

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

School of Arts & Culture
Mexican Heritage Plaza

Jonathan Borca, School of Arts and Culture at MHP
408-482-7670

jonathan@schoolofartsandculture.org
www.schoolofartsandculture.org

THE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND CULTURE AT MHP, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL AND SVCREATES, IS LAUNCHING A \$1 MILLION WORKFORCE INITIATIVE FOR ART ADMINISTRATORS OF COLOR ACROSS THE STATE

The California Arts Council Administrators of Color Fellowship Is Open For Applications

SAN JOSE, CA -- In the Fall, when the California Arts Council announced that it would award a \$1 million grant to the [School of Arts and Culture at the Mexican Heritage Plaza](#) (SOAC) to administer a statewide workforce development program centered around diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion (DEAI) values, that would have been news enough. Now, amidst a global crisis (COVID-19), California's arts and creative sector is facing unprecedented challenges which begs the question: are organizations realistically able to honor equity and cultural preservation in this climate?

For the program's administrators, SOAC and SVCcreates (SVC), and its funders, California Arts Council (CAC) and The James Irvine Foundation, the answer is unequivocally, "Yes, we can and we must." As we adjust to life during and after COVID-19, many organizations, including the SOAC, are having to balance obligations to audiences, families, and partners as they prepare to lose revenue. This new fellowship opportunity can be a lifeline to ten arts administrators of color (Fellows) and an equal number of arts and culture organizations (Host Organizations) who are ready to engage in DEAI work and innovative ways to uplift their artistic creativity.

California Arts Council Administrators of Color Fellowship, or "CAC ACF" for short, will provide a \$50K stipend to Fellows and will re-grant Host Organizations \$35K for a nine- to 12-month fellowship. Fellows and Host Organizations will represent the geographic diversity of California across nine regions. "As a creative and cultural home for many, we have to navigate the responsiveness to our communities and acknowledge that cultural diversity is a vital necessity for democratic participation and the creative sector at large," said Jessica Paz-Cedillos, Executive Director of SOAC.

While the current state of affairs is in flux, this statewide pilot program is vital at a time when the sector is canceling events, and artists and independent contractors are having a hard time finding work, which is further compounded by the culture of unpaid internships within the arts. So yes, as our creative sector grapples with a new reality within the larger context of a global epidemic, it also holds true that this program is uniquely taking a step in the right direction for organizations that do not want DEAI work to slip through the cracks. Applications for Fellows and Host Organizations are available now, and the deadline to apply for CAC ACF is Friday, July 31st 11:59 (PT).

ABOUT THE ADMINISTERING ORGANIZATION

School of Arts and Culture at MHP: We are a vibrant, cultural institution in East San Jose that seeks to catalyze creativity and empower community. For the past 10 years, the SOAC has been pioneering an approach to build authentic diversity and inclusion in Silicon Valley's arts and culture sector. We are excited to expand this work on a statewide level in partnership with CAC, The James Irvine Foundation, and SVCcreates.

Program Timeline: California Arts Council Administrators of Color Fellowship (CAC ACF) opened the application for Fellows and Host Organizations in April. Selections will be announced as early as September 2020 followed by a nine to 12-month placement beginning in October 2020.

Program Website: <https://www.schoolofartsandculture.org/fellowship>

For arts administrators, or arts and cultural institutions interested in more information, contact Jonathan at jonathan@schoolofartsandculture.org.

The School of Arts and Culture at MHP is committed to the accessibility of our programs and services. CAC ACF materials are available in large print, as well as Spanish upon request. We will do our best to accommodate other needs on a case by case basis.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The School of Arts and Culture (SOAC), in partnership with the California Arts Council (CAC) and SVCcreates, is administering a pilot program with the goal of uplifting an inclusive workforce and supporting the vibrancy of organizations that create and preserve the cultural identities of all California communities.

The California Arts Council Administrators of Color Fellowship (CAC ACF) seeks to address the dearth of opportunities for people of color in arts administration, with the intention of creating a pipeline for people of color across and throughout the arts sector. CAC ACF programming is made possible in part by a grant from The James Irvine Foundation and a one-time increase in state arts funding.

Stipend and Re-grant Amounts: CAC ACF will pay fellows a \$50,000 stipend and will re-grant host organizations \$35,000 to help cover administrative costs associated with hosting the fellowship. There is no application fee for either individuals or organizations.

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PARTNERS

About the California Arts Council: The California Arts Council is a state agency with a mission of strengthening arts, culture, and creative expression as the tools to cultivate a better California for all. It supports local arts infrastructure and programming statewide through grants, initiatives, and services. The California Arts Council envisions a California where all people flourish with universal access to and participation in the arts.

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SVCcreates: SVCcreates is a network of leaders who care about the cultural and aesthetic quality of life in Silicon Valley. They are conveners, promoters, incubators, and investors in Silicon Valley's creative ecosystem. Their mission is to accelerate Silicon Valley's creative culture. www.svcreates.org

The James Irvine Foundation: The James Irvine Foundation believes every Californian – regardless of who they are or where they live – should have the opportunity to create a better life for themselves and their families. Support to Fellows and Host Organizations are made possible in part by a grant from The James Irvine Foundation. www.irvine.org

CA REGIONS AND COUNTIES

Greater Northern Region (Capitol and Upstate) - Counties of El Dorado, Sacramento, Solano, Yolo and Counties of Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, and Yuba

Bay Area - County of San Francisco and Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Sonoma

Central Coast - Counties of Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, and Ventura

Central Valley - Counties of Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare, and Tuolumne

Inland Empire - Counties of Riverside and San Bernardino

Greater Los Angeles - Counties of Los Angeles and Orange

San Diego Area - Counties of Imperial and San Diego

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