



ArtsLIVE in Ventura County

A three-year initiative of the Ventura County Community Foundation in partnership with The James Irvine Foundation's *Communities Advancing the Arts*



Artists in the Community Partnership Grants

Artists Working to Meet Community Needs

*A program of the Ventura County Arts Council as part of ArtsLIVE in Ventura County Supported by The James Irvine Foundation's Communities Advancing the Arts Initiative and other contributions from local donors, funders and partners
Total amount available for 2-year grant cycle: \$60,000*

2010 GUIDELINES

Purpose of the ArtsLIVE in Ventura County Initiative

The Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF) and the Ventura County Arts Council (VCAC) are partnering with The James Irvine Foundation in its statewide *Communities Advancing the Arts* initiative through the ArtsLIVE in Ventura County, a three year project (2008-2011). The VCAC's major contribution to the partnership is a grants program for individual artists. The overarching goal of ArtsLIVE is to raise the profile of local arts and to highlight the breadth and quality of arts produced in our region, and, in doing so, stimulate new private capital to supporting the arts throughout the county. A further goal of the initiative includes engaging donors, advisors and stakeholders in demonstrating the scope and vital role of the arts in nurturing community. The ultimate goal of the initiative is to attract new capital to sustain the arts in operating support, endowment, planned giving, and scholarships for emerging artists.

Purpose of Partnership Grants Program

The **Artists in Community Partnerships Grants Program** has two purposes;

- create jobs by empowering county artists – from all disciplines, theater, music, writing, dance, and the visual arts -- to apply their project leadership, creative and problem solving skills to reaching community goals and to help address community issues.
- enhance the community through culturally significant art-making projects.

The artists residing and working in the county have unique skill sets and are by nature creative problem solvers. Including artists on the teams that identify, address, and remediate community problems will result in the most effective solutions.

The funded Partnership projects should be designed to mutually benefit both partners; the non-arts community partner will benefit from the resulting product/program and the artist will benefit by stretching their career experiences in new directions while creating a new project or body of work that employs their unique skills.

The program seeks to employ the innovative capacity of artists to identify fresh ways that the arts can transform the everyday lives of county residents. The ultimate goal is to show how the arts can interact with non-arts sectors of the community, to their mutual benefit, while at the same time using the inherent powers of the arts experience to expand the view of the arts in new populations.

Particular interest will be paid to Partnerships that engage one or more of the three target populations of the Arts LIVE initiative - youth, seniors, or other under-represented groups.



What is an Artist in Community Partnership Project?

An **Artist in Community Partnership Project** brings artists and non-arts community agencies/organizations together in new and creative ways that enliven and strengthen both partners. The ultimate goal is to fund new work through collaborations between artists and community organizations. The creation of work will be fully executed within a specified timeline and contain a public component. These projects will possess artistic quality, imaginative scope and vision, interaction with the community, and a final product or program that addresses a mutually agreed upon community issue or problem.

Partnerships will also enable artists to deepen and advance their work and foster their artistic careers. The artists may use the Partnerships to explore new relationships, expand work already in progress, or accomplish work not heretofore financially feasible. The artist's work will enhance or spotlight a site-specific or organizational relationship in a project that benefits both the artist and the community as a whole.

Extra points – Extra points will be awarded by the Review Panel for true collaborations in which the community partner shows such strong interest in the benefits of the project that they become at least a one-quarter funder of the partnership project

Timeframe

Artist in Community Partnership Projects are to take place between June 1, 2010 and May 31, 2010.

Funding

- As much as \$30,000 will be available for grants in the 2010 cycle. Requests up to a maximum of \$5,000 will be considered. The grants committee anticipates that the majority of grants will be in the range of \$3,000-\$4,000. A significant portion of the grant funds is expected to be awarded to projects that focus on the three target groups youth, seniors, and traditionally under-represented populations. **Extra points** will be given projects whose community partner contributes 1/4 of the budget in support to the project.

Funding is offered with the following benefits and responsibilities:

- **Artist Benefit and Responsibility** – The Artist the Partnership may complete, expand, or create a new body of work or project that demonstrates high artistic quality, innovation, creativity in programming and presentation, while involving direct community participation in addressing a community goal or a site-specific relationship with their partner.
- **Community Organization Benefit and Responsibility** – For the community agency/organization partner, the Partnership will result in works that highlight their social, historical and cultural issues, that help them solve a community problems, or that help them advance their direct community services. The project should impact a group of citizens in the county by helping to provide them with a greater sense of self, family, community, place, etc. Of particular interest is the involvement of one or more of the initiatives three target groups – youth, seniors, and other under-represented populations. **Extra points** will be awarded projects whose community partner contributes 1/4 of the project's budget in financial support to the project.

Through collaborations, the partnership model provides an arena for artistic collaboration around an explicit issue or a specific creative process. The partnership provides opportunities for Ventura County artists from all disciplines to engage members of the broader community in the joys of the creative process. The process will result in a project or body of work by the artist grantee that reflects the inspiration of a location or of a group of residents for or with whom the project was accomplished.

The ultimate goal of the **Artist in the Community Partnership Program** is to deeply engage the broader community in the artistic experience, and leave behind an encounter that forever embeds the arts as a useful tool for addressing community issues.

Possible Community collaborators:

Examples include, but are not limited to: hospitals, nursing homes, museums, community centers, businesses, nonprofit social service agencies, science/research sites, neighborhoods, schools, agriculture, the military, chambers of commerce, government, recycling businesses, etc.

Possible Partnership topics:

Examples include, but are not limited to: environment, social inequities, economy, health & aging issues, recycling, disabilities, youth, seniors, cross-generational or cross-cultural communication, historical research, etc.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be members of the Ventura County Arts Council. Individual Membership applications are available online at www.venturacountyartscouncil.org [*scholarships are available, please contact the VCAC at (805) 658-2213*].
- Partnership grants are available only to artists who have been residents of Ventura County for at least one year. Their community partner must also be located in Ventura County, but can be a local satellite of a company/nonprofit whose headquarters are located elsewhere.
- Artists wishing to apply are required to attend one of the following two information meetings:
 - **Weekday evening: Monday, January 4, 2010**, 7:00-8:30pm, Ventura City Hall, 501 Poli Street., Ventura, CA 93001 (*take California exit from the 101 Freeway, turn right and follow California Street up the hill to Poli, make a right on Poli and an immediate left into the drive and continue to the parking lot*). RSVP to VCAC office at (805) 658-2213 or info@venturacountyartscouncil.org
 - **Saturday morning: Saturday, December 12, 2009**, 10:00am – 11:30am, Hillcrest Center for the Arts, 403 W. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks (*Take the Lynn Road exit from the 101, left turn at McCloud Street, take the first right turn and proceed up the hill to the second building*). (805) 381-1246 if you get lost. RSVP to VCAC office at (805) 658-2213 or info@venturacountyartscouncil.org

Review Process

The Ventura County Arts Council will convene an independent peer panel to review applications. The Review Panel will be composed of artists, arts professionals representing a range of aesthetic perspectives, and representatives of the community at



large. The review process will assess each applicant's past work and current proposal. Funding recommendations will be forwarded to the VCAC Board of Directors for final approval.

Funding Criteria

- The artist is qualified and prepared to take on the proposed program. Artistic qualifications are demonstrated by submitted samples of the artist's work, training and experience, resumé and letters of recommendation.
- The community need or service described by the applicant's community partner is understandably an important and valuable service. Community need can be demonstrated through letters of support from their clientele and community leaders.
- Ability of partners to develop and implement the plan as evidenced by the application.
- The proposed project will have a significant impact on the needs or goals of the population described in the application.
- The program/project effectively meets the ArtsLIVE initiative goals: demonstrating the scope and vital role of the arts in advancing and nurturing the non-arts community
- The artist is a Member of the Ventura County Arts Council.
- The proposed program includes an evaluation component.
- Ability, if applicable, to present culturally specific arts authentically as evidenced by work samples.
- The application is completed as per the directions
- The project budget is realistic, and the funding requested is appropriate.
- **Extra points** will be awarded to proposals in which the community partner contributes 1/4 of the total budget to the project
- Rights to use the images of the Partnership process and end product for the benefit of the ArtsLIVE initiative is given to the Ventura County Arts Council and Ventura County Community Foundation without cost/charge.
- Funds may not be used as match funds for the ArtsLIVE Grants to an Arts Organization program.

Grant review and award process

The Artist in the Community Partnership Review Panel will review proposals and forward recommendations to the VCAC Board of Directors for final approval.

If awarded a grant:

- Applicants will be notified regarding funding decisions in April 2010. Grant checks will be disbursed in late May 2010
- The funding period will be June 1, 2010 through May 31, 2011
- All grantees will receive written terms that must be signed and returned to the VCAC prior to disbursement of funding.
- Interim contact will be made with all grantees by a member of the grant review panel to offer assistance to help the team meet the intent of the Partnership program.



- A brief written Final Report, accompanied by photos, participant statements, receipts and invoices for all budget expenditures, will be due to the VCAC Board by June 30, 2011.
- Grantees will be required to participate in an Arts LIVE Initiative evaluations with follow-up over the duration of the initiative

Application Due Date

Artist in the Community Partnership Grant proposals must be received in the **VCAC office by 5:00pm Friday, February 19, 2010**. Postmarked, faxed, late or incomplete proposals will not be accepted. Applications will be accepted by mail or in person at Ventura County Arts Council, 646 County Square Drive, Suite 154, Ventura, CA 93003-0436. If needed call (805) 658-2213 for driving directions.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- A. ONE MASTER APPLICATION PACKET: One copy, 3-hole punched, collated, paper clipped set with original signatures, including:**
- Cover Page**
 - Proposal Narrative** – Maximum of 3 pages using 12 point font size
 - Work Samples** – CD's, DVD's, Writing Samples, Manuscripts, work sample listings
 - Attachments** – Letter of Agreement including statement of financial contribution to project signed by authorized person from community partner, Letters of Recommendation for artist
 - Signature Page** – with original signatures
 - Budget Page** – project budget must be submitted on budget form page
- B. SEVEN ADDITIONAL COPIES: 7 photo copies, 3-hole punched, collated, paper clipped sets of the following:**
- Cover Page**
 - Proposal Narrative**
 - Work Samples** – Writing Samples, Manuscripts, work sample listings
 - Attachments** – Letter of Agreement including statement of financial contribution to project signed by authorized person from community partner, Letters of Recommendation for artist
 - Signature Page**
 - Budget Page**