

Creative Space Grant Program Overview

The Creative Space (CRSP) grant program supports the enhancement of San Francisco cultural facilities through Planning and Facility Improvement Grants. The category aims to improve existing arts facilities and develop new ones that will support the work of San Francisco's arts organizations and artists.

Creative Space Planning and Facilities grants support the planning or pre-planning for the development or acquisition of arts facilities; or capital improvements to address emergency situations, improve the capacity of the creative space, and/or to have significant positive effect on audience accessibility, comfort, and enjoyment.

Panel Composition

The four-member peer review panel convened on January 31, 2023, to rank the CRSP applications according to the stated review criteria in the published CRSP 2022-2023 guidelines.

The strength of the panelists' expertise is in arts facilities and events operations, government real estate policy, artist and arts organization access to affordable space, and real estate experience. Demographics include African American, Asian American, Latinx, white and Chinese American. Gender demographics include three women and one man.

FY22-23 CRSP Funding Recommendations

12 grant applications were received requesting a total of \$786,161.

The panelists reviewed 12 CRSP applications according to the stated review criteria. CRSP Funding recommendations include 6 applicants for a total of \$336,161.

Successful planning proposals included funding for collaborative space planning for increased outdoor space access at affordable housing developments. Facilities improvement proposals include sound, lighting and seating upgrades for cultural hubs in SOMA and the Mission District as well as an innovative partnership with Dolby Labs. All funded organizations were able to deftly articulate their work serving the Arts Commission's priority funding communities as listed in the Cultural Equity Endowment legislation.

The applicants that did not score well had difficulty articulating how the project benefited and engaged and marginalized communities or lacked financial clarity regarding the project budget.

Attachments

Attachments to this memo include the list of CRSP applicants recommended for funding with scores and project descriptions, and panelist biographies.

Community Investments

FY22-23 Creative Space (CRSP) Funding Recommendations

Applicant Category Grant Amount	Budget Size	Average Score	Project Description
Youth Art Exchange Fiscal Sponsor (Tides Center) Planning \$50,000	> \$500K	91.3	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a critical phase of capital campaign planning focused on 1) strategy development for fundraising for YAX's Balboa Upper Yard site, and 2) management and implementation of the strategy. This is the second of two locations YAX is developing as youth and community arts hubs on the ground floor of Mission Housing Development Corporation's 100% affordable housing units. The other location under development is 1950 Mission Street.
Womens Audio Mission Facilities Improvement Level 2 \$100,000	> \$1mil	88.75	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a major spatial audio/7.1.4 monitoring upgrade to WAM's recording studios, making them one of the most cutting-edge immersive audio facilities in California. Leveraging a major investment and technical support from Dolby Labs, this upgrade allows WAM to provide access to Dolby Atmos Certification Training and spatial audio technologies to women/gender-expansive artists/music producers, giving them a crucial advantage in an emerging music industry platform.
Yerba Buena Arts & Events Planning \$50,000	> \$500K	88.5	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the planning and design of shade structures that would provide much needed cover for audiences and artists at the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival. This project would significantly improve and upgrade Yerba Buena Gardens and its open air performance venue that engages 80,000+ audience members and presents 1,200+ artists in downtown San Francisco every year.
Art of the Matter Performance Foundation Facilities Improvement Level 1 \$50,000	<\$150K	87.5	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the completion of Studio 210's lighting/equipment upgrade. The upgrade will include new LEDs and LED retrofits for better energy efficiency, providing greater flexibility with the studio's limited power, as well as the purchase of an additional riser and new chairs, improving audience sight lines and providing comfortable and accessible audience seating. These upgrades will allow us to offer affordable and well-equipped space to underfunded artists.

Bindlestiff Studio Facilities Improvement Level 1 \$36,161	< \$500K	86.8	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support improvements to the amenities offered to audience/artists/renters, such as more comfortable chairs, better audio/visual equipment, new colored curtains, more privacy in gender-neutral bathroom stalls, and energy-efficient stage lighting to keep the space cooler. We hope these improvements help draw more visitors to the Sixth Street corridor.
Magic Theatre, Inc. Facilities Improvement Level 1 \$50,000	> \$1mil	86.8	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support upgrades to the theatrical lighting grid and new carpet in the lobby, dressing rooms, lounge areas, and stairs. The upgrades will improve the audience's experience at our theater and expand creative possibilities for local artists. Reinforcing the lighting grid's anchoring system to the ceiling and replacing pipe sections will strengthen the grid's capability to support heavy weight-bearing loads, and we'll permanently install our projection screen.



FY23 Creative Space (CRSP) Panelist Biographies

David Dial (he/him) brings over thirty years of cultural facilities experience with responsibility for the operations, maintenance and planning for a broad range of facilities including museums, an amphitheater, performing arts theaters, and community art centers. He has been integrally involved in the opening and development of six major arts, entertainment, and cultural projects in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Kelley Kahn (she/her) I served for the last five years as Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf's policy director, focused on art spaces and economic development. I am currently the City's director of real estate, and continue to work with artists and arts organizations on their space needs.

Ari Takata-Vasquez (she/her) Ari is driven by a deep passion for creatives and her community. She strives to enrich our entrepreneurial landscape by supporting makers, designers, and artists. Her studio, Viscera Studio, helps start-ups and growing businesses overcome challenges by leveraging design, storytelling, and creative solutions. As the founder of a brick-and-mortar brand and shop, Viscera, she brings first-hand experience and empathy to client work to develop holistic approaches to business development. Ari has been featured in the SF Chronicle, Racked, 7x7, Oakland magazine, Diablo, Thrillist, and more. In addition to her running her studio, Ari uses her architecture and city planning background as the leader of the Oakland Indie Alliance, a group of 400+ small business owners, and serves on the SPUR board to help shape research and policy on good governance in the Bay Area. Ari's undergraduate degree is in Architecture from the University of San Francisco and has a Master's in City Planning with a focus on Urban Design from UC Berkeley.

Carolyn Choy (she/her) Since April 2020, Carolyn has served as the Director of Real Estate & Partnerships at Community Arts Stabilization Trust (CAST), a community-driven real estate organization focused on securing and stewarding affordable space for artists and arts organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area. While pursuing graduate degrees in City Planning & Real Estate at MIT, Carolyn focused her research on strategies to support the development of arts and cultural facilities as well as affordable space for artists to work/live. She interned with numerous arts organizations over the years, including the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Pacific Northwest Ballet, and the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts.