Happy New Year! The Alameda County Arts Commission is pleased to share this newsletter with information about the annual ARTSFUND Grant Program, an East Bay Regional Conversation with Californians for the Arts, and a reminder that #CreativityIsNotOptional.

All of the programs and services of the Arts Commission are based on the belief that arts and creativity are an essential part of every successful and thriving community. Thank you for your support of the arts in Alameda County!

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**Annual ARTSFUND Grant Program**

For nonprofit arts organizations in Alameda County

**Application Deadline is Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 5:00pm**

Application Workshop via Zoom: **TOMORROW!**
Thursday, January 6, 2022, 10:00am

The ARTSFUND Grant Program supports Alameda County nonprofit arts organizations that present arts programs such as dance, music, theater, visual arts, literature, media arts, and other forms of creativity. Standard grant awards are $1,000 - $2,500 each. The 2022 ARTSFUND Online Application is now available.

**Organizations We Fund**

Eligible applicants must be Alameda County nonprofit organizations that provide arts programs to the public. The programs may be offered in-person, online or virtual. The intention of the ARTSFUND Grant Program is to support arts organizations that provide the majority of their programs to Alameda County community members.

**Informational Webinar**

For questions and more information about the ARTSFUND Grant Program and how to submit an application, applicants may attend a free webinar on **Thursday, January 6 at 10:00 am**. The workshop is free, open to the public, and reservations are not required. For more information and the Zoom link, visit the ARTSFUND webpage.

**Funding for the ARTSFUND Grant Program**

Support for this program is provided by the County of Alameda, individual contributions submitted to the ARTSFUND with County property tax payments, and donations to the Foundation for the Arts in Alameda County.

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**East Bay Conversation**

Presented by **Californians for the Arts**

Tuesday, January 11, 2022
3:00 - 4:30pm via Zoom

You're invited to the 2022 East Bay Regional Conversation!
Presented by Californians for the Arts, in partnership with Alameda County Arts Commission and Arts & Culture Commission of Contra Costa County.

This conversation will include updates on state, local, and federal advocacy priorities, including how you can get involved. Attendees will have a chance to share ideas and questions with the Californians for the Arts team and most importantly, each other. This event is for the regional areas of Alameda County and Contra Costa County and is free to attend. Register here.

Regional Conversations are convenings that take place across the state of California, organized by Californians for the Arts. They bring together artists, arts organizations, creative workers and businesses, and supporters of arts and culture to hear updates on legislation affecting the sector, to learn about advocacy, and to share what is impacting arts and culture in each community.

The program began in response to COVID-19 and its catastrophic impact on arts and culture as a way to quickly disseminate information and to speak to colleagues in each region about business model shifts, funding sources, and reopening challenges. These issues continue to be pressing as recovery from the impacts of the pandemic has only just begun and funding is still being distributed. Thus, Regional Conversations remain important spaces to ensure resources reach communities, and to continue to advance advocacy within the arts and culture sector in ways that benefit not just the field, but local communities.

Creativity Is Not Optional

Arts Education is vital in setting up students for success in their future careers. Business leaders are looking for employees who are skilled in the “4 C’s,” (communication, creativity, collaboration and critical thinking) and guess what! These 4 C’s are all direct results of arts education and the students getting the least access need it the most.

Create CA advocates for high quality arts education for all students by providing policy expertise and by mobilizing a statewide network of advocates and allied partners.

#CreativityIsNotOptional #ArtsEdRebuilds

Resources for Artists and Arts Organizations

- **Americans for the Arts**
  - Federal Arts Advocacy
- **California Arts Council**
  - Grant Opportunities
- **Californians for the Arts**
  - News, Resources and Events
Top artwork image: Robert Daulton, Tassajara 9 Eucalyptus Globus overhanging water itself. This artwork is part of the Alameda County Art Collection and was commissioned for the East County Hall of Justice. Artwork copyright the artist.

Alameda County Arts Commission
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The Office of the Arts Commission is proud to be a division of the County's Auditor-Controller Agency/Clerk-Recorder's Office led by elected official Melissa Wilk. The support and leadership provided by Melissa Wilk is critical to the work of the Arts Commission. The Auditor-Controller Agency/Clerk-Recorder's Office has an extensive leadership role with the County government and the Arts Commission.

Keep up-to-date on important information from the Office of the Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder by following Melissa Wilk on Twitter @MelissaWilkACCR. Subscribe to the Auditor-Controller/Clerk Recorder's newsletter by emailing ACCR.info@acgov.org.