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*Design by Stevie Sokolouski*

## PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT: Announcing the Grant Recipients for Southern Exposure's 19th Round of the Celebrated Grant Program

San Francisco, CA, December 5, 2025—Southern Exposure is thrilled to announce the grantees of the 19th round of Alternative Exposure grants. Alternative Exposure helps Bay Area artists and arts workers find new ways to come together and to support each other in achieving their art project dreams. For the 2025 grant year, we are granting a total of \$65,000 to 14 projects. Alternative Exposure grants have funded the unincorporated, independent work of artists and collaboratives who invigorate and transform the San Francisco Bay Area arts community.

Alternative Exposure was launched in 2007 in partnership with The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts to recognize and support the movement of independently organized, public-facing, artist-centered activity that animates local and regional art scenes but that lies beyond the reach of traditional funding sources. Since then, The Andy Warhol Foundation has invested in the creation of a growing national network of 32 regional regranteeing programs, administered by nonprofit visual art centers across the United States that work in partnership with the Foundation to fund artists' experimental projects and collaborative undertakings.

## GRANTEES

The 2025 grantees were selected by an outside panel of three artist organizers and former grantees: Elena Gross, Thad Higa, and Audrey Malloy. Project summaries of each of the grantees' work can be found below, and more detailed descriptions of the work are available for public viewing on the Southern Exposure website.

Bay Windows / Ventanas en saliente / 窗花 is an 11-month social practice project centering working-class immigrant women. The bilingual project team facilitated 6 trilingual workshops for 15 Chinese and Latinx women to create papercuts on social and political issues which impact them.

Crip Ecstasy x ROT is an access-focused evening of experimental movement, costume, and visual artistry featuring disabled artists working to expand their artistic practices through the queer cultural lens of Drag performance. This showcase has been selected to be part of the 2026 "Duetrospective" Festival and will be curated by Octavia Rose Hingle and Benjamin Cook at a soon-to-be-announced San Francisco nightlife venue.

Gender Expansive Figure Drawing: Bodies as Maps of Joy is a series of gender-expansive figure drawing workshops centering trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming QTBIPOC bodies. Each 3-hour session features live models, drawing instruction, and dialogue around representation, body autonomy, and radical visibility.

GENRE is an interdisciplinary drag performance series blurring the boundaries between queer nightlife, installation art, and experimental theater performance. Conceived and curated by Robert Andrew Perez aka Phoebe Cakes and Camryn Nichols aka Yayah, GENRE is a response to the ongoing criminalization of queer expression and the erosion of LGBTQ+ gathering spaces.

Hermana/Hermano/Hermanx is a curated group exhibition highlighting emerging Latinx artists connected to the Bay Area. Presented at Et al. in San Francisco's Mission District, the show explores migration, cultural memory, and solidarity through the lens of a new generation reclaiming space and authorship.

Leaving Traces is a block-printing workshop series that will bring together an intergenerational cohort of Bay Area community members to create collaborative artwork and build strong community bonds. This project is guided by a group of QT youth artists focused on relationship-building and strengthening care networks between seniors and young people.

Makeshift Press is a multimedia collaboration uplifting art and organizing by our community in a whole variety of print and physical media. They publish Makeshift Magazine, a shareable print home for the musings and makings of community members (printed and bound by Irrelevant Press), and a collection of zines and prints designed and printed in-house.

Piggy Infinity is a visual arts zine that celebrates, deconstructs, and critically examines the relationship Miss Piggy has to Brown, Black, Indigenous, Queer, and Fat artists. This zine will embrace absurdity and liberation alike in exploring how we see our identities, our bodies, and our politics embodied by her.

Teatro Almas Libres, a grassroots theatre collective of Latinx immigrant and Indigenous women with three original plays to their name, will create monumental mojigangas—traditional papier-mâché puppets reimaged as tools of cultural memory and resistance. Developed through paid community workshops with local puppet artists, the works will be activated at immigration justice demonstrations, Día de los Muertos actions, and exhibited in Bay Area schools.

THE LAST 7 DAYS is a performance event that includes original musical compositions, costuming, video installations, lipsync performance, immersive technology, and set design. This new work is being developed by lead artist OBSIDIENNE OBSURD in collaboration with queer and trans artists Jill Hill, Lola Ren, Lisa Frankenstein, Cult Baby, and Sassi Fran as well as accompanying chamber musicians Christopher Costanza and Debra Fong.

timetides cooperative is a Bay Area-based group of trans, nonbinary, and women artists who imagine new worlds through reclaiming filmmaking as conversation and collective, relational experience. Grant funds will go towards both finalizing *Behind the Horizon Line*, a short fiction film about Mt. Tamalpais, borders and their afterlives, and a public screening after the film is finished, hosted at the local worker-owned restaurant cooperative, The Understory.

Transmissions: Quilts for Trans People makes quilts for individually nominated trans people. Along the way, we record and archive oral histories interviews between trans quilters and quilt recipients. Transmissions also offer in person exhibitions, workshops and events for the broader queer and trans community.

Wasted Books will bring together all twelve issues of *La Mamelle*, a San Francisco-based art periodical published by Contemporary Arts Press and edited by Carl Loeffler, in a single collected volume. Founded in 1975, *La Mamelle* produced twelve issues before folding in 1978.

Your River, Downtown builds community around the Russian River and its vital role across Sonoma County, demonstrating how artwork can connect audiences to vital ecological issues. The project is community-driven—a collaboration with educational and environmental groups to monitor real-time aspects of the River—and artistically presented, using color, texture and line to depict our shared narrative or river experience through artmaking.

## JURORS

Elena Gross (she/they) is an independent writer and curator living in Oakland, CA. She specializes in representations of identity in fine art, photography, and popular media. Her research has been centered around conceptual and material abstractions of the body in the work of Black modern and contemporary artists and most recently in queer artistic and literary histories of the late 20th century. Elena is the co-editor, along with Julie R. Enszer, of *OutWrite: The Speeches that Shaped LGBTQ*

*Literary Culture* (Rutgers University Press), winner of the 2023 Lambda Literary Award for LGBTQ Anthologies.

Thad Higa is a Korean-Okinawan American language worker, based in the Bay Area. He is a printmaker, woodworker, and graphic designer who makes artists' books, concrete poetry, and living rooms. He investigates intersections of written and visual language, advertising, capitalism, white supremacy, and each of their roles in controlling perceptions of reality, value and legibility. His work has been exhibited in the Hawai'i State Art Museum, Five Myles Gallery, Asian Arts Initiative, Knust Kunz Gallery, and the Hawai'i 2022 Triennial, and he is the recipient of Murphy Cadogan 2022 award, and Holle Book Arts 2023 award. His books are in the collections of Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Whitney Museum of American Art, Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, Yale University, Walker Art Center, and the Letterform Archive. He is a former AltEx grantee.

Audrey Molloy (she/her) is an arts writer, administrator, and cultural worker currently based in Tucson, Arizona.

#### THE JONATHAN BERNBAUM MEMORIAL AWARD

Southern Exposure is honored to present the Alternative Exposure Award in memory of Jonathan Bernbaum to timetides collective for the 2025 cycle of our grant program. A multi-media and video artist, Bernbaum tragically died in the 2016 Oakland Ghost Ship Fire at the age of 34. The award will honor his work and his commitment to the Bay Area artistic community by supporting a project that focuses on performance or multi-media. The recipient was chosen from the pool of Alternative Exposure applicants.

#### LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Southern Exposure respectfully acknowledges that we reside upon the ancestral, unceded, occupied lands of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples. As an organization that has been based in the Mission district of San Francisco since 1974, we honor and recognize the Native people who have stewarded this land for thousands upon thousands of years and who continue to do so. We further acknowledge that we, as an organization, have benefited from the use and occupation of this stolen land. Given the ongoing, damaging injustices of colonization, Southern Exposure is committed to supporting our Bay Area community of diverse artists and Indigenous-led partnerships that extend Indigenous self-determination in San Francisco. We aspire to be good stewards of arts, culture, and generative conversations while always mindful of greater equity and justice.

This living statement represents an ongoing dialogue with the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone.

#### ABOUT SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Southern Exposure (SoEx) is an artist-centered nonprofit 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 Emma Rosenbaum at [emma@soex.org](mailto:emma@soex.org). Southern Exposure is located at 3030 20th Street (at Alabama), San Francisco, CA 94110. Office hours are Monday to Friday, 10:00 AM– 6:00 PM.

Website: <https://soex.org/>

Instagram: @southernexposuresf

Southern Exposure is generously supported by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, California Humanities, the California Arts Council, the Creative Work Fund, The Fleishhacker Foundation, The Gelfand Family Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, The Nicholson Family Foundation, The pH Foundation, The Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation, San Francisco Grants for the Arts, San Francisco Arts Commission Cultural Equity Initiatives, The Violet World Foundation, the Walter & Elise Haas Fund, and The Zellerbach Family Foundation.

## ABOUT THE REGIONAL REGRANTING PROGRAM

The Alternative Exposure grant program is funded through the generous support of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts Regional Regranting Program. The Regional Regranting Program was established in 2007 to recognize and support the movement of independently organized, public-facing, artist-centered activity that animates local and regional art scenes but that lies beyond the reach of traditional funding sources. The program is administered by non-profit visual art centers across the United States that work in partnership with the Foundation to fund artists' experimental projects and collaborative undertakings.

The 36 regranting programs provide grants of up to \$10,000 for the creation and presentation of new work. Programs are developed and facilitated by organizations in Albuquerque (NM), Atlanta (GA), Baltimore (MD), Boston (MA), Buffalo (NY), Chicago (IL), Cleveland (OH), Denver (CO), Detroit (MI), Houston (TX), Indianapolis (IN), Iowa City (IA), Kansas City (MO), Knoxville (TN), Rapid City (SD), Los Angeles (CA), Miami (FL), Milwaukee (WI), Minneapolis (MN), Mobile (AL), New Orleans (LA), Newark (NJ), O'ahu (HI), Oklahoma City (OK), Omaha (NE), Philadelphia (PA), Tucson (AZ), Portland (ME), Portland (OR), Providence (RI), Raleigh (NC), Saint Louis (MO), San Francisco (CA), San Juan (PR), Seattle (WA), and Washington, DC.

For more information, please visit <https://warholfoundation.org/grants/regional-regranting>.

#### ABOUT THE WARHOL FOUNDATION

In accordance with Andy Warhol's will, the mission of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts is the advancement of the visual arts. The Foundation manages an innovative and flexible grants program while also preserving Warhol's legacy through creative and responsible licensing policies and extensive scholarly research for ongoing catalogue raisonné projects. To date, the Foundation has given nearly \$300 million in cash grants to more than 1,000 arts organizations in 49 states and abroad and has donated 52,786 works of art to 322 institutions worldwide.

For more information, please visit <https://warholfoundation.org>.

#### SOUTHERN EXPOSURE SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/southernexposuresf>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/southernexposuresf/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/southern-exposure-gallery/>

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/southernexposure>

X: [https://x.com/SoEx\\_SF](https://x.com/SoEx_SF)

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