Final Report  
2016-2017  
Arts and Accessibility Grants Program  
Grant # AA-16-00001

“Going through the process of getting this grant gave us the opportunity to be more accessible to the deaf community in the Bay Area.”  
Brava! For Women in the Arts

(Mariachi, Kevin Hosseini)  
(Deaf Not Silent, Rachel Ungerer)
Introduction:

The purpose of the Arts and Accessibility grants program is to increase the engagement of audiences and artists with disabilities in arts programming and employment opportunities. This is done through small, but critical grants to artists with disabilities (up to $1000) and arts organizations (up to $2000). See the application guidelines for eligibility criteria and exclusions [http://www.semel.ucla.edu/nadc/grants](http://www.semel.ucla.edu/nadc/grants).

The National Arts and Disability Center (NADC) administers and promotes the CAC arts and accessibility grants program, reviews applications, and collects information about each of the awarded projects upon the completion of their project. In order to reach new and potentially more applicants, we distributed information about the grants program utilizing social media such as Facebook, NADC website, NADC mass email list, and the NADC List Serv.

Grants for artists with disabilities are intended to support those who are committed to furthering their craft and advancing their careers. Applications are encouraged from artists in all artistic disciplines. Artist grants are for specific projects that contribute directly to their growth and development as professionals.

Arts organizations are eligible to apply for funds to (1) increase the representation of artists with disabilities in their arts events/programs or (2) remove barriers to audiences/visitors with disabilities. Arts organization grants are to be used to increase an organization’s capacity to hire artists with disabilities or to improve their physical and programmatic accessibility for audience members.

The NADC has designated staff responsible for the review and adjudication of proposals. We provide updates on application submissions and status to the CAC throughout the grant cycle. During this grant cycle the NADC received a total of 79 applications. Forty-two of the applications were new applicants to the program. Sixty-nine applicants, 47 (29 new) artists and 22 (13 new) arts organizations were funded. The awarded amount of funds varied based upon the scope of the project and the budget justification.
The following summary report provides a brief description of the projects awarded to artists and arts organizations. Artists and arts organizations are required to complete a final report questionnaire after their projects have ended. This report describes the outcomes and achievements for those awardees whose projects were completed prior to December and have submitted their final reports. It is anticipated all final reports will be received by the end of February.

**Impacts of this Grants Program:**

Through the Arts and Accessibility grants program *artists with disabilities:*

- Increased their self-confidence,
- Published new literary works,
- Created new bodies of art that can be used to showcase at local exhibits, and on personal websites,
- Recorded professional quality songs,
- Increased their networks and connections to other artists,
- Received professional development and learned new skills for creating art, and
- Earned money through the sales of their art at exhibits and local art shows.

Through the Arts and Accessibility grants program *arts organizations:*

- Offered Closed Captioning and ASL to be able to include audience members who are deaf or hard of hearing at their performances,
- Offered a tactile tour of a disabled artist installation and accompanying workshop for blind and low vision participants,
- Hired artists with disabilities to mentor, teach or perform.

### Artists

The 2016-2017 artists represented a range of artistic disciplines and art forms from the literary, performing, visual, and the media arts. A total of 47 artists were funded to exhibit their art,
purchase new art supplies, create new music, receive professional development, or to complete a manuscript.

We funded:

- 47 artists of which 29 (63%) were new
- 27 visual artists (painters, photographers, sculptors)
- 8 performing artists (singers, musicians, theatre)
- 8 literary artists (writers, screen writers, playwrights)

**Yolanda Alcantar (NEW)**
Dinuba, CA
Yolanda Alcantar used the funds to purchase art supplies which she used to complete a new body of work that was showcased at the *Light, Life and Death* exhibit in Fresno in November 2017. She created abstract art with acrylics that exposed landscapes, and important moments in her life. She noted that her art is a representation of her view of the world's beauty not only physically but emotionally. She sold 5 pieces of her art for a total of $190 at this exhibit.

**Rebekah Amick (NEW)**
Redding, CA
Rebekah Amick purchased art supplies, and an easel that she used to create 6 new paintings and pastel drawings. Rebekah was chosen to be the first artist featured at *ARTsMART Creative Studios*, a project of Shasta County Art Council in September, 2017. Every Friday in September Rebekah demonstrated her artwork and spoke to the public about her experience as an artist.

*Waiting for final report.*

**Nahshon Anderson**
Pasadena, CA
Nahshon Anderson attended the Writer in Residence at the 2017 *Lambda Literary Writers Retreat for Emerging LGBTQ Voices* from August 5-12, 2017 in order to receive professional development as a writer. Established in 2007, this seven-day retreat was the first of its kind offered to LGBTQ writers and provided an unparalleled opportunity for artists to be mentored by leading writers in the community and build lasting connections. By attending the retreat, Nahshon was afforded the time to write short stories and organize manuscripts as well as a fellowship with other LGBTQ writers. The completed works were published in the 2017 *Merge* anthology. Nahshon was also asked to be a judge for a 2018 Lambda Lit awards.

**Ashley Noelle Anderson (NEW)**
Oakland, CA
Ashley used the funds to hire a private voice coach and piano accompanist to prepare her to perform solo for the first time with her professional level choir at the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir. Ashley performed her solo piece during the choir's performances on September 18th,
2017. She learned that a soloist needs to prepare thoroughly, concentrate deeply and sing dramatically as well as be able to collaborate with the backup choir. This training has increased Ashley’s self-confidence both in singing and in other aspects of her life. Achieving this goal made her feel that she could do other things that people have told her she couldn’t do before because of her disability.

**David Cleofast Avilla (NEW)**
Santa Rosa, CA
David Cleofast Avilla purchased wood frames, and frame hardware for 20 new paintings that he framed for his first solo art exhibit that took place in Santa Barbara in December, 2017. He also used the funding for travel and lodging expenses in order to attend the exhibit. *Waiting for final report.*

**Clovis Blackwell**
Berkeley, CA
Clovis Blackwell requested support for supplies, materials, and support services that he needed to complete a new body of work and accompanying exhibition catalogue entitled “*Dissolutions: Where Do We Go From Here?*” He used the new body of work at exhibitions. *Waiting for final report.*

**Lisa Blume (NEW)**
Milly Valley, CA
Mill Valley Arts Commission selected Lisa Blume as the featured artist for the month of July. Fifteen of Lisa’s nature photographs were selected to be displayed at the Mill Valley City Hall and was part of the Cities "*First Tuesday Art Walk*" in July 2017. The funds were used to print, mat, and frame her 15 photographs for this exhibit. *Waiting for final report.*

**Paisley Callow (NEW)**
Torrance, CA
Paisley Callow participated in the *Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators 46th Annual Summer Conference* that took place in Los Angeles July 7-9, 2017. She attended the conference to expand her knowledge and skills in the literary field and connect with other professionals and disability friendly publishing house editors. The funds were used for conference registration, hotel accommodations, mileage, and printing costs for new business cards. About 1,200 people attended the conference. Paisley was asked to submit her manuscript by 2 editors who print accessible books for visually impaired children who were seeking diverse cultural picture book. She met and exchanged manuscripts with a group of children’s book peers.

**Ana Carrillo**
Oxnard, CA
Ana Carrillo created a 12-piece collection of work that was based on dreams and nightmares that many who have been diagnosed with PTSD deal with. These 12 new pieces along with a retrospective look at her other art were exhibited as a solo show. The solo art exhibit was on display for a three-month period between June and August, 2017 at the Art Studio and Gallery.
in Oxnard. A photographer was hired to capture professional quality prints that will be made into color flyers, brochures and postcard announcements for the art exhibit. **Waiting for final report.**

**Vanessa Castro (NEW)**
Alameda, CA
Vanessa Castro is a writer, and educator who published two books “*Gloria the Gecko Attendant*” and “*Rollerblading on Autism.*” She conducted interactive workshops for 5 San Francisco elementary schools to educate youth about special needs. Ms. Castro uses assistive technology to communicate and express herself. Grant funding was used to plan and program her communications device, transportation for her and her assistant, and printed worksheets for the classes. The teachers from the various schools were very welcoming and supportive of her project. “The students in all the classes were very receptive to me. As young as they were, they were intrigued of my power wheelchair, my communication device, my college degree, my art business, my books, and what I have done so far despite my obvious challenges and limitations. After each session, I was besieged with so many questions about my disability, my college education, hobbies and interests, books, my art and business. By talking to the students, I learned how important it is to continue educating kids about disabilities, so they will be able to accept and respect everybody in spite their differences.”

**Eileen Cronin (NEW)**
Sherman Oaks, CA
Eileen Cronin paid for editorial services, *WeScreenplay*, for editorial script review and purchased Final Draft 10 software to format her screenplay into industry standards. This is for one phase to complete her screenplay. She also will attend a workshop for screenwriters at *Squaw Valley Community of Writers* in the summer to further her screenplay. **Waiting for final report.**

**Marisol Delevie (NEW)**
Lake Balboa, CA
Marisol Delevie used the funding for studio time, musicians, vocals, mixing and recording a professional quality master of her song “*Fireballs from the Dark Side of the Moon.*” This song is about Marisol’s struggle of suffering with her chronic illness. She will make a video for the song and post on Youtube as well as reach out to local radio stations. **Waiting for final report.**

**Barbara Eames**
Carlsbad, CA
Barbara Eames paid for supplies (e.g. glass sheets, molds, silica) to create new glass abstracts. Her glass elements are fused into flat glass and the glass is then slumped into silica molds to create three dimensional abstracts. She promoted and sold these new pieces at local art exhibits, and through her website. She sold 3 pieces for a total of $200. She was offered an opportunity to present her fine art on various online sites.
Carol Es
Alhambra, CA
"Shrapnel in the San Fernando Valley" is an approximately 600-page nonfiction narrative about the various obstacles Carol has survived in her life. She writes about tough subjects like childhood sexual abuse, disability, and so much more. Carol used the funds to pay for a professional copy editing/line editing before shopping this manuscript to literary agents. It was an important step of the process which will help her to publish her book. Carol was offered the opportunity to have her book published with a new, up and coming press owned by artist Kimberly Brooks.

Farah Art Griffin (NEW)
Burbank, CA
Farah Griffin purchased art supplies and sewing materials to complete her art project, "Abused and Bullied: My Captivity." This is mixed media artwork in which she used fabric, wood, plastic and metal to complete a new art piece. She documented her work to capture visual artwork that reflects on years of abuse and bullying from childhood to adulthood.

India Harville
San Leandro, CA
India Harville is in the process of creating a one-woman show called “Enough,” which explores themes about chronic illness/chronic pain/invisible and visible disability contextualized in her experience as a queer, African American woman. The piece includes spoken word, dance, storytelling, and ritual as it examines the question, “What would life look like if we knew that we were already enough?” The funds covered the costs of the performance venue, costumes/makeup, props/set design, advertising, and accessibility on September 24th, 2017. As a result of this work, she received a grant from the National Queer Arts Festival to further develop her art.

Gabriela Hofmeyer (NEW)
San Francisco, CA
Gabriela Hofmeyer paid for art supplies, and studio time to create new art that was shown at Children's Chronic Illness Awareness Project in March and Open Studios at Hunters Point Shipyard in May. Waiting for final report.

Kevin Hosseini
Fallbrook, CA
Kevin Hosseini used the funding for transportation and lodging costs to participate at the Art as Advocacy Art Exhibit at the State California Museum in Sacramento on June 20th, 2017. This exhibit provided him the opportunity to network and share his art that was on display at the museum. Kevin was asked to exhibit at ArtLifting.com.

Linda Ann Jurcisek (NEW)
San Francisco, CA
Linda Jurcisek used the funds to purchase framing, art supplies, and to pay for the entry fees for her to showcase her artwork at the Arc Gallery Art Show, “Artspan, Back to the Future” in November, 2017. Linda sold all of her artwork at the exhibit totaling $335 in sales.

**Jeremy Sicile-Kira (NEW)**  
San Diego, CA  
Jeremy Sicile-Kira paid for booth fees, a rental car, assistant to help set-up at the art exhibit, and promotional materials to attend *the Art Walk* at Liberty Station on August 12 and 13, 2017. This festival celebrated 11 years of bringing visual art, music, and interactive art-making for families in San Diego. As result of participating at this art exhibit Jeremy sold 9 pieces totally in $1,487.57. In addition, he was asked to exhibit at *Art Walk* in the spring, as well as commissioned by a few individuals that attended the show to create customized artwork for a family member.

**Sarah LeFeber**  
San Bruno, CA  
Sarah LeFeber is an artisan jewelry maker who creates unique items by hand out of leather, fabric, and found objects. Each of her designs are one of a kind and a lot of effort goes into making and creating wearable art that stands out from commercially manufactured jewelry. She rented space and paid jury fees to attend *The Maker Faire Bazaar* (May 19-21, 2017) and the *San Francisco Comic Con* (September 1-3, 2017). These events provided her an excellent opportunity to showcase her work and market it to new audiences. Sarah sold 10 pieces totaling $524. In addition, she was asked to exhibit her art at the *Obtanium Works: Art Car Jam & Obtanium Cup*.

**Tomeko Malone**  
Carlsbad, CA  
Tomeko Malone purchased new art supplies, and took a sculpting class to create new art to exhibit at two annual art festivals in San Diego in May and August, 2017. These exhibits provided Tomeko with an opportunity to show his artwork to the public and enhance his exposure to a larger audience which helped to advance his career as an artist.

**JJ Omelagah (NEW)**  
San Leandro, CA  
JJ Omelagah used the funds to pay for singing lessons in September, 2017. In addition, JJ purchased a loop pedal, and paid for the rental of a venue to put on a personal concert which included original songs, covers and some musical pieces. JJ’s music explores themes such as disability, race, gender and queer identity. As a result of this experience JJ Omelagah was asked to facilitate circle singing at a large singing gathering in Oakland called, *Sing for Your Life* as well as commissioned to sing in a couple of events in December.

**Corbett Joan OToole (NEW)**  
Richmond, CA
Corbett Joan OToole’s book “Fading Scars: My Queer Disability History” was published and selected as the 2016 Nonfiction finalist at the Lambda Literary Awards. In October, 2016 the book went out of print. Corbett used the funds to pay for a professionally copyedited 2nd edition manuscript. The copyediting was required to complete the manuscript. **Waiting for final report.**

**Justin Plasse (NEW)**
Acton, CA
Justin Plasse used the funding to hire SLATE to do a script analysis of his film, develop a Pitch packet, and pay for printing costs. At the end of this phase of his project he was aiming for the financing for the physical production costs to move into pre-production and the actual shooting of the film. The funding was for phase one of his film “HART.” Justin learned many new skills during this process such as budgeting, pitch deck creations, and about film distribution.

**Pablo Rahner (NEW)**
Eureka, CA
Pablo Rahner paid for registration fees for the *North Coast Open Studios 2017* exhibit that ran June 2-June 4th, 2017. Pablo purchased supplies, paid for the printing costs for his art book, and business cards. The North Coast exhibit allowed Pablo to showcase his artwork and provide live demonstrations of his process, as well as network with studio visitors. Pablo’s art is listed in a print catalogue that will be distributed throughout Humboldt County.

**Eve Lynne Robinson**
Oakland, CA
Eve Lynne Robinson purchased art supplies and kiln services for the production and sales of new ceramic art. She exhibited this art at local exhibits and on her website to showcase and sell it. 52 pieces were sold totaling $520.

**Robert Rootenberg (NEW)**
Joshua Tree, CA
Robert Rootenberg feels as an artist with a disability he faces the significant challenge of working through the fear and lack of self-confidence that keeps his art at home in a drawer and not on the wall to be shared with others. He used the funds to print, mat and frame 30 mixed-media pieces and 30 large-scale photographs, created postcard announcements, created a website, provided live demonstration of his process as well as he networked with studio visitors in October, 2017. Robert’s website was listed in a print catalogue that he distributed throughout Morongo Basin. As a result of exhibiting his work he sold two pieces of art for a total of $125 and was asked to possibly exhibit at a local college.

**Naomi Rose (NEW)**
Redding, CA
Naomi Rose used the funds for transportation costs and lodging at the *Jack of All Trades* show in Oakland September 9th, 2017. The funds were used towards transportation and lodging at
the show and to purchase art supplies which she used to create her new art portfolio. Waiting for final report.

**Ali Shahrouzi (NEW)**
Santa Barbara, CA
Ali Shahrouzi used the funds to cover the cost of framing expenses for a new art portfolio that she exhibited at the Beverly Hills Art show in October, 2017. As a result of participating in this art show Ali sold 7 paintings totaling $455.

**Weng San Sit (NEW)**
Los Angeles, CA
Weng San Sit finished her film “Searching for the Butterfly Lovers” which she intends to submitted to film festivals and art exhibitions. “Searching for the Butterfly Lovers” is a film essay that journeys into spaces that are echoing with the story of the Butterfly lover; a Chinese legend about a woman who dressed as a man to have an education. The story is embodied and conveyed in a repertoire of gestures, spoken word, dance and other performances by individuals in an ‘imagined community’ who are often represented to be homogeneous. Weng San hired a sound designer to do audio restoration and sound, and a colorist who to color grade the film.

**Thomas Franklin Smith (NEW)**
Chico, CA
Thomas Franklin Smith purchased a CamRanger PT Hub, a Sigma 8-16mm f/4.5-5.6 HSN wide-angle lens, and a MP-360. The MP-360 helped him to remotely move his camera with a joystick type control which gave him more control of his camera. This assistive technology allowed him to get the compositions he needed to take his photos. To help him to set up his camera and tripod he hired an assistant. The Sigma wide-angle lens allowed Thomas to take a much wider ‘angle of view’ images for his landscape and architectural photography. He completed these new photos in August, 2017. This new portfolio was featured on his website for sale.

**Sam Smith**
Santa Monica, CA
Sam Smith recorded 3 new songs for a CD of his music. He paid for studio time and an engineer to record, mix and edit his new songs which he promoted on his website.

**Lisa Sniderman**
San Mateo, CA
Lisa Sniderman hired a composer to work with her to create a full piano and vocal score and produce “Do You Believe in MAGIC” as a musical stage play. This project took place between February 15 and August 31, 2017. She will use the musical score during her future productions, and include them as part of a package to provide to youth musical theaters around the nation.
Mark Studner
Encino, CA
Mark Studner created photo magnets in two sizes to use for promotion of his photography and photo design. This provided him with a piece of his work to sell to art lovers at a reasonable price. Each magnet has the current work that he is showing at local exhibits. The funds were used to purchase Creative Cloud software, and Lynda software to create the photos for the magnets. The magnets are for sale on Amazon and Ebay. Mark learned new programs that were helpful to him in creating his images and is in the process of learning how to sell his magnets online.

Michael-Che Swisher
Moraga, CA
Michael-Che Swisher completed six new large paintings that explored different techniques of texture and different ways of applying paint that he will exhibit at future exhibits in California at 3 galleries that represent him. The funds went towards the purchase of paint and other mediums he used to create the new paintings. Waiting for final report.

Anthony Tusler (NEW)
Penngove, CA
Anthony Tusler requested funds to update the www.Disarts.org website which supports and champions all disabled artists and disability arts in the Bay Area. The funds were requested to work with a web designer and web developer in order to increase the accessibility and functionality of the site particularly the calendar of events. Anthony learned new kills such as how to successfully use WordPress and WordPress themes. This new site also provides him with the opportunity to sell his photography.

Rachel Marie Ungerer (NEW)
Berkeley, CA
Rachel Marie Ungerer used the funds for studio time and new art supplies to create a large body of paintings in various sizes that captured the humanity of those that marched at the Women’s March. She lives with an invisible disability and hopes to bring awareness to invisible disabilities and eliminate the negative stigma surrounding disability in our culture. She is in the process of securing a gallery show. It will be the first body of work that she created since her disability became severe.

Ahmet Ustunel
San Francisco, CA
Ahmet Ustunel explored different pottery coloring techniques including over glazes, underglazes, slips, and stains. As a blind ceramic artist, texture and form are Ahmet’s focus when creating art. At this stage of his career he wanted to step out of his comfort zone and explore different coloring techniques which are not very visually impaired friendly. He purchased supplies and paid for studio fees to create the new clay pieces between March and September, 2017. This project not only allowed him to improve the look of his art, but also to develop techniques to make application of colorants more accessible to a blind potter. For this project Ahmet created 26
pieces including planters, mugs, bowls and plates. The smallest pieces he made was an espresso cup about 1.5 inch tall and biggest piece is a planter about 18 inches tall. Ahmet sold 7 new pieces at a local gallery totaling $260.

**Samuel Valdez (NEW)**
San Diego, CA
Samuel Valdez paid for theatre space rental, costumes, set publicity, and a small stipend for actors in San Diego for his play “And He Became Man.” The play had 3 performances as part of a Bi-National Theater and Arts Festival in the border region of San Diego between September 9th and 16th, 2017. As a result of these performances a new opportunity to showcase the play in Denver at Su TEATRO in April 2018.

**Mark Vieira**
Los Angeles, CA
Mark Vieira purchased a software program, and stationary supplies. He hired an assistant who transcribed his documents and letters into a manuscript that is now ready to be submitted to trade publishers by his agent. It is Mark’s hope that the novel will be published and bring its message of empowerment, self-esteem, and dignity to a wide audience.

**Coby Walters**
Chico, CA
Colby Walters used the grant to purchase metal prints that he used to display his photography and improve the presentation of his photography booth that he showcased at arts and craft fairs in California, as well as his personal website. He hopes to sell these new pieces on his website in the months to come.

**Catherine (Kathie) Warren (NEW)**
Costa Mesa, CA
Catherine Warren is in developmental phase of completing a nine-piece art collection of mixed media/sculptured wall and wear-able silk art; with a nature mixed-media theme. To promote and supplement her art and exhibitions, she worked with a professional consultant to develop on-line marketing. As a guest artist, this collection was promoted and showcased in the “Black n White Plus” exhibit at the Showcase gallery in September 2017. The funds covered exhibition fees, art supplies, and the hiring of a marketing and social media consultant to help her with her marketing goals. A couple hundred people attended the gallery opening where her work was well received. She sold one scarf and received an invitation to show her complete exhibition at the ArtVenture annual exhibit in Costa Mesa.

**James Ralph Welch (NEW)**
Carmichael, CA
James Welch attended the AXIS Adaptive Ballroom Dance Workshop, a day of learning adaptive/inclusive ballroom dance skills and technique. This event taught adaptive ballroom dance skills to disabled and non-disabled participants. The grant paid for transportation costs
for the ballroom instructors. The event was held at the West Sacramento Community Center on April 29th, 2017.

Kurt Weston
Mission Viejo, CA
Kurt Weston purchased supplies such as exhibition paper, professional satin photo paper, a portfolio case, and print sleeves that he used to create a new portfolio of compelling narrative photographs taken as a long-term survivor (37 years) of HIV/AIDS. This portfolio was sent to the Orange County Center for Contemporary Art for a solo exhibit about people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Waiting for final report.

Ikea Juanita Wilson (NEW)
Bakersfield, CA
Ikea Juanita Wilson paid for admission and transportation fees to attend the Exceptional Minds animation 2-week summer program that took place August 7-18, 2017 in Sherman Oaks, CA. She attended the program in order to receive professional development and learn new skills for creating her art. Waiting for final report.

Zak Zaikine (NEW)
Sebastopol, CA
Zak Zaikine made a bronze mold to create a new bronze sculpture that was exhibited at the Bodega Landmark Studio for the exhibit, Reuniting of Self Series We Can Only Make It Together in March, 2017. This new piece will be shown along with other pieces from the series. Bodega Studio has represented Zak for twenty-seven years. The gallery is a public gallery in a prime location in Bodega where his art was viewed by a wide group of people. Waiting for final report.

| Arts Organizations |

22, 13 (new) arts organizations were funded to make their productions, workshops or exhibits more inclusive or offer accessibility to their audience members.

- 9 performances
- 7 exhibitions
- 5 workshops
- 1 website

Actors for Autism (NEW)
Westlake Village, CA
Actors for Autism supported six performers and three production crew with Autism, as well as an editor, and props for the August 19th performance at the Whitmore/Lindley Theatre in
North Hollywood. The adults with disabilities learned to organize a theatrical performance and the performers were paid for their performance. Their film and television students assisted in the technical aspect of the performance and were paid for their work on the film. The footage of the film was edited and made available to the public by posting it on YouTube and other social media sites for viewing.

**Alcott Center for Mental Health Services**
Los Angeles, CA
Alcott Center launched its first public storefront Studio Gallery with their first public exhibition on June 11, 2017. The exhibit featured over 10 Alcott artists and works were available for sale; 80% of the sales went to the artists directly. The Studio Art program is an outgrowth of the long-standing commitment of Alcott to the arts as a bridge to supporting their client’s well-being. The funding paid for framing, installation, art supplies and client engagement activities.

*Waiting for final report.*

**Australian Theatre Company (ATC) (NEW)**
Los Angeles, CA
The Australian Theatre Company provided two ASL Interpreted performances of "Grey Nomad" to increase access to the theatre for individuals with hearing impairments. In addition to having the performance signed, additional ASL staff were available throughout the theatre and foyer before and after the performance to ensure a complete experience. The two ASL performances took place in September, 2017. Eighteen of the 123 audience members attending both performances were hearing impaired. As an organization, ATC intends to continue to provide ASL interpretive services. Audience members who attended the show made numerous comments about the interpreters and thanked ATC for providing these services for the deaf community. As a board, they are now more aware of making their organization more available to all audiences in future.

**AXIS Dance Company**
Oakland, CA
AXIS Dance Company received funding to hire ASL Interpreters and pay travel stipends for California dancers with disabilities to attend the West Coast Regional Convening on Integrated Dance in Oakland in December, 2016. This historic convening was a follow-up to the first-ever National Convening on the Future of Integrated Dance held in May, 2016 in New York. AXIS Dance provided services and financial support to assist dancers with disabilities to participate in the first-ever gathering to plot the future of integrated dance and create a cross-sector multi-generational community of integrated dance practitioners. Forty-seven audience members attended, 10 artists were hired and provided accommodations for the event.

**Brava! For Women in the Arts (NEW)**
San Francisco, CA
Brava! For Women in the Arts hired Antoine Hunter’s Urban Jazz Dance Company, a deaf dance company, for their 5th Annual *Baile en la Calle: The Mural Dances* on May 7th, 2017. To support the dancers and deaf audience members, Brava hired ASL interpreters Christine Crawford and
Jameal Jempson to provide an accessible performance experience to all. This performance featured original and site-specific choreography by Urban Jazz Dance Company for a mural in San Francisco’s Mission District. The mural, *Silent Language of the Soul* by artists Susan Cervantes and Juana Alicia Araiza, is a dedicated to sign language and learning multiple languages, painted on the façade of Cesar Chavez Elementary School which is a language emigrant school. Cesar Chavez Elementary School prides itself on cultural and linguistic diversity. Susan Cervantes and Juana Alicia painted this mural, *Silent Language of the Soul*, in 1990 in reverence to cultural and linguistic diversity. At the entrance of the building, students welcome you to Cesar Chavez school. The small panels illustrate the letters of the alphabet in English, Spanish, with references to ancient Greek and Phoenician, and Sign Language.

In addition, the grant was used to provide ASL interpreters for the Deaf dancers and deaf audience members by way of having the ASL interpreters accompany the trained docents from Precita Eyes Muralists. The ASL interpreters were hired to interpret for the performers and four performances including interpreting for docents at each of the five mural dances for the events: 713 audience members attended 4 shows. This grant allowed Brava to reach a wider audience and provide access to the deaf community in the Bay area.

**California Shakespeare Theatre**
Orinda, CA
California Shakespeare Theatre used the support for offering open captioning for deaf and hard-of-hearing audience members attending the July 12th 2017 production of *The Glass Menagerie*, by Tennessee Williams, directed by Lisa Portes. The production included Phoebe Fico, a New York-based poet and disability rights activist (who is herself disabled) in the role of Laura. Additionally, one of their stage management interns for this production, Grace Ortega, uses a wheelchair. The theatre’s rehearsal space is not fully ADA accessible so they made additional accommodations during rehearsals, including ensuring Phoebe and Grace had priority in using the accessible bathroom and propping open a door and rearranging furniture to provide easy wheelchair access between the rehearsal space and the green room and kitchen area. Later in their season they hosted the renowned Linda Tillery as a collaborator for our production of *Black Odyssey*. 345 individuals attended the performance with 22 of whom sat in the open captioning area, and 14 of those reserved the open captioning. One artist with a disability was part of the production, and a stage manager intern was also a person with a disability.

**City of Oxnard (NEW)**
Oxnard, CA
The City of Oxnard Youth Art Program provided stipends for local artists with and without disabilities and purchased needed art supplies for at-risk youth art workshops and a community mural project during the month of September, 2017. These funds provided the opportunity for this program to bring in guest artists who shared their personal experiences. The artists worked with the youth by teaching fundamentals of drawing and painting, history muralism, conceptualizing and assisted with developing the mural.
**CRE Outreach**
Los Angeles, CA
Funds from the National Arts & Disability Center supported CRE Outreach in developing and presenting a Rex & Friends concert called “Autism Sings.” The performances took place at the Promenade Playhouse in Santa Monica from August 18-20, 2017. Rex & Friends provides music classes, music education, and performance opportunities for budding young musicians with autism and blindness. “Autism Sings” provided an opportunity for 8 musicians with disabilities to showcase their artistic talent, while educating the public and changing perceptions about the capabilities of disabled individuals. The performance took place for the public at the Edgemar Center for the Arts in Santa Monica. 162 individuals attended the performances.

**Dancing Around the Oak Tree (NEW)**
San Diego, CA
Dancing Around the Oak Tree Art Studio provides art classes and events in the community for persons with disabilities. The studio purchased art supplies for the artists to create new art work that was featured at the Art Show in San Diego in October, 2017. This exhibit provided the artists with an opportunity to sell their work and network with others in the community. A total of 150 people, 10 artists with disabilities participated in the classes.

**First Street Gallery Art Center**
Claremont, CA
First Street Art Center bought supplies, and paid for the printing of business cards that artists made while working with artist and photographer Ramak Fazel. Ramak provided professional guidance to the artists and helped them to create new business cards. These business cards were handed out at the Social Bridging Art Exhibit between July 17-August 18th, 2017 in hopes to advance the careers of the artists at First Street. Social Bridging was a collaborative exhibition and professional development project which fostered engagement and a sharing of resources and access between the artists of First Street Gallery (FSG) and guest artist Ramak Fazel. Fazel is a photographer who spent fifteen years in Milan, Italy. He offered up his “rolodex”, an extensive network of designers, architects, publishing professionals, etc., to advance the careers of the artists of FSG and establish a more equitable environment for artists with developmental disabilities.

FSG artists gained access to Fazel’s collection of business cards, which he accumulated and catalogued during his time in Milan, and made artwork using the cards as reference points. Concurrently, Fazel collaboratively designed individualized business cards with 15 FSG artists which were printed and used by the artists as professional networking tools at the opening reception and others contexts. 400 people attended the opening reception.

An amazing unexpected opportunity for one of the artists, Joe Zaldivar, came as a direct extension of this project when Fazel began his work to advocate for the artists of First Street Gallery by leveraging his personal contacts. Fazel invited Zaldivar to exhibit with him at a photography biennial in Switzerland entitled The Biennial of the Image. The resulting exhibition, Unmap Me, included photographs by Fazel and mixed media works by Zaldivar which were
commissioned by the design firm CCRZ which is the host of the event. *Unmap Me* is on view October 14th through November 12th, 2017 at Studio CCRZ in Balerna, Switzerland.

**FREED Center for Independent Living (NEW)**
Grass Valley, CA
FREED Center for Independent Living used the funds to pay for supplies, stipends and mentors to offer the Disabled Artist Residency Program, a local disability and arts initiative. This initiative allowed local disabled individuals to gain experience as a working artist, market and sell their artwork. Two artists were chosen as artist residents and were supported by FREED to deliver a professional art exhibit utilizing their own art. The artists worked with an artist mentor to coordinate an arts exhibit, market the show with the support of a mentor, offer one public lecture regarding arts and disability and placed their art for sale at the FREED Center with profits going to the individual artist in residence. Artists were paid a small stipend utilizing the grant funds. **Waiting for final report.**

**NIAD (NEW)**
Richmond, CA
NIAD held a workshop in November, 2017 at NIAD studios. They trained teachers to work with people who are visually impaired in the arts. The training was led by an adaptive specialist and a new trainer who works with visually impaired artists in the Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. The training focused on adaptive methods of setting up workshops and projects to enhance the experience for all people with visual impairments who wish to experience making visual art. The concentration on the tactile qualities and a project-based approach ensured that explanations and actions will allow for an inclusive experience. 16 artists with disabilities attended the workshop.

**Orange County Fine Arts (NEW)**
Santa Ana, CA
Orange County Fine Arts used the funds to pay for the costs of a kiln, an instructor, workshop space and glass supplies that they used to train disabled artists to create new glass jewelry. They offered workshops where the artists were able to produce very valuable arts work and receive career development skills. **Waiting for final report.**

**Positive Action Theatre Company (PACT)**
Encinitas, CA
PACT hired an artist with autism to co-lead theatre workshops and teacher trainings at their local Boys and Girls Club in June, 2017. This program: a) provided employment and career training in the arts for an adult with a disability, b) trained Boys and Girls Club teaching staff on how to best include children and teens with disabilities, and c) provided arts training and expression to children and teens with disabilities at the Boys and Girls Club. This program served as a prototype of a professional development program that will mentor other young adults with autism in the future.
**Rock Paper Scissors (NEW)**

Oakland, CA

Rock Paper Scissors Collective used the funding to pay for teachers, two deaf Support Service Providers (SSPs) and the promotion of four mixed media workshops at the Oak and Public library for deaf and deaf blind communities. Workshops provided art making opportunities to deaf blind artists whose primary sense is tactile, kinesthetic. Four mixed media workshops were held providing artmaking opportunities for deafblind artists whose primary sense is tactile/kinesthetic, and for low income Deaf artist-makers who lack access to no cost public artmaking spaces. ASL interpreters facilitated communication between Deaf and hearing attendees. SSPs worked one-on-one with the deaf-blind participants who requested this service. The workshops were three hours each and took place in the spacious Oakland Main library July and August. Each workshop served between 14 and 20 participants. Deaf people attended all workshops as either artists or SSPs. Each workshop included 2-3 deafblind artists. The SSPs, who were Deaf, were paid at all workshops. ASL interpreters facilitated communication between Deaf and hearing attendees – sometimes members of the same family - as well as community artists attending the workshop. SSPs worked one-on-one with the deaf-blind participants who requested this service.

In addition to providing ASL interpreting and SSPs, Rock Paper Scissors Collective workshop coordinators collected an array of fun and challenging tactile materials from artists, the East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse and Free Oakland UP. In the past Rock Paper Scissors Collective relied on the availability of volunteers to provide ASL interpreting during events such as art show openings, collective volunteer trainings, drop in arts lab and retail store and sewing classes. SSPs were never provided, although often Deaf community members offered support to deaf-blind artists in between doing their own projects. Rock Paper Scissors will continue to be pro-active in carrying out its policy of inclusion. As their website is revamped, they will consult with a deafblind tech expert who will ensure its accessibility. As they design the new space access we will follow universal design principles to ensure optimal access to gallery, artslab and retail spaces.

**Sankofa Holistic Institute**

Oakland, CA

Sankofa Holistic Institute paid for a photographer, web and graphic designer to create a new accessible website for the institute between May and September 2017. They created Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat accounts so that through social media and their website they could support people with disabilities, particularly those with mental health issues, through art.

**SF International Hip Hop (NEW)**

San Francisco, CA

SF International Hip Hop Dance used the funds to support a performance at the 19th Annual DanceFest by Jacob "Kujo" Lyons a dancer/Choreographer that is hearing impaired in November 2017. Jacob "Kujo" Lyons performed his solo and the grant paid for his travel and artistic fees. In addition, the funding was used to hire an ASL interpreter for the performance. There were 3,595 audience members, 1 artist with a disability was hired to perform. As a result
of the success of this production, DanceFest plans to continue to offer ASL at future productions as well.

**Sins Invalid** (fiscal sponsor Dancers Group) (NEW)

Berkeley, CA

Sins Invalid hosted a visual art exhibit entitled #cripbedlife at Neyborly Community Space in Berkeley, CA in November/December 2017. The exhibit featured multi-media works that originated as conversations from one bedroom to another, offering solace as disabled artists reimagined themselves into community, into worlds where they could live as they are, even when magnificently “cripped” out. Featured artists, including the curator, were people with disabilities, primarily artists of color and gender non-conforming artists. Artists explored themes of embodiment and the disabled body, and the location of bed as a critical, contradictory place of home, isolation, safety, and belonging. Esteemed Artistic Director, Patty Berne, serves as curator. They used the funds to make their production fully accessible to people with disabilities through the provision of ASL interpreters, audio description services, direct support workers, and Braille on opening night. Sins Invalid livestreamed the event online to reach community members who may not be able to access public events. They hired an access coordinator who worked to promote the event to Deaf and disability communities and coordinated access on-site for their event. **Waiting for final report.**

**Southside Art Center** (NEW)

Sacramento, CA used the grant to purchase printing materials, t-shirts, and tote bags for Southside Art Center's printmaking studio. Southside Art Center's Art Program has two locations which provide services to more than 70 artists in a variety of media such as ceramics, painting, mixed media, digital arts and music. The printmaking studio is a new venture for Southside Art Center, and was developed in response to the interests of their participants. In the printmaking studio artists learned the skills they need to print their own artwork onto marketable products. The grant provided the opportunity for artists to carve their design in durable and re-usable vinyl which should last for hundreds of prints. Artists were also provided with a supply of t-shirts and tote bags which yield high profits and can be printed to order. After selections of products were created, artists and participating members were taught how to market their works to the public. Some participants helped to organize Southside Art Center's participation in the "Global Local Mercado" at Sol Collective Gallery and some helped to create a display at our local art gallery. They are also in the process of creating a link on their web page where all the T-shirt designs would be displayed and sold. The first event took place on July 22nd, 2017 at the "Global Local Mercado" at Sol Collective Gallery. Products have also been placed at art displays in the local gallery at 2380 Watt Avenue and in a small display at the UC Davis Mind Institute in Sacramento. Artists are still in the process of producing designs for future sales and have maintained a selection of blank shirts and tote bags for custom print orders. Southside Art Center continues to work with artists with disabilities in the regular model of their program. 100 people attended the exhibit.
**Triton Museum of Art** (NEW)
Santa Clara, CA
The Triton Museum offered two tactile tours of disabled artist Ketra Oberlander’s installation and accompanying workshops for blind, low vision, and full sighted students in August, 2017. Led by Ms. Oberlander, the students created an avatar of themselves exploring their own identity through creative expression. This provided an opportunity for blind or low vision students to work aside an artist to see their own potential as aspiring artists, as well as sighted students to dispel the ideas about the limitations of being an artist working with a disability. The funds went towards 2 artist stipends for two workshops, education assistants for Ms. Oberlander for two workshops, art supplies and marketing and flyers. *Waiting for final report.*

**Ventura County Arts Council** (NEW)
Ventura, CA
Ventura County Arts Council, in collaboration with Kindling Studios, hosted a week-long exhibition of disabled painter David Idel at Ventura's Pacific View Mall in September, 2017. They held two receptions for the public to meet the artist. They used the funds to market the event, and transport artists with disabilities from Kindling studio in Santa Barbara to Ventura to participate at the art show. *Waiting for final report.*

**VSA Orange County**
Costa Mesa, CA
VSA Orange County used funding towards their largest annual VSA Orange County Festival by supporting their core principle of making the arts accessible to people of all abilities. The funds were used to pay artists with disabilities a stipend to cover their materials costs. The festival was held on April 29th, 2017 at the Main Place Mall in Santa Ana. The event presented over 800 works of art submitted from artists with disabilities. Selected pieces were included in a year-long travelling art show which included stops at the Laguna Playhouse, the Laguna Pageant of the Masters gallery, and multiple libraries, school districts and schools. The event had 4,500 attendees including gallery and artists and participants of all abilities from the greater southern California area.

*From our grantees:*

“As an organization founded on supporting artists with disabilities we are always searching for ways to amplify our reach to artists or people interested in art making. One way to do this is to teach the teachers; opening up the possibility of different approaches and opportunities for a wider audience. When someone has difficulty with vision, I believe that visual arts are often not approached or attempted. Hopefully, with a few adaptations and focusing on the tactile properties inherent in some visual arts media, that participation is encouraged and becomes a practice. We received another grant to provide visual art classes to people with visual impairments. This is allowing us to collaborate with other organizations.
that support this particular disability and provide an outlet for exploring the visual art.” NIAD

“My time with the Cal Shakes family has been glorious on many levels but now I want to say thanks for the courtesy and thoughtfulness extended to me as a person with disabilities. I’ve never felt so well taken care of and safe. Each of you at one time or another has offered a helping hand. Cal Shakes’ attention to ADA needs is exemplary. Congratulations to us all on creating a killer show.” Linda Tillery

“Going through the process of getting this grant gave us the opportunity to be more accessible to the deaf community in the Bay Area.” Brava! For Women in the Arts

“The most beneficial part of this project was increasing my confidence as a performer and networking with other accomplished singers.” Lisa Sniderman

(Ali Sharouzi, photo exhibit) (Jeremy Sicile-Kira, art exhibit)