

The City of Ventura honored the recipients of the 2004-2005 Cultural Funding Program at a reception at City Hall, 501 Poli Street, on Wednesday, March 17, 2005. Local nonprofit arts organizations and literary and performing artists were awarded a total of \$178,000 through the Cultural Funding Program, a competitive grant process that is overseen by the Cultural Affairs Division

Each year the City solicits applications from non-profit arts organizations located in, or providing special programs for, the City of Ventura. In addition applications are also accepted for Artist Fellowships for which eligibility rotates annually between performing and literary artists and visual and media artists. A panel of arts professionals and community representatives evaluate the applications in a public meeting on the basis of artistic excellence, organizational capacity, community impact, collaboration, and program accessibility. After ranking the applications the panels' funding recommendations are forwarded to the Cultural Affairs Commission for final review and approval.

Created in 1993, following the recommendations of the 1992 Cultural Plan, the Cultural Funding Program has grown over the past decade. Its goals are to: increase access to arts education programs for youth; increase the number of programs that celebrate Ventura's diverse community and rich history; and make the arts a major component of the community's fabric.

2004 - 2005 Recipients

Artist Fellowships

Emerging Artists: \$1,500 each

Veronica Valadez, Aztec dancer
Patricia Strickland, playwright

Established Artists – \$5,000

Gwendolyn Alley, poet
Marsha de la O, poet
Elijah Imlay, poet
Jeff Kaiser, musician/composer
Shelly Savren, poet

Arts Organizations

Operating Grant Recipients

Small Organizations—annual budget under \$50,000

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| Kids' Art | \$5,000 |
| provides free, interdisciplinary creative arts programs to youth at risk in a safe, supportive environment | |
| San Buenaventura Artists' Union | \$2,500 |

promotes public involvement with art through exhibitions, demonstrations dance performances, poetry readings and music recitals

Music 4 Kids \$1,000

dedicated to providing music education and music instruments to economically disadvantaged students.

Plexus Dance Theatre \$3,000

produces innovative, professional dance performances that are accessible by location and them to the general public

Ventura Area TheatreSports \$1,000

an internationally recognized, award winning improvisational company that explores the theatre through workshops, performances and public encounters

Medium Organizations—annual budget between \$50,000 - \$150,000

San Buenaventura Foundation for the Arts \$8,000

An umbrella support organization that raises awareness of the vital cultural resources and environment in Ventura and is dedicated to creating a Cultural Arts Center in Downtown Ventura

Ventura College Opera Workshop \$3,500

hands on educational program for students and the community in opera and musical theater

Channelaire Chorus \$3,500

a 120 member award winning women's chorus specializing in acapella, barbershop style, harmony

Ventura County Ballet Company \$5,500

presents ballet performances, educational outreach programs, and ballet instruction in order to increase public appreciation by the public of the art form

Ventura County Master Chorale \$3,500

promotes the growth, quality, public appreciation and access to classical and contemporary vocal masterworks through performances featuring quality musicians

Buenaventura Art Association \$2,000

an organization of visual artists and arts supporters whose members are united to promote Ventura County artists and to provide education and information about these artists and their work

Large Organizations—annual budget over \$150,00

Ventura Music Festival \$25,000

presents a series of musical programs of international caliber in historic settings in the City of Ventura to enhance the cultural and economic vitality of the community

Focus on the Masters \$25,000

an art appreciation program that documents, preserves and presents the works and lives of accomplished Ventura County artists, emphasizing the importance of the arts to a healthy society

Rubicon Theatre Co. \$25,000

presents innovative productions of classical and contemporary plays and outreach programs for the entertainment, enrichment and education of residents and visitors

Project Grants

A total of \$21,500 was awarded to arts organizations located in Ventura County to support a specific project within the City of Ventura.

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| New West Symphony | \$5,000 |
| To present two family oriented concerts in the City of Ventura | |
| Performances to Grow On | \$5,000 |
| <i>To present educational performing arts programs in Ventura Unified elementary schools</i> | |
| Ventura County Arts Council | \$4,000 |
| To present a conference for arts professional in collaboration with the City of Ventura | |
| California Poets in the Schools | \$2,500 |
| To present the Rhythm and Words poetry series in the City of Ventura | |
| LUCHA Inc. | \$4,000 |
| <i>To present the Dia de los Muertos celebration in the City of Ventura</i> | |
| Elite Theatre Company | \$1,000 |
| <i>To present a youth theatre camp and performance in the City of Ventura</i> | |

Community Arts Grants

A total of \$3,000 is available for non-arts organizations to partner with an artist or arts organization to present cultural programs in the City of Ventura. These grants are awarded three times a year in September, January and March.

September 2005 Awardees

Kids & Families Together
\$500 to partner with Kid's Art to present a photography workshop and project to children in the foster system.

LUCHA Inc.
\$500 to partner with Ambitious Efforts Indigenous Style to present a Native American Film Festival.

Facility Use Grant

Facility Use Grants are in-kind contributions, up to a total value of \$3,000, available to arts organizations wishing to produce a cultural event at City Hall the Olivas Adobe or the Downtown Century Theatre. The grants allow organizations to use the facilities without having to pay the rental fees normally charged by the City. Organizations awarded Facility Use Grants this year include:

Elite Theatre Company

LUCHA Inc.
New West Symphony
Ventura County Master Chorale
Ventura Music Festival
Ventura New Music Festival

For more information regarding the City of Ventura Cultural Funding Program please call 805.677.3911 or visit the City website www.ci.ventura.ca.us.