

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS INQUIRIES:
Stephen Sokolouski, Communications Coordinator
(415) 863-2141, stephen@soex.org
Valerie Imus, Artistic Director
(415) 863-2141 x105, programs@soex.org



Southern Exposure Awards \$75,650 to Bay Area Visual Arts Groups

17 Grant Recipients Announced in 12th Year of Alternative Exposure Grant Program

San Francisco, CA, December 11, 2018 – Southern Exposure is proud to announce the Round 12 grant recipients of our Alternative Exposure Grant Program. This year, Southern Exposure expanded its outreach by translating grant applications and live info sessions into Spanish, and by continuing to include expanded eligibility to Contra Costa County. \$75,650 has been granted to 17 projects, each receiving an award of \$4,450.

The projects range from mobile galleries to workshops for youth artist/activists, from exhibitions and residencies to art-centered publications, podcasts, and curriculum. The scope of the projects reflect the vitality of artistic activity in the Bay Area as well as the capacity and drive artists possess to support each other's practices.

Alternative Exposure grants fund the unincorporated, independent work of artists and collaboratives who invigorate and transform the San Francisco Bay Area arts community. With this twelfth round of grants, Alternative Exposure has awarded a total of \$793,350 to 201 projects, thanks to major support from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the San Francisco Grants for the Arts.

17 recipients were selected from 73 applications: A Single Drop, Chispa, Emergent Landscapes, FILF, Heavy Breathing, HUSH-HUSH, JAGAH, Kalahati Project, SAMA Collective, Milkbar, Oakland Summer School, Off the Walls/Talking Murals, Open Windows Cooperative, The Burl Concentrate, The Church of Black Feminist Thought, The Walk Discourse, and We Stay Here Pintando Juntxs!

The 2018 grantees were selected by an outside panel of three artist organizers including seasoned Kansas City grant administrator Julia Cole, Round 10 grantee Justin Carder, and Natalia Mount, Executive Director of ProArts in Oakland.

ROUND 12, 2018 ALTERNATIVE EXPOSURE GRANTEES:

A Single Drop

Lead applicant: Europa Baker-Brathwaite

A Single Drop is a series of choreo-poetic documentaries designed to open portals of decolonization by re-imagining hidden histories. A visually empathic voyage through untold stories of revolutionaries that shape the ways we experience the world, from abolitionists of the civil rights era to today. This multi-sensory experience invites participants to navigate internal and external landscapes of history, intuition, spirit, and justice. The Alternative Exposure grant will support the production of this series, co-created by Alexa Burrell and Europa Grace.

Chispa

Lead applicant: Kate Connell and Oscar Melara

Chispa is a cultural cross-pollinator. The size of a small ark or a rolling garden shed, Chispa can serve as a theater, gallery and art production lab. It's enlarged by dioramas, game boards, and sound umbrellas. Chispa is a series of public art events with performances and artist demonstrations led by Book and Wheel Works artists, Kate Connell and Oscar Melara. The project continues their goal to build a collective cultural life in Southeast San Francisco. Chispa sustains and builds on Connell and Melara's fruitful decades-long collaborations with neighbors, local institutions and a multigenerational roster of Southeast San Francisco artists.

Emergent Landscapes

Lead applicant: Anna Xu

Emergent Landscapes is a platform for site-specific artist activations of natural landscapes centering Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) imaginations, experiences, and futures. In the first iteration, Emergent Landscapes will curate a weekend of BIPOC artist-created, site-specific visual performance, and installations within Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve, and gather bodies of color to reimagine relationships to the land, capitalism, and each other. Through intimate, immersive, impermanent, and somatic experiences, Emergent Landscapes proposes new relational processes and alternative realities. Alternative Exposure supports funding for emerging BIPOC artists to generate new work and organizers to actualize the first iteration of Emergent Landscapes.

FILF

Lead applicant: Frances Fleetwood

FILF is an annual live music and fashion showcase featuring Bay Area musical acts, clothing designers, multimedia visual artists, video artists, and runway performers of all stripes. FILF — a versatile acronym variously said to mean Fashion is Love Forever, Friends in Loaned Fabrics, etc. — is an Oakland DIY extravaganza, a spectacle that synthesizes the diverse, yet often discrete talent in our local community into one spellbinding, highly participatory gathering. Alternative Exposure funds will be used to compensate participating musicians, artists, and producers for our 2019 event.

Heavy Breathing

Lead applicant: Sophia Wang

Heavy Breathing began in 2015 as a series of experimental movement seminars designed by artists that combine physical activity with group discussions on ideas related to their creative practice. Heavy Breathing A/V (HB/AV) is "Heavy Breathing on the Go": free, downloadable audio and video lectures, workouts, guided meditations, and performative texts designed by artists combining somatic experiences with critical discourse. HB/AV expands access to the workshop series through offering portable, streamable, and sharable documents to our growing community commissioned from Bay Area-based artists. Heavy Breathing is co-produced by artists Lisa Rybovich Crallé and Sophia Wang.

HUSH-HUSH

Lead applicant: Silk Worm

HUSH-HUSH is a platform for early-career queer and trans artists producing experimental work in the Bay Area. As an ever-evolving network of artists working between fields, HUSH-HUSH offers a safe space to be strange, a stage to take risks and blur genres. The Alternative Exposure grant will enable HUSH-HUSH to host Dream Bodies, a festival of experimental performance on fantasy, desire, and embodiment. Funding will help cover artist fees, documentation, and promotion. The project is co-directed by Brittany Newell and Silk Worm.

JAGAH

Lead applicant: Natasha Dangond

JAGAH in Hindi means place, home, sanctuary. Natasha and Vasudhaa's individual journeys by way of India, Africa and South America, brought them to the Bay Area to connect and create a space that is meaningful and familiar; somewhere to belong and explore their multidimensional identities. The goal of the collective is to encourage artists to reveal and uncover their complex narratives rooted in South Asia (i.e. artists from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka). Over 200 years of colonization has resulted in these communities being continuously fractured, dispersed and reimagined. Nevertheless, there exists a collective sense of memory that flows through our culture, despite the effects of migration and displacement. JAGAH's goal is to unify South Asian artists through community building, dialogue, and collaborative artistic practices. Through group exhibitions, performances, and self-published works created by artists within diverse South Asian communities, JAGAH aims to explore our individual collective relationships to the diaspora.

Kalahati Project

Lead applicant: Mollie Underwood

Kalahati Press is a space for creating innovative writing and publishing primarily for the Bay Area QPOC (queer people of color) community. They prioritize being self-contained and self-determined. This project will expand on their commitment to creating fully actualized authors and artists, who, through the support of the collective, will cultivate a foundation in printing, binding, production, and the economic practices of the book world. As a small press, they will specialize in printed ephemera, chapbooks, posters, zines, and books. They will print metaphysical texts, radical political theory, anarchist thought, and revolutionary literature.

Oakland Summer School

Lead applicant: Laura Nelson

The Oakland Summer School is a non-institutional space of gathering and study, which brings together Bay Area artists, poets, organizers, and educators to think, dream, move, and imagine together. We host weekend-long events throughout the year featuring a wide range of talks, workshops, discussions, performances, and music. All our events are free and open. We plan to use the Alternative Exposure grant to support two weekend-long Winter Gatherings and a week-long Oakland Summer School in 2019. The Oakland Summer School hopes to continue providing a warm, welcoming space for learning and community in the Bay Area.

Off the Wall/Talking Murals

Lead applicant: Art Forces

Art Forces uses community public art and technology; murals, websites, social and new media, to inspire critical thinking and action. Art Forces' projects make visible histories and relationships that have been obliterated and forgotten, making connections between local and global issues of social justice, borders, precarity, migrations, and decolonization. Off the Wall/Talking Murals reveals multilayered information about the historic, cultural and social context in which Bay Area murals have been produced. Technology turns mural images into portals of multimedia information amplifying the murals' themes, moving from the site-specific/local to the global.

Open Windows Artist-in-Residence

Lead applicant: Ava Rosen

Open Windows Cooperative is an artist-run shared print studio, bindery and multi-use space in the Bayview district of San Francisco. Through workshops, gallery shows, and community events, they work towards socio-racial-economic-environmental justice. They believe in art's ability to heal, empower, and connect us. We are offering an Open Windows Artist-in-Residence program, in which artists will use our letterpress and bookbinding equipment to complete a socially engaged project. They will offer three two-month residencies, each of which will culminate in a free public event. The event will showcase the completed project in the form of exhibition, workshop, artist talk, or screening.

SAMA Collective

Lead applicant: Lena Sok

SAMA is a collective of artists and community organizers dedicated to building community at the axis of identity and labor. Their collective mission is to build a space for queer, low-income, differently abled, and inter-generational artists of color to sustain and enrich their creative practices, while contributing to an economy of skill and resource sharing. They are a group of First Generation, working-class artists who honor their inevitable, yet critically reworkable, relationship to labor. They challenge the capitalistic notion that our worth is determined by the labor we perform within forced hierarchical frameworks. They focus, instead, on creativity and mutual care as the intention of our labor. SAMA Collective will be opening a cafe in January 2019, and launching a collective resource and art space at their shop in downtown Oakland.

The Burl Concentrate

Lead applicant: Sarah-Dawn Albani

The Burl Concentrate is an experimental mobile residency program, reading room, and philosophy in practice committed to dismantling the a-priori othering at the heart of the contemporary human relationship to the earth and the idea of "nature". The Alternative Exposure grant allows The Concentrate to be a nexus for foregrounding the implications of climate crisis facing our community while developing strategies of care and adaptation. Through a series of writings, public readings and discussions they ask: What are we willing to give up? What do we care about more than ourselves? How can we begin to remember our interdependency?

The Church of Black Feminist Thought

Lead applicant: Ra Malika Imhotep

The Church of Black Feminist Thought is an experiential study group that utilizes visual art and creative writing to engage and honors the work of black feminist scholars, writers, and artist. We are an intentional monthly gathering of artists and change-makers invested in living and practicing theory/knowledge/wisdom, not just mastering it. The Church of Black Feminist Thought: Theory Atlas will be a published collection of illustrated theory maps generated throughout 12 months of group study. The culminating exhibition will showcase the work of 12 artists responding to the themes Black Feminism + Study + Spirituality.

The MilkBar

Lead applicant: Ian Winters

The MilkBar provides affordable artist-run work and exhibition space to create new works at the intersection of video and media, physical performance and contemporary music. Funds from Alternative Exposure will support equipment and lighting upgrades to improve their experimental video/dance production space, support artist stipends for our program of salons and their resident artist program through the subsidized workspace. Founded in 2004 in the Sunshine Biscuit Factory in East Oakland by co-curators Mary Armentrout, Merlin Coleman and Ian Winters moved to Richmond's Santa Fe neighborhood in 2016 after being displaced from Oakland and now have a 2000sf+ workspace.

The Walk Discourse

Lead applicant: Astrid Kaemmerling

The Walk Discourse (TWD) is a network that provides room for exchanges about walking art. TWD provides Bay Area walking artists and enthusiasts with space, time and a framework to think about the role of walking in relation to art, society, and the local environment. Each second Saturday of the month, one artist is invited to host a Walkshop during which she/he engages the participants in a 2-4 hour walking project. Walkshops take place throughout San Francisco.

We Stay Here Pintando Juntxs

Lead applicant: Miram Shafer

We Stay Here Pintando Juntxs is for Bay Area Queer and Trans PoC artists Lukaza Branfman-Verissimo, Jessica Sabogal, Elizabeth Blanca, and Juan Carlos Rodriguez Rivera to collaborate with students to co-design four original murals for the hallways of Mission High School (MHS). With funding cuts from Public Education, they want to invest back into physical and creative infrastructure at a school such as Mission, that represents a diverse cross-section of the (rapidly gentrifying city). This mural project is to connect this new generation of artists and scholars to those already making art and social changes in the City. The project is co-organized by Miriam Shafer and Marcela Pardo Ariza.

ABOUT ALTERNATIVE EXPOSURE

The program, launched in 2007 in partnership with the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, was developed in response to the dynamic, under-the-radar work of artists and small groups that have long been emblematic of the San Francisco Bay Area's arts community. With this twelfth round of funding, Alternative Exposure will have awarded \$717,700 in direct funds to 184 projects.

Alternative Exposure provides monetary awards – giving grants of up to \$5,000 – to foster the development and presentation of artist-led projects and programs in San Francisco, Alameda, and Contra Costa counties that are direct, accessible and open to the public. Funded activities may include a new exhibition or exhibition series, the ongoing work of an arts venue or collective, a public art project, a one-time event or performance, publications directly related to the visual arts, an online project, an artist residency, a series of film screenings and more.

THE REGIONAL REGRANTING PROGRAM: A NATIONAL NETWORK

Since developing Alternative Exposure with Southern Exposure in 2007, The Andy Warhol Foundation has invested in the creation of a growing national network of eleven regional re-granting programs. In addition to San Francisco, programs exist in Houston, TX (Diverse Works, Aurora Picture Show, and Project Row Houses); Kansas City, MO (Charlotte Street Foundation and Spencer Museum of Art); Chicago, IL (Threewalls and Gallery 400); Portland, OR (Portland Institute for Contemporary Art); Miami, FL (Cannonball); Portland, ME (SPACE Gallery); New Orleans, LA (Press Street, Ashé Cultural Arts Center and Pelican Bomb); Baltimore, MD (The Contemporary), Minneapolis, MN (Midway Contemporary Art), and Albuquerque, NM (516 Arts).

The Warhol Foundation aims to support vibrant, under-the-radar artistic activity by partnering with leading cultural institutions in communities across the country. Groups like Southern Exposure allow the Foundation to reach a sizeable population of informal, non-incorporated artist collectives and projects and to support their alternative gathering spaces, publications, websites, events and other endeavors. The Foundation plans to expand this program with partner organizations in areas where on-the-ground, self-organized artistic activity is most prevalent.

—end—

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 Stephen Sokolouski at (415) 863-2141 or stephen@soex.org. Southern Exposure is located at 3030 20th Street (at Alabama), San Francisco, CA 94110. Office hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 AM to 6 PM and gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 12 to 6 PM. Admission is always FREE. Website: soex.org.