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# FLEISHHACKER FOUNDATION

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Fleishhacker Foundation Increases Grantmaking in Response to Pandemic**

*More than \$600,000 awarded to help hard-hit Bay Area arts organizations, artists,  
K-5 literacy programs, students, and families.*

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**May 20, 2020. San Francisco, CA** – The Fleishhacker Foundation announced today that it is increasing its grantmaking by 25% and changing its existing grant awards to general support in response to the devastating impact of COVID-19 on the Bay Area community.

“This is a time for bold action,” said Fleishhacker Foundation Board President, John Ehrlich. “Although we lost nearly a quarter of our assets during the market downturn, we are increasing our giving by 25%. We believe this historic moment calls for Bay Area foundations and those with donor advised funds to commit to a greater level of giving in the community.”

Toward these ends, the Foundation has awarded more than \$600,000 in new grants, including nearly \$375,000 in unrestricted support to a diverse array of small to mid-sized Bay Area arts organizations that are struggling from a loss of income due to COVID-19-related closures. The Foundation has a long history of being an early and consistent funder of vibrant, community-based arts organizations with annual budgets between \$100,000 and \$2.5 million.

It has also committed an additional \$95,000 to support pooled emergency-relief funds for local artists, arts workers, and arts groups, including the Performing Arts Workers Relief Fund, the East Bay/Oakland Relief Fund for Individuals in the Arts, the Safety Net Fund, and the Emergency Loan Program of Northern California Grantmakers’ Arts Loan Fund.

In addition, the Foundation has awarded \$140,000 to Bay Area educational organizations that are providing vital literacy services to disadvantaged K-5 students as well as to COVID-19-response initiatives of The Oakland Public Education Fund and Spark\* SF Public Schools. These new initiatives support the provision of meals, internet access, digital devices, and other services to students and families in need.

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Today's announcement follows a notice issued by the Foundation last month lifting restrictions on its existing grant awards, allowing organizations to direct funds toward their most urgent needs.

“We are committed to remaining as flexible and helpful to our grantees as possible during this pandemic,” said the Foundation’s Executive Director, David Blazevich. “Throughout this crisis, we have been inspired by our grantees’ diligence and creativity as they adjust program plans and develop new ways to serve the community. Providing unrestricted support allows them to innovate and quickly respond to evolving needs. We are also simplifying reporting requirements to help ease administrative strain during this challenging time.”

Since COVID-19-related closures and ongoing social-distancing measures may limit public gatherings for some time, the Foundation has placed a hold on its regular Small Arts Grants and Special Arts Grants programs, which support performances, exhibitions, and other presentations by local arts groups.

“Given the circumstances, we believe providing general support to more than 75 exceptional, community-based grantees is the most helpful thing we can do for them,” said the Foundation’s Vice President, Robin Strawbridge. “We also believe that it’s critical to invest in pooled funds that provide rapid-relief to people who are suffering from the economic impact of the crisis, like the Performing Arts Workers Relief Fund. This Fund is a collaborative initiative of three important arts service organizations that we support through our Christine Elbel Lynchpin Grant Program: Theatre Bay Area, Dancers’ Group, and InterMusic SF.”

“The interconnected nature of the performing arts requires a broad definition of community,” said Cory Combs, Executive Director of InterMusic SF, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting the professional and artistic growth of Bay Area musicians. “Alongside Theatre Bay Area and Dancers' Group, we hope to directly aid as many artists and art workers as possible during this unprecedented work interruption. We also hope the Foundation's generous contribution will inspire others to follow suit, allowing the Fund to reach more individuals in need during this crisis.”

### **About the Fleishhacker Foundation**

The Fleishhacker Foundation is a family foundation located in San Francisco, California. It was established in 1947 by prominent business leader and philanthropist Mortimer Fleishhacker Sr. to improve the quality of life in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Foundation makes grants to local, community-based organizations through two main programs: Arts & Culture and Pre-Collegiate Education. Arts grants are made to support artistic efforts across an array of disciplines, including dance, music, theater, and film, as well as visual, media, and interdisciplinary arts. Education grants are awarded to Bay Area organizations to support K-5 literacy programs serving disadvantaged public school students. The Foundation also offers unrestricted support to visual artists in the Bay Area through its Eureka Fellowship Program.

For more information about the Fleishhacker Foundation visit: [www.fleishhackerfoundation.org](http://www.fleishhackerfoundation.org)

## FLEISHHACKER FOUNDATION

### 2020 Grantee List

#### ARTS GRANTEES

ABD Productions (Anne Bluethenthal and Dancers)	Kiandanda Dance Theater [Dancers' Group]
Alternative Theater Ensemble	Landmark Musical Theater
Amy Seiwert's Imagery	Lenora Lee Dance [Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center]
Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center	The LitQuake Foundation
Aurora Theatre Company	Margaret Jenkins Dance Company
AXIS Dance Company	The Marsh
Bayview Opera House	Mercury Soul
Berkeley FILM Foundation	Mirabel Pictures (DBA <i>WeOwnTV</i> )
Brava! for Women in the Arts	Na Lei Hulu I Ka Wekiu
Faye Carol [Intersection for the Arts]	New Conservatory Theatre Center
Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco	Amy X. Neuburg [InterMusic SF]
Circus Bella	Oakland Ballet Company
CounterPulse	ODC Theater
CubaCaribe	Opera Cultura
Cutting Ball Theater	PlayGround
Dance Film SF	Playwrights Foundation
Dancers' Group	Pro Arts, Inc.
Dancing Cy(i)phers [Dimensions Dance Theater]	Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project
Dimensions Dance Theater	Red Poppy Art House [Intersection for the Arts]
Dohee Lee Puri Arts [Dancers' Group]	Rhythmix Cultural Works
Abby Ginzberg [Kovno Communications]	Root Division
EastSide Arts Alliance	San Francisco Cinematheque
Epiphany Dance Theater	San Francisco Mime Troupe
Eugenie Chan Theatre Projects [Intersection for the Arts]	San Francisco Film Society
Flyaway Productions	San Francisco Silent Film Festival
Headlands Center for the Arts	SCRAP
Geoff Hoyle and David Ford [The Marsh]	Southern Exposure
InterMusic SF	Teatro Visión
International Indian Treaty Council	Theatre Bay Area
Intersection for the Arts	Yerba Buena Gardens Festival
Joe Goode Performance Group	Zaccho Dance Theatre
Kearny Street Workshop	Z Space

## EDUCATION GRANTEES

826 Valencia  
10,000 Degrees  
Alameda County Library Foundation  
Bridge the Gap College Prep  
Children Rising  
Jewish Coalition for Literacy  
Oakland Literacy Coalition  
Pacifica School Volunteers  
Real Options for City Kids (R.O.C.K.)  
Redwood City Friends of Literacy  
Super Stars Literacy, Inc.

## POOLED EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDS

Bay Area Performing Arts Worker Emergency Relief Fund [Theatre Bay Area]  
To donate or apply: <https://www.theatrebayarea.org/page/COVID-19relief-fund>

The Center for Cultural Innovation, East Bay/Oakland Relief Fund for Individuals in the Arts  
To donate or apply <https://www.cciarts.org/EastBayOaklandRelief.htm>

The Safety Net Fund [Intersection for the Arts]  
To donate or apply: <https://www.safetynetfund.io>

Emergency Loan Program of the Northern California Grantmakers' Arts Loan Fund  
To donate: <https://ncg.org/arts-loan-fund-emergency-covid-19-loans>  
To apply: <https://www.artsloanfund.org>

The Oakland Education Fund's COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund for Oakland Kids & Schools  
To donate: <https://www.oaklandedfund.org/give/covid-19/>

Spark\* SF Public Schools' COVID-Response Fund  
To donate: <https://www.sparkspublicschools.org/donate>

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