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***CAST Awards \$350,000 to 14 Oakland Arts Organizations***

*Funding Will Help Secure Workspaces & Address Artist Displacement in Oakland*

**Oakland, CA** - Today, the Community Arts Stabilization Trust (CAST) announced that 14 arts and cultural organizations, collectives, and DIY models will receive over \$350,000 to secure long-term, affordable, and safe spaces in Oakland. This grant funding was awarded through *Keeping Space - Oakland*, CAST's pilot program to assist arts nonprofits that are vulnerable to space instability and displacement. Oakland's arts community has listed safe, affordable space as the number one impediment to the growth and vitality of the arts.

The 14 recipients consist of traditional arts nonprofits, hybrid collective-cooperative models, community-based organizations, and a live/work, DIY warehouse model. Organizations are located across Oakland, from East Oakland to North Oakland to Lakeshore. Based on the needs of each organization, financial assistance will go towards space acquisitions, planning expenses, tenant improvements, or rental and moving expenses.

*Keeping Space - Oakland* award recipients include:

- [30<sup>th</sup> & West Live/Work Community Arts Center](#)
- [Alena Museum](#)
- [Attitudinal Healing Connection, Inc.](#)
- [Black Culture Zone Collaborative](#)
- [Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice](#)
- [Eastside Arts Alliance](#)
- [Oakland Ballet Company](#)
- [Oakland Public Conservatory of Music/ Music Is Extraordinary](#)
- [Peacock Rebellion](#)
- [PLACE for Sustainable Living](#)
- [Rock Paper Scissors Collective](#)
- [Studio Grand](#)
- [United Roots](#)
- [Women's Audio Mission](#)

"Thanks to training and customized consultations through CAST's technical assistance program and now this financial assistance award, Alena Museum is able to continue to offer dedicated space for multidisciplinary artists in the face of rapid displacement and gentrification in our neighborhood." said Executive Director of Alena Museum, Seven Hager Asefaha.

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Alena Museum is a nonprofit creative space that houses multi-disciplinary arts and work studios to cultivate the cultural richness of the African Diaspora. An incubator for artists, Alena Museum empowers community to take an active role in directly mitigating displacement and marginalization.

“Originally focused on arts nonprofits in San Francisco, CAST heard the urgent need for help from a wide-ranging network of artists, artist collectives, and arts communities, and designed *Keeping Space - Oakland* to better prepare this diverse, vibrant community to thrive in Oakland’s challenging commercial real estate environment,” said CAST Executive Director Moy Eng. “With the Bay Area’s escalating real estate costs, *Keeping Space - Oakland* investments are timely and essential to help keep artists and arts groups in Oakland.”

*Keeping Space - Oakland* aims to build the capacity of arts organizations to successfully execute real estate transactions by providing technical assistance and funding to aid arts groups in securing workspaces. Beyond *Keeping Space - Oakland*, CAST is devoted to working with the community to develop mechanisms to solve the issue of arts and cultural organization displacement.

“I am thrilled that CAST is helping our arts and culture organizations remain in Oakland through its *Keeping Space - Oakland* program,” said Mayor Libby Schaaf. “CAST is playing a critical role in supporting Oakland’s diverse creative community.”

CAST launched *Keeping Space - Oakland* in December 2016 with funding from the Kenneth Rainin Foundation and the William + Flora Hewlett Foundation. These grant awards represent one strategy of many proposed by the Oakland Arts Workspace Group, a public-private partnership working on short-term initiatives and long-term strategies to help stabilize artists and arts and cultural organizations in Oakland. Partners include the Kenneth Rainin Foundation, CAST, City of Oakland, Northern California Community Loan Fund, and East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation.

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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](http://cast-sf.org).