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For Immediate Release

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ACTA's Living Cultures Grant Supports Culture Bearers and Organizations Statewide by Awarding 68 Grants totaling a \$622,500 Investment

Fresno, CA – The Alliance for California Traditional Arts (ACTA), the Administering Organization for the California Arts Council's Folk and Traditional Arts Grant Program, is awarding **68 grants totaling \$622,500**.

With the generous support of the California Arts Council, a state agency, **23 individual artists and culture bearers will receive \$7,500**, and **45 organizations and**

community groups will receive \$10,000 in all regions of the state. Additional support for this program comes from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Walter and Elise Haas Fund.



The 2024 cohort represents a tapestry of cultural communities and artistic traditions woven throughout California, from Humboldt to San Diego. We're proud to promote them all: Punjabi folk songs in Sutter County, Triqui music and dance in Madera County, Black foodways in Los Angeles County, Chochenyo traditions in Santa Clara County, and many more. Look out for more details about each grantee at actaonline.org and through social media throughout this year and beyond!

Photo: "Uritao" warriors, part of the Kutturan CHamoru Foundation entering the Pacific Islander Festival Association stage. Photo: Manny Crisostomo, courtesy of the organization.

Introducing the 2024-2025 grantees

Capital Region

(Counties: Alpine, El Dorado, Sacramento, Solano, Yolo)

Sacramento

Jesus Sanchez, *Cultura Hecho a Mano: Danza Azteca Beadwork & Regalia Making*
Danza Azteca beadwork & regalia making

Arab Community Center for Integration Services, *Arab American Heritage Festival*
Dabke dance: A traditional Levantine folk dance

Culture through Cloth, *Paj Ntaub Circles*
Paj Ntaub "Flower Cloth" of the HMong (embroidery)

Yolo

YoloSol Collective, *Wintun Culture-bearers Speak to Tule Traditions*
Patwin-Wintun tule traditions

California Indian Basketweavers Association, *Creating Balance and Leadership for Youth*
California Indian basket weaving

Central Coast Region

(Counties: Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Ventura)

Monterey

Sol Treasures, *Dia de Los Muertos Community Workshops, Altar, Parade and Festival*
Altar creation, folklorico dance, calaveras literarias (skull poems)

Santa Cruz

Senderos, *Vive Oaxaca Guelaguetza Indigenous Festival in Santa Cruz*

Indigenous Oaxacan dance and music

Central Valley & Eastern Central Regions

(Counties: Amador, Calaveras, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare, Tuolumne)

Fresno

Another Level Training Academy, *The Traditional African Braiders Academy*

Traditional african braiding

Lao Community Cultural Center of Fresno, *Lao Cultural Classes of Fresno*

Traditional Lao dance and music

Mally Pel, *Khmu Culture Dance*

Traditional Khmu dance

Kern

Xochitl Morales, *Morales Family Legacy: Central Valley*

Mexican mariachi and ranchera music

Madera

San Martín Itunyoso Community, *Fiesta Patronal San Martín Caballero en Madera (Patron Saint San Martín Caballero Festival)*

Traditional Triqui and other indigenous Oaxacan dance and music

Abrahan Ramirez Ramirez, *Faroles Místicos (Mystic Faroles)*

Oaxacan lanterns and other folk art

San Joaquin

San Pablo Tlaltepēc Community, *Indigenous Oaxacan Cultural Festival in Taft, CA*

Oaxacan music, Mixtec language, and traditional embroidery

Hamayoun Sakhi, *Preservation of the Traditional Afghan Music of Rubob*

Traditional Afghan music (rubob)

Tulare

Florencia Ramos, *Costura a Mano y Tejidos Mixtecos de Oaxaca (Hand-sewing and Mixtec Weavings from Oaxaca)*

Traditional Mixtec embroidery and weaving

Southern Border Region

(Counties: Imperial, San Diego)

San Diego

Daja Marks, *Mindful Movement: Cultural Capital Through Movement*

Samoan Siva (dance) and street dance (Krumping, Clowning, Popping)

Drikung Kyobpa Choling Monastery, *Tibetan sacred lama dance*

Tibetan Buddhist tantric lama dance

Fandango Fronterizo, *Passing the Son Jarocho Torch to Chicano Youth in San Diego*

Mexican Son Jarocho and Fandango

Umeke, *Traditional Hawaiian Lei Making Workshop Series*

Traditional Hawaiian lei making

Inland Empire Region

(Counties: Riverside, San Bernardino)

Riverside

CULTURAS MUSIC & ARTS, *Women Rising Presents "Festival del Rebozo" Coachella*

The traditional use and roots of the rebozo

Desert Recreation Foundation, *Eastern Coachella Valley Ballet Folklorico Youth Program*

Ballet folklórico

San Bernardino

Kawaiisu Community Group, *Returning to Our Roots*

Kawaiisu traditional plant harvest & related Kawaiisu language

Marlyn Arzate, *Guided by Corn Spirit: A Path to Healing*

Growing and harvesting corn, nixtamalization

San Francisco

(County: San Francisco)

Chavalos De Aqui y Alla, *Paseo Masaya - Traditional Folklore from Masaya, Nicaragua*
Traditional Folklore from Masaya, Nicaragua

Conrad Benedicto, *Kulintang Dialogue: three discourses in San Francisco*
Philippine Kulintang music

GenRyu Arts, *Generations of Joy through Drumming and Dance*
Japanese Odori dance and Taiko drumming

Kirti Bassendine, *Connections to the Natural World*
Gujarati natural dyes, printmaking, photography

Manilatown Heritage Foundation, *Philippine music workshop series in San Francisco*
Philippine Kulintang and Kalinga music

William Rhodes, *San Francisco Narrative Quilt Project*
Quilt making

San Francisco Bay Area Region

(Counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma)

Alameda

Anatolian Arts Institute, *Berkeley Maqam Festival: Cross-Roots and Encounters*
Maqam Music from Anatolia, the Middle East and beyond (North Africa, Andalusia and India)

Cheza Nami Foundation, *12th Annual Taste of Africa Festival in Livermore*
African traditional dance, drumming, and music

Diamano Coura West African Dance Company, *50 Drummers Celebrating 50 Years of Diamano Coura West African Dance Company in Downtown Oakland*
Traditional drumming of different cultures

Einar Leliebre Nuñez, *La Rumba me Llama (The Rumba Calls Me): Celebration of Afro-Cuban Music*
Afro-Cuban Rumba, Orisha/Bata, Changüi

Filhos de Bimba Bay Area School of Capoeira, *ZUMBIMBA 2024*
Capoeira, Afro-Brazilian art form and martial art

Muisi-kongo Malonga, *The Kizingu Project*
Kongolese Dance

Thai Cultural Council of Wat Mongkolratanaram, *Thai Cultural Council Music and Dance Materials Refresh*

Thai traditional performing arts

Contra Costa

Claudio Naranjos Vega, *La procesión de la Rama tradicional del sur de Veracruz (The traditional Rama [branch] procession of southern Veracruz)*

Traditional rural Son Jarocho music

Mostafa Akhavass, *Three Days of Free Workshops of Ancient Iranian Nail Calligraphy and Painting Techniques*

Nail painting and calligraphy

Santa Clara

Muwekma Ohlone Preservation Foundation, *Muwekma Ohlone Tribe: Cultural Revitalization Program*

Chochenyo language, dances, regalia-making, and song singing

Thapasya Arts San Francisco, *Samanwayam 2025*

Kathakali - South Indian dance drama

San Mateo

Vairea Samn, Tama Toa Nui - The 1st All-Male Tahitian Dance Group

Ori Tahiti (traditional Tahitian dance), Rara'a (traditional weaving), Ha'amanira'a Ahu (dance costume making), Orero (oratory arts)

Sonoma

Voice of Roma, *VOR 2025 Herdeljezi Roma Festival*

Romani music and dance

Latinos Unidos del Condado de Sonoma, *Yolotl Ballet Folklorico*

Ballet Folklorico from Sinaloa, Jalisco, and Chiapas, Mexico

Southern Region

(Counties: Los Angeles & Orange)

Los Angeles

4C LAB, *A Celebration of Our Ancestors & Legacy*

Ballet Folklorico, altar building, papel picado, print-making and calavera mask-making

Ballet Folklórico Manantial del El Salvador, *Folklore and Nawat dances of El Salvador*.
Salvadoran folk dance

BVCLT (Beverly-Vermont Community Land Trust), *Koreatown Pansori Block Party*
Korean Pansori & Sori-Buk

California Academy of the Arts, *Novias de México*
Ballet folklórico and theatre arts

Chakhonoro Nazirova, *Traditional music and dance of Badakhshan*
Music, song and dance of Badakhshan

East Wind Foundation for Youth, *Educating visitors on Chinese culture and history in Chinatown*
Chinese lion dance and kung-fu

Extra Ancestral, *Bridging the African Diaspora: Celebrating Heritage and Cultural Connections*
West African, Afro-Cuban, and Afro-Brazilian dance

Gregory Browning, *Community Clowning Dance Programs with Boomer The Clown*
Clowning

Inspired Sound Initiative, *Empower and Inspire Summer Concert Series 2025*
Arabic, Mexican, Balkan, Cuban and Mongolian music, with traditional Mexican, Flamenco, and Balkan dance

Kutturan CHamoru Foundation, *Ta Fan Apâtte CHamoru Immersion Camp*
Lâlai CHamoru - CHamoru Chanting

LASDP Foundation Inc., *African American vernacular jazz dance show in Los Angeles*
African American vernacular jazz dance including Savoy Swing, Charleston, and Lindy Hop

Lernazang Ensemble, *Musa Ler Armenian Ethnographic Research & Music Project*
Western Armenian regional dialect, music, and dance traditions

Malaya Filipino American Dance Arts, *Kapwa Kaleidoscope*
Philippine indigenous dances

Maurice Wilkins, *Nourishing Movements: Preserving Black Foodways & Histories*
Black/African Food Traditions and Storytelling

Rhythm Arts Alliance, *Multigenerational African Drum and Dance Workshops*
African and LatinX Drum, Dance and Song

Susan Park, *Korean Jang is Life*
Traditional Korean fermented soybean pastes

Xorotroptzi Bulgarian Folk Ensemble, *Xorotroptzi*
Bulgarian folk dance

Orange

Mea Lath, Preserving Traditional Cambodian Dance in Southern California
Traditional and classical Cambodian dance

Upstate Region

(Counties: Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Yuba)

Humboldt

Black to our Roots, *UnderCommons Kitchen: Afro-Descendant Foodways and Folklore*
Afro-Descendant/Indigenous recipes, food prep methods, cooking techniques, and kitchen culture/kitchens as spaces of resistance

Teresa McGinnis, *Strengthening and Empowering through Traditional Materials*
Yurok women’s regalia

Institute of Native Knowledge, *Plants, Tell Me Your Story*
Hupa, Yurok, Karuk, Tolowa Dee-ni’, Wiyot, Wailaki and Yuki medicinal plant knowledge and storytelling

Mendocino

Eric Wilder, *Native Arts Expo 2024*
Storytelling (oral history), and illustration to share cultural knowledge

The Black Banjo Reclamation Project, *Banjo Building Cultural Initiative in Oakland California*
African-American luthiership of the Banjo

Sutter

Davinder Deol, *Workshops for Preserving Women's Punjabi Folk Songs*
Punjabi women's folk songs

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About the Alliance for California Traditional Arts:

The Alliance for California Traditional Arts (ACTA) promotes and supports ways for cultural traditions to thrive now and into the future. ACTA works with artists and communities to ensure the vibrancy of traditional arts, fostering cultural continuity, social belonging, and community resilience. Find out more at actaonline.org.

About the California Arts Council:

Established by the State of California in 1976, 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. They are California's only public arts grants provider with funding that is accessible to all 58 counties. Find out more at <https://arts.ca.gov/>.