



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SAN DIEGO ARTIST RELIEF FUND LAUNCHES
THIS WEEK TO AID REGIONAL ARTISTS OF COLOR**

San Diego County - The **San Diego Artist Relief Fund** is an unprecedented campaign to raise awareness and mutual aid for local artists who are in dire financial distress. **This campaign prioritizes Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and historically marginalized creatives.**

With more than 5 months of cancellations and closures, the pandemic has disproportionately devastated our Arts community. Factor in systemic inequities, **BIPOC artists are in critical condition**, and we are asking San Diegans for the first time to collectively stand in solidarity with them. **On Friday, August 21, 2020**, a GoFundMe Campaign will launch to raise \$125,000 to distribute one-time emergency grants of \$1,000 to individual artists in San Diego County to cover the most basic needs such as rent, food, utilities, and medical bills.

GoFundMe link: www.GoFundMe.com/SDArtistRelief (embargoed until 8/21)

Hashtag: #SDArtistRelief

Campaign Videos:

- Lenin the Starbucks Kid: <https://youtu.be/Z-q3B7D45jM>
- Leonardo Nam of HBO's Westworld: <https://youtu.be/H12BUtuFBRc>

Grant Guidelines and Artist Relief Applications will be available within the above GoFundMe link starting on Thursday, August 26, 2020. Deadline for artists to apply for emergency funds is September 15, 2020.

“The San Diego Artist Relief Fund is a response to feedback from the community. It is time to look through the lens of Equity and Inclusion in all areas of life and particularly in this case, provide access to relief funding for individual artists especially the BIPOC and marginalized communities. It’s time to recognize the depth of talent in the creative sector that reflects the diversity seen in our region; not by presenting a project-based program but one that gets much needed funds in the hands of San Diego creatives easily and quickly,” said Matt Carney, Co-Chair of San Diego Regional Arts and Culture Coalition and member of the Challenge Steering Committee.



The need for this campaign is great, and San Diego needs to rally together to make a response like other similar cities:

- Sacramento City Council approved \$7.5 million for the creative economy recovery grant program.
- San Francisco Arts & Artists Relief Fund prioritized the financial needs of artists and organizations who are of and serving cultural populations that have been and remain financially vulnerable—Black, Indigenous, immigrant, trans, and people with disabilities. Ultimately, 699 individual artists were supported along with 65 arts and culture organizations.
- The Relief Fund for L.A. County Visual Artists distributed \$700,000 to 400 visual artists who reflect the cultural and geographic diversity of L.A. County.
- The East Bay/Oakland Relief Fund for Individuals in the Arts distributed \$744,100 to 515 individuals in the arts across Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

The San Diego Artist Relief campaign is organized by a diverse group of **individuals** - artists, organizers, arts administrators, educators, and nonprofit founders who love San Diego, and are passionate about developing a resilient and equitable Arts & Culture sector.

Background – The San Diego Artist Relief Fund is the second Phase of the San Diego Arts + Culture Challenge. In March, the San Diego Arts + Culture Challenge was created as a community initiative to help stabilize the creative sector, save jobs and help lessen financial losses due to COVID-19. In our first phase, we distributed \$250,000 to 32 nonprofit arts and cultural groups in need across San Diego County. Funded by private donors and foundations, grants ranged from \$3,450 to \$10,000 and were awarded to organizations that met the granting criteria established by the Arts + Culture Challenge Steering Committee. A full list of the 32 recipient organizations can be found at www.sandiegoracc.org/challenge.

Full list of the SD Arts and Culture Steering Committee members and various BIPOC artists and regional leaders supporting this campaign can be found [at this link](#).

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