

# Press Release

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## **NTC Foundation Awarded California Arts Council funding for *Artists in Schools* Program**

*State funds support the academic success of underserved San Diego County youth through Liberty School's creative programming*

San Diego, CA – The California Arts Council announced a grant award of \$19,000 to [NTC Foundation \(NTCF\)](#) as part of its [Liberty School](#) program.

Liberty School was developed by NTCF for underserved students in San Diego County who struggle with academic success. Liberty School demonstrates how a broader array of subject content and methodology, including intensive experiences in creative learning in the arts, produces better educational results. The standards-based curriculum tied with the arts help youth learn in new and creative ways, to promote a positive attitude toward learning, to increase self-esteem and to encourage exploration of new possibilities for the future. Classes are led by professionals in the fields of photography, dance, art, music, playwriting, animation, writing, quilting, and more, at no charge to the students or their schools.

“We are grateful to receive the California Arts Council grant which will positively impact so many students who face barriers like homelessness, poverty and parental military deployment,” said Lisa Johnson, NTCF president & CEO.

Dewey Elementary Principal Tanya McMillin stated, “The opportunities for our students to shine in more than just academic areas is so apparent when you watch them blossom. The students who may not be the best at reading and writing find their genius in other pathways and Liberty School allows them to do that. Attendance to school on Liberty School days is higher. Enthusiasm for school is higher. Our students seem more joyful.”

NTC Foundation was featured as part of a [larger announcement](#) from the California Arts Council of more than 1,500 grants awarded to nonprofit organizations and units of government throughout the state for their work in support of the agency’s mission to strengthen arts, culture, and creative expression as the

tools to cultivate a better California for all. The investment of nearly \$30 million marks a more than \$5 million increase over the previous fiscal year, and the largest in California Arts Council history.

Organizations were awarded grants across 15 different program areas addressing access, equity, and inclusion; community vibrancy; and arts learning and engagement; and directly benefiting our state's communities, with youth, veterans, returned citizens, and California's historically marginalized communities key among them. Successful projects aligned closely with the agency's vision of a California where all people flourish with universal access to and participation in the arts.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the California Arts Council recognizes that some grantees may need to postpone, modify, or cancel their planned activities supported by CAC funds, due to state and local public health guidelines. The state arts agency is prioritizing flexibility in addressing these changes and supporting appropriate solutions for grantees.

"Creativity sits at the very heart of our identity as Californians and as a people. In this unprecedented moment, the need to understand, endure, and transcend our lived experiences through arts and culture is all the more relevant for each of us," said Nashormeh Lindo, Chair of the California Arts Council. "The California Arts Council is proud to be able to offer more support through our grant programs than ever before, at a time when our communities' need is perhaps greater than ever before. These grants will support immediate and lasting community impact by investing in arts businesses and cultural workers across the state."

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#### **About NTC Foundation**

NTC Foundation was established in 2000 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit to enrich the lives of San Diegans by renovating this signature community asset and creating, facilitating, and operating ARTS DISTRICT as a 100-acre creative district. Visitors experience the arts, culture, creativity, and cuisine that are the hallmarks of the San Diego region and enjoy innovative experiences in a historic setting at Liberty Station that inspire lives for generations to come. [www.ntcfoundation.org](http://www.ntcfoundation.org)

#### **About ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station**

ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station is San Diego's largest Arts & Cultural District located in historic buildings at the former Naval Training Center in the Liberty Station neighborhood, near Downtown on San Diego Bay. With 100 park-like acres, the ARTS DISTRICT is home to nearly 145 museums and galleries, artist studios, dance companies, fine dining, creative retail and other organizations that showcase San Diego's creative community and provide innovative experiences for the public.

[www.artsdistrictlibertystation.com](http://www.artsdistrictlibertystation.com)

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.

Members of the California Arts Council include: Chair Nashormeh Lindo, Vice Chair Jaime Galli, Larry Baza, Lilia Gonzales Chavez, Jodie Evans, Kathleen Gallegos, Stanlee Gatti, Donn K. Harris, Alex Israel, Consuelo Montoya, and Jonathan Moscone. Learn more at [www.arts.ca.gov](http://www.arts.ca.gov).

The California Arts Council is committed to increasing the accessibility of its online content. For language and accessibility assistance, visit <http://arts.ca.gov/aboutus/language.php>.