participation.

Anticipated Impact:

- A sustainable, inclusive late-night gathering space for Fresno residents with a no-cost entry
- Increase art participation during late hours, when few accessible and safe options exist for Fresno artists
- Participation of 300-700 residents annually

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: Our primary service area is Fresno's Tower District (93728) and Downtown Fresno (93721), and nearby areas with limited late-night communal spaces.

Project Name: Roots of Rhythm and Embodiment

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 1358 N Calaveras, 93728

Funding Request: \$31,680.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Roots of Rhythm & Embodiment is a multi-modal series designed to expand access to cultural arts and wellness practices in the city of Fresno. This project will weave together traditional drumming, percussion, and song, movement, breathwork, yoga, and other ancestral wellness/mindfulness practices to foster community connection and cultural celebration. These sessions will take place at the Historic Warnors Theater Center, specifically at maarte., a beautifully inviting venue with impeccable acoustics. These sessions are open to community members of all ages, will be promoted as an activity for multi-generations of family members to attend, and with guest facilitators ranging in age groups, I expect diversity in the population who attend as well. The desired impact is to highlight culture while strengthening the mind-body connection.

Anticipated Impact:

- The establishment of inclusive and culturally rooted drum circles and song circles
- Collective music making and ritual bonding

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: Workshops are lead in the following Fresno zip codes: Downtown Fresno (93721), Tower District (93728), Central North Fresno (93705), Northwest Fresno (93704).

Project Name: Vida y Salud En El Campo: The Migrant Story

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 6104 E Illinois Ave, 93727

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: Vida y Salud En El Campo: The Migrant Story is a 60-minute feature-length documentary examining immigration struggles and health disparities among Mexican migrant workers in the City of Fresno. Against the backdrop of ongoing ICE raids, many migrant families live in fear, making them hesitant to seek essential healthcare services, deepening humanitarian concerns. Through exclusive interviews with Fresno City Council members and experts from Fresno health policy institutions, the film uncovers systemic challenges and policy responses. First-hand observational documentation of Mexican families offers an intimate, unfiltered look at the realities of life under these pressures. To ensure accessibility, we will host four free public screenings, creating space for engagement and dialogue within the community.

Anticipated Impact:

- A 60-minute Feature-Length Documentary
- Four Free Public Screenings
- Post-Film discussions about immigration and healthcare
- Amplification of Mexican Migrant voices in the City of Fresno
- Hands-on opportunities for Fresno State students in a real-world experience through documentary filmmaking, storytelling, and research

Organization Council District: District Five (5):

City Service Area: The primary focus of Vida y Salud En El Campo: The Migrant Story will be primarily focused on East Fresno (93727), a vibrant and culturally rich area where the Mexican community thrives. In addition to 93727, stories from Southeast Fresno (93702), Southwest Fresno (93706) and 93705 will also be highlighted.

Project Name: Andalusian Cafe

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Warnors Center for the Performing Arts

Address: 4462 E Ashcroft, 93726

Funding Request: \$42,420.00

Project Statement: Our mission is to celebrate, support, and elevate our local cultural dancers and musicians by providing platforms for performance, collaboration, and professional development. Through dynamic community events and educational opportunities, we aim to preserve and promote diverse cultural traditions while fostering artistic exchange. By also bringing in nationally recognized professional performing artists, we create opportunities for cross-cultural dialogue, skill-sharing, and audience enrichment for City of Fresno residents, ensuring that the vibrancy of our local performing arts community continues to thrive. The funding of this project will financially support not only local performing artists and emerging artists, but also a nonprofit performing arts venue as well as other arts and event related businesses in the community like audio/visual professionals, local print shops, costumers, and dance studios for learning opportunities and rehearsals related tour showcases.

Anticipated Impact:

- Culturally Relevant Programming for Fresno artists
- Support to Local Cultural Artists by providing paid performance opportunities
- Professional Development and Artistic Cultural Exchange between local and guest Artists
- Multiple styles of Cultural Dance and Music performances
- Q&A Feedback Sessions for deeper cultural understanding and connection

Organization Council District: District Four (4): Councilmember Tyler Maxwell

City Service Area: Our primary service area includes Downtown Fresno (93721), where the venue is physically located. As well as West Fresno (93706), a historically underserved area with deep cultural roots, and Southeast Fresno (93702), which is home to many immigrant and working-class families. Our audience will extend throughout the greater Fresno region.

Project Name: Central Valley Fashion Week

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 1432 Fulton St, 93721

Funding Request: \$8,085.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Central Valley Fashion Week is the intersection of fashion and arts. The goal of Central Valley Fashion Week is to make multimedia art, fashion, and performing arts accessible to multigenerational and multicultural communities in the Central Valley specifically, with diverse casting in models and a focus on BIPOC and LGBTQ+ participants. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are at the foundation of our mission.

Anticipated Impact:

- Highlight and uplifting of creative talent and small businesses in our community
- Expanded portfolios/resumes for participants
- Competitive payment to local performers and crew
- Diverse casting of models with a focus on BIPOC and LGBTQ+ participants

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: We primarily serve Downtown Fresno (93721), West Fresno (93722, 93723, 93705) and the border of Fresno and Clovis (93611).

Project Name: The Dream Again Project: Transitional Aged Youth Media Arts Training Program

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Community Media Access Collaborative

Address: 1555 Van Ness Ave, 93721

Funding Request: \$49,720.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, The Dream Again Project will launch the second fully funded Transitional Aged Youth Media Arts Training Program. This 12-week program offers hands-on training in film production, music, and audio production at the Community Media Access Collaborative in Fresno, California. The program will serve transitional-aged youth (ages 18–35), particularly those at risk of gang involvement, experiencing homelessness or housing instability, or supporting low-income households. At least 10 participants will engage in trauma-informed, culturally relevant arts education while earning incentive payments that reduce economic barriers. Aligned with the City of Fresno’s Cultural Arts Plan, the program advances Goals 1, 3, and 5 by expanding equitable access, supporting youth workforce development, and investing in historically excluded voices. The desired impact is to develop professional creative skills, foster personal growth, and establish pathways to long-term economic stability within Fresno’s vibrant arts ecosystem.

Anticipated Impact:

- 12-week Creative Workforce Training Program in Film and Music Production
- Technical skill-building through culturally grounded mentorship
- Paid pathways into Fresno’s Creative Economy
- Capstone Projects
- Ongoing access to professional media equipment
- Fostering of emotional healing, self-expression, and confidence
- Expanded access to Arts Education for underserved transitional-aged youth
- Active participation and long-term opportunity within Fresno’s Cultural Ecosystem
- Technical and creative skills building for employment in the Arts

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: Our programming takes place at Community Media Access Collaborative (CMAC), located in Downtown Fresno (93721) but we also cover Eastern Downtown Fresno near Fresno High area (93701), Jefferson and Lowell neighborhoods (93703), Southeast Fresno (93702) and Southwest Fresno (93706).

Project Name: Flourish: The Artist Development Project

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 1360 N. Thorne Ave, 93728

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Flourish: Artist Development Project will provide a 12-week creative development and mentorship program for emerging artists and cultural bearers in Fresno. Programming will take place in accessible venues throughout downtown Fresno and the Tower District, serving artists ages 18-35. Flourish will guide 8-12 participants through weekly workshops focused on grant writing, financial literacy, artistic identity, and community engagement. Participants will receive stipends, mentorship, materials, and culminate the program with a public showcase of original work. The desired impact is to increase equity and access for underrepresented artists, strengthen peer-to-peer support, and build lasting pathways for creative sustainability. By connecting artists to real-world opportunities and local cultural organizations, Flourish aims to shift narratives of isolation and scarcity, empowering participants to see themselves as vital contributors to Fresno's arts and cultural landscape.

Anticipated Impact:

- Increased access to Art Infrastructure
- Paid, mentored opportunity for creative growth
- 12-week development program
- Tangible tools for creative sustainability
- Cultural visibility for underrepresented Artists in Fresno
- 8-12 public-facing creative projects
- Education in financial literacy, grant writing, and community-building

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: Flourish serves artists and cultural workers throughout the City of Fresno. The primary zip codes we serve are Downtown Fresno (93721), Southeast Fresno (93702), Southwest Fresno (93706), far South Fresno (93725) and Tower District (93728).

Project Name: Rambling Eye Art Gallery

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 2927 N Arthur Ave, 93705

Funding Request: \$49,725.94

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture Grant, Mind Yak Art Collective will build Rambling Eye Art Gallery and have several public art shows. Rambling Eye Art Gallery is a mobile gallery that will provide a venue for Mind Yak to continue to build immersive art installations, and a venue for other Fresno artists to share their work. With the ability to travel, our gallery will contribute an art installation to a variety of community events including two art hops, Brian's Beard Improv, and Hart's Haven Comedy. Each show would be geared toward the age group attending the event, most being all ages. Entry to our gallery would be a sliding scale allowing all economic backgrounds the ability to enjoy the space. We expect to reach approximately 50-100 people per event. We hope to contribute to Fresno's Art community while giving the public a unique, welcoming experience.

Anticipated Impact:

- Unique, community-based art shows
- The creation of a mobile art venue
- A free-sliding scale donation for entrance into the mobile art venue
- Increased access to art shows by bringing art galleries to unexpected community events throughout Fresno.

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: Rambling Eye Art Gallery intends to primarily attend and host events in West Fresno (93704), Southeast Fresno (93702) and Tower District (93728)

Project Name: De Semilla a Santuario: Exploración Comunitaria a través de Texturas y Colores// From Seed to Sanctuary: A Community Exploration Through Textures and Colors

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 5085 N. Wishon Ave Apt. 17, 93704

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, we will lead “De Semilla a Santuario: Exploración Comunitaria a través de Texturas y Colores// From Seed to Sanctuary: A Community Exploration Through Textures and Colors”, a multigenerational, bilingual workshop and mural series in Fresno’s 93704 and 93706 zip codes. This initiative will engage youth, adults, and seniors—particularly from underserved neighborhoods—in hands-on woodblock printmaking. Participants will collaborate to design and carve large-scale prints that will be reproduced as public murals in local community spaces. The project aims to serve residents across all ages, with a focus on intergenerational learning, cultural storytelling, and creative placemaking. By integrating traditional printmaking with public art, the program will expand access to arts education and celebrate Fresno’s rich cultural diversity. It directly supports Fresno’s Cultural Arts Plan goals by activating under-resourced neighborhoods, increasing arts visibility, and strengthening community bonds through shared creative experience.

Anticipated Impact:

- Two large-scale public art murals co-designed and co-installed by community members
- Two weeks of bilingual, hands-on woodblock printmaking workshops
- Permanent, public artwork in Community Gardens
- Support to BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and first-generation artists and cultural workers
- Increased public visibility of local stories and identities
- Expanded access to culturally relevant, bilingual arts education workshops
- Foster intergenerational connection and collaboration through community-based artmaking
- Public unveiling events to celebrate community contributions and expand visibility

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: This project specifically serves communities within Central through North Fresno (93704) and Southwest Fresno (93706).

Project Name: Urban Pow Wow Drum & Dance

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 830 E. Home Ave, 93728

Funding Request: \$21,768.98

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Urban Pow Wow Drum & Dance will create consistent opportunity for Native American families, in the City of Fresno to immerse themselves in culture, art, and community. Operating out of Dulce Upfront, we have had the honor to hold space for up to 200 Fresno Native American people, ages 0-75, to participate in Pow Wow dance styles, learn Pow Wow singing and technique, as well as crafts like beading and drum making. Since our founding in March of 2025, our hope is that our bi-weekly gathering sessions can expand our reach in numbers of families, quality of cultural workshops, & build a stronger community.

Anticipated Impact:

- A consistent, welcoming space for Native American families in Fresno
- Bi-weekly art programming in Pow Wow Dancing, drumming, singing, and beading
- Reach 200 individuals throughout the year
- Foster a deeper sense of cultural identity
- A multigenerational space of connection, expression, and pride

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: Northwest Fresno (93704), West Fresno (93705), and Tower District (93728).

Project Name: CONTOUR

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Paper Crane Arts Center

Address: 3364 E Sierra Madre Apt. F, 93726

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Paper Crane Arts Center will present CONTOUR, a free three-day community arts festival celebrating the art of drawing. Hosted in downtown Fresno—either at the Grand Ballroom on Fulton Street, Frank’s Place and surrounding corridor, or the Cultural Arts District Park Amphitheater—the event will feature live figure drawing stations, chalk walls and tables, youth art activities, artist vendor booths, and wellness-oriented activations. CONTOUR will serve an intergenerational audience ages 0–75+, with an expected reach of 400–600 attendees. The event’s goal is to create a “third space” where residents from diverse backgrounds connect through creativity, fostering pride in Fresno’s local arts scene and increasing inclusive access to visual art.

Anticipated Impact:

- A free three-day community arts festival
- Youth art activities
- Build Fresno pride in the local art scene
- Elevate drawing as a communal and expressive art form
- Bridge age and cultural gaps through hands-on creative activities

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: This event invites all residents throughout the City of Fresno, but there will be a primary focus of outreach to Southeast Fresno (93702), Central Fresno (93703), North Fresno (93704), and East Fresno (93726).

Project Name: The Aardvark Kids Club

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 5660 E Christine Ave, 93727

Funding Request: \$44,301.27

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, I will launch The Aardvark Kids Club, a quarterly magazine showcasing the creative work of underrepresented youth from Fresno's Districts 1, 3, 5, and 7—where the heart of Fresno beats the strongest. Each issue will feature youth-submitted art, writing, and design, distributed both in print and online to preserve their voices. We will host hands-on workshops where youth ages 10–18 can design their own 8.5 x 11" magazine page using provided materials and guidance. I aim to serve over 100 youth across four issues. Grant funds will support software, equipment, printing, and programming needed to build a lasting creative outlet for Fresno's next generation.

Anticipated Impact:

- Provide Fresno Youth with a platform to express themselves creatively
- Ensure Fresno Youth from underserved neighborhoods have access to arts education, mentorship, and creative resources
- Foster self-confidence, cultural pride, and skill development in visual arts, writing, and design
- Hands-on art workshops for youth ages 10–18

Organization Council District: District Five (5):

City Service Area: The Aardvark Kids Club serves Fresno's Districts 1, 3, 5, and 7, focusing on neighborhoods where the heart of Fresno beats strongest. Primary zip codes include: District 1 (93721, 93706, 93702, 93725), District 3 (93704, 93705, 93721, 93706, 93702, 93725) District 5, (93725, 93727, 93706, 93702, 93705, 93704) and District 7 (93726, 93720, 93721, 93711, 93710).

Project Name: The Fresno Jazz Composition Collective

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: JazzFresno Inc

Address: 1025 E Yale Ave, 93704

Funding Request: \$49,610.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, The Fresno Jazz Composition Collective will compose, rehearse, perform, and record new original Fresno-themed music by Fresno composers; publicly perform at least 12 of them at all-age venues across Fresno for no-cost; professionally record at least 8 of them at Maximus Media; have these edited, mixed and mastered; and release recordings on Origin Records, a label consistently ranked as one of the best jazz labels in the world (see letter of acceptance and support). To foster creative expression in Fresno's youth, a component of our project provides Fresno students (High School/FCC/Fresno State) an opportunity to submit musical ideas we will rehearse, possibly perform, and possibly even record. We will serve approximately 400 at concerts, approximately 20,000 as listeners of KVPR, KFCF, KFSR, Radio Bilingue, radio stations across the country and on streaming services, and approximately 120 High School/College students.

Anticipated Impact:

- 12 new Fresno-themed compositions by Fresno composers
- 5 no-cost performances of the new compositions
- 8 recorded master tracks of the new compositions
- Musical submittance opportunities for Fresno students

Organization Council District: District Seven (7): Councilmember Nelson Esparza

City Service Area: 93720, 93710, 93728, 93721, 93727

Project Name: Adingra Multicultural Festival

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Community Media Access Collaborative

Address: 4294 N. Hughes # 121, 93705

Funding Request: \$49,995.00

Project Statement: "With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant", The Adingra Multicultural Festival Inc, will focus on providing a tapestry of cultural delights from Africa and the Diaspora to the diverse and underserved communities of Fresno". We are committed to showcasing the indigenous cultures of Africa and its diaspora, through a series of productions and community events. We are planning to produce a late spring African cultural festival in downtown Fresno. This cultural event scheduled for two (2) days aims to introduce the valley's communities to the vast, rich and colorful culture of Africa. This event will showcase an African art exhibit, food tasting, a documentary film screening and a live music performance. We are also planning to partner with the Westcare organization and the Marjorie center to provide entertainment to their underserved clients including fosters children, women, seniors with the goal to positively enrich their cultural knowledge.

Anticipated Impact:

- A 2-Day African Cultural Arts Festival
- An African Art Exhibit
- A Documentary Film Screening
- Live music performance
- Exposure to African Culture

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: Although, our organization's physical address is in District one area (93705), we are aiming to execute our programming in the Downtown Fresno (93721) and West Fresno (93722).

Project Name: Introduction to the ART of FLAMENCO Youth Program

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Fresno Flamenco and Spanish Arts Society

Address: 1918 N Echo St., 93704

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: The Fresno Flamenco and Spanish Arts Society (FFSAS) is dedicated to inspiring youth aged 10 to 18 through complimentary instruction in Flamenco dance, guitar, and cultural education. This program, conducted at our centrally located studio in Fresno, endeavors to preserve cultural heritage while empowering students with confidence and creative expression. The project concludes with a live student showcase involving 30 projected young performers, inviting the broader community to celebrate their accomplishments. We aim to attract a large and diverse audience to enhance cultural appreciation and support youth engagement in the arts. The program prioritizes safety and accessibility through public health precautions and convenient transit access. This initiative aligns with the City of Fresno's Cultural Plan goals by celebrating, expanding, and making the arts more equitable and diverse, thereby fostering connections through tradition, community, and performance.

Anticipated Impact:

- Introduction of the Art of Flamenco to Fresno Youth through dance and guitar
- Education in Flamenco history, language and music
- Acquire skills in both group and solo Flamenco dance
- Public Performances to showcase student growth

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: Fresno Flamenco and Spanish Arts Society (FFSAS) serve primarily Central Fresno (93701) Southeast Fresno (93702) and Downtown Fresno (93728) and parts of the 93704 through free public performances.

Project Name: Central Valley Youth Drum Corps

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Arts Enrichment for All Inc

Address: 2601 N Thorne Ave, 93704

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant Central Valley Youth Drum Corps located in the Tower District of Fresno will provide free access to a fun, empowering, transformative music education through a structured and culturally responsive 5 month percussion program for 7-10 participants, ages 10-17. We offer a supportive and affirming environment for the BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and low-income background youth. To ensure full participation, we offer free transportation for youth who need it, removing a common barrier to access for low-income families. We offer drum instruction as a powerful gateway to personal growth, artistic expression, and community engagement. By removing barriers to arts education and creating a sustainable youth-centered program, we aim to uplift and empower the often-marginalized groups in traditional music spaces. In our program, we not only teach drums - we build rhythm, resilience, and representation for the next generation of leaders and artists.

Anticipated Impact:

- 5-month percussion program for 7-10 participants
- An affirming space and community for Fresno Youth
- Support Fresno Youth in becoming art leaders through mission-based mentorships
- Creating opportunities to incorporate music and arts into young lives in Fresno

Organization Council District: District Four (4): Councilmember Tyler Maxwell

City Service Area: We serve the Tower District and outer Tower District (93728) and Central to North Fresno (93704).

Project Name: Project B.A.R.R.I.O - Building Art, Rhythm, Roots, Identity & Outreach

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Arte Americas the Mexican Arts Center

Address: 1028 W. Sierra Madre, 93705

Funding Request: \$34,999.80

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Underground Dynasty will launch Project B.A.R.R.I.O, a community-based initiative offering free dance workshops and low-cost street dance competitions. Activities will take place in Downtown Fresno and at HQ dance studio in Fresno. Project B.A.R.R.I.O is designed to serve youth and young adults ages 10 to 25 and older, with a projected reach of over 100+ participants. The goal is to foster community engagement, celebrate cultural expression through street dance, and make the art of dance more accessible to underserved populations.

Anticipated Impact: \$34,999.80

- Accessible and inclusive dance opportunities for underserved communities
- Free dance workshops and low-cost dance competitions
- Dance programming directly to local Community Centers
- Create meaningful dance opportunities for creative expression, cultural connection, and personal growth

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: We serve the Downtown Fresno area (93721, 93720) as well as host workshops at various dance studios in Fresno.

Project Name: Fresno Latin Jazz Orchestra - Community Concert Series

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Jazzfresno Inc

Address: 1501 N. Safford Ave, 93728

Funding Request: \$49,999.84

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, the Fresno Latin Jazz Orchestra - Community Concert Series will present a series of free and for fee (discounted to City of Fresno residents) concerts throughout the City of Fresno. The band, an Afro-Latin jazz big band, will perform the music of Latin jazz luminaries and local composers with the intent to spread this important music throughout the city making it available to all demographics (age, income, cultural background, race) and areas of the City of Fresno. This years project is the natural extension of last years Latin JazzFresno Big Band Project of JazzFresno's which performed/is performing ten free concerts across the city. The series had excellent reception and attendance by a diverse economic and cultural audience. What began as a JazzFresno project will transition into its own sustainable organization. This year represents **a transitional stage toward that goal.**

Anticipated Impact:

- A series of free and low-cost jazz concerts throughout the City of Fresno
- Performances in city parks across all 7 Fresno County Districts
- Bringing Fresno communities together to celebrate music from the Afro-Latin music idiom
- Creation of safe spaces to listen and dance to beautiful music

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: Our goal is to reach all 7 districts in the City of Fresno. If funded through the grant, the neighborhoods in the following zip codes: Central Fresno (93701), Southeast Fresno (93702), North Fresno (93704), North Fresno 93720, Downtown Fresno (93721), parts of East Fresno (93726, 93727) and Tower District (93728) would be our primary area of focus.

Project Name: Art is Everything: Folk Histories Through Assemblage

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 1339 M Street, 93721

Funding Request: \$48,569.40

Project Statement: With support from the Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Art Is Everything: Exploring Family, History, and Folklore Through Assemblage will engage a carefully selected intergenerational group of community members, reflecting Fresno's diversity. Using the African principles of Akoma (heart, patience, goodwill) and Sankofa (learning from the past to build the future), participants will explore migration narratives, ancestral roots, and cultural identity. Guided by professional artists, guest instructors, and cultural practitioners, participants will engage with assemblage, collage, mural arts, photography, creative writing, and archival storytelling before crafting personal assemblage boxes integrating the skills and creativity they've gained from the project. Workshops will culminate in an exhibit at Corridor 2122 Art Gallery, curated by William Raines. A community reception will feature artist Joshua Asante, showcasing how art shapes careers and cultural narratives. As the project grows, engagement will expand, with a long-term goal of reaching 100 participants.

Anticipated Impact:

- Preservation and amplification of African American cultural narratives through storytelling and art.
- Increased visibility and representation for historically excluded voices in mainstream arts spaces.
- Fostering of intergenerational dialogue and community connection through collaborative, hands-on art practices.
- Enhanced personal and cultural identity development among participants.
- Expanded access to mentorship and professional artistic opportunities for underserved communities.

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: The primary zip codes where we provide services include Southwest Fresno (93706), Central Fresno (93703), Tower District (93728), Downtown Fresno (93721) and East Fresno (93727).

Project Name: The Cultural Wellness Initiative

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 4109 W Harvard Ave, 93722

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: The Cultural Wellness Initiative is a community-centered project dedicated to improving mental health, trauma healing, and physical well-being through culturally relevant yoga and holistic wellness practices. This initiative will offer healing spaces and support services specifically designed for African American and minority residents of West Fresno. Through movement, mindfulness, and collective care, the program creates a safe, empowering environment that promotes healing, resilience, and connection.

Anticipated Impact:

- Increased access to arts and culture through embodied practices, storytelling, and communal expression
- Bridging the gap between wellness and cultural heritage
- Engagement of historically underserved residents of West Fresno

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: The primary area served is West Fresno, specifically targeting ZIP codes Southwest Fresno (93706), Downtown Fresno (93721), and Central Fresno (93701), where community health disparities and limited access to mental wellness resources are most prominent.

Project Name: No Filter

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 3333 E Fairmont Ave Apt F, 93726

Funding Request: \$49,976.00

Project Statement: With support from the Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, No Filter will continue offering free monthly performance events at Dulce UpFront, providing a welcoming space for creative expression, healing, and storytelling. Held on the last Friday of each month, No Filter has engaged over 1,000 performers and attendees ages 18+ over the past three years, fostering an inclusive, low-barrier arts community in Fresno. Grant funds will be used to cover venue rental fees, purchase essential audio equipment (including a PA system), hire a professional local photographer, fairly compensate our staff, and cover costs for flyers, and event supplies. This support will help us sustain and grow a consistent platform for underrepresented voices, while strengthening our ability to connect, uplift, and serve the creative community.

Anticipated Impact:

- Consistent, low-barrier platform for creative expression and cultural exchange
- Increased public engagement with over 600 public opportunities for attendees to connect with local artists
- Contribution to cultural vitality of the Tower District through regular, inclusive artistic events
- Improved emotional and cultural impact for both performers and attendees
- Creation of a consistent, supportive space for underserved adults to be seen and heard in the community

Organization Council District: District Four (4): Councilmember Tyler Maxwell

City Service Area: No Filter strives to allow access to as many as possible. Holding our event in Fresno's Cultural/Tower District allows for access via public transportation, with nearby surrounding zip codes being Central North Fresno (93704), West Fresno (93705), Tower District (93728), Central Fresno (93701, 93703) and East Fresno (93726).

Project Name: LitHop

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Arte Americas the Mexican Arts Center

Address: 1630 Van Ness Ave, 93721

Funding Request: \$15,243.45

Project Statement: LitHop Fresno hosts a free, all-day literary festival in Fresno's Tower District with over 100 public reading events featuring readers and audience members of all ages and backgrounds. The event is a day-long literary crawl through 10 Tower District venues: coffee shops, book stores, black box theaters, bars, yoga studios, and more. The target audience of LitHop's festival are Fresno residents and visitors interested in the literary arts, arts educators and advocates, supporting established as well as emerging writers, and highlighting Fresno's rich literary history and diverse cultural perspectives. In October 2024, we hosted and sustained over 300 attendees at 40 readings at 10 different Tower District venues.

Anticipated Impact:

- Serves as an incubator for emerging literary talent in Fresno and the Central Valley.
- Launchpad for writers' careers, with many participants going on to become published authors, educators, and arts advocates.
- Increased visibility for Hmong American writers, contributing to cultural representation and recognition.
- Provides students (K-12, community college, and MFA level) with a platform to share original work publicly.
- Fosters appreciation for the arts, community, and education among young and aspiring writers.
- Demonstrates the power of storytelling to inspire personal, professional, and creative growth.
- Builds intergenerational connections within the literary and broader arts community.

Organization Council District: District Five (5):

City Service Area: Tower District (93728) is the primary home of LitHop, the event. However, our place of business is in Calwa (93725).

Project Name: Hearts On Fire - Fresno's Only Rock & Roll Choir

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Peace Rocks Foundation

Address: 1040 E Vassar, 93704

Funding Request: \$49,313.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture Grant, (Fresno Arts Council EAAC Grant), the Peace Rocks Foundation will provide administrative and financial support to Hearts On Fire, Fresno's Only Rock & Roll community choir. The Hearts On Fire choir provides opportunities for adults, seniors and youths to enhance their individual artistic capabilities, in the rehearsal and performance of classic rock 'n' roll, Pop, & R&B songs. Hearts on Fire is a four-part harmony choir, that performs annually to a live audience in Fresno's historic Tower Theater and at smaller venues within the city of Fresno such as senior centers and youth centers.

Anticipated Impact:

- Enhanced well-being and connection for choir members through shared singing experiences.
- Increased access to performing arts for non-auditioned singers in a safe, inclusive environment.
- Continued community engagement through annual performances at the historic Tower Theater.
- Expanded outreach to underserved communities via free/discounted tickets and performances at senior centers.
- Opportunities for youth musicians to participate in live performances and engage with the arts.
- Growth in choir membership and audience size, strengthening community support and visibility.

Organization Council District: District Seven (7): Councilmember Nelson Esparza

City Service Area: 93701, 93703, 93702, 93704, 93711, 93720, 93710, 93705, 93722, 93726, 93728

Project Name: *Rhythms of Reunification: Healing Through Art & Culture*

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 2940 E Austin, 93726

Funding Request: \$49,984.00

Project Statement: Project Title: Rhythms of Reunification: Healing Through Art & Culture With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Miss DJ Moonshine will produce *Rhythms of Reunification*, a series of trauma-informed, culturally inclusive events that promote healing through the arts. Activities will be held across Fresno at locations including 3R's, Planet Pumpkin, Dulce Upfront, and local parks and community venues. The program will serve youth ages 12–25, reaching an estimated 200–1,000 participants across multiple events, depending on community engagement. Events will blend music, art therapy, nature therapy, sound healing, and somatic practices to create joyful, reflective spaces for emotional wellness and cultural connection. Each gathering will be inclusive and designed to engage diverse cultural communities, honoring their unique traditions and healing practices. The goal is to strengthen coping skills, foster self-expression, build natural support systems, and deepen community connectedness—supporting long-term wellness and generational healing through accessible, art-based experiences.

Anticipated Impact:

- Increased emotional resilience and healthy coping skills through regular engagement in expressive and somatic arts.
- Enhanced emotional well-being and self-regulation among youth participants.
- Strengthened cultural identity and pride through culturally rooted, trauma-informed arts practices.
- Expanded access to healing and mental health support in underserved Fresno neighborhoods.
- Greater participation in culturally relevant arts programming among youth ages 12–25.

Organization Council District: District Four (4): Councilmember Tyler Maxwell

City Service Area: 93701, 93703, 93702, 93704, 93706, 93710, 93711, 93720, 93727

Project Name: Pixel & Paint

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Root Access Hackerspace

Address: 1476 N Van Ness Ave, 93728

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Pixel & Paint will offer a mobile series of free, pop-up art and digital media workshops for youth ages 5–12 in five low-income Fresno neighborhoods. Hosted at housing communities and libraries, the project will serve 250 participants and culminate in a citywide Gallery Walk celebration at United Way. Participants will explore hands-on stations including digital art, storytelling, and printmaking—led by local artists and supported by trained Youth Ambassadors. Designed for cultural relevance and creative confidence, Pixel & Paint promotes access, equity, and joy through art.

Anticipated Impact:

- Increased creative confidence and self-expression among children in underserved communities.
- Greater engagement with digital tools and artistic practices for youth ages 5-12.
- Enhanced sense of belonging and inclusion for all participants, including non-English-speaking families.
- Improved leadership development through participation of Youth Ambassadors.
- Higher quality workshop experiences based on real-time, child-friendly feedback.
- Amplified visibility of youth creativity through original artwork and storytelling.

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: Our pop-up workshops will be hosted onsite at affordable housing communities and neighborhood-based libraries in the five most impacted ZIP codes in Fresno, which include: Central Fresno (93701), Southeast Fresno (93702), Southwest Fresno (93706), Downtown Fresno (93721), and far South Fresno (93725).

Project Name: My Neighbor's Neighbor

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: South Tower Community Land Trust

Address: 1523 N Glenn Ave, 93728

Funding Request: \$42,839.50

Project Statement: My Neighbor's Neighbor aims to showcase the unique identity of Fresno through a community-led photography exhibition. By involving local photographers, neighbors, and partnering with South Tower Community Land Trust, the project seeks to empower residents to express their pride, connection, and ownership of their neighborhoods through photographs. My Neighbor's Neighbor focuses on capturing the essence of South Tower, through the lens of its residents. The project will center around this specific area of Fresno, encouraging community members to explore, document, and celebrate their surroundings through taking photographs. The project will engage local photographers, neighbors, and collaborators between the ages of 6 to elders, anywhere from 8 to 12 participants, in a collaborative effort to visually represent the diverse and vibrant community of South Tower. The exhibit will be held at Broadway Parque for a unique outdoor experience, blending the beauty of the environment with the artistic expressions of the community.

Anticipated Impact:

- Empowerment of residents to explore and document their environment using new artistic skills and tools.
- Amplification of lived experiences by showcasing community-created art in familiar, accessible spaces.
- Increased access to art by hosting exhibitions within the neighborhood rather than traditional galleries.
- Reduction of participation barriers (e.g., transportation, unfamiliarity, intimidation) by bringing art directly to the community.
- Fostering of creative exploration in a safe, familiar, and inclusive environment.

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: We will be serving residents that live within Central Fresno (93701) and Tower District (93728).

Project Name: Asian American Writer Coalition

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: THE FRESNO CENTER

Address: 1725 N Fine Ave, 93727

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, the Asian American Writers Coalition (AAWC) will achieve our goal of publishing a creative writing literary journal anthology that specifically aims to validate and elevate Fresno-based Asian-American and/or Pacific Islander (AAPI) voices and experiences. Funds will go towards the processes necessary to print a literary journal anthology: creation of a website to announce a call for submissions, assembly of an editorial board to curate submissions from local Fresno-based writers/artists, providing honorariums to contributors whose work(s) are selected for publication, purchase of necessary supplies to distribute agreements, contracting print shops, etc. Once the above processes are concluded, AAWC will then utilize remaining funds to host a celebratory book launch event where contributors will be invited to read aloud their work(s) to the public. AAWC foresees that hosting a celebratory book launch will incur expenses such involving venue rental, refreshments, etc.

Anticipated Impact:

- Foster a sense of belonging and validation for AAPI individuals and communities in Fresno.
- Preserve and document AAPI voices and stories in participants' own words for current and future generations
- Increase access to and participation in arts and culture for underserved and marginalized Fresno AAPI communities
- Enhance understanding and visibility of AAPI cultural customs, struggles, and identities among both AAPI and non-AAPI audiences
- Increase community engagement through workshops and anthology participation

Organization Council District: District Four (4): Councilmember Tyler Maxwell

City Service Area: With The Fresno Center (TFC) as our fiscal sponsor, we would foreseeably serve Fresno residents living in East Fresno (93727, 93723) zip code area. We foresee our work also serving Fresno residents from the Fresno State neighborhoods (93740), Central Fresno (93703), Southeast Fresno (93702), Southwest Fresno (93706), and Tower District (93728).

Project Name: RGB: Render. Glitch. Broadcast.

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Root Access Hackerspace

Address: 6463 N Wishon Apt 102, 93704

Funding Request: \$48,400.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Mike Adame will present RGB: Render. Glitch. Broadcast., a series of outdoor projection installations in Downtown Fresno that transform city walls into a rotating broadcast of local artistic voices. Each featured artist will be treated as an “episode” or “channel,” with their work reimagined through experimental visuals, glitch aesthetics, and real-time rendering techniques. This episodic structure allows audiences to experience a curated spectrum of Fresno’s creative talent, presented as immersive digital transmissions across 3–5 public sites. The project will primarily serve residents ages 12 and up, with an expected reach of over 2,000 people. By turning building facades into portals for local expression, RGB will expand access to digital art forms, elevate underrepresented artists, and reframe public space as a communal screen for culture, identity, and innovation.

Anticipated Impact:

- Increased public access to visual art through free, site-specific digital projections
- Elevated visibility for under-recognized Fresno-based artists by showcasing their work in highly accessible public spaces
- Activation of underused urban architecture as platforms for community-centered storytelling and creativity
- Fostered community pride, curiosity, and connection through public celebration of local talent and creativity.
- Reduced participation barriers (cost, distance, intimidation) by bringing art into familiar environments.
- Improved accessibility through FM transmission for those with mobility challenges or who prefer remote engagement.

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: 93721, 93706, 93702, 93728

Project Name: Next Play Culture Lab: Tell It How You Live It

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Another Level Training Academy

Address: 1244 N Mariposa St, 93703

Funding Request: \$49,922.32

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Zechariah Oluwabankole Levine Babington-Johnson will launch Next Play - Culture Lab: Tell It How You Live It, a storytelling and multimedia arts initiative for youth ages 15–18 in Fresno’s central and southwest neighborhoods. The program will engage 60 students from Armenian, Hmong, African American, Indigenous, Latinx, and Pacific Islander communities in year-long workshops held in neighborhood-based cultural spaces. Participants will explore family and community narratives through music production, digital filmmaking, and visual storytelling. Elders will be invited to share lived histories, which youth will remix and reimagine using modern media. The project culminates in a public showcase of original student work. Culture Lab fosters cultural pride, intergenerational connection, and cross-cultural solidarity—empowering youth to become creative narrators and stewards of their community’s legacy.

Anticipated Impact:

- Empowerment of underserved youth as cultural storytellers through traditional and digital arts.
- Increased identity development among Fresno youth participants.
- Completion of original youth-led projects (e.g., music, film, art, digital media) that reflect lived experiences.
- Greater access to arts education for youth from historically marginalized communities in Fresno.
- Enhanced self-expression, collaboration, and confidence through creative skill-building.
- Reduction of participation barriers via stipends, meals, and workshops in trusted neighborhood spaces.
- Tangible pathways to future creative opportunities via portfolio development and mentor engagement.

Organization Council District: District Five (5):

City Service Area: 93706, 93721, 93701, 93703, 93702

Project Name: Cultural Reflections through Public Art

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: CHINATOWN FRESNO FOUNDATION

Address: 912 F Street, 93706

Funding Request: \$45,000.32

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, the Cultural Heritage Center will expand public art in Chinatown Fresno through murals, painted fire hydrants and public sculpture. The murals will be located on buildings in Chinatown within a block of Kern Street from G through E Streets while the fire hydrants will range across Chinatown. With a call for artists reaching youngsters, adults and seniors, public art in Chinatown will take a bold leap forward, reflecting cultural heritage of all ages within the eleven cultures that originally located in Chinatown. The goal is to provide proper recognition for Fresno artists. We expect the murals, fire hydrants and public sculpture to be captivating enough that passers-by will stop to scan the QR code, bringing recognition not only to the piece of art, but to the artist, their information and their design inspiration.

Anticipated Impact:

- Increase recognition of Chinatown Fresno as a designated or emerging Cultural Arts District
- Enhance community pride and cultural identity through public celebration of heritage
- Provide greater public access to arts and culture via free, outdoor visual art installations
- Increased foot traffic and engagement in the neighborhood, benefiting local businesses and cultural sites like the Cultural Heritage Center
- Increase employment and visibility for Fresno-based artists
- Strengthen cultural tourism and local economy through art-driven attractions
- Improve perception of Chinatown as a vibrant, creative, and welcoming neighborhood.
- Lay a foundation for future expansion into supporting a broader range of artistic disciplines.

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: Chinatown Fresno is part of the large Southwest Fresno zip code of 93706. This area is known for pollution, low economic activity and disinvestment at all levels of government. The Cultural Heritage Center is the shining star here to bring people from the surrounding zip codes Southeast Fresno (93702), Downtown Fresno (93721), Central Fresno (93701) and North Fresno (93720) to experience art and culture.

Project Name: Cassini Live

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Community Media Access Collaborative

Address: 1047 W Cortland Ave, 93705

Funding Request: \$49,995.00

Project Statement: During the last Measure P grant cycle we were able to produce a recorded (film and recorded music) version of "Cassini". This Music/Film chronicles NASA's mission to Saturn known as Cassini. From the beginning this project was designed for live performance where a group of musicians would perform the music in synchronization to the film. In this grant cycle we are seeking funds to mount at least 3 live performances of this work. 2 of the shows would be small scale, 2 musicians with a backing track performing to the film. 1 of the shows would be full scale, 2 keyboard musicians and singers performing to the film. The most exciting part of the 1 full scale show is the possibility of a panel of NASA personnel from the Cassini mission in attendance for an after concert question and answer session. All performances would be a FREE community event.

Anticipated Impact:

- Produce free presentations with live music (in addition to the ongoing online and broadcast versions)
- Solidify and expand our partnership with CMAC, the Fresno Community Chorus, the Bonner Auditorium, Maximus Media and more by offering fair and equitable compensation to all creative participants
- Work with NASA to secure a panel of 3 Cassini mission specialists for a Q & A after the concert at the Tower Theater
- Give everyone an equal chance at enjoying this experience through this free project

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: The recorded version available on CMAC tv and online is accessible worldwide. The proposed live presentations are intended for the Bonner Auditorium at the Fresno Art Museum (93703). The team involved in making the recorded version came from all over Fresno. Many of the same people and others will be involved in mounting the live presentations. Zip codes include 93720, 93727, 93710, 93722, 93675, 93636, 93705.

Project Name: Historic Crest Theatre Cultural Events

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: FRESNO CITY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Address: 1170 Broadway Plaza, 93721

Funding Request: \$49,940.00

Project Statement: Attending a film at the Historic Crest Theatre is more than just watching a movie—it's stepping into the past, celebrating creativity, and enjoying a uniquely personal, family-run experience. From the box office to the projector booth, every event is managed by members of the same dedicated family. With support from the Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, the Crest aims to host classic film nights, cultural heritage screenings, and educational programs highlighting Fresno's history and the theatre's legacy. Partnering with local film professionals, we'll offer panel discussions, presentations, and hands-on learning that reveal the creative and technical aspects of filmmaking. A core goal is youth engagement, especially in underserved communities. These immersive events will introduce young people to classic cinema and careers in the arts. This grant will help us reconnect Fresno with the magic of historic moviegoing—and celebrate the Crest as a cultural cornerstone of our city.

Anticipated Impact:

- Have participants explore the cultural, creative, and technical aspects of filmmaking with curated film screenings, educational panels, live demonstrations, and performances through a series of 4-6 themed events
- Expand access to arts and cultural programming for underserved communities
- Reintroduce the Crest Theatre as a vibrant community arts space
- Inspire interest in film and theatrical arts, particularly among youth
- Promote cultural exchange and intergenerational storytelling
- Reduce barriers to participation through free or low-cost admission, inclusive programming, and community outreach

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: This project will take place in Downtown Fresno at the Historic Crest Theatre allowing it to be accessible to people from all over the city of Fresno.

Project Name: Fresno Legacy Renaissance Project

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: FRESNO CITY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Address: 930 Fresno St, 93706

Funding Request: \$49,500.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Fresno Legacy Renaissance Project will capture the essence of the vibrant history of Southwest Fresno through the talents and expertise of local artists and historians. This project will design and create a host of pole signs that capture the history makers who helped shape much of Fresno's cultural, civic, and educational community. These historical monuments will serve as an inspiration and source of pride for the youth and older adults who reside in this region, which totals approximately 17,000 and more than 20,000 visitors annually. The impact will enhance the educational outcomes for Fresno Unified School District, and serve as a guided tour route for FUSD, Fresno City College and Fresno State University. The artists are members of our community who will be paid for their services and have an opportunity for their work to have greater exposure.

Anticipated Impact:

- Celebrate and preserve the rich African American cultural heritage of Southwest Fresno through public art and educational engagement
- Design and install custom pole signs honoring local history makers
- Foster community pride, inspire youth, and enhance cultural literacy
- Increase awareness of the contributions of African American leaders
- Enrich educational experiences for approximately 17,000 residents and over 20,000 annual visitors
- Provide community workshops and storytelling events
- Transform public spaces into open-air galleries, making art and history accessible beyond traditional venues
- Create a self-guided tour on Google Maps

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: 93706, 93741, 93721, 93725

Project Name: Check Mate (Youth Chess Program at BB's Gelateria)

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Fools Collaborative

Address: 2017 Tuolumne Street, 93721

Funding Request: \$5,434.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, BB's Gelateria will offer "Check Mate", a free weekly chess mentorship to youth, with mentors from Fresno Chess Club. This project will help young kids grow confidence; boost memory, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, and make new friendships, all while creating memories at a local downtown establishment. Classes at the shop should be able to hold about 12-14 students per week.

Anticipated Impact:

- Offer sponsorships to parents to make this chess club a no barrier option for parents
- Give Fresno youth a new activity to enjoy in their community
- Guide Fresno youth and increase their critical thinking skills, confidence, and social skills

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: Although we have regular customers from all over the city (and can travel anywhere with our catering cart), our shop is located in the heart of downtown (93721).

Project Name: The Munro Review

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Community Media Access Collaborative

Address: 1555 Van Ness Ave. #201, 93704

Funding Request: \$49,500.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, The Munro Review will strengthen its coverage as the preeminent arts and culture website for Fresno. The Munro Review provides extensive journalistic coverage of the arts in the greater Fresno area, with a concentrated focus on arts organizations within the City of Fresno. Coverage includes written stories by a regular staff of four writers, along with a monthly arts talk show, "The Munro Review on CMAC," produced by the site's fiscal sponsor. The target audience is adults of all ages plus coverage of children's theater and consists of arts supporters and interested audience members throughout the area. Access is free to all stories and coverage. In the last year, 50,000 readers of the website and thousands of viewers of the arts talk show have accessed The Munro Review.

Anticipated Impact:

- Continue covering Fresno's arts scene in a sophisticated, comprehensive and diverse way as it has been for eight years
- Continue diverse coverage to highlight all City of Fresno communities

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: Audiences and artists come from all zip codes. We estimate that about 75% of the preceding year's page views came from readers within the city of Fresno. It's also important to note that the website's reach is nationwide.

Project Name: UR Here Expanding Our Reach

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Ur Here

Address: 677 W Palmdon Dr Ste 101, 93704

Funding Request: \$17,966.30

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, UR Here Theater will expand its 222 Series of staged readings to include two performances of each production. We will expand our reach by seeking out plays that represent our values and reflect the diversity of our community, engaging larger cast sizes, expanding our production staff, and increasing our audience. The Expand Our Reach project will provide the necessary resources to enable board members to focus on building our presence and impact in the community as we expand our current programming. Goals include expanding our talent pool, giving back to our community and partner organizations, engaging in additional community outreach, and seeking additional funding to continue producing works that foster genuine community between actors and the audience. Our reading and talk-back format fosters community through conversation that amplifies the voices of the playwright, actors, and audience equally.

Anticipated Impact:

- Expand opportunities for Fresno residents to attend our productions, targeting communities that infrequently engage as theater audience members or actors
- Reflect Fresno demographics with an emphasis on populations underserved in the theater arts
- Double 2025-2026 performances and increase tickets sold per performance by 25%
- Expand outreach to targeted communities
- Continue offering reduced student ticket prices
- Offer reduced-price tickets to residents of Fresno
- Increase usage of free tickets by 25% for designated community members
- Increase the diversity of our 2025-2026 staff by 25% compared to 2024-2025

Organization Council District: District Four (4): Councilmember Tyler Maxwell

City Service Area: Our current production venue is located in Fresno's Tower District (zip code 93728), but our artists and audiences come from throughout the Fresno community. The last two seasons for which data is available reveal that our casts and crew hail from 16 different Fresno zip codes, with one-half representing the following: 93704, 93711, 93728, and 93722.

Project Name: A Simple Plan

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 335 E Barstow Ave, 93710

Funding Request: \$49,995.00

Project Statement: With support from the Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Dulce Upfront will produce a cinematic homage to Fresno and one of its most important literary voices, Gary Soto. The on-screen adaptation of Soto's, A Simple Plan, set in Mendota and ending in Fresno, tells the story follows a young boy faced with an impossible decision—to abandon the family dog—unfolding through visual storytelling, silence, and emotional resonance. Filmed with local cast and crew, the project supports regional talent while honoring Fresno's cultural identity. The project will serve and reach audiences through community screenings, school collaborations, and public workshops. The film's rural-to-urban arc underscores themes of obedience, loss, and inherited emotion. Beyond production, the project includes bilingual community engagement, educational programming, and film festival outreach. A Simple Plan offers a powerful, place-based artistic experience that expands access to local storytelling and reflects the Central Valley's creative voice.

Anticipated Impact:

- Create a powerful, emotionally resonant 8-minute short film in Fresno
- Honor Gary Soto's literary legacy
- Showcase the City of Fresno as a cinematic location
- Create meaningful engagement with underserved communities through screenings and discussion
- Hold a Fresno premiere screening and at least two community-based screenings in accessible, neighborhood-based locations
- Submit the film to national and regional film programs
- Have a diverse group of collaborators (actors, crew, presenters)

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: 93702, 93721, 93706, 93727, 93728

Project Name: Inaugural Production of Fresno Playhouse, Extranjeros

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Community Media Access Collaborative

Address: 2909 Huntington Boulevard #206, 93721

Funding Request: \$26,400.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Fresno Playhouse will present Extranjeros, a culturally relevant new play by Mexico-born, Fresno-raised playwright Rodolfo Robles Cruz. This inaugural production will provide paid opportunities for local theatre artists—an uncommon practice in Fresno’s arts scene—and bring the story of undocumented Central Valley immigrants to life. We aim to perform at Fresno High School, Dulce UpFront, or another accessible community venue. Our “pay what you can” model will ensure that community members of all ages and income levels can attend, while all Fresno Unified students will be invited to attend free of charge. We expect to serve approximately 500–700 people, including students, families, and emerging artists. This project centers Latine and marginalized voices, demonstrating the power of culturally specific storytelling to inspire civic dialogue and drive change.

Anticipated Impact:

- Engage the people of Fresno with theatre written, produced, and created by diverse Fresno playwrights
- Inspire change, creativity, and people to think of the arts as more than just a hobby.
- Provide Mexican representation in theatre, inspiring others to create
- Foster deeper empathy and understanding of Mexican immigrants in Fresno

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: Our open audition process and citywide outreach mean we expect to reach a wide range of zip codes, including, but not limited to, 93727, 93721, 93701, 93728, 93704, 93726, 93705, and 93702. Venue location and school partnerships will help determine final service areas.

Project Name: Doers

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Community Media Access Collaborative

Address: 6669 N Remington Ave, 93704

Funding Request: \$48,840.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, I will explore what compels someone to go from dreaming to doing. Whether a small business owner, non-profit or social advocate, artist, or musician, at some point every one of them had to come to a place where they were no longer content with how things are and decided to do something about it. I want to interview 6 local "doers" of diverse backgrounds, industries, and purpose to learn what drives them to do what they do and make the sacrifices required to bring their dreams into a reality. This project will serve as a celebration of local people of action, and an encouragement to others to boldly build the life they desire.

Anticipated Impact:

- Spotlight local talent and advocates, with the desired outcome of inspiring others to step up and do the same
- Increase community involvement with supporting local businesses

Organization Council District: District Two (2): Council President Mike Karbassi

City Service Area: I serve all of the city of Fresno, and the greater Central Valley

Project Name: Empower Initiative - The Fools Collaborative

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Fools Collaborative

Address: 710 Van Ness PMB 170, 93705

Funding Request: \$49,610.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, The Fools Collaborative will advance work for our EMPOWER initiative, a program developed to uplift, support, and nurture Creatives of Color through networking, mentoring, professional development, and resource facilitation. We are seeking funding to produce a year's worth of events around this initiative. EMPOWER shares several goals of the Fresno Cultural Arts Plan: It focuses on inclusiveness, diversity, and representation, helping local artists of Color navigate predominantly white spaces and learn skills in areas like marketing, funding, and capacity building. EMPOWER educates and nurtures creatives with a hope of growing a new generation of empowered, intentional, compassionate, and actively anti-racist artists, while simultaneously working to build a network of White artistic partners who are supportive and invested in making "traditional" art-making spaces safer and more inclusive.

Anticipated Impact:

- Support Creatives of Color in developing the confidence, knowledge, skills, and personal network necessary to thrive in Fresno's arts landscape
- Make the creative process less intimidating for them by offering tools, peer support, mentorship, and community
- Positively impact artists, the organizations they work with, and the audiences and future generation of creators who see their work
- Remove barriers to access by offering stipends, rideshares, and flexible, low-pressure entry points to participation whenever we can, including a Zoom participation option for most events
- Expand the pool of voices contributing to the region's creative culture

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: Past partners in this initiative have included Our Saviours Lutheran Church (in zip code 93705) and CMAC (located downtown in 93721).

Project Name: Fresno Cumbia Fest

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 1028 W Sierra Madre, 93705

Funding Request: \$29,952.23

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Cumbia Bass will present Fresno Cumbia Fest, a free, family-friendly celebration of cumbia music and culture at a Fresno City park. The event will feature live bands, DJs, dance lessons, art and food vendors, youth activities, wellness outreach, and a native tribal blessing. We aim to serve over 800 people, from children to seniors, with a focus on engaging underserved and multicultural communities. By activating public space with inclusive cultural programming, we hope to foster joy, connection, and pride in Fresno's diverse heritage.

Anticipated Impact:

- Provide free access to high-quality arts and cultural experiences
- Strengthen community identity and pride
- Increase participation from underserved neighborhoods
- Serve 800+ attendees of all ages
- Feature 15+ local artists, vendors, and performers
- Connect at least 100 individuals with wellness and nonprofit resources

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: We serve Downtown, Central and South Fresno, including zip codes 93702, 93706, 93721, 93701, and 93725.

Project Name: Art Unites: A Collective Art Experience

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Pequeños Empresarios Inc

Address: 410 W Fallbrook Ave Suite 108, 93711

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Pequeños Empresarios will launch Art Unites: A Collective Art Experience, a bilingual, community-centered art program in Fresno's City Council District 3. Designed for individuals ages 18 and older, the program will offer weekly, two-hour guided painting workshops infused with mindfulness, music, and gentle movement. Held in accessible and welcoming office spaces in District 3, the sessions will foster emotional expression, creativity, and connection among participants. Led by renowned artist Ana Conti, this initiative will serve approximately 480 residents, transforming isolation into community and promoting healing through collaborative art. The program aims to uplift underserved voices, nurture mental well-being, and spark shared creativity across diverse populations. Grant funds will support professional facilitation, art supplies, venue logistics, and culturally relevant outreach. Through Art Unites, Pequeños Empresarios will create a vibrant space for expression, belonging, and transformation in the heart of Fresno,

Anticipated Impact:

- Support emotional healing and self-expression through guided, creative workshops
- Foster a sense of belonging and reduce social isolation
- Increase participation in culturally relevant, bilingual arts experiences among low-income and multilingual residents
- Serve approximately 480 adults ages 18+
- Offer weekly free, bilingual, two-hour workshops in accessible venues that will include lessons in mindfulness, painting, movement, and creative writing
- Partner with local nonprofits, senior centers, and public housing sites to host workshops in trusted, familiar spaces to engage underserved communities
- Prioritize low-income zip codes and residents with limited access to arts programming

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: The primary zip codes where we provide services include: 93650, 93701–93712, 93714–93718, 93720–93730, 93737, 93740, 93741, 93744, 93745, 93747, 93750, 93755, 93760, 93761, 93764, 93765, 93771–93779, 93786, 93790–93794, 93844, and 93888.

Project Name: MEXICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Fresno City & County Historical Society

Address: 267 N Fulton St, 93701

Funding Request: \$49,995.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, the Mexican Heritage Center will identify, interview, collect, preserve and share histories of Mexican Americans whose lives in Fresno are an integral part of Fresno's history and a revelation of the times in which they lived. Combining our resources and those of the Fresno Historical Society, we will capture 100 histories, filming, digitizing and sharing them through research, analysis, publications and exhibits. We will provide training and guidance to community scholars, students, and historians for conducting oral histories. The collections will be housed at the Mexican Heritage Center, located downtown in the facility of the Community Center for the Arts and Technology (CCAT), shared with the Historical Society and made accessible to the public through exhibits and publications. The first two collections and exhibits will be West Fresno's Mexican Community 1930s-1950s and Valley Artists of the Chicano Period 1960s-1970s.

Anticipated Impact:

- Build a professionally curated, publicly accessible archive of Central Valley history through oral histories, photographs, documents, and multimedia materials that reflect the diverse lived experiences of Mexican American communities across Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, and Kings Counties
- Collaborate with educational institutions, libraries, museums, community organizations, and historical societies to strengthen impact, broaden access, and build community trust
- Offer high school and college students, along with community volunteers, opportunities to gain research and archival skills through hands-on training in interviewing, digitizing, and curation
- Disseminate findings and elevate community stories through a series of "pláticas," exhibits, publications, and traveling presentations—making history accessible and engaging for a wide audience.
- Aim for a 100% match in cash and in-kind support to demonstrate local investment, build sustainability, and support future phases of the project

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: We are in zip code 93701, close to the Lowell District. Much of the work and most of the interviews will be conducted there.

Project Name: Every Brilliant Thing

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Fools Collaborative

Address: 845 E Pine Ave, 93728

Funding Request: \$14,168.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, The Fools Collaborative will produce a live production of Every Brilliant Thing by Duncan MacMillan and Jonny Donahoe at Good Company Players' 2nd Space Theatre in Fresno's Tower District. This will be an opportunity to cultivate a new collaborative relationship between The Fools Collaborative and Good Company Players (GCP), expanding both theatre companies' audiences, while experiencing a heartfelt story, in a intimate and interactive setting, about depression, resilience, and the "brilliant" things that make life worth living. The Fools' audience draws in an age demographic averaging between people ages 25-40, whereas GCP's audiences contain an average of patrons ages 55-65. We can potentially reach 1800 attendees with 12 projected performances in the performance venue. The production will foster inclusivity by addressing barriers to participation and seeking to de-stigmatize mental illness.

Anticipated Impact:

- Empower those within our community who are struggling with mental illness
- Develop a working relationship with Good Company Players in hopes of bridging the gap between our respective generational demographics
- Partner with NAMI Fresno, Breakbox Thought Collective, and other cultural arts organizations in Fresno to attend the event

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: 93728, 93721, 93704, 93705, 93710, and 93720

Project Name: Radical God-Hating Extremists: The Save Tower Podcast (Working Title)

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Community Media Access Collaborative

Address: 2213 N Wishon Ave, 93704

Funding Request: \$49,500.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, I will bring to life a long-saved collection of screenshots, news clippings, iPhone videos, and court documents I gathered while helping lead the Save the Tower demonstrations in Fresno's Tower District. My podcast, Radical God-Hating Extremists, will not only document Fresno's largest community protest, but compare what happened locally with broader national and global struggles around identity, justice, and who gets the right to take up space. I will record podcast episodes and interview a wide variety of locals involved in the protests (and their aftermath) at CMAC – which is, coincidentally, where I also co-host Dead Folks, a comedy podcast about grief. While this project is made with and for the people of Fresno, especially those who took part in the movement, I think its broader themes will appeal to anyone interested in modern social issues.

Anticipated Impact:

- Document and preserve the story of the largest community movement in Fresno's history—while it is still fresh in the minds and hearts of those who lived it
- Complete and release this podcast that will serve as a permanent, accessible account of a pivotal moment in our city's cultural and political life
- Explore other local organizing efforts that have received less media coverage and public support
- Uplift the voices of individuals and communities who are often underrepresented or misrepresented in mainstream narratives—including queer folks, punks, atheists, artists, and unhoused neighbors, many of whom call Tower home
- Showcase storytellers and community members who are rarely featured in traditional arts programming

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: 93721, 93728, 93704, and 93722.

Project Name: The Living Gallery Project

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 1371 N Poplar Ave, 93728

Funding Request: \$42,912.10

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Magic Hour Interior Design will facilitate The Living Gallery Project—an initiative to transform three Fresno nonprofit spaces (Fresno Inclusive, Storyland, and Root Access Hackerspace) into vibrant, community-centered environments that reflect local culture and history. We will hire local artists to lead mural painting, interactive workshops, and collaborative design installations. Activities include a linocut printmaking workshop, a community paint night, and immersive storytelling features like symbolic murals and themed furnishings. The project will serve an all-ages audience, with a focus on LGBTQ+, BIPOC, and working-class communities in Fresno’s Tower District and Downtown. We aim to engage over 500 people through direct participation and public access. By embedding art into everyday environments, the project will increase access to cultural experiences, foster creative pride, and ensure underrepresented voices are reflected in the city’s visual and cultural landscape.

Anticipated Impact:

- Provide equitable access to the arts by embedding culturally relevant design into nonprofit spaces that serve diverse and historically underserved communities
- Support and compensate local artists from varied backgrounds
- Foster community participation and pride through collaborative, hands-on art experiences
- Complete three art-centered transformations at Fresno Inclusive, Storyland, and Root Access Hackerspace
- Create public-facing events such as a linocut printmaking workshop and a community paint night
- Make arts and culture more visible, inclusive, and accessible by centering local voices, removing financial and institutional barriers, and transforming familiar spaces into sites of creativity and cultural exchange

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: We primarily serve communities in Downtown Fresno, Roeding Park, and the Tower District, focusing on neighborhoods within the 93721 and 93728 zip codes.

Project Name: OPA!

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Arts Enrichment for All Inc

Address: 3767 E. Huntington Blvd, 93702

Funding Request: \$49,957.60

Project Statement: With support from the Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, the Greek Cultural Arts Alliance of Fresno will present OPA!, a free three part cultural learning experience introducing youth to Greek dance and traditional costumes. Activities will take place at various Fresno elementary school sites during their multicultural evenings. With our final workshop of the series being held at the Greek Community of Fresno Venue in District 7. The program will serve school-age children across Fresno, with a projected impact of up to 100 students for the inaugural series. Participants will receive hands-on instruction in Greek folk dance and learn about the historical and cultural significance of traditional Greek attire. The desired impact is to foster appreciation for Greek heritage, promote cultural diversity, and encourage youth engagement through the arts.

Anticipated Impact:

- Introduce elementary school-aged children and their families to Greek culture through dance, costume, and tradition in a fun, engaging way
- Foster cultural appreciation, encourage participation in the arts, and create meaningful experiences for youth who may not otherwise have access to this kind of programming
- Offer our series free of charge to remove financial barriers and provide access to arts and culture for families from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds—making the arts interactive and accessible

Organization Council District: District Five (5)

City Service Area: 93701, 93702, 93703, and 93704

Project Name: No Sabo Club: Spanish Workshop Series

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 6884 E Fedora Ave, 93727

Funding Request: \$25,999.60

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant our organization would like to develop an interactive Spanish language workshop series. “No Sabo Club” will be designed for bilingual and bicultural individuals who want to reconnect with the Spanish language in inclusive and culturally enriching workshops. No Sabo club will meet quarterly, four times throughout the year. No Sabo Club will serve individuals of all ages and fluency levels, whether they are native speakers, or Fresnians who want to learn Spanish. No Sabo Club hopes to reach a minimum of 400 people, 100 per event, and highlight the experiences and knowledge from our elders stories and traditions as a foundation. It is also a goal of No Sabo Club to bring awareness to Indigenous languages of Mexico and Latin America, as this is a key aspect in the evolution of the Spanish language.

Anticipated Impact:

- Provide free workshops that will increase access to arts and culture by centering bilingual and bicultural experiences in a creative, community centered structure
- Foster intergenerational and peer-based learning in a positive environment
- Have participants build their confidence in Spanish language skills through low-pressure, interactive activities
- Create meaningful access to cultural expression
- Engage with institutionally and geographically underserved communities, specifically those from central Fresno, Southwest Fresno, and Southeast Fresno

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: The location of our workshop series will be in the Tower District area. Some of the zip codes we will be targeting are: 93705, 93706, 93721, 93722, 93702, 93706, 93726, 93728, amongst others.

Project Name: Central Valley Camera Club

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 4146 N Maroa Ave, 93704

Funding Request: \$43,246.52

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture Grant, the Central Valley Camera Club will host three Photo Walk events culminating in an end-of-year photography gallery show comprised of work from local photographers of all skill levels. The Photo Walks, which normally host around 100-200 people, will highlight the Tower District and Downtown Fresno (93728, 93704, 93706 area codes), and the gallery will be open to all ages. The Photo Walks will take place at Storyland, Gazebo Gardens & adjoining neighborhoods, and Chinatown, while the gallery will be hosted at Dulce Upfront. In hosting these events, the Central Valley Camera Club strives to make an accessible art show for low-income photographers, highlight local talent, and build community bonds between the participating artists.

Anticipated Impact:

- Highlight the vast amount of talent in Fresno and give participants local gallery shows (with costs covered by the Camera Club)
- Increase Fresno's artist participation in our events
- Provide working connections and hiring opportunities for photographers
 - Each contractor we will hire for this project is already an active participant in Camera Club events
 - These events will help them attract new potential clients, build their resume, and demonstrate their skills for referrals from other photographers

Organization Council District: District Four (4): Councilmember Tyler Maxwell

City Service Area: While we have done events throughout Fresno and the greater Central Valley, we are specifically hosting events in 93728, 93704, and 93706 area codes for this project. In an anonymous survey of 64 Camera Club members, the Fresno area zip codes present included 93650, 93728, 93704, 93727, 93711, 93725, 93619, 93611, 93612, 93703, 93646, 93722, 93721, and 93720. We also had reports from Tulare, Madera, Kingsburg, Visalia, Reedley, Sanger, Dinuba, Porterville, Hanford, Atwater, and Oakland zip codes.

Project Name: AfroBeat Foundation

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 3356 N. Wishon, 93704

Funding Request: \$47,542.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, AfroBeat Foundation will establish community art hubs where young people can access resources, mentorship, and workshops led by experienced artists. This project aims to revitalize and enhance the visibility of African art and culture through a series of educational workshops, community exhibitions, performances, fairs & expo, presentation and online resources. It would focus on bridging cultural gaps and promoting artistic expression within and beyond Africa.

Our activities will take place at Dulce Upfront located at 2026 N. Van Ness Ave in Fresno. AfroBeat will focus on youth 12-24yrs old but not limited to. Population estimate is 5,500 people plus.

Our desired impact is to establish a strong foundation to support and expand access to African arts and culture through community engagement. We also want to increase access to a variety of African arts and cultural education programs to provide educational opportunities for people of all ages.

Anticipated Impact:

- Foster community engagement
- Improve the overall quality of life by increasing access to and participation in arts and culture, particularly for underserved communities
- Reach out to schools, community centers, and collaborate with local organizations to ensure inclusivity and tailored programming
- Increase access by partnering with local cultural institutions, providing free or subsidized events, and offering outreach programs in underserved areas, thereby expanding participation in arts and culture

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: We will serve Southwest Fresno, Central Fresno, Northwest Fresno and East Fresno including the following zip codes: 93706, 93701, 93702, 93705, and 93704

Project Name: OneHope Community Choir

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 327 N. Broadway St, 93701

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, OneHope Community Choir will expand its outreach by offering choral workshops, rehearsals, and performances to Fresno's multicultural community, with a focus on underserved populations. Activities will take place at local community centers, schools, and accessible public venues throughout the city. The choir will be open to individuals ages 5 and up, embracing all genders, backgrounds, and abilities. We anticipate engaging over 100 individuals in the first year, uniting people through the universal language of music. The desired impact is to strengthen cultural ties, promote inclusivity, and provide all members of the Fresno community, especially those with limited access to arts programming, with opportunities for artistic expression and connection.

Anticipated Impact:

- Create an inclusive, safe, and welcoming space for individuals from diverse backgrounds to come together and express themselves through music
- Provide artistic and educational opportunities for underserved populations, especially those with limited access to arts programming
- Foster a sense of belonging and unity through shared musical experiences that reflect the community's cultural diversity
- Produce public performances that showcase the talent and hard work of participants while enriching the cultural life of Fresno

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: The primary zip codes we serve include: 93701, 93706, 93721, and 93727.

Project Name: FLAT LAND

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Arte Americas the Mexican Arts Center

Address: 3910 N Sherman Street, 93726

Funding Request: \$49,995.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, FLAT LAND will increase access to the arts in Fresno via a free printed publication and digital archive documenting creative culture across Fresno. Funding will go towards editing team and contributor fees, printing costs and downtown venue rental for release events. Three issues will be distributed every four months. With larger print runs of 1000, FLAT LAND will expand its reach and impact—reaching a cross-generational audience. FLAT LAND will be distributed at spaces of cultural connection across Fresno—museums, libraries, coffee shops, bookstores and literary events. A digital archive will further extend the reach and accessibility of FLAT LAND to its growing audience. Via website and social media, the digital archive will include photographs, poetry and essays not featured in the printed issues, maintaining FLAT LAND as an engaging and relevant cultural resource.

Anticipated Impact:

- Engage and inspire the younger generation so that they can recognize and be proud of the rich cultural heritages in Fresno’s creative history
- Inspire the community to see validity in their stories, archives, and histories—and how these stories can be told in a variety of creative ways, from poetry, creative writing, art, photography and more
- Spur new creative projects, partnerships and possibilities in the Fresno creative community

Organization Council District: District Four (4): Councilmember Tyler Maxwell

City Service Area: 93721, 93705, 93706, 93703, 93741, 93740, 93710, 93720, 93711, and 93727.

Project Name: Heritage in Action: Black History Shaping Fresno's Future

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: FRESNO CITY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Address: 1234 Pottle Ave, 93706

Funding Request: \$50,000

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, and the Fresno City & County Historical Society's assistance, we will launch Heritage in Action: Black History Shaping Fresno's Future, a cultural project celebrating Fresno's Black American history, culture, and legacy. Set for June 2026 during Juneteenth, the event will feature an educational exhibit highlighting local Black history, a panel discussion with community leaders, and a vibrant street fair showcasing Black-owned businesses, artists, and performers. Additional components include an oral history initiative to preserve personal stories and photographs, and a documentary project capturing event footage, the oral histories collected, and interviews to premiere at Stories That Unite: Fresno's Black History. Heritage in Action is committed to preserving and sharing Fresno's diverse heritage, fostering inclusion, and amplifying voices that have shaped our community—ensuring the African American legacy in Fresno is honored, remembered, and shared for generations to come.

Anticipated Impact:

- Preserve and share local Black history, increase cultural access, and promote community engagement across generations and neighborhoods
- Key components include: an educational exhibit, a panel discussion with Black leaders, a vibrant Juneteenth street fair, an oral history initiative, and a short documentary to be premiered in early 2027
- Amplify historically underrepresented voices, foster intergenerational learning, and inspire greater understanding of the African American experience in Fresno
- Engage geographically and institutionally underserved communities, particularly in southwest Fresno
- Offer free public events, online resources, and opportunities for storytelling, performance, and cultural expression
- Broaden exposure to arts and culture
- Invite residents of all ages and backgrounds to engage with Fresno's Black heritage

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: This project will take in the heart of Downtown Fresno at The Archive on Kern

Project Name: Fresno Reads

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 837 N Farris Ave, 93728

Funding Request: \$47,822.50

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Centered Margins, the non-profit arm of Judging by the Cover: A Bookstore will launch Fresno Reads, a city-wide series of silent reading events, performances, and literature celebrations at cultural hubs including Chinatown, Tower District, and Fresno High. The program will feature local musicians, poets, and artists to enrich each gathering and culminate in a grand literary showcase in Chinatown. Aimed at intergenerational audiences, Fresno Reads expects to engage over 1,200 participants. Events will include live readings, a synchronized city-wide silent reading at noon, and themed gatherings centered on Latino, LGBTQ+, bilingual, and children's literature. Fresno Reads seeks to expand access to the arts, boost literacy, and build community through inclusive cultural experiences—laying the groundwork for lasting literary engagement in Fresno.

Anticipated Impact:

- Promote literacy across all ages
- Provide economic and creative opportunities for local artists
- Strengthen community connection through inclusive cultural events
- Increase access to literature in underserved neighborhoods

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: Fresno Reads primarily serves downtown and central Fresno neighborhoods, especially in the following zip codes: 93706 (Chinatown), 93701 (Downtown), 93728 (Tower District), and 93704 (Fresno High District). Additional outreach will extend to other areas based on venue partnerships.

Project Name: Chinese American Museum Project (CAMP)

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: FRESNO CITY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Address: 1925 N. Pamela Ave, 93619

Funding Request: \$49,995.00

Project Statement: With support from the Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, the Chinese American Museum Project (CAMP) will expand its programming and establish a permanent exhibit space at The Archive On Kern (AOK) in Downtown Fresno, generously provided by the Fresno City & County Historical Society (FCCHS). This relocation from the Kearney Mansion Gallery marks a significant step toward preserving and sharing the rich heritage of Fresno's Chinese American community. The expanded exhibit will explore the evolution of Chinatown and feature artifacts, photographs, and oral histories from the collections of FCCHS and the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA). In partnership with CCBA and Rich Media, CAMP will record and archive 4–5 oral histories for public access. Eight public events—including cultural workshops and presentations—will highlight Chinese American traditions, history, and resilience. This project deepens community understanding and celebrates the enduring contributions of one of Fresno's foundational communities.

Anticipated Impact:

- Showcase historical artifacts, archival photos, oral histories, and cultural practices
- Engage at least 1,000 visitors over the course of the year and reach hundreds more through virtual programming and community outreach
- Educate and inspire individuals to explore and cherish their own heritage, while fostering greater cross-cultural understanding throughout the Central Valley and beyond

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: This project will take in the heart of Downtown Fresno at The Archive On Kern allowing it to be accessible to people from all over the city of Fresno.

Project Name: Collab Fresno

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 1291 N Arthur Ave, 93728

Funding Request: \$49,788.20

Project Statement: Collab Fresno is a community-driven arts and culture initiative that increases visibility and access to local creative talent and events in Fresno and nearby rural communities. Through a free quarterly arts guide—both print and digital—and an online artist directory, Collab Fresno highlights culturally significant events, profiles local creators, and connects residents to the region’s creative landscape. The project builds on the Fresno Flyer’s established platform, expanding its mission with dedicated space for underrepresented voices—especially BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and rural creatives often excluded from traditional media. Grant funding will support the creation and distribution of three art guides featuring original articles, a cultural calendar, and artist listings. It will also support blog-style storytelling, digital infrastructure, and the commissioning of work from local writers and artists. By offering inclusive, centralized arts coverage and event information, Collab Fresno empowers communities through access to creative expression and strengthens the region’s cultural identity.

Anticipated Impact:

- Increase access to local arts and culture through free, widely distributed content
- Uplift underrepresented artists and cultural workers by commissioning paid work
- Create an inclusive arts guide that serves as a consistent resource for events, opportunities, and storytelling
- Strengthen community identity through visibility and representation
- Create three 4-page arts guides created and distributed quarterly
- Create 1 functional digital calendar and launch our artist directory
- Have 5-10 artists/writers be commissioned and compensated annually
- Reach 500,000+ people per year across print, digital, and social channels
- Focus coverage and distribution in institutionally and geographically underserved neighborhoods

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: 93701, 93702, 93703, 93704, 93705, 93706, 93710, 93711, 93720, 93721, 93722, 93725, 93726, 93727, 93728, 93779, 93778, 93777, 93776, 93775, 93774, 93747, 93755

Project Name: Documentary: "Mr Rib: It's Not Just Bar-B-Que It's Love"

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Community Media Access Collaborative

Address: 4530 E Sierra Madre Ave APT C, 93726

Funding Request: \$49,614.65

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, I plan to produce a 20-minute documentary showcasing the community outreach and support efforts conducted by local community member, Ned Mallory (known as, "Mr. Rib") titled, "It's Not Just Bar-B-Que, It's Love." Filming would take place primarily in West Fresno. The targeted audience and number of people served by the documentary will be unlimited. The targeted audience and number of people served by Mr. Rib's community outreach and support is designed to support the food-insecure population in (primarily) West Fresno. The goal of this proposed documentary is to tell the story of one man's dedication to making a difference in his community, and how others can do the same. I hope the documentary will serve to highlight our community's struggle with food insecurity, showcase an amazing grass-roots effort by Mr. Rib, and motivate others to help make a difference.

Anticipated Impact:

- Tell the story of one man's dedication to making a difference in his community, and how others can do the same
- Highlight our community's struggle with food insecurity
- Showcase a grass-roots effort by Mr. Rib
- Motivate others to help make a difference
- Engage institutionally and/or geographically underserved communities, neighborhoods and individuals

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: The documentary will serve all sections of the city. The part of the city served by Mr. Rib's community outreach and support is designed to support the food-insecure population in (primarily) West Fresno. Zip codes include, but are not limited to, 93726, 93706 and 93702.

Project Name: Fresno Sweded Film Festival (Swede Fest)

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Community Media Access Collaborative

Address: 1555 Van Ness Ave #201, 93721

Funding Request: \$19,998.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, we will present the 26th edition of the Fresno Sweded Film Festival (Swede Fest), a free, all-ages film festival celebrating low-budget, homemade movie remakes (sweded films) created by local residents and aspiring filmmakers from across the planet. The festival will take place in Spring 2026 at Fresno High School and The Tower Theatre. The event is open to all, with a focus on engaging youth and families, especially those with limited access to traditional media arts programs. We anticipate serving at least 350 attendees and 30 filmmaking teams (ages 10-80) with 30 short films showcased. We will also host special training workshops and gatherings to encourage residents to participate in the film creation. Swede Fest aims to inspire creativity, media literacy, and community storytelling, while lowering barriers to filmmaking and cultural expression.

Anticipated Impact:

- Inspire creative expression, access to filmmaking and media arts, and bring together a diverse cross-section of the Fresno community through a joyful, inclusive event
- Engage at least 30 filmmaking teams and 350 attendees across both programs, with a focus on youth and first-time creators
- Remove barriers to participation in the arts by offering free submissions, programs, workshops, screenings, and support for creating sweded films using everyday materials
- Engage underserved communities by partnering with Fresno Unified School District to involve K–12 students from diverse backgrounds and schools in neighborhoods with limited media arts access
- Increase exposure to arts and culture by celebrating community-created films in a public, supportive setting where participants become artists and audiences are invited to appreciate local talent

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: We will encourage film submissions and participation from residents across the city of Fresno. While our screening and workshop venues are not yet secured for Spring 2026, the primary zip codes where we will provide services are likely to be 93728 and 93721 (The Tower District, Fresno High Neighborhood, Downtown, and the Cultural Arts District).

Project Name: CCM Outreach

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Central California Music

Address: 1815 E Benvenuto Dr, 93730

Funding Request: \$49,995.00

Project Statement: With support from the CAC Arts & Youth Grant, Central California Music will outreach to children interested in learning instrumental music and singing in the City of Fresno. Students will meet at a centralized location near their homes and take lessons after-school from professional musicians. Each student will be provided rented instruments and sheet music through our local vendors. This outreach program will allow us to give students the equipment they need and provide them individualized instruction they may not be receiving in their schools - thus, improving equity for those that cannot afford private lessons. The program will conclude with a musical performance for their families and communities.

Anticipated Impact:

- Remove financial barriers for students to take music and voice lessons
- Make music more accessible to children by going to their communities
- Transport equipment and pay musicians travel expenses for children interested in learning instrumental music and singing
- Provide greater access to families without reliable transportation
- Hold performances in which teachers can assess and track student progress

Organization Council District: District Six (6): Councilmember Nick Richardson

City Service Area: We aim to serve 93727, 93721, 93705, 93710, 93701, 93702 and others. We will service any area of Fresno in which there are community centers or children of more musical experiences.

Project Name: Neighborhood Woodshop

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Jackson Community Development Corporation

Address: 3327 E Huntington Blvd, 93702

Funding Request: \$10,170.22

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Neighborhood Woodshop will instruct approximately 32 students in building their own skateboard with their own custom-designed graphic. This project combines the art disciplines of woodworking and painting. All students will take home their "diploma" to ride all over the neighborhood. Classes take place at the Neighborhood Woodshop, located on Huntington Blvd in the Jackson neighborhood of south Fresno and are entirely free for all students. Classes are open to residents of the Jackson neighborhood ages 10 - 18 and include workshop safety, history of skate deck art, basic hand tool usage, and painting instruction using both brushes and spray cans. We hope to build up a group of students in our neighborhood that appreciates artistic expression and has gained enough competency in various art media that they feel confident to go forward and create art throughout their lives.

Anticipated Impact:

- Provide students with awareness of woodworking as an artistic medium and have them leave the class session with technical competency in woodworking and a piece of functional artwork that they can use and be proud of
- Introduce students to the concept of bent lamination
- Equip students with skills that will be beneficial if they decide to pursue wood sculpture/furniture making
- Provide students with knowledge of the history of skateboard deck art (dating back to the 1960s, which will be used as reference for the students' own designs)
 - They will learn about techniques in the use of brushes, sprayed paint, and in designing within the confines of a fixed canvas size (i.e. the deck itself)
- Increase connection/teamwork between students from various socioeconomic, cultural, and age groups
- Effectively target an underserved community and neighborhood

Organization Council District: District Seven (7): Councilmember Nelson Esparza

City Service Area: 93702

Project Name: Hmong Photographic History & Culture Archive

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: FRESNO CITY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Address: 2120 Kern Street, 93721

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, we will create the Hmong Photographic History & Culture Archive. Our project turns a collection of 52,000 existing photographs into an online media archive that will serve everyone from history and culture scholars to current and future generations of local Hmong wanting to learn more about their ancestors (all ages). Year one reach: 4,000-5,000 people. Future impact: over 100,000 people. Our team of collaborators will process and edit thousands of digital photographs, research locations, revisit and interview Hmong families throughout Fresno who were photographed 20 years ago, take new pictures, write captions for every image and longer narratives for each of the 120 subject folders that comprise the collection. We will also scan vintage photographs from Hmong family collections. Once installed on the Fresno Historical Society's servers, the archive will be easy-to-navigate and elegant to look at.

Anticipated Impact:

- Introduce Fresno to the inner and outer lives of our local Hmong refugee community
- Introduce the younger Hmong community to the history and culture of their elders and ancestors
- Provide a powerful and enduring research tool for scholars and educators that will become more impactful in future years
- Anticipate strong engagement numbers from our website: 4,000-5,000 visits the first year and surpassing 100,000 in future years
- Launch the archive and go live with a special event that will include a slide lecture, a reception and an exhibition of large photographs on loan from the Fresno Art Museum
- Plan a special outreach campaign aimed directly at scholars and teachers.

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: 93702, 93703, 93701, 93727, 93726, 93722, 93728, 93721, and 93737.

Project Name: Womxn 2 Womxn - Arts, Community, and Culture Project

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Womxn 2 Womxn

Address: 736 Fulton Suite 123, 93721

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Womxn 2 Womxn will launch the W2W - Arts, Culture and Community Project. This initiative will deliver monthly, accessible arts workshops and public events in downtown Fresno, welcoming participants of all ages, with a focus on BIPOC women, gender-expansive people, and youth. We plan to serve a minimum of 500 community members through inclusive programming that spotlights diverse local artists. By fostering an accessible, creative environment, we aim to spark new artistic experiences, uplift underrepresented voices, and strengthen community connections across Fresno.

Anticipated Impact:

- Make the arts more accessible and inclusive, especially for institutionally and geographically underserved communities in Fresno
- Offer hands-on workshops led by local artists, ensuring both artists and participants are valued and fairly compensated
- Encourage more people to visit downtown Fresno and engage in the arts
- Offer first-time arts experiences to youth and families who might not otherwise have these opportunities, especially during weekends and school closures
- Help grow the Arthop network by expanding into the Brewery District and supporting other local businesses in becoming official Arthop venues, further increasing exposure for artists
- Foster a more vibrant, inclusive, and culturally rich Fresno

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: Our Target demographic includes Downtown Fresno 93721, West Fresno 93706 and Fresno's Tower District 93728.

Project Name: The Tower Jazz Series

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Tower District Preservation Fund

Address: 1424 N Farris Ave, 93728

Funding Request: \$16,500.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture Grant, the Tower District Preservation Fund will host the Tower Jazz Series, twelve all-ages performances by local jazz musicians at a Tower District venue. Funds will pay for the design/printing of event posters and pay local jazz musicians. In the last Jazz Series, nearly 90% of the Measure P grant funds we received were paid to the musicians. The event appeals to jazz enthusiasts from very diverse backgrounds. At least two ensembles will be younger musicians. We will host at least two Jazz Jam Sessions, which attract both younger and older musicians. Other performances will be by our local world-class jazz musicians. We anticipate over 1,000 people will be served. The event expands access to the art of jazz, while supporting local jazz musicians. Younger musicians will have public performance opportunities. The events will build a sense of community.

Anticipated Impact:

- Expand community access to the art of jazz, especially in Central Fresno Neighborhoods
- Provide 11 no cost performances available to all income levels
- Allow easy access using the Tower's good public transportation system, free parking, and accessible performance times (4-6:30 pm)
- Support Fresno's world-class jazz musicians by adequately compensating them and increasing their opportunities to perform and collaborate with their peers
- Give young and student musicians opportunities to perform in a public, non-school setting, and be a part of the rich local jazz community
- Give the community cultural and musical choices where there is often a lack of variety

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: The Tower District Preservation Fund serves all of Fresno, but focuses its work in the Tower District Specific Plan area with zip codes of 93704 and 93728.

Project Name: Sun Grown

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 2626 East Skyview Avenue, 93720

Funding Request: \$49,994.00

Project Statement: Sun Grown will create opportunities for community members to connect with each other and the natural world through a deeper understanding of native plants and their health benefits, along with food plants, and the value of pollinators and local ecology. This project's intersectional concept of local, social experiences, and expanding access to nature, encourages the goods of food security, artistic confidence, mental and physical health, self expression, and access to green spaces. Our outreach associated with this project has shown interest from community members of all ages, children needing supplemental education, parents wanting alternative hobbies to media, as well as elderly looking to keep their bodies moving and having immediate access to medicines and therapy. This work will take place in community gardens, public parks, and yards around Fresno. Our desired impact is that the community feels they are unified, and provided for, both in spirit and sustenance.

Anticipated Impact:

- Reach community members deprived of access to communal support and green spaces
- Engage institutionally and geographically underserved communities
- Highlight the following:
 - Members of the community that require assistance we can offer through our project
 - Members of the community that wish to assist neighbors
 - Spaces in the city that can be repurposed for green spaces to address community desires
 - Local plant ecology, or lack thereof
 - How native plants have always been vital to our spiritual, emotional, and physical wellbeing

Organization Council District: District Six (6): Councilmember Nick Richardson

City Service Area: South of Shaw Avenue in the City of Fresno

Project Name: Art Mart Fresno

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 415 S. Maple Ave., 93702

Funding Request: \$45,182.50

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Art Mart Fresno will host monthly events that provide emerging and established artists with a safe, inclusive space, such as Dulce Upfront, to sustain their livelihoods while sponsoring emerging creatives through full and half sponsorships. These opportunities reduce economic barriers and uplift underserved artists, including those sharing and selling their work for the first time. Programming includes art focused vendor events, artist-led workshops, transportation, a no-cost art supply closet, and a one-time free outdoor park celebration with culturally relevant activities for youth and adults. Peer-to-peer mentorship will be woven throughout workshops and artist talks, with established creatives sharing skills, stories, and support. We will serve over 1,000 people of all ages, give inclusive opportunities to create, grow, and connect. Our initiatives reduce barriers to expression, uplifts artists, and strengthens Fresno's creative ecosystem by investing in access, opportunity, and community.

Anticipated Impact:

- Increase economic opportunity for underrepresented artists by hosting consistent, community-driven art markets and workshops
- Support artist development through mentorship, skill-sharing, and the "Becoming an Art Vendor" workshop series
- Remove material barriers to participation through a free, community-funded Artist Supply Closet and event transportation
- Create culturally relevant spaces for expression and connection in underserved neighborhoods
- Increase collaboration between established and emerging artists by inviting both to participate in events

Organization Council District: District Five (5):

City Service Area: Our lead coordinators are based in 93702, and our artist and vendor network spans multiple Fresno ZIP codes, including: 93702, 93703, 93704, 93711, 93721, 93722, 93726, 93727, and 93728

Project Name: "Con Corazón y Cultura: A Cultural Arts Initiative Elevating First-Gen Voices Through Narrative and Visual Expression"

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 4755 E Turner Ave, 93702

Funding Request: \$49,800.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, I, Oscar Garcia, will launch Con Corazón y Cultura: A Visual and Narrative Journey of First-Gen Identity, a community-based arts initiative in Fresno, CA. This project will engage first-generation Mexican-American youth and adults (ages 18–35) through visual art workshops, storytelling sessions, and public showcases that explore culture, identity, and resilience. Hosted at community centers across Fresno, we aim to serve over 300 participants. In addition to creative expression, the program will offer networking opportunities, guest speakers, and access to educational and professional development resources. Our goal is to empower participants through cultural pride, community connection, and encouragement toward higher learning and leadership. By amplifying underrepresented voices and providing tangible tools for growth, this project will foster unity, awareness, and long-term impact across our local community.

Anticipated Impact:

- Engage at least 50 young adults in workshops and mentorship sessions, culminating in a community showcase at Woodward Park attended by over 200 community members
- Expand access to educational and professional development resources
- Strengthen community networks through creative expression
- Increase awareness of higher education and career pathways
- Amplify first-gen voices through multimedia content shared locally
- Offer free workshops, partnering with local organizations, and hosting accessible events at Woodward Park to reduce barriers and encourage broad participation
- Provide bilingual outreach, culturally tailored programming, and targeted social media advertising to increase visibility and engagement
- Provide a welcoming space for families and community members to experience and celebrate arts and culture
- Connect participants to mentors and resources that will foster long-term involvement in arts, education, and leadership

Organization Council District: District Seven (7): Councilmember Nelson Esparza

City Service Area: 93702, 93703, 93704, 93721, and 93725.

Project Name: Valley Music Hall of Fame Induction Events

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Community Media Access Collaborative

Address: 1298 N Wishon Ave, 93728

Funding Request: \$13,805.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, the Valley Music Hall of Fame will host two events related to the 5th class of musicians being inducted into our Hall of Fame. The official announcement of 2025 class of inductees will take place on June 18th at the Tap & Cellar in Fresno. The Induction Ceremony will be held at Roger Rocka's Dinner Theater on September 17, 2025. As in previous years, this class of inductees is reflective of the wide cultural and musical diversity of our community. Attendees at previous events have ranged in age from 20 somethings to seniors and we expect another capacity crowd of 234 guests. The desired impacts from these events are to generate excitement about our efforts to honor our rich musical heritage and instill a sense of community pride in their accomplishment. It is also our primary fundraising event.

Anticipated Impact:

- Honor the musical artists who have contributed so much to our cultural heritage at a gala event
- Encourage community members to participate in the Inductee selection process
- Engage institutionally and geographically underserved communities by ensuring that our inductees reflect the rich diversity of our region
- Induct artists from various cultural communities, naturally drawing their supporters and constituencies into the celebration, and fostering deeper connections and engagement
- Strengthen ties between historically underrepresented groups and the broader musical community, ensuring that voices from all backgrounds contribute to preserving and celebrating our shared heritage

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: While we are headquartered in the Tower District and our induction event takes place there, we proudly serve the entire Fresno community, as our inductees and audiences at our events hail from throughout the city. Zip codes of attendees are: 93704, 93705, 93710, 93711, 93712, 93720, 93723, 93727, 93728, and 93744.

Project Name: Faces of Fresno

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 1085 E Goshen Avenue, 93720

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture Grant, Faces of Fresno is creating a living, visual archive by honoring forty community members through personal stories and photographic portraits. Each participant take part in a photo shoot, and during an interview, shares a narrative—personal or career-focused—that reflects their connection to the city. Hosted online for broad accessibility across the Fresno area, this project showcases a diverse cross-section of participants from varied socioeconomic and geographic backgrounds within city limits. Our goal is to celebrate, preserve, and make accessible the rich narratives of the people who collectively shape our community.

Anticipated Impact:

- Celebrate and promote Fresno's diverse individuals through compelling portraits and personal narratives
- Create a living, online visual anthology fostering connection, empathy, and collective identity
- Increase participation, access, and exposure to arts and culture for all Fresno residents
- Engage underserved communities by prioritizing their representation
- Seek participants from less spotlighted neighborhoods, providing a vital platform for their powerful and often empowering stories
- Provide a free, online cultural resource that transcends physical and economic barriers to arts participation
- Offer community members the unique opportunity to be subjects of an artistic work, fostering a sense of ownership and pride

Organization Council District: District Six (6): Councilmember Nick Richardson

City Service Area: Faces of Fresno is dedicated to serving the entire city of Fresno including following zip codes: 93701, 93721, 93720, 93711, 93706, and 93725

Project Name: Lemongrass Roots Artist Workshop Series

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 1835 S Price Ave, 93702

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, the Lemongrass Roots Artist Workshop Series will successfully implement a community-centered workshop series led by Southeast Asian (SEA) artists working across disciplines such as ceramics, painting, jewelry, personal essay writing, traditional cuisine, and more. These workshops will be offered at low or no cost, open to all ages, hosted at different locations throughout the City of Fresno, primarily in areas of high populations of Southeast Asian communities, such as Southeast and West Fresno. The workshops are aimed at young SEA adults, who may feel disconnected from their culture and have an interest in exploring their cultural identity. We also aim to engage multigenerational SEA families and foster deeper connections through the preservation and sharing of tradition. This workshop series will uplift marginalized voices, support cultural preservation, and bring meaningful, accessible arts experiences to a diverse and intergenerational audience.

Anticipated Impact:

- Foster cultural pride
- Support SEA artists through paid teaching opportunities
- Create inclusive, intergenerational spaces where participants can express themselves and explore their identities through art
- Create meaningful experiences that bridge generations and strengthen community ties
- Offer free or low-cost workshops in familiar, community-based venues
- Bring these workshops to areas where SEA communities live and go to school
- Collaborate with trusted organizations such as The Fresno Center
- Offer monetary incentives to students

Organization Council District: District Five (5)

City Service Area: 93702 and 93727 (Southeast Fresno)

Project Name: Hijas de Tonantzin

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 4573 East Huntington Avenue, 93702

Funding Request:

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Hijas de Tonantzin will launch La Cultura Cura – Healing Through Art, a culturally based program offering weekly workshops in traditional dance, music, visual arts, and storytelling. Activities will take place in community centers and parks throughout Fresno, specifically in zip codes 93701, 93702, and 93721 and beyond. The program will serve BIPOC youth and families of all ages, with an estimated 250 participants over the course of the project. Designed to address generational trauma and cultural disconnection, the program promotes healing, cultural pride, and emotional well-being through creative expression. By centering community knowledge and accessible art practices, the project will expand access to meaningful cultural arts experiences in underserved neighborhoods and support youth and families in developing a strong sense of identity and belonging.

Anticipated Impact:

- Promote healing and emotional well-being through culturally rooted art practices
- Reconnect BIPOC youth and families with ancestral knowledge and traditions
- Increase access to community-based arts in underserved neighborhoods
- Empower youth and families to express identity, build resilience, and foster leadership
- Offer free, bilingual, and locally accessible programming in parks and community centers
- Create welcoming, intergenerational spaces that center culturally relevant practices such as danza, storytelling, and music

Organization Council District: District Five (5)

City Service Area: Our target audience includes BIPOC youth and families of all ages, with a primary focus on communities in the Lowell/Jefferson neighborhoods in zip codes 93701, 93702, and 93721 and beyond.

Project Name: Limitless Creative Arts: Celebrating Abilities through the Arts

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Limitless Abilities

Address: 6931 W. Robinwood Lane, 93723

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, our project, "Limitless Creative Arts: Celebrating Abilities through the Arts," aims to expand our programs that support individuals with disabilities. We plan to introduce additional art and music classes, as well as incorporate photography and theater into our core programming. This grant will help us purchase necessary supplies and materials, host our Arts and Music Showcase twice a year to celebrate our students with disabilities, run our week-long summer camps, and provide scholarships for those who cannot afford to attend. All programs will be conducted at our central location in Northwest Fresno. Limitless Abilities serves youth and adults of various ages from the surrounding zip codes of 93702, 93706, 93704, and 93727. Our programming will engage a total of 100 underrepresented youth and adults enrolled in the "Limitless Creative Arts: Celebrating Abilities through the Arts" project.

Anticipated Impact:

- Double our class sizes from 50 to 100 students
- Enhance accessibility to the arts for individuals with special needs and disabilities
- Promote our classes and events through partnerships with local organizations, schools, and community centers dedicated to supporting individuals with disabilities
- Offer drop-in sessions where individuals can come and create in a relaxed environment without committing to a full class, effectively lowering barriers to participation
- Engage caregivers and families by providing them with essential resources and illustrating the transformative power of the arts
- Highlight the significance of the arts within the disabled community
- Create a vibrant community arts center where participants can freely explore their creativity

Organization Council District: District Two (2): Council President Mike Karbassi

City Service Area: 93702, 93706, 93704, and 93727

Project Name: Art on the Bluffs

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: San Joaquin Clay and Glass Association

Address: 533. E. Rialto Ave, 93704

Funding Request: \$48,239.40

Project Statement: With support from Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, the San Joaquin Clay and Glass Association, along with artist/businessman Rhomie Thompson, will facilitate the first annual "Art on the Bluffs": Original Art Festival. The event will take place at The Grand, located at 7855 N. Palm Ave., Fresno CA, an outdoor park in north Fresno overlooking the San Joaquin River. 50+ artists and craftspeople will showcase original artwork in various media, including paintings, drawings, sculptures, pottery, photography, as well as handmade jewelry and digital art. each representing diverse cultural perspectives from our central valley community and throughout California.

This two-day weekend event will be free to the public and invites families and children of all ages to attend. The Grand's events generally attract approximately 3,500 attendees for one-day events. "Art on the Bluffs" aims to enhance local art and culture while supporting artists, local merchants, and the surrounding community.

Anticipated Impact:

- Create a welcoming and vibrant fine art festival that fosters connections among artists and art enthusiasts from diverse backgrounds
- Enhance art culture in the San Joaquin Valley by offering free access to fine arts and crafts while promoting and supporting local artists, merchants, and the surrounding communities
- Establish an annual Fine Arts and Crafts festival that will continue to grow, inspire, and enrich the Central Valley, surrounding communities, and families for generations to come

Organization Council District: District Four (4): Councilmember Tyler Maxwell

City Service Area: "Art on the Bluffs" is sponsored by the San Joaquin Clay and Glass Association, along with Businessman/Artist Rhomie Thompson from Gallery 654. They serve the entire community of Fresno, Clovis, and the Central Valley including the following zip codes: 93706, 93721, 93711, 93710, 93703, and 93722

Project Name: Ash Tree Artreach Collective

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 4109 W Harvard Ave, 93722

Funding Request: \$40,777.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Ash Tree Artreach Collective will provide a third space for artists and aspiring artists to be taught how to make and share art. The workshops will focus on affordable and accessible art mediums such as mini magazines and stickers. This will give people a cheap and easy way to make and distribute art locally and will give hundreds to thousands of low income people the access and ability to contribute to the Fresno art scene. Workshops will take place in public venues such as parks and libraries in every district. Zip codes for the venues include: 93720, 93741, 93722, 93702, 93711 and 93741. Workshops will be open to people of any age with a higher draw from the low income young adult populations. Serving Fresno citizens of all ages, the series will reach at least 500 participants.

Anticipated Impact:

- Provide low-income people from Fresno with the ability to make art products (such as zines and stickers) from home
- Help fuel and expand the indie art scene in Fresno, so that even non artists (or aspiring artists) feel capable of making art for their local community
- Serve underserved parts of the community by having our workshops be completely free to the public
- Increase access to arts and culture by directly increasing the amount of art being created everyday within Fresno

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: We will be heavily involved in all City of Fresno districts. Venue zip codes include: 93720, 93741, 93722, 93702, 93711, 93741, and many more

Project Name: The Walls of Wellness

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 5672 West Oslin Ave, 93722

Funding Request: \$49,500.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Walls of Wellness will bring a youth-led public art project to Southeast and Central Fresno. We'll host mural workshops, storytelling circles, and harm reduction outreach for young people ages 12–25—especially those impacted by lack of access to the arts, fentanyl, and grief. Our team of local artists and community leaders will help youth reflect, paint, and speak their truth on walls that the whole neighborhood can see. We'll reach over 150 people through murals, pop-up events, and Narcan distribution, creating visible change on the streets we come from. These murals aren't just art—they're about reclaiming space, honoring life, and building leadership. This grant will help us turn pain into purpose and transform public spaces into places where healing, culture, and youth voices shine.

Anticipated Impact:

- Bring more art, more healing, and more leadership to young people who've been left out for too long
- Give youth a space to speak up, create, and feel seen—while also giving them real tools to stay safe and support each other through murals, workshops, and storytelling
- Get more BIPOC youth involved in art and public expression
- Create spaces where it's okay to talk about art projects, grief, mental health, and survival
- Reduce the shame around substance use by centering real stories in our neighborhoods and providing free Narcan and overdose prevention materials at all events
- Bring 1-3 public murals (co-created with youth) to high-traffic streets and corners like Caesar Chavez Boulevard, Tulare & 7th, Belmont near Roeding Park, and Blackstone by Olive and Shields
- Provide stipends for 20 youth leaders

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: 93706, 93702, 93721, 93725, 93722, and 93727

Project Name: Gender Euphoria: Trans and Gender-Expansive Artist Exhibition and Community Art.

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Trans-E-Motion

Address: 1350 O St. Suite 302, 93721

Funding Request: \$36,443.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Trans-E-Motion will present Gender Euphoria: Trans and Gender-Expansive Artist Exhibition and Community Art, Fresno's first art exhibition and cultural events centered on transgender, gender-diverse, and intersex (TGI) voices. The exhibit featuring TGI artists from all seven Fresno districts will run from March to April to align with Transgender Day of Visibility. Curated visual art and a series of public programs led by community artists will showcase TGI creativity, spark dialogue, and promote inclusion. A central goal is to provide a visible, empowering platform for TGI artists while encouraging engagement from Fresno's public. This initiative represents a meaningful step toward representation in a region with few opportunities for TGI artists. A key element will be a community mural, co-created by visitors throughout the exhibition and later featured at community events as a lasting symbol of Fresno's TGI resilience and pride.

Anticipated Impact:

- Offer a platform for local TGI artists to publicly showcase their work and engage with the broader Fresno community
- Create a space that amplifies the artistic contributions of Fresno's TGI community and ensure their work is seen, heard, and valued within the local cultural landscape
- Increase access to and exposure of Fresno's TGI experiences for the general public through art, and create an opportunity for the public to engage with the artistry and voices of TGI individuals
- Cultivate a more informed and empathetic community where TGI individuals are celebrated for their art and recognized and supported in pursuing equal rights, visibility, and inclusion within Fresno.

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: TGI communities live across all seven districts of Fresno, with a significant portion living in zip codes 93721, 93703, and 93741.

Project Name: Pasifika Arts Project: Mana in Motion

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Pasifika Arts Project Inc

Address: 4999 E. Townsend, 93727

Funding Request: \$16,107.30

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Pasifika Arts Project will host three educational events that celebrate Polynesian culture over the next year. We will offer a pareu (sarong) painting workshop for 10-20 older teens and adults, possibly at Mosqueda Community Center (dates TBD). On September 25, 2025, we'll hold interactive cultural workshops (passport Pasifika) at Fresno City College for about 150 people. We're also planning an evergreen headpiece workshop for 50 participants, which may take place at Dulce Upfront. Our events will welcome school-aged children, teens, adults, and seniors (except where noted), bringing together different generations to learn, create, and celebrate. Through these events, we aim to increase access to the arts, build cultural pride, and strengthen community through the sharing of Pacific Islander traditions.

Anticipated Impact:

- Create four culturally immersive free/low-cost events with over 150 participants, new community partnerships, and increase visibility for Pacific Islander artists and traditions
- Preserve and celebrate Polynesian cultural heritage
- Provide inclusive arts education
- Foster cross-cultural understanding
- Serve communities historically underrepresented in arts funding and access, especially Polynesian, Pacific Islander, and Latinx populations in Central and South Fresno
- Hold events at trusted community spaces and schedule for maximum accessibility (e.g., weekends, transit-friendly locations)
- Provide interactive formats—like dance, music, and hands-on visual art
- Spark curiosity, deepen cultural connection, and empower community members to see themselves as culture bearers and artists

Organization Council District: District Five (5)

City Service Area: 93727, 93702, 93741, and 93704

Project Name: The Legacy of the Caglia Family: First Family of Preservation in Fresno CA

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Heritage Fresno

Address: 1490 W. Shaw Ave, 93711

Funding Request: \$17,820.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Heritage Fresno will produce a tribute film and public presentation titled The Legacy of the Caglia Family: First Family of Preservation in Fresno CA. This project will honor the Caglia family's pivotal role in preserving Fresno's historic landmarks—such as Warnor's Theater and the Fresno Courthouse cupola—while highlighting their journey as Italian immigrants who helped shape Fresno's civic and cultural landscape. Activities include research, scripting, filming, editing, and public distribution. The project will take place across historic sites in Fresno, with post-production at Gallery II and screenings held at the Fresno County Historical Museum, local schools, and online via the Fresno County Library's YouTube channel. The project will serve more than 10,000 community members, focusing on youth ages 10–18. Its impact will be to inspire civic pride and intergenerational learning through cultural preservation and storytelling.

Anticipated Impact:

- Educate the public about the value of historic preservation
- Inspire civic pride and engagement—particularly among youth
- Uplift the broader narrative of immigrant families whose efforts have helped shape Fresno's architectural and social identity
- Produce a widely accessible educational film with free screenings and digital access
- Increase community awareness of local history, and deeper appreciation for the contributions of immigrant and culturally diverse communities
- Engage institutionally and geographically underserved communities
- Create partnerships with public schools, community centers, and cultural organizations to reach youth and families with limited access to arts and historical programming
- Celebrate the Caglia family's contributions as Italian immigrants to Fresno's cultural heritage

Organization Council District: District Two (2): Council President Mike Karbassi

City Service Area: Key ZIP codes where Heritage Fresno services are provided include 93701, 93702, 93706, 93712, and 93728

Project Name: Eaton Trail Benches

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: San Joaquin Clay and Glass Association

Address: 642 E Griffith Way, 93704

Funding Request: \$49,986.20

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, I will construct the Eaton Trail Benches. Five concrete benches overlooking the San Joaquin River with imbedded ceramic murals, will be placed along the five mile long Eaton Trail. Murals on the top and sides will visually describe and educate visitors of San Joaquin River wildlife. Each bench will focus on different ecological aspect of the river. Bench 1 - overview of the San Joaquin Valley; Bench 2 - endemic valley oaks; Bench 3 - blue herons and poppies; Bench 4 - monarch butterfly migration; Bench 5 - chinook salmon. The benches will serve as resting points for visitors of all ages, ethnicities, income levels, and abilities. The population served represents the whole of Fresno.

Anticipated Impact:

- Install accessible and usable art along the Eaton Trail
- Encourage the City of Fresno to invest more in the San Joaquin River trail system
 - This will increase our collective living standards and build Fresno into a destination city
- Bring on employees from underserved districts of Fresno (Districts 1, 3, 5, and 7)
- Employ an excellent young female ceramicist and encourage her to pursue a career in public art
- Provide free access to a usable public art installation
- The benches will allow exposure and passive participation in public art installations and be accessible to all residents

Organization Council District: District Six (6): Councilmember Nick Richardson

City Service Area: The Eaton Trail Benches will be placed on the Eaton Trail, zip code 93720. They will serve the entire population of Fresno city and county.

Project Name: Tlacuilo Festival

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 7625 N. First St. Apt. 149, 93720

Funding Request: \$30,434.80

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Michael Vasquez will be able to create and host a cultural and live art type event called the Tlacuilo Festival at the Discovery Center in Fresno. The Tlacuilo Festival will be an event showcasing artists, muralists, and graffiti artists making live art, cultural performances, live music, and various workshops for all ages featuring artists teaching their craft to participants. The initial Fest will take place at the Discovery Center in Fresno. Tlacuilo is a Nahuatl word that translates to artist or scribe. This location in Fresno was chosen because we want to serve the local community. Our projected number of people we are serving would be 2,000+. We want to give the local community an event where they can get exposed to art and have an opportunity to express themselves through learning and creating artwork.

Anticipated Impact:

- Create an accessible art event that will engage and activate local communities that do not have the opportunity to experience art
- Create a free event that has art workshops and activities
- Give attendees the opportunity to experience live art, enjoy their local community, learn how to make art, and have them take their artwork home
- Engage individuals who, traditionally, are from under-served communities in Fresno
- Give exposure to the arts to people of all ages through our workshop component

Organization Council District: District Six (6): Councilmember Nick Richardson

City Service Area: The current parts of the city that we serve right now are 93701, 93721, and 93702. We plan to engage with the communities who live in the 93706, 93725, 93737, 93703 and 93728 zip code areas.

Project Name: Soli Deo Gloria Patriotic Celebration

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Soli Deo Gloria of San Joaquin Valley

Address: 5515 N Fresno Street Apt. 215, 93710

Funding Request: \$14,789.50

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Soli Deo Gloria of San Joaquin Valley will engage 50 underserved high school students and their music teachers in a professional choral performance celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States. Taking place at The Shaghoian Concert Hall on April 26, 2026, this project will include rehearsals and a public performance, with students ages 13 to 17 learning vocal techniques alongside professional musicians. Aligned with Fresno's Cultural Plan goals of Education, Access, and Community Engagement, this project reduces barriers to cultural participation by offering free student participation and discounted tickets for Fresno residents. We anticipate reaching over 400 audience members and building long-term pathways for youth involvement in the arts. By partnering with schools in underserved neighborhoods, Soli Deo Gloria aims to inspire future musical engagement and strengthen cultural connections across diverse communities in Fresno.

Anticipated Impact:

- Expand access to high-quality arts education by providing underserved high school students with the opportunity to rehearse and perform alongside a professional women's choral ensemble in a prestigious concert setting
- Offer professional mentorship, rigorous rehearsal experiences, and a culminating public performance to inspire students to pursue continued engagement in the arts and envision potential futures as musicians, educators, or arts advocates
- Advance Cultural Arts Plan Goals III (Education), V (Access), and I (Community Engagement) by serving youth from institutionally and geographically underserved neighborhoods
- Arrange accessible bus transportation to the performance venue for students
- Provide discounted/complimentary tickets to families and community members
- Increase exposure to the arts for Fresno residents, particularly those in communities with limited access to cultural events

Organization Council District: District Six (6): Councilmember Nick Richardson

City Service Area: Soli Deo Gloria currently performs and provides programming in the City of Fresno within the zip codes 93710, 93730, and 93721. Soli Deo Gloria intends to expand its service area to include the additional zip codes: 93720, 93727, 93704, 93722, 93706, and 93703

Project Name: PERFORMING SAROYAN

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Armenian Heritage Museum A Calif Nonprofit Pub Ben Corp

Address: 3885 East Ashcroft, 93726

Funding Request: \$49,918.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant generated by Measure P, PERFORMING SAROYAN will establish the City of Fresno as a cultural home of presenting Saroyan as performance readings and theatrical presentations of his plays and short stories. In what will be a renewed cultural arts endeavor is the celebration of internationally renowned, award-winning playwright William Saroyan, Fresno's beloved native son.

PERFORMING SAROYAN will produce several readings/theatrical productions of Saroyan's work with local actors/artists who make up the City's diverse life and present them in a movable fashion to underserved communities and individuals with mobile inaccessibility. Saroyan's own community involvement, both in his life and writings, embraces the memory of migrants and marginalized ethnic quarters of Fresno. Within the spirit of Saroyan and the City of Fresno's Cultural Arts Plan, PERFORMING SAROYAN intends to empower the storytelling voice of memory and community within the cultural arts.

Anticipated Impact:

- Continue the cultural telling of Saroyan and how he felt about minority communities and the apparatus of storytelling from older to younger generations
- Showcase Saroyan's revered stories/plays to Fresno audience members and visitors to the City of Fresno
- Re-introduce/introduce Saroyan's literary work to the community by engaging the community during productions of performance and/or theatrical readings
- Collaborate with other Saroyan archival institutions, such as the William Saroyan Society and the William Saroyan Foundation, to increase access to the performances
- Engage with diverse local communities and the City's youth and elderly population
- Provide access to performances in underserved zip code areas

Organization Council District: District Four (4): Councilmember Tyler Maxwell

City Service Area: For the 2025-2026 PERFORMING SAROYAN current proposed project, we will provide our cultural services to: 93701, 93702, 93703, 93704, 93705, 93706, 93710, 93721, 93726, and/or 93727

Project Name: Handmade Hustle

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Community Media Access Collaborative

Address: 2141 Tuolumne St. Suite E, 93721

Funding Request: \$49,719.36

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, The Hardwood Forest will produce a new video series titled Handmade Hustle, highlighting diverse local artists and makers who have built creative businesses from their homes. Filming will take place across Fresno, featuring real working spaces such as kitchens, garages, and studios. The project will serve artists and makers ages 18 and up and aims to reach at least 2,000+ viewers through digital platforms, CMAC's Free Programming, its own dedicated YouTube channel, and potential submission to Valley PBS. Handmade Hustle will celebrate Fresno's cultural richness, promote media literacy, and encourage community support for local art. By giving visibility to underrepresented creatives, the series will expand access to arts and culture while strengthening connections within Fresno's vibrant maker community.

Anticipated Impact:

- Celebrate and amplify the voices of local artists and makers who have built creative businesses with limited resources
- Showcase the diversity, resilience, and talent of Fresno's creative community through a four-episode video series that will be freely available online and submitted to CMAC's free programming
- Increase visibility for under-recognized artists, strengthened community pride, and broader public awareness of Fresno-based small art businesses
- Engage underserved communities

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: Handmade Hustle will serve the entire City of Fresno, with a focus on highlighting artists and makers from neighborhoods across the city. The primary zip codes we serve include 93650, 93701, 93702, 93703, 93704, 93705, 93706, 93710, 93711, 93720, 93721, 93722, 93723, 93724, 93725, 93726, 93727, 93728, 93730, 93737, 93740, 93741, 93744, 93750, 93755, 93760, 93761, 93764, 93765, 93771, 93772, 93773, 93774, 93775, 93776, 93777, 93778, 93779, 93786, 93790, 93791, 93792, 93793, and 93794

Project Name: In the 'No - Fresno

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Community Media Access Collaborative

Address: 2141 Tuolumne St. Suite E, 93721

Funding Request: \$49,841.00

Project Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, BearBox Studios will produce In The 'No Fresno, a 4-episode video docuseries celebrating the hidden artistic talent across Fresno, California. Through immersive storytelling and cinematic exploration, we will spotlight diverse local artists from painters and dancers to designers and master craftsmen, often overlooked in traditional media. Filming will take place throughout Fresno neighborhoods, focusing on authentic, community-rooted experiences. The project aims to engage youth and adults ages 14 to 65 and older, inspiring pride and participation in local arts. We expect to reach residents through digital platforms, social media, Valley PBS and CMAC. The desired impact is to elevate underrepresented voices, build cross-cultural appreciation, and connect Fresno residents more deeply with the creative spirit thriving in their own communities.

Anticipated Impact:

- Uncover, celebrate, and amplify the voices of artists and cultural contributors across Fresno, particularly in underserved and overlooked neighborhoods
- Foster community pride, inspire greater participation in local arts, and increase visibility for creative individuals who often do not have access to larger platforms
- Engage institutionally and geographically underserved communities by filming directly within neighborhoods often left out of mainstream media and intentionally
- Prioritize artists from diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds
- Produce free, widely accessible content that highlights authentic community stories
- Create a high-quality, professional television series that showcases the city's rich arts and cultural scene with the care and production value it deserves

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: We serve the entire city of Fresno, focusing on a citywide reach that includes diverse neighborhoods across multiple zip codes. Primary zip codes where we will provide services and conduct outreach and filming activities include: 93701, 93702, 93703, 93704, 93705, 93706, 93710, 93711, 93720, 93721, 93722, 93725, and 93726.

Project Name: That Distant Shore - Feature Film Project

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 2817 E Spruce Ave. Apt 231, 93720

Funding Request: \$50,000.00

Project Statement: With support from the Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, we will produce a narrative feature film (or a full-length fictional film) that is set in the Fresno area. I will serve as writer, director, and producer. This project is a “micro-feature,” or ultra-low budget, leveraging resources available and local/personal fundraising opportunities. I am a film professor at Fresno State. Though this is NOT a class project, I will include Fresno State students in every phase of production, offering a high-impact learning experience for emerging artists in Fresno. I also plan to collaborate with Fresno filmmakers, other artists, and Fresno State colleagues with relevant expertise across a variety of disciplines. Though I teach at the university, this is a personal project. It is NOT sponsored by the university. I do not currently anticipate any significant financial contribution from the university toward the project at this time.

Anticipated Impact:

- Complete a feature film that will be submitted to the film festival circuit for exhibition, hold a premiere showing in Fresno, and seek distribution of the film
- Give emerging filmmakers in Fresno the opportunity to participate in the production of a narrative (fiction) feature film
- Help emerging filmmakers refine the direction of their own career paths as professional practitioners of the arts and culture bearers for their communities
- Promote the cultural diversity and vitality of Fresno
- Tell an authentic story about Fresno and the diverse people who call this city home
- Promote the creation of an artistic work with the potential to be financially viable

Organization Council District: District Six (6): Councilmember Nick Richardson

City Service Area: Zips codes for filming will be determined as locations are locked for production. Many initial contacts with the bulk of the crew will be based around the Fresno State campus: 93740. Participants may come from a variety of zip codes around the city.

Project Name: Ceramic Elephant

Organization or Fiscal Sponsor: Dulce Upfront Labs

Address: 1918 Fresno St, 93721

Funding Request: \$30,550.00

Project Statement: At Ceramic Elephant Studios, we believe in the power of art to inspire, connect, and heal. Nestled in downtown Fresno, 93721, our art collective is more than just a studio—it's a vibrant community where artists of all disciplines ages ranged from 21- 60, come together to create, collaborate, and share their passion. Whether you're a painter, sculptor, digital artist, musician, or creator of any kind, we provide a welcoming, supportive space for artists to thrive.

Anticipated Impact:

- Increase foot traffic and community satisfaction
- Provide access to tools and supplies for people who usually do not
- Access to live performers and models
- Enriching the community's art experience

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: 93721