

DONOR CIRCLE FOR THE ARTS GRANT OPPORTUNITY: 2009

The Donor Circle for the Arts supports emerging artists and organizations to expand arts opportunities for the diverse communities of San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

Grant Request Guidelines

The Donor Circle for the Arts Fund, now in its second year of operation, provides small grants under \$5,000 each to encourage the production and presentation of creative works by individuals and organizations who consistently demonstrate artistic excellence and who reflect the diverse cultures of our unique community. In 2009 approximately \$40,000 in grants will be awarded.

The aims of the donor circle grants are to:

1. Increase the availability and affordability of high-quality artistic experiences for residents and communities that do not usually have such access, including youth in under-resourced schools and neighborhoods.
2. Increase the creation, performance and exhibition of varied art forms as a means to building cross-cultural understanding within and between communities.
3. Provide opportunities for emerging artists to hone their craft and for teaching artists to nurture emerging artists by sharing their talents with others.

Grant Eligibility

- Organizations and individuals requesting support may be in the performing arts (dance, theater, music), literary arts (poetry, literature, storytelling) or the visual, media or design arts.
- Special consideration will be given for programs that engage youth as creators and participants and that are carried out in partnership with schools or out-of-school youth-serving nonprofit organizations.

- The Donor Circle for the Arts Fund seeks to support emerging professional artists, small organizations (annual expenses below \$100,000) and medium size organizations (annual expenses between \$100,000 and \$1,000,000) for whom a small grant of \$5,000 or less will make a demonstrable difference.
- Grant applicants may apply in two consecutive years, however, it will be rare for a grantee to receive a grant two years in a row.
- Eligible grant applicants can be either an organization with nonprofit status, or an individual or organization operating under the fiscal sponsorship of a nonprofit arts organization or public agency.
- Grants will be made only to groups or individuals who plan to perform, exhibit their project or conduct their program in San Mateo County or Santa Clara County.
- Eligible grant expenses include wages, materials, stipends, and occasionally acquisition of equipment specific to a project. Travel expenses for a visiting artist from outside the region are not eligible.

Grant Ineligibility

Grants are not available for the following individuals, projects, organizations or expenses:

- Organizations with annual budgets over \$1,000,000.
- Individuals or groups who are primarily hobbyists and whose project is not intended for community benefit.
- Travel expenses for a visiting artist from outside the region.

Grant Request Process

To make the grant request process as simple as possible, a 2-page emailed Letter of Inquiry (LOI) is all that is required. The emailed LOI should address the following five points about the proposed art project:

1. Creation phase: (intended community benefit; artists and their background; artistic medium or discipline; message; timeframe; costs)
2. Exhibition phase: (intended community benefit; expected size of audiences and their backgrounds; locations; timeframe; costs)
3. Amount of funding you request (maximum \$5,000); total project budget and organization annual budget.
4. How will you use the grant? What impact will the funds have on your ability to execute the proposed project? Can this grant leverage other funds you have identified?
5. Link to a website or online portfolio demonstrating the quality of the work.

Please email the LOI before August 15, 2009 to:
donorcircleforthearts@siliconvalleycf.org.
Electronic (email) submissions of LOIs are preferred.

For questions about the LOI and grant request process, please email:
donorcircleforthearts@siliconvalleycf.org.

Grant Review Process

- LOIs will be reviewed by an advisory committee of staff, local artists and arts donors.
- LOIs will be judged based on the following criteria:
 - Quality of program
 - Expected impact on community
 - Ability to accomplish aims
 - Financial impact of grant
- Selected applicants will be invited for follow-up presentations and performances, at which time supplementary portfolio items such as DVDs, CDs, posters or live demonstrations may be shared.
- The advisory committee will recommend grants to the donor engagement and giving committee of the board of directors of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and applicants will be notified in Fall 2009.

Dates to Remember:

- **July** Grant Guidelines released & Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) invited
- **Aug 15** Deadline to submit emailed LOIs
- **Sept 30** Applicants notified of status
- **Sept 30** Selected applicants invited to prepare presentations/performances
- **Oct 31** Presentation/performance showcase (tentative)
- **Nov** Applicants notified of grant decisions

For additional information about the Donor Circle for the Arts visit:
www.siliconvalleycf.org/donor-circle-for-the-arts.html