

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Design by Stevie Sokolouski

## **Alternative Exposure 2020: Emergency Relief Funding for Artists**

### **Applications Now Open for Emergency Funding for Bay Area Artists**

**May 1, 2020, San Francisco, CA** – In response to the urgent needs of the Bay Area arts community Southern Exposure is redirecting its 2020 Alternative Exposure funds to support local artists and arts groups who are in dire need of emergency support, with funds becoming available in early summer 2020. SoEx recognizes that artists are facing unforeseen and potentially catastrophic challenges right now due to canceled and postponed exhibitions, performances, and other gigs and day jobs due to COVID-19.

Southern Exposure, in partnership with the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, is allocating a total of \$60,000 to support Bay Area working artists in need right now. Sixty grants of \$1,000 each will be made available to visual and multidisciplinary artists. Priority will be given to artists who are Black, Indigenous, POC, elder, LGBTQ+, disabled, immune-compromised, and immigrants. Funds may be used to cover any needed expenses.

Southern Exposure's Alternative Exposure grant program has supported Bay Area independent, self-organized work by artists for 13 years, giving away over \$873,400 to date. Alternative Exposure is administered with lead support from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts as part of their Regional Regranting Program.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE:**

- Visual and multidisciplinary artists living in the nine Bay Area counties (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma) who have had exhibitions, performances, day jobs, or other projects or work canceled/postponed due to COVID-19 and have lost funding and income associated with this project. Applicants can be individual artists or an individual representing an artist collective, ensemble, or group.
- Artists who have received Alternative Exposure grants in the past are eligible, aside from the lead artists of the 17 most recent grantees in 2019 (Alt Ex round 13).

As there are many in need right now, we ask applicants to use their own good judgement and make space for others if they are not facing a current emergency.

**TIMELINE:**

- May 1 – May 24: Applications accepted
- June 1: Grantees determined
- June 5: Grantees notified
- June 22: Funds distributed

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

- Narrative statement describing specific circumstances and hardship
- Description of how funds will be allocated
- Link to website, sample of past work, CV, or contract from venue to demonstrate past or canceled work

**HOW TO APPLY**

The online application process opens on May 1, 2020. Visit [soex.org](http://soex.org) to begin your application. Applications are available to submit in English and Spanish.

**NOTIFICATION**

Applicants will be notified of their status no later than Friday, June 5, 2020.

**INQUIRIES**

Questions regarding eligible projects or the application process can be directed to [alternativeexposure@soex.org](mailto:alternativeexposure@soex.org) after May 1, 2020.

**FAQ's****How will the grantees be determined?**

Applicants will be reviewed for eligibility only. Grantees will be chosen at random from all applicants eligible to receive funding, with prioritization given to Black, Indigenous, POC, elder, LGBTQ+, disabled, immune-compromised, and immigrant artists.

**Am I eligible to apply if I have received an Alternative Exposure grant in the past?**

Yes, unless you were the lead artist on a project that received funding in 2019's Alternative Exposure Round 13. All other years are eligible.

**If I receive funding, will I be taxed on this grant?**

Southern Exposure is unable to provide tax advice. We will require a SSN and completed W-9 from the lead applicant and you will need to be able to receive a check in your name.

**How quickly will the funds be sent out?**

Grants will be distributed in June.

**What can I use the funds for?**

You may use the grant to pay for art production; supplies; rent/mortgage; utilities; groceries; child care; medical bills/insurance; or other daily needs.

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF ALTERNATIVE EXPOSURE**

The program was launched in 2007 in partnership with The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Since then, The Andy Warhol Foundation has invested in the creation of a growing national network of fourteen regional regranteeing programs. The Regional Regranting program has awarded nearly \$10 million in grants through organizations in Albuquerque, Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Houston, Kansas City, Miami, Minneapolis, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Portland (OR), Portland (ME), St. Louis, Washington DC, and here, in the Bay Area via Alternative Exposure. The Warhol Foundation has authorized these re-granteeing partners to re-allocate their grants to create and administer COVID-19 emergency relief funds in their communities.

With lead support from the Warhol Foundation, Southern Exposure continues to expand support for the vital creative work that would otherwise fly under the radar of traditional funders. Alternative Exposure reinforces the creative landscape of the San Francisco Bay Area arts community and plays a significant role in its growth, supporting the independent, self-organized work of artists and small groups that play a critical and significant role within the San Francisco Bay Area arts community. Additional generous support is provided by Grants for the Arts.

To learn more about the many projects funded by Alternative Exposure, visit [soex.org](http://soex.org).

**ABOUT SOUTHERN EXPOSURE**

Southern Exposure (SoEx) is an artist-centered non-profit organization committed to supporting visual artists. Through our extensive and innovative programming, SoEx strives to experiment, collaborate and further educate while providing an extraordinary resource center and forum for Bay Area and national artists in our Mission District space and off-site, in the public realm.

An active presence in the Bay Area since 1974, SoEx is continually evolving in response to the needs of artists and the community while engaging the public in artists' work. Central to our mission is to remain the most accessible space for visual artists to produce and present new work, learn, and connect. SoEx provides visual artists with the tools and resources they need to experiment in an open and supportive environment. We also work to advocate to new, diverse audiences and build an ever-growing community of enthusiasts and supporters of the visual arts.

For more information and images, contact Stevie Sokolouski at (415) 863-2141 x 102 or [stephen@soex.org](mailto:stephen@soex.org). Southern Exposure is located at 3030 20th Street (at Alabama), San Francisco, CA 94110. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM and gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00PM. *Please note that our offices and gallery are currently closed in accordance with San Francisco's shelter-in-place restrictions.* Website: [soex.org](http://soex.org).

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