

**Fiscal Year:** 2021-22

**Department:** California Arts Council

**Budget Request:** Creative Youth Development Grant Programs

**Budget Request Summary:** The California Arts Council (CAC) requests \$40 million one-time General Fund in 2021-22 to expand and further develop grant programs supporting Creative Youth Development (CYD). This request will allow the CAC to better respond to the demand for youth support and provide more high-quality youth projects in communities across all 58 counties receive state arts grant support. To be able to effectively develop and implement the CYD grant programs, it is requested that the funding provided is able to be expended or encumbered through June 30, 2024, and up to one percent of the funding may be used for administrative costs.

CYD programs utilize partnerships between community-based organizations, educators, and local artists to fill institutional gaps in opportunities for youth. The CAC currently has five existing CYD category grant programs that are developed and ready for implementation with this requested funding. In its 2020 grant season, the CAC awarded more than \$12 million in the CYD grant category for a total of 705 grants. These grant programs include: Youth Arts Action, Artists in Schools, Arts Education Exposure, JUMP StArts, and Arts Integration Training. Detailed descriptions of each grant program can be found at <https://arts.ca.gov/grants/grant-programs/>.

As California's state arts agency, the CAC historically invests in nonprofit organizations and local government via competitive grant programs. Specifically, CAC grant programming is directed to be designed to serve populations and communities who are traditionally underrepresented in the arts and generally have reduced access to arts programs.

Since 1976, the CAC has supported arts education programs that bring together local arts and community organizations, teachers, and school communities through its grants. The CAC's CYD grant programs are rooted in the agency's belief that culturally and linguistically responsive arts learning is an essential tool for healthy human development, and that it should be a core element of the community and educational experiences of every young person.

The overarching purpose of the CAC's CYD grant programs is to expand participation in meaningful arts learning opportunities that nurture 21st century skills by supporting activities in a diversity of settings and contexts for infants, children, and youth. CYD grants support career pathways that prepare young people for careers in many sectors, including careers in the arts and creative industries. Research about creative career pathways for youth shows that youth of color, from low-income communities, and those impacted by the justice or foster systems face the greatest barriers to access these opportunities (Building Career Pathways for Youth, 2019).

**Program Design:** The requested funding is aligned with statewide priorities and the objectives of the CAC Strategic Framework. The CAC has already developed and implemented five grant programs, four of which were not offered in 2021 but will be reinstated with this funding request. The appointed Council will follow a public process to refine and publish new grant cycle(s) for the CYD programs and will consider all current circumstances facing California's young people in the program rollout. Grants will provide economic support to arts organizations, and the artist and cultural workers they employ, in all 58 counties in California. The CAC Racial Equity practices prioritize evaluation and data collection. Program administration will include developing a methodology for gathering evidence that is rigorously utilized throughout the grant implementation and made available to the public.

California's young people should be invested in with an intentional process that helps build attributes and skills needed to participate successfully in adolescence and adult life. The CAC's CYD grants approach young people as active agents of their own change, with inherent strengths and skills to be

developed and nurtured. The CAC is the only State of California department or agency with existing grant programs that can be invested in and leveraged to support the success of our young people while investing in arts organizations who create employment that contributes to the vitality of California's arts workforce.

### **References and Resources:**

- CAC Creative Youth Development Grantee Examples <https://arts.ca.gov/cac-cyd-grantee-examples-1/>
- 2020 Grant Season Press Release (2020, May) California Arts Council [https://arts.ca.gov/press\\_release/california-arts-council-awards-record-30-million-to-californias-creative-and-cultural-organizations/](https://arts.ca.gov/press_release/california-arts-council-awards-record-30-million-to-californias-creative-and-cultural-organizations/)
- Creative Youth Development: Transforming the Learning Environment. (2018, September) Education Commission of the States 2018 <https://www.ecs.org/wp-content/uploads/Creative-Youth-Development-Transforming-the-Learning-Environment.pdf>
- Creative Impact: The Arts and the California Challenge. (2020, February) California Arts Council. <https://arts.ca.gov/about/how-we-think/>
- What is Creative Youth Development? (2017, October). Mele, Jessica. William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. <https://hewlett.org/creative-youth-development/>
- Building Career Pathways for Youth. (2019, April) Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture. <https://www.lacountyarts.org/article/building-creative-career-pathways-youth>
- Creative Youth Development National Partnership. <https://www.creativeyouthdevelopment.org/>