



Open Spaces Program

krfoundation.org



Kenneth
Rainin
FOUNDATION

The Kenneth Rainin Foundation enhances quality of life by championing the arts, promoting early childhood literacy and supporting research to cure chronic disease.

Supporting Temporary Public Art

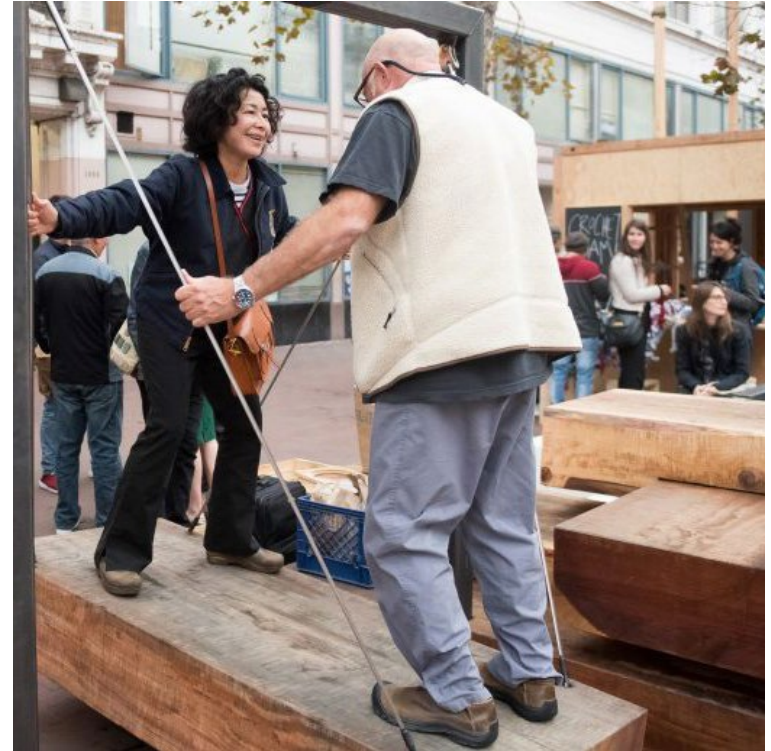


Jenna Garrett's "How I Keep Looking Up/Como Sigo Mirando Hacia Arriba/仰望." Photo courtesy of Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco.

- ❖ Public art is broadly defined
- ❖ Projects may embody many multidisciplinary approaches
- ❖ Project uses public space as its primary site
- ❖ Project embraces collaboration

Open Spaces Program Priorities

- ❖ Visionary and timely projects
- ❖ Advancing artistic practice
- ❖ Community engagement and relevance
- ❖ Leveraging public resources and cultural assets
- ❖ Mutually beneficial partnerships and collaboration
- ❖ Temporary projects (for example, not a permanent mural)



Marisha Farnsworth & Luggage Store Gallery's "Block by Block." Photo credit: Darryl Smith / Luggage Store Gallery

Open Spaces Program: Two Grant Tracks

- ❖ **Development Support Grants** for early-stage project planning, research and development.
- ❖ **Production Support Grants** for the execution of temporary public art projects of scale and limited duration.

Learn more about these grant tracks in our [frequently asked questions.](#)



*Filipino American Development Foundation and Alleluia Panis' "Lakbai Diwa: Diasporic Spirit."
Photo credit: Erina Alejo*

Open Spaces Program Grantee: Temescal Roots Project

- ❖ 2022 Development Support grantee
- ❖ Early-stage project
- ❖ Focused on concept research and community engagement activities



"Temescal Roots Project." Photo credit: Amir Aziz

Open Spaces Program Grantee: Mutual Air



Rosten Woo
Artist, Designer and Writer

Rosten Woo and the Exploratorium Sound The Alarm on Air and Climate Change. Video Credit: Jamie DeWolf

Deadlines & Key Information

- ❖ **Stage One Application:**
May 13 – June 10, 2026
- ❖ **Stage Two Full Proposal (by invitation):** July 27 – August 27, 2026
- ❖ **Award Notification:**
November 2026
- ❖ **Grant Period:** January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2028 (projects must premiere after January 1, 2027)
- ❖ **Grant Amount**
 - Development Support \$15,000-\$20,000
 - Production Support \$100,000-\$175,000
- ❖ **Project Locations:**
Oakland and/or San Francisco
- ❖ **Applications** must be submitted via GivingData, our online grants management system

Eligibility & Grant Requirements

- ❖ **Lead applicants:** Bay Area artists, artist collectives, nonprofits
- ❖ **Partners:** Bay Area artists, artist collectives, nonprofits, fiscal sponsors
- ❖ 2025 Open Spaces Program Production grantees are not eligible to apply this round
- ❖ The Foundation prioritizes compensating artists at a significant level. At least one third of the grant funds must go to artists and direct expenses for creating the work

Evaluation Criteria



*People's Kitchen Collective's "To the Streets."
Photo credit: Sana Javeri Kadri*

- ❖ Effective project management & strong partnership
- ❖ Place-based work
- ❖ Community engaged
- ❖ Relevance & Timeliness
- ❖ Rigor & Innovation
- ❖ Capacity

Evaluation Process



Amoura Teese in "The Show." Photo credit: Robbie Sweeny

- ❖ **Stage One Applications:**
reviewed internally by Rainin Foundation Staff
- ❖ **Stage Two Applications:**
by invitation only; reviewed by a panel

Stage One Application: May 13 – June 10

- ❖ Eligibility Quiz
- ❖ Artist / Artist Collective / Organizational Info
- ❖ Project Info
- ❖ Project Budget Info (One third of grant funds must go toward artist fees or their direct expenses)



*Flyaway Production's "Down on the Corner."
Photo credit: Brooke Anderson*

Stage One Application Tips

- ❖ Articulate how your project is **ambitious** and **boundary pushing**.
- ❖ Tell us: **why** this project now?
- ❖ Explain your **relationship with the community** served by this project. How will they engage in and with the project?
- ❖ Tell us about your **project team and partnership**. Why is this group suited to make this project together?
- ❖ Share **why place matters**. How is the location integral to the project concept?

Eligibility Quiz Walkthrough

- ❖ The eligibility quiz can help you determine which grant track is right for your project.

After reviewing the explanations of the two grant tracks in the FAQ's, which description best aligns with your project?*

My project is in the early concept phase. The idea(s) requires more exploration/research/learning to further advance the project.

My project's artistic vision is solidified, but needs logistical development. The project requires site/budget/resource/timeline/materials development, community engagement exploration and/or technical expertise.

My project is ready to be implemented and premiered in San Francisco or Oakland. The project has evidence of meaningful collaboration, detailed project plan/clear benchmarks, defined roles of key participants and materials needed, been embedded in a Bay Area community, identified potential challenges and solutions, and an aligned budget.

Logging In To GivingData



2025 Open Spaces Round One Application | Development Track

Development Support Grants of \$15,000-\$20,000 fund projects in their initial stages over a 24-month grant period. In addition to the grant amount, grantees receive support to document their project and will be paired with an experienced public art advisor for the project's duration. Development Support Grants fund the research, design and planning phases of a large scale, temporary public art project. Projects must feature a partnership and include community engagement activities to be competitive for funding. *Note: being awarded a Development Support Grant does not guarantee receiving a Production Support Grant in a future year, however, it sets the stage for a strong Production Support Grant application.*

Sign In

Sign in or [create an account](#) to submit a form for 2025 Open Spaces Round One Application | Development Track.

* Email Address

* Password

[Sign In](#)

[Forgot your password?](#)

New user? [Create an account.](#)

Returning Users

Use your current credentials to login. If you don't remember them, just reach out.

New Users

Follow the link to create and activate your account.



Open Spaces Program Resources

- ❖ [Guidelines](#)
- ❖ [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- ❖ [Eligibility Quiz](#)
- ❖ Sign up for [office hours](#)
- ❖ Email: arts@krfoundation.org



Destiny Arts Center's "THE BLACK (W)HOLE." Photo credit: Yoram Savion

Additional Resources

Public Art Network Resources:

- ❖ [Americans for the Arts' Public Art Network](#)
- ❖ [Forecast](#): a nonprofit founded for and by artists working in public space (based in Saint Paul, MN)
- ❖ [Municipal Artist Partnerships' tools & resources](#)
- ❖ [Public Art Archive](#): an online database of completed public artworks in the US and abroad

Rainin Foundation Resources:

- ❖ Explore our [past grantees](#) and [watch their videos](#)
- ❖ Read [Open Spaces Program blogs](#) and relevant articles:
 - ◆ [In/With/For The Public](#)
 - ◆ [How Public Art Exposed Class Tensions in San Francisco](#)

Title Slide Photo Credit



“An Intentional Shift,” a collaboration between NOW Hunters Point and Kristin Damrow & Company, featuring Feline Finesse. Photo credit: Amani Wade-Ng