



ALLIANCE for  
CALIFORNIA  
TRADITIONAL ARTS



SUPPORT OUR STATE'S

Thriving Cultural Communities





## Alliance for California Traditional Arts

Support Our State's Thriving Cultural Communities

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Californians come together everyday to create culture—in their neighborhoods, parks, churches and temples—to play taiko drums, dance son jarocho on the tarima, sing a gospel hymn, share a family recipe, or tell rich stories about their cultural heritage.

The Alliance for California Traditional Arts (ACTA) supports the work of California traditional artists spanning hundreds of art forms, from cowboy poetry and African American quilting to Hmong qeej music and queer voguing dance competitions.

Over our 20 year history, the Alliance for California Traditional Arts has

- invested **\$5.2 million** into the folk and traditional arts field
- awarded grants to **590** traditional arts organizations
- supported **314** master artists and their apprentices
- conducted over **1,075 case studies** of tradition bearers
- worked in **50** of California's 58 counties
- served **17 state prisons** with our Arts in Corrections traditional arts workshops



**Cover Image:** Yenedit Valencia dances to the Jarabe Mixteco **This page:** *top*, Brian Wong, Japanese koto; *above left*, West African djembe drum with Abdullatif Bell Tounkara; *above right*, Dancers of Che'lu: Chamorro Hands in Education Links Unity



# Engaging with California

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## >> Sounds of California

An on-going series of concerts, performances, public song collections and archiving held throughout the state, Sounds of California offers an auditory journey of how our musical cultures mirror the movements shaping California today.



## >> Traditional Arts Roundtable Series

Our Roundtable Series strengthens intercultural traditional arts networks and broad public participation by offering free programs to gather and learn from each other in discussions and art-sharing forums.



## >> Apprenticeship Program

The Apprenticeship Program encourages the continuity of California's traditional arts and cultures by contracting master artists to offer intensive, one-on-one training to qualified apprentices.



## >> Living Cultures Grants Program

The Living Cultures Grants Program sustains California-based nonprofits with grants of \$5,000 to support community-driven traditional arts projects, programs and development.



## >> Arts in Corrections

ACTA offers traditional artist residencies in a third of California's prisons, facilitating workshops for inmates that are based in musical forms like Afro-Colombian percussion, Mexican folk guitar, storytelling, and visual artforms like Native American beadwork, Chicano murals, and altar building.



## >> Participatory Cultural Asset Mapping

ACTA's cultural asset-mapping is used in neighborhoods to identify and mobilize a community's cultural resources, creating a shared vision of cultural vitality. Community members recognize their cultural assets in the people, groups, places, and events that reflect the expressions they value as resources essential to what makes a neighborhood a healthy and unique place to live.

*Top to bottom:* Xochi Flores and Cesar Castro, Mexican son jarocho music; Malathi Iyengar, South Indian bharata natyam dance; Valerie Edwards and Shewayea Peck, Yamani Maidu Omani basketry; Emily Mann, Suzy Thompson, Maxine Gerber of Berkeley Old Time Music Convention; Son jarocho workshop at Pleasant Valley State Prison; Florence Pierre, Haitian culture-bearer



## ACTA Celebrates 20 Years

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In 2017, the Alliance for California Traditional Arts marks twenty years of serving California's folk and traditional artists. In 1997, many of the traditional artists in our state were scattered and isolated, especially those living in the more rural parts of California. Today, we are witnessing artists supported by ACTA transmitting not only artistic skills, but also leadership, into second and third generations of younger tradition-bearers. ACTA has built a reputation on trust, and our role has been to directly support our artists, and to learn from their communities.

California is a pacesetter for how migration shapes our lives, and in 2017, we stand at a critical moment as the public and country debate the nature of citizenship, culture, and community. ACTA understands that our cultural expressions—our rituals and festivals, our feasts and songs—transform the neighborhoods we live in and makes us who we are. Help sustain these living cultural expressions by supporting ACTA.

## Take Action TODAY

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The Alliance for California Traditional Arts believes traditional arts can inspire innovative thought, and that passionate investment has the potential to build cultural bridges and ignite artistic, social, and civic change. You can be part of that change.

**Support ACTA today!** In supporting ACTA, you are helping to sustain the traditional art forms that give us collective meaning and purpose in a political and social climate where the arts and immigrant voices are fighting to be heard!

Log onto our website to donate here:

[actaonline.org/support](http://actaonline.org/support)

Send a check to our offices here:

**Alliance for California Traditional Arts**  
744 P Street, Suite 307, Fresno, CA 93721

Your generous contribution to ACTA is tax-deductible and helps sustain California's cultural art forms.

*Left to right:* Indian samosa lesson at Oakland Asian Cultural Center; Storyteller Michael McCarty; Mexican folklorico by Grupo Folklórico Juan Colorado

## Donation Form

Here's what your donations to ACTA could help support:

- archival digitization of a major collection to facilitate public access
- a Living Cultures Grant in a community of traditional arts practice
- an Apprenticeship for one year
- documenting the practice and skill of a master artist for the public
- facilitating a Sounds of California community recording session
- a culminating event at an Arts in Corrections traditional arts residency
- an artist sharing at our Traditional Arts Roundtable Series

Every gift is a commitment to an artist. Your contribution doesn't just support ACTA, it expands our vision and makes us more responsive. It also means the world to us!

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like to make a monthly contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ months.

☐ I would like to make a one time donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to ACTA.

☐ I would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ by credit card:

☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ Amex ☐ Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV # \_\_\_\_\_







**Questions?** Contact Patricia Wakida, Development and Donor Engagement Manager at [pwakida@actaonline.org](mailto:pwakida@actaonline.org) or Amy Kitchener, Executive Director at [akitch@actaonline.org](mailto:akitch@actaonline.org)

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[www.actaonline.org](http://www.actaonline.org)

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Follow us @CalTradArts and use the hashtag #20YearsofACTA

*Above:* Jon Meza Cuero and Stanley Rodriguez, Kumeyaay Wildcat songs

Photos by Eric Coleman, Dan Hong, Sarah Liz, Peter Merts, Chris Simon, and ACTA staff