

California Arts Council to receive funding increase

[Joe Truskot](#), The Salinas Californian 8:42 p.m. PDT June 30, 2016



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(Photo: The Salinas Californian)

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Earlier this week, Gov. Jerry Brown signed a state budget that includes a \$10.8 million funding increase for the California Arts Council.

“This funding is very good news for everyone in California,” said Paulette Lynch, executive director of the Arts Council of Monterey County, “and certainly potentially great news for Monterey County.”

This investment will extend the capacity of the California Arts Council to meet the needs and demand for arts programs benefiting diverse communities across the state, the Council stated. The budget includes a \$6.8 million one-time increase for the Arts Council and an additional \$4 million ongoing allocation for the state’s Arts in Corrections program.

The funding increase for the Arts Council will expand the reach of the agency’s competitive grant programs. These programs serve California communities by funding nonprofit arts

activities with a focus on arts learning and engagement; equity and access; cultural and community development; and technical support and resources for the arts field. The total fiscal year 2016-17 state support for the California Arts Council will reach approximately \$21.1 million, inclusive of designated funding for Arts in Corrections.

Momentum for increased state arts funding began in 2013-14, when then-Speaker John Perez allocated \$2 million in one-time Assembly funds to the California Arts Council.

In the ten years prior, the Arts Council received just \$1 million in state funds annually after state arts funding was cut by more than 96% in 2003. The Governor's 2014-15 budget included a \$5 million one-time increase to the Arts Council and the 2015-16 budget included a \$7.1 permanent increase to the agency.

According to the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, California ranked 46th out of 50 states in per capita state arts funding for 2015-16.

“As you can see, California is still well behind most other states per capita,” Lynch said. “But this new funding will still make a big difference for our collective reach and impact.”



YOSAL music director Juan Felipe Molano asks the orchestra members to stand and take a bow at Wednesday's Winter Concert (Photo: Joe Truskot/The Salinas Californian)

The overall California Arts Council budget also includes \$1.1 million in annual federal support from the National Endowment for the Arts, and approximately \$2.5 million in annual funds from sales and renewals of California's Arts License Plate and voluntary state tax return contributions to the Keep Arts in Schools Fund. The Arts Council's total 2016-17 budget will be approximately \$18.7 million, with an additional \$6 million state allocation for Arts in Corrections.

Lynch explained that all California Arts Council grants are awarded on a competitive basis and that there are several different programs with distinct program goals.



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Diane Arellano, volunteer coordinator, shows how the National Steinbeck Center is a hands-on museum as she lifts a hat in the "Of Mice and Men" exhibit at the museum. (Photo: Teresa Douglass)

The Arts Council for Monterey County has received several grants for 2016:

- JUMP StArts — year-long art classes, exhibits and murals with incarcerated youth at the Monterey County Probation Department Youth Center (\$27,000).
- Artists in Schools — year-long science integrated after school art classes in Soledad that will be a special exhibition focused on the Pinnacles! Amount TBD (estimated \$10,000).
- State and Local Partners — general operating support designed to support arts councils in each county with community outreach, consulting, training and networking for arts organizations and programs throughout our county (\$28,000).
- Poetry Out Loud — the county-wide competition for high school students (\$1,600).
- Veterans Initiative in the Arts — similar to Youth Center program — intensive art classes that will result in a mural at the Veteran's Transition Center (\$9,900).

"We received similar grants in 2015 as well," said Lynch. "These grants have been incredibly helpful for us to expand our own reach and deepen impact. However, for this next year (2017),

we don't know just yet how the CAC will allocate resources or whether or not they will add programs. There are several new Arts Councils in the state.



Art Summer Camp at the Monterey Museum of Art (Photo: Provided)

The State and Local Partners is the only grant program that is open only to arts councils, so otherwise, any art group can participate.

The [Arts Council for Monterey County](#) will invite a CAC representative to come to Monterey County to share its new application procedures and guidelines as soon as these forms are ready.

Donn K. Harris, chair of the California Arts Council said, “We are grateful to Governor Brown for his leadership and vision, and for his continued support of the arts and creativity in California since founding the California Arts Council in 1976. Creativity and the arts are a central part of our identity as Californians and are key factors in our state’s global success. Investing in community arts programming is a cost-effective means to support the growth of healthy, safe, and vibrant California communities.”

“Our legislators have demonstrated growing bipartisan support for the arts over the past several years,” said Craig Watson, Director of the California Arts Council. “They have responded to their constituents’ calls for increased culture and creative expression opportunities in their communities, and to proven results that demonstrate how wise investments in the arts boost local economies, stimulate community development, raise student achievement, and increase public safety, along with many other critical state priorities. We express our deepest thanks to the people of California and to the elected officials who champion the arts in our state.”



The Alisal Center for the Fine Arts (ACFA) presented a free program of Latin jazz, salsa, and mariachi on Sunday, May 22nd, including performances from acclaimed Texas State University groups Salsa del Río and Mariachi Nueva Generación. (Photo: Jay Dunn/The Salinas Californian)

The state budget also supports the growth of California's Arts in Corrections Program as a part of the state's multi-tiered investment in public safety. The California Arts Council's Arts in Corrections Program provides critical rehabilitative arts services to California's incarcerated population and is made possible by an inter-agency partnership with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Currently in its third year, the program has become internationally renowned for its high-impact, innovative work in addressing the state's critical public safety needs and priorities.

An official press release from the Office of Governor Brown can be found at this link: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=19463>

For more information on the California Arts Council, visit www.arts.ca.gov.

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The mission of the California Arts Council, a state agency, is to advance California through the arts and creativity. The Council is committed to building public will and resources for the arts; fostering accessible arts initiatives that reflect contributions from all of California's diverse populations; serving as a thought leader and champion for the arts; and providing effective and relevant programs and services.

Members of the California Arts Council include: Chair Donn K. Harris, Vice Chair Nashormeh Lindo, Larry Baza, Phoebe Beasley, Christopher Coppola, Juan Devis, Kathleen Gallegos, Jaime Galli, Louise McGuinness, Steven Oliver, and Rosalind Wyman. Learn more at www.arts.ca.gov.

- See more at: <http://www.cac.ca.gov/news/prdetail.php?id=233#sthash.LC1X6Roz.dpuf>