



# request for proposals

Donor Circle for the Arts

# Sparkling Creativity in our Community

## Introduction

Silicon Valley Community Foundation's Donor Circle for the Arts is proud to have granted more than \$584,800 to emerging arts organizations in our region since its inception in 2008. Its mission is simple: to support emerging artists working with underserved populations, and to expand arts opportunities for the diverse cultural communities of our region.

The Donor Circle is now accepting grant applications for 2017 and 2018.

## Eligibility Criteria

For arts groups requesting funding:

- Nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations and individual artists with nonprofit fiscal sponsors
- Based in Santa Clara or San Mateo counties only
- Annual budget of \$1,000,000 or less
- Fits into one of six categories (Arts Education programs within each discipline will be considered)
  - Theatre
  - Music
  - Dance
  - Visual Arts
  - Media Arts (e.g. film, digital media, etc.)
  - Literary Arts (e.g. spoken word, poetry, etc.)
- All or portions of the organization's mission must be to serve an underserved population (must be more substantive than simply donating tickets to underserved groups). If the organization's main mission does not serve an underserved population, then the grant for which they apply must be designated to a specific project that does.
- Seeking project and/or general support grants
- Organization representatives must be able to meet in person with the Donor Circle for the Arts on designated meeting date

## 2017-18 Application Schedule and Meeting Dates

(subject to change)

Arts Discipline	RFP Application Deadline	Donor Circle Meeting Date
Theatre	March 14, 2017	April 25, 2017
Music	June 13, 2017	July 25, 2017
Dance	Sept. 12, 2017	Oct. 24, 2017
Visual Arts	Feb. 13, 2018	March 27, 2018
Media Arts	June 12, 2018	July 24, 2018
Literary Arts	Sept. 11, 2018	Oct. 23, 2018

### To Apply

To apply for a grant for any of the six arts disciplines, please answer the questions below and please email your application answers in the form of a Word document no longer than two pages to:

- [donorcircleforthearts@siliconvalleycf.org](mailto:donorcircleforthearts@siliconvalleycf.org).

For questions, email Tobi Becerra at [tsbecerra@siliconvalleycf.org](mailto:tsbecerra@siliconvalleycf.org) or call 650.450.5496.

**Applications are due six weeks prior to the proposed meeting date for each art form.**

### Application Questions

1. What are the Mission, Vision and Values of your organization?
2. What is the organization's leadership and organizational capacity? Share facts about the executive leadership and board, as well as tenure, etc.
3. Share the financial facts of the organization, including current operating budget; operating reserve and liquidity; mix of revenue sources; and administrative cost ratio.
4. How much are you requesting, and for what is your organization seeking funding? It can be a specific project or general operating support, as long as it ultimately serves an underrepresented population. Be specific.
5. What are the organization's goals for impact and social return on the investment of the grant for which it is applying? Share data points and metrics, potential quantitative impacts and qualitative results.
6. What are the organization's future plans and projections, as well as challenges and solutions?



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#### Headquarters

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#### About Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Silicon Valley Community Foundation advances innovative philanthropic solutions to challenging problems. As the largest community foundation in the world, we engage donors and corporations from Silicon Valley, across the country and around the globe to make our region and world better for all. Our passion for helping people and organizations achieve their philanthropic dreams has created a global philanthropic enterprise committed to the belief that **possibilities start here**.

Learn more at [siliconvalleycf.org](http://siliconvalleycf.org).

#### More Information

If you have questions, please contact us at [donorcircleforthearts@siliconvalleycf.org](mailto:donorcircleforthearts@siliconvalleycf.org) or call 650.450.5496.

RFP published November 2016  
Proposals accepted on a rolling basis until September 2018