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Six Arts and Cultural Organizations Receive Assistance to Stay in Oakland

\$90,000 awarded in individualized real estate consultation services

Oakland, CA – Six Oakland arts and cultural organizations will receive assistance to secure long-term, affordable, safe space in Oakland, the Community Arts Stabilization Trust (CAST) announced today. The technical assistance is through Keeping Space – Oakland, CAST’s pilot program to assist arts nonprofits that are vulnerable to space instability and displacement.

\$90,000 in professional real estate training and consultation services will be awarded across six local organizations. Award recipients include [Alena Museum](#), [Pro Arts](#), [Project Bandaloop](#), [PLACE for Sustainable Living](#), [Qilombo](#), and [Ubuntu Theater Project](#).

“Artists and arts organizations have told us of their urgent need for help. Originally focused on arts nonprofits, Keeping Space – Oakland is exploring ways to better assist this wide-ranging network of artists, artist collectives, and arts communities, and to prepare them to thrive in Oakland’s challenging commercial real estate environment,” said CAST Executive Director Moy Eng. “With the Bay Area’s escalating commercial rental costs, Keeping Space – Oakland investments are timely and crucial to help in keeping Oakland artists and arts organizations in Oakland,” added Eng.

“These technical assistance awards from CAST’s Keeping Space – Oakland program are cornerstones of our work to help stabilize and protect Oakland’s arts organizations as part of a larger strategy to address the affordability crisis in Oakland. Providing hands-on real estate training to our arts community is a key tenet of the policy work we’re advancing in the City’s Cultural Affairs Unit and in my office to protect arts and culture in Oakland,” said Mayor Libby Schaaf.

CAST has hired the Northern California Community Loan Fund (NCCLF) to carry out the private consultations for the Keeping Space – Oakland awardees. NCCLF will also provide a three-part Real Estate Readiness Workshop series free to all Oakland arts groups, collectives, and organizations. The series will start on May 5th and include training in financial management and business models. To sign up for the workshops, visit <http://cast-sf.org/keeping-space-oakland-announcements/>.

CAST launched Keeping Space - Oakland in December 2016 with funding from the Kenneth Rainin Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Today's announcement represents one strategy of many proposed by the Oakland Arts Workspace Group, a public-private partnership that includes the Kenneth Rainin Foundation, CAST, NCCLF, and the City of Oakland. The group is focused on creating workspace stability to foster, support, and sustain the arts and cultural ecosystem in Oakland.

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ABOUT COMMUNITY ARTS STABILIZATION TRUST (CAST)

Community Arts Stabilization Trust was established on the belief that the arts drive dynamic, vibrant, and diverse communities. Founded in 2013, CAST is a nonprofit that creates long-term solutions to acquire, develop, and provide safe, affordable workspaces for artists and arts organizations in San Francisco, Oakland, and other urban settings. Bringing together technical assistance, real estate expertise, and innovative financing vehicles, CAST leverages public-private sector partnerships to execute its mission and goals. For more information, go to cast-sf.org.

ABOUT KENNETH RAININ FOUNDATION

The Kenneth Rainin Foundation collaborates with creative thinkers in the Arts, Education, and Health. It supports visionary artists in the Bay Area, creates opportunities for Oakland's youngest learners, and funds researchers on the forefront of scientific discoveries. More at krfoundation.org.

ABOUT WILLIAM AND FLORA HEWLETT FOUNDATION

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation is a nonpartisan, private charitable foundation that advances ideas and supports institutions to promote a better world. For 50 years, the foundation has supported efforts to advance education for all, preserve the environment, improve lives and livelihoods in developing countries, promote the health and economic wellbeing of women, support vibrant performing arts, strengthen Bay Area communities, and make the philanthropy sector more effective. More at hewlett.org.

ABOUT OAKLAND'S CULTURAL AFFAIRS UNIT

Housed in the Department of Economic and Workforce Development, the City of Oakland's Cultural Affairs Unit is the funding and advocacy unit for cultural arts in Oakland. The Unit includes the City's public art program with more than \$1 million in funds for dedicated public art projects and a cultural grant program, which provides more than \$900,000 to artists and non-profit cultural organizations. The Unit also has staff dedicated to special events, film production permitting, and a walking tour program. Visit <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/> for more information.

ABOUT NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY LOAN FUND

The Northern California Community Loan Fund (NCCLF) is a nonprofit organization committed to California's low-income communities. For 30 years, NCCLF has partnered with socially conscious impact investors and mission-driven organizations to support low-income communities' need for housing, education, healthcare, food, jobs, and economic opportunity. The organization provides loans and working capital, as well as consulting and technical assistance to mission-driven organizations. Learn more at ncclf.org.