



## Seeding Creativity Artist Grants

The following are brief descriptions of the 45 artists who were selected for *Seeding Creativity* grants and their proposed grant projects. They have been grouped generally by themes that they explore in their work.

### Exploring issues of sustainability and the environment

**Kimberly Garza** is passionate about bringing humanistic design solutions to cities that are historically, culturally and ecologically responsive. Her project, “Capitol Canopy: Tracing Inequities in Sacramento’s Urban Landscape will show inequities in Sacramento’s tree canopy within disadvantaged communities and how disadvantaged communities can prepare for climate change.

**Daniel Herrera** is a Latinx-identifying educator and artist. His project is a photo series that connects stories of people and places - with photographs physically made from the landscape herself, gathering native plants to create photo emulsion.

**Jodi Connelly** is influenced by how human migration and industrial activities have altered our ecosystems. She will research the materials and methods of rammed earth, an ancient, eco-friendly building technique that utilizes soil compaction to create structures that have the appearance of sedimentary rock.

**Laurelin Gilmore** makes fantasy oil paintings that blend human subjects with species of flora and fauna. She’ll make eight to ten new paintings, each representing a different climate zone in the state of California, and incorporating a person or people who live(s) in that region.

**Muzi Rowe** is a photographer and visual artist who explores the intersection of technology, consumerism and personal history. Muzi’s project is a series of hand braided Chinese knots, an ancient form of folk art that is typically made with fabric cords and is displayed as festive decoration.

## **Curation, Dissemination, and Publication**

**Faith McKinnie** is a curator, writer, critic, and historian, whose work produces discourse around contemporary artists and their work. Faith will engage three Sacramento-based art writers to contribute to a publication featuring discourse on over fifty Sacramento-based artists.

**Jennifer Merrill** supports Sacramento artists and their work through an experimental project space co-founded in North Sacramento. She'll present a group exhibition and public discussion exploring the diversity, history, and depth of the artist experience in the Sacramento Valley.

## **Indigenous Cultures, Folk Art and art of the Non-Western World**

**Sunny Eselekhomen** teaches "drum language" and arts of the Yorba and Edo culture. Students will learn about the tradition of "call and response" singing, be introduced to traditional West African music and instruments, and learn the tradition of Nigerian Batik.

**Miguel Mayagoytia** explores how the traditional folk music (son jarocho) had engrained itself in our immigrant community in ways that advocate for human rights and social justice. He will create a series of bilingual, introductory *son jarocho* workshops in partnership with the Sacramento Public Library

**Steph Rue's** work captures and integrate the paradoxes and contradictions that she felt as a person of the Korean diaspora. Her research proposal is to collect stories of immigration among Asian communities through the study of papermaking and natural dyes.

**Reiko Kotoku Ivaska** was inspired by Taiko and traditional Japanese dance and started searching for her artistic roots through traditional Japanese performance arts. She will produce a concert based on Japanese traditional and contemporary Taiko and Dance performance.

**Ramona Garcia** is a member of the Xicana diaspora with indigenous Purepecha roots. Nancy will provide a series of Doll Making Workshops focusing on trauma informed practices that engage the often-overlooked Spanish speaking immigrant community

**Citlalin Rodriguez** creates dance regalia & related items such as shields, headdresses, gourd/seed pod rattles, and jewelry for the Aztec dance tradition. She will create a minimum of 45-50 regalia items, the majority of which, will be gifted to youth and elders involved in the Aztec dance traditions.

## Activism and Uplifting Marginalized Voices

**Doug Winter** is a semi-sighted artist investigating partial blindness and visual impairment through experimental photographic processes. Doug will create new work, incorporating accessibility features, allowing community members of diverse abilities to experience the work.

**Nicole Limon's** performance uplifts artists and stories of people from marginalized communities: BIPOC, neurodivergent, size inclusive, LGBTQIA+, to name a few. Nicole will create a devised group performance called "Just a Pinch," that will address the treatment of women during outpatient reproductive healthcare procedures.

**Franceska Gamez's** artwork is rooted in storytelling and fueled by community collaboration. Franceska will utilize 3D-modeling and sculpting, animation, and Augmented Reality (AR) to create artwork that is socially conscious, and aims to educate and spark conversations.

**Mone't Ha-Sidi** has used lived experiences as a Black Femme & voice as a platform to speak out against oppression in various forms. Mone't will bring an All Black Burlesque festival to Sacramento, showcasing the different genres in Burlesque, from Classic, Neo, Nerdelesque, & Political.

**Brianna James'** dance focuses on activism, change and healing. This new piece will bring attention to everyday struggles and promote our ability to initiate healing conversations around social justice issues through physical expression.

**Karlos Ayala** is a filmmaker and photographer who focuses on people who live at the fringes of society. Karlos will produce, film, and edit a new documentary about gun culture in America.

**Chris Lango** is inspired by the archival. Chris will create a 15-minute video examining the life and career of Virna Canson, described by the Black press and NAACP as the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement in the West."

## Homelessness and Displacement

**Alexandria Griffith** finds artistic voice as a half-Filipino female choreographer working for social and cultural advancement through dance in Sacramento. This project will include a public performance open to the community and held on the grounds of Loaves & Fishes.

**Black Zebra** 's influences and inspiration are the everyday struggles of being a Black and Bangladeshi woman in America. This project will be to create a documentary on the homeless crisis in Sacramento.

**Kachiside Madu** 's photography is designed to create conversations around communities that America often misrepresents. Kachiside will present an art exhibit focused on Sacramento's displaced community and bring awareness to the reality of homelessness in the city.

### **Immigration and the Immigrant Experience**

**Meghna Bhat** Is an immigrant brown woman and feminist scholar, and is inspired by those who don't see their stories in mainstream dominant narratives. This project will collect and document the stories of South Asian immigrant women and non-gender-conforming individuals.

**Spencer Tsang**, a first-born son of Chinese immigrants, creates films rooted in how identity is shaped over the course of a lifetime. This short film will be a historical fantasy science fiction surrounding the history and mythology of the ghost town, Locke, on the Sacramento River– the last rural Chinatown in the US.

**Salvin Chahal** has been moved by the sociopolitical issues within hip hop and poetry as well as the oral history of freedom by means of his Punjabi-Sikh culture. Salvin's project will research and collect the history of immigrant experiences in Sacramento and how it has evolved over time.

**Jennifer Lugris's** work highlights underrepresented stories of immigrants and their culturally blended families. This project is the creation of a book of Sacramento-based immigrant success stories and a series of paintings illustrating these stories.

**Natachi Mez**, a daughter of Nigerian immigrants, creates work around themes of migration, indigeneity, displacement, and the troubled concept of what it means to be home. Natachi's performance, "Fire: Breathing in the Wild," combines spoken word poetry, rap, live instrumentation, call and response, and breathing exercises.

### **Uplifting Communities**

**Emily Perez** is a working musician who runs choirs, a music studio, performs weekly as a pianist and explores the connection between singing and public health. Emily will create an online class

directed towards helping adults understand the science behind how/why singing is a powerful tool to manage chronic stress.

**Deborah Pittman** combines genres and styles to create pieces that inspire reflection, combat stereotypes, and celebrate our common humanity. “The World According to Earl: Father/Daughter Conversations” will use animation and life-sized puppets to tell her story.

**Andri Tambunan** is a producer, visual creator, and curator. Using portraiture, interviews, and video, Andri will spotlight the rich tapestry of the Lowrider community.

**Lisa Daniels** became interested in oral history after learning her grandmother was a “Riveter” on the USS Franklin Roosevelt. This project is an intergenerational oral history project in which youth will work with elders to celebrate Sacramento’s neighborhoods.

**Andreas Tillman, Jr.** is a third generation Sacramento native who carries a rebellious message in his rap music. Andreas will develop a mobile street-concert series that will then transform into a collaborative live recorded album.

**Tamara Knox’s** work is built on the trauma-related healing techniques of PhotoTherapy and Narrative Therapy. She will create a book to feature stories beyond surviving. Funds will support publishing and distributing copies of this book to victim service organizations, and mental health practitioners.

**Venetia James** believes in empowering, and inspiring women of all ages, shapes, sizes, races, abilities, and economical statuses, and will create a piece that encompasses dance, and theatre, while speaking to women’s’ empowerment and social justice.

**Jayda Irene’s** work is a melody of praise dance, contemporary, African, hiphop, heels, and house. Jayda will produce a show "Healing Heeled" that is a mixture of dance, live bands, and vocalists telling the story of why mental health matters.

**Brenden Lowe** composes, records and produces original songs that fight against racial injustice and inequality. Brenden will create 7 new, original composed pieces of music and produce his own album of work.

**Aaron Cardoza** is a poet and spoken word artist with roots in hip-hop and R&B music. Aaron will work with aspiring local artists and youth to use poetry, performance, song-writing and producing to create a platform for his community.

**Didier Mponte** explores and raises the awareness of the wellness movement within the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) community. He will carry out The D.O.W., or The Day Of Wellness Exchange, a day long art exhibit featuring a documentary and photos highlighting the wellness experiences and practices of 6 BIPOC wellness instructors as they expose 6 participants new to wellness to their unique practices.

## AMPLIFYING YOUTH VOICE

**Eric Tagg** plays drums, piano, sings, raps, produces, and works with the Anti-Recidivism Coalition on re-entry programs. Eric will develop a series of free music production workshops for system-impacted individuals to learn to create their own music or become producers and engineers.

**Dewayne Ewing Jr.** is a conscious hip-hop artist and educator that strives to inspire and empower as many youth and communities as he can. He will host Anti-Bullying assemblies and workshops in K-12 schools, addressing issues impacting youth within the community.

**Antonio Smith** uses digital media to tell a story. His work will deliver a story driven, digital media arts class to at-risk youth in North Sacramento.

**DJ Supe** is a Sacramento area DJ who uses his brand as a method to inspire others. The project is a DJ class that will provide students the skills to pursue a career in the Disc Jockey field.

**Jermaine Tilson** is a black artist who grew up in the foster care system which has greatly shaped his work. He will teach art classes, targeting foster youth in the low income areas of the Sacramento area.

**Matthew Osivwemu's** music goes against the grain and advances his discipline towards positive energy. His *Dare 2 Be Different* Program will be a sixty-minute after school, music and writing development course for inner city youth in Sacramento.