



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fresno, California; Nov. 20, 2023

# ACTA's Living Cultures Grant Supports Culture Bearers and Organizations Statewide by Awarding 98 Grants totaling an \$850,000 Investment—Its Largest Ever

The Alliance for California Traditional Arts (ACTA), the Administering Organization for the California Arts Council's Folk and Traditional Arts Grant Program, is awarding 98 grants totaling **\$850,000**.

**It's the largest group of grantees in the history of ACTA's Living Cultures Grant Program.**



*Fogo Na Roupa dancers, led by Linda Yudin from Viver Brasil, in Carnaval San Francisco's 2023 parade. Photo: Courtesy of the organization.*

This year's cohort invited individual artists and culture bearers for the first time, after previously focusing funding only on organizations and community groups. With the generous support of the California Arts Council, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Walter and Elise Haas Fund, **50 individual artists and culture bearers will receive \$5,000**, and **48 organizations and community groups will receive \$12,500** in all regions of the state.

Our 2023 cohort represents a tapestry of cultural communities and artistic traditions woven throughout California, from Siskiyou to San Diego. We're proud to promote them all: the ecological knowledge of Big Valley Rancheria in upstate Lake County, Triqui textiles in Monterey County, Lao language and dance in Fresno County, West African Malinke music in San



Bernardino County, and many more. Look out for more details on each grantee on our website and social media later this year and beyond!

## Introducing the 2023 grantees. Congratulations!

### Capital Region

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

#### Sacramento

Steph Rue, *Professional Hanji Studio*  
Hanji (Korean Paper) and Related Paper Arts

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

### Central Coast Region

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

#### Goleta

Indigenous Community Initiatives and Tribal Youth Program at Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians, *Acorn Conference and Gathering*  
Indigenous Californian Acorn Baskets, Gathering, and Cooking

#### Moorpark

Benita Martínez Sosa, *Creating a Web Page to Promote Zapotec Textile Art and Demonstration*  
Zapotec Textile Arts/Weaving

#### Seaside

Linda Yamane (Rumsen Ohlone), *Rumsen Ohlone Dance & Regalia*  
Ohlone Dance Regalia & Basketry



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## **Somis**

Fund for Resource Conservation, *Sparking the Flint and Weaving With the Land: Chumash Material Arts*

Chumash Weaving and Flintwork

## **Central Valley & Eastern Central Regions**

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

### **Fresno**

Choummaly Keodara, *Lao Culture Dance*

Traditional Lao Dance and Folk Songs

Another Level Training Academy, *Braiders Academy*

African American Hair Braiding

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

Lao Language, Dance, and Music

Teatro de la Tierra, *Cancionero del Pueblo / People's Songbook*

Latin American Nueva Canción / Nuevo Canto

### **Hanford**

Hilario Lugo, *Engraving Focused on Day of the Dead, Mexica Imagery, and Lowrider Culture*

Automotive and Motorcycle Hand Engraving

### **Madera**

Comité Guelaguetza Madera, *Guelaguetza Madera 2023*

Guelaguetza (Oaxacan Dance, Traditions, Music and Cuisine)

### **Merced**

Hmong Cultural Preservation, *The Hmong Culture Education and Practice Project*

Hmong Clothing, Songs, Dance, Wedding and Funeral Process



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## Stockton

Janeen Johnson, *"From Whence I Came: Expressions of Congo"*  
Congoese Dance and Culture Oral History Project

## Taft

Border Patrol Curatorial Collective (Elizabeth Spavento), *R.I.P. Residency Featuring Indigenous Artists from el Pueblo San Pablo Tijaltepec*  
Traditional Music and Embroidery of el Pueblo San Pablo Tijaltepec

## Tuolumne

Jennifer D. Bates (Northern Sierra Mewuk), *Traditional Acorn Cooking Tools*  
Cooking Mewuk *Nupa* (Acorn Soup)

## Southern Border Region

(Counties: Imperial, San Diego)

### El Cajon

Kumeyaay Community College, *Kumeyaay Community College Summer Solstice Week*  
Kumeyaay Foods, Plant Knowledge, Storytelling, Cosmology

### San Diego

Alyce Smith Cooper, *Equity Through Generational Storytelling*  
African-American Storytelling and Poetry

Berenice Badillo, *Mural in Chican@ Park 2024*  
Chican@ Muralism

Bernard Barros Ellorin, *Teaching Kulintang Music for Dances of the Southern Philippines*  
Kulintang Music of the Southern Philippines (Mindanao and Sulu)

## Inland Empire Region

(Counties: Riverside, San Bernardino)



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## Coachella

Ruben Gonzalez, *Training Youth to Create 3D Sculptures at Ruben's Ranch*  
Foam and Cement Sculptures Replicating Aztec and Maya Civilizations

CULTURAS MUSIC & ARTS, *Festival del Rebozo*  
Purépecha Rebozos; Paper Flowers; Ojos de Dios; Traditional Mexican Foods

## Riverside

Claudia Pacheco, *Azteka Cultural Camps*  
Danza Azteca/Mexica

## San Bernardino

Makeda Kumasi, *Pan-African Performance Art*  
West African Malinke Music, Movement, and Oral Arts

The Garcia Center for the Arts/San Bernardino Valley Concert Association, *Afro-Latino Celebration*  
Afro-Oaxacan Dance, Music, Food, Woodcarving, Printmaking, and Muxe Art

## Upland

Terry Nguyen, *Preservation and Transmission of Tsugaru Shamisen Traditions*  
Japanese Tsugaru Shamisen

## San Francisco

(County: San Francisco)

Eddy Navia, *"Bridging Traditions: Uniting Indigenous Instruments, Music, and Dances from the Carnivals of Bolivia and the Andes with a Contemporary Orchestra"*  
Andean Music and Dance (Sinus and Charango)

Kim Acebo Arteche, *Subli*  
Subli (Religious Folk Dance of the Tagalog Peoples from Batangas, Philippines)

Kim Requesto, *Pangalay Circle*  
Workshop Series on Dances of the Southern Philippines: Igal of the Sama, Pamansak of the Yakan, and Pangalay of the Ta'u Sug



Winnie Wong, *“General's Aria | Emotion's Passage in War”*  
Chinese Guzheng

Afro Urban Society, *Afro Urban Society Website Project*  
Multidisciplinary Black Creative Practices / Arts

Au Co Vietnamese Cultural Center, *Workshop Series: Vietnamese Opera and Southern Vietnamese Folk Music*  
Vietnamese Opera and Folk Music

Chavalos de Aqui y Alla, *“Paseo Masaya” and “El Güegüense”*  
Marimba; Folklore Dancing from Masaya, Nicaragua; and El Güegüense (Traditional Nicaraguan Satirical Play)

Fogo Na Roupa, *Sparks of Fogo Kids and Youth Program*  
Afro-Brazilian Music and Dance; Bay Area Street Dance and Music

Kalingafornia Laga, *Culture Keeping from Mabilong to the Bay*  
Laga (Indigenous Backstrap Weaving from the Kalinga Province in the Northern Philippines)

KOHO Japantown SF, *BonPOP: Japantown's Community Obon Festival*  
Japanese Obon Odori and Minyo (traditional dance and folk songs)

Marigold Project, Inc, *Day of the Dead Festival of Altars*  
Indigenous Latinx Day of the Dead Traditions

Nā Lei Hulu i ka Wēkiu, *‘Ūniki Program*  
Hula and Traditional Hawaiian Culture

Puri Arts, *Pungmul Gut on Land: Farming Ritual on Land*  
Korean Pungmul (folk music); Chuseok and Dano Celebrations / Workshops

## **San Francisco Bay Area Region**

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

### **Berkeley**

Faye Carol, *“Blues, Baroque, and Bars”*  
Blues, Gospel, Jazz, Funk, Classical, Chamber Music, Spoken Word, Hip-Hop



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Bay Area Bomba y Plena Workshop, *Bay Area Children and Youth Bomba y Plena Workshop*  
Puerto Rican Bomba and Plena (traditional music and dance)

Cunamacué, “*Huellas*”

Afro-Peruvian Dance Theater; Son de los Diablos Dance and Percussion

Krudas Cubensi y DJ Leydis, “*Festival Cubahia. Feminismo y afrocubania. ¡Desde Cuba hasta la Bahía!*” [*Cubahia Festival. Feminism and Afrocubanism. ¡From Cuba to the Bay!*]

Afro-Cuban Music, Dance, and Orality; Hip Hop

Mahea Uchiyama Center For International Dance, *African American Mbira Project*

Mbira (Musical Culture Conceptualized by the Shona People of Zimbabwe)

## Concord

Patricia A. Montgomery, *African-American Historical Swing Coats*

African-American Quilting

## Emeryville

Ousseynou Kouyaté, *West African Folk Traditions*

Storytelling, Song, and Specialized Dance of the Senegambia Region

## Menlo Park

Eszterlanc Hungarian Folk Ensemble, *Hungarian Spring Customs Performance Project*

Hungarian Folk Dance and Music

## Oakland

Ethnic Ties (Acacia WoodsChan), *Intergenerational Testimonies within Cultural Histories*

Oral Histories of Black Oakland, Chinatown, Fruitvale, and the East Bay

Einar “Tito” Leliebre Nuñez, “*La Rumba Me Llama: Rumba Afro-Cubana*”

Afro-Cuban Folkloric Music, including Rumba

Francis Kofi Akotuah, *Acquiring Traditional Instruments and Regalia from Ghana*

Musical Cultures of Southern Ghana

Kai Delgado Pfeifer, *Filipinx Food as Medicine*



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Filipinx Food Traditions and Rituals

Kiazi Malonga, *Free Ngoma and Percussion Series for San Francisco Bay Area Youth*  
Central African Dance and Drum

Shirley Kazuyo Muramoto, *“Desert Wind and Strings: In Honor of Musicians Held in Japanese American Prison Camps Who Performed Traditional Music”*  
Traditional Japanese Music and Dance

Nimely Pan African Dance Company, *Poró Project*  
West and Central African Dance and Song

Purple Silk Music Education Foundation (PSMEF), *“Honor Our Elders: Music for Community Healing and Resilience”*  
Cantonese Opera

## **Palo Alto**

Sruti Sarathy, *“Songs for Many Lives: A Carnatic Diaspora Songbook”*  
South Indian Carnatic Music

Swara Lahari of Yuva Bharati, *Promoting Classical Indian Music in USA—Music in the Park*  
Classical Indian Music

## **Redwood City**

Virada Chatikul (VC Tang), *Martial Blessings*  
Thai Martial Blessing Dances

## **San Bruno**

Eric Solano, *“Adhika”*  
Documenting Filipino Indigenous Knowledge

## **San Jose**

PJ Hirabayashi, *“Ei Ja Nai Ka—Isn’t it Good?”*  
Archiving Japanese Taiko (traditional percussion)

Calpulli Tonelequeh, *25th Annual Mexica New Year, 19th Annual Día de los Muertos, and 11th Annual Un-Thanksgiving Sunrise Ceremonies*





Aztec Dance, Music, and Altars and traditions of California Native Tribes

Cambodian Cultural Dance Troupe of San Jose at Cambodian American Resource Agency,  
*Khmer New Year 2024 Festival*  
Cambodian Music and Dance

Celebration Nation Inc., *Cultura Triqui (Greenfield, Monterey Co.)*  
Triqui Clothing and Textile Arts

Ho Chan Ensemble, "*50 Years of Remembering*"  
Cambodian Music and Dance

## **San Pablo**

Chaksam-pa, *Training and Mentoring Young Artists on Tibetan Opera Skills*  
Tibetan Opera

## **San Rafael**

Swapan Chaudhuri, *North Indian Tabla Master*  
North Indian Classical Music

## **Santa Rosa**

Latinos Unidos del Condado de Sonoma, *Supporting Yolotl Ballet Folklorico Workshops and Performances*  
Mexican Ballet Folklorico

## **Sonoma**

Jesus Bravo Alva, "*Ancestral Sounds of Mesoamerica*"  
Mexica Cultural and Visual Art and Music Workshops

## **Southern Region**

(Counties: Los Angeles & Orange)

### **Glendale**

Frank Fairfield, *Californio String Band Music on Fiddle, Mandolin, Guitar and Bajo-Sexto*  
Southwestern Californio String Band Music



## Long Beach

Hmong Association of Long Beach, Inc., "*Qeej Not Gangs*" Cultural Arts Program  
Hmong Qeej, Embroidery, and Kwv Txhiaj

## Los Angeles

Catherine Scott, *Abrete kutu güiridinga! "Listen up and hear my words!"*  
Palo Briyumba Plant / Herbal Practice, Foodways, and Material Culture

Gino Gamboa, *Cajones de la Guardia Vieja*  
Cajon Percussion and Luthiery

Jeniffer Sanchez, *Beading and Regalia Making Classes in the Tradition of Danza Azteca*  
Danza Azteca

Jesus Martinez, "*The Breakfast Table Sessions*"  
Recording Latino Musical Traditions

Melieka Fathi, *Highlighting the Artistic and Socio-Political Elements of Iranian Dance in the Diaspora*  
Iranian Dance

Mythili Prakash, "*She's Auspicious*"  
Documentation of South Indian Bharatanatyam

FilAm Arts, *Festival of Philippine Arts and Culture (FPAC)*  
Indigenous Filipino Music and Dance

Centro Cultural Techantit, *La Conmemoracion del Genocidio de 1932, La Feria de Recursos Para Familias Indígenas / Earth Day 2024, and Festival de Musica Ancestral 2024*  
[*The Commemoration of the 1932 Genocide, Resource Fair for Indigenous Families/ Earth Day 2024, Ancestral Music Festival 2024*]  
Central American Indigenous Song, Music, Dance, Visual / Mural Design, and Poetry

Del Harrison, "*Del's Juke Joint*"  
The Juke Joint (African-American variety show featuring comedy, live music, poetry, and storytelling)

Extra Ancestral, *Extra Ancestral and the African Diaspora through Music and Dance*  
Music and Dance from West Africa, Cuba, and Brazil



Generaciones en Acción, *"Si te RIES, GOZAS" Gracitud y Risoterapia Theatre Play*  
Latino Popular Theater

Mariachi Plaza Festival Foundation, *34th Annual Mariachi Festival and Feast of Santa Cecilia*  
Mexican Mariachi Music

Son Del Sereno, *"Sembrando Amapolas: Music, Culture & Community of Son Jarocho in California"*  
Mexican Son Jarocho

Sonido del Colibrí, *Sonido del Colibrí Presents "Martina Camargo: Afro-Colombian Tambora in LA"*  
Colombian Afro-Indigenous Tambora Music

## **North Hollywood**

Nadia Calmet, *Afro Peruvian Culture Day*  
Afro-Peruvian Art, Music, Dance, History, and Traditions

## **San Fernando**

Mary Alfaro Velasco, *Bolero Album*  
Latinx Bolero Music and the Trío Romántico Tradition

Tataviam Land Conservancy, *Revitalizing the Art of Tomol Building*  
Chumash and Tataviam Canoe-Building

## **Santa Ana**

Reaksmey "Mea" Lath, *Preserving Cambodian Classical Dance in SoCal*  
Cambodian Classical Dance

## **Santa Monica**

Ronaldo Lage Ignacio, *Capoeira Classes for Low-income Children and Families*  
Afro-Brazilian Capoeira

## **Thousand Oaks**

Chumash Indian Museum, *'a'aleqwet Workshop Series: Chumash Traditional Arts and Crafts*



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Chumash Flintknapping, Shell Arts, Basket Weaving, Tule Construction, Art with Natural Pigments, and Stone Carving

## Upstate Region

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

### Carlotta

Rabbi Naomi Steinberg, *Documentation of Six Original Tales in the Jewish Mystical Tradition*  
Storytelling in the Jewish Mystical Tradition

### Dunsmuir

Brenda Montaña, *La Cerrada: Sustaining Traditional Postpartum Care for Indigenous and Mexican Communities*  
Traditional Mexican Medicine and Birth Work

### Hayfork

Trinity Patton (Hayfork Wintu), *Traditional Gathering*  
Hayfork Wintu Basketry / Materials Preparation

### Lakeport

Big Valley Rancheria, *Big Valley, BA- GO- GA Elders Vegetable and Medicine Garden*  
Big Valley Rancheria Tribal Foodways, Ecological Knowledge and Cultural Landscapes;  
Bahtssal (Eastern Pomo Language)

### Loleta

Katie Bowie (Citizen Potawatomi Nation), *Katie's Wzhetonen (Creations) & Cultural Revitalization Workshops*  
Hupa, Yurok, Wiyot & Bear River Regalia

### Rocklin

Marjan Vahdat, *"Home is Where My Voice Is"*  
Persian Traditional Singing



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**Weaverville**

Hmong Hayfork New Year, *Hmong Hayfork New Year Celebration*  
Hmong Dance, Song, Language, Ceremony, and Cuisine

Wintu Educational & Cultural Council of Northern California, Inc., *Native American Traditional Arts*  
Wintu Traditional Knowledge, Crafts, Language and Life Ways

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ACTA promotes and supports ways for these cultural traditions to thrive now and into the future by providing advocacy, resources, and connections. For more information, please go to <http://www.actaonline.org>.

**CONTACT**

Jennifer Jameson Merchant  
Assoc. Program Director + Media Director, ACTA  
jjameson@actaonline.org | 760-805-8002

See the web version of this announcement here:  
<https://actaonline.org/livingcultures2023>