



## Grant Program Glossary 2025

SVCreates envisions a vibrant community fueled by a dynamic and diverse local arts and culture ecosystem. Our goals for our grantmaking programs include cultivating, preserving, and advancing an arts ecosystem that reflects and embraces the diversity of our region, and we seek to make our grant application processes as transparent and user-friendly as we can. This glossary seeks to support these objectives by providing a common frame of reference for applicants. We understand the nuance and changing meanings of many of the terms herein and we understand that these terms and language are limited; it is not our intention to exclude any identity or provide any definitive labels or explanations. We provide this glossary only as a tool to allow continuity and practical ease for application submission for our grant programs. Definitions may be updated in future years.

**Access:** Providing access includes unconditional, unqualified welcoming and elimination of barriers to participation. Barriers may include, but are not limited to, physical ability, language, cultural norms, educational background, and economic resources.

**Arts and Culture Organization:** not-for-profit based groups that provide as their primary mission regular cultural programs or services, which may include producing or presenting a series or regular program of performances, educational programming, exhibitions, media presentations, festivals, readings, or literary publications.

**BIPOC/ALAANA:** BIPOC acronym that stands for “Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.” ALAANA stands for “African, Latino/a/x/e, Asian, Arab, Native American.” These terms embrace populations that have been historically excluded and under-represented in systems and structures of power while having experienced racism that perpetuates privilege and unequal access.

**BIPOC/ALAANA-centered organization:** organization with a mission and programming that is explicitly reflective of a community or communities of color, and where the board, staff, artists, and collaborators include a significant representation of that community.

**Community:** the constituents an organization serves. This should include audience members, artists, students, and other groups that are significant to the organization. Descriptions of communities should include demographic and geographic makeup of these communities,

including information about relevant socioeconomic factors, as well as diversity of age, ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, ability, education, etc.

**Community Cultural Wealth (CCW)** is an approach that shifts the lens away from a deficit view of organizational capacity focused on measuring success through dollars, and instead posits that the unique cultural knowledge, skills, economies, abilities, networks, and experiences of a community is its own form of wealth that should be recognized and legitimized. Arts organizations, particularly those led by and serving BIPOC/ALAANA communities in Santa Clara County, have historically been under-resourced yet they continue to demonstrate a resilience and tireless commitment to programs that enrich our county's cultural landscape. In assessing an organization's "sustainability/resiliency," SVCcreates seeks to acknowledge and honor the non-financial assets that small and mid-sized arts groups, particularly those led by and serving BIPOC/ALAANA communities, draw on to advance their missions. Our assessment of these various forms of capital may take many forms, e.g., measuring volunteerism, leadership resilience, depth of community engagement, and role in the cultural fabric of an identified community.

**Culturally specific organizations** with a significant arts and cultural program, are organizations that serve a specific cultural community but might not have arts and culture as their primary mission. Many of these organizations were established to serve communities that are historically marginalized from receiving equitable access to existing programs. Many of these non-arts organizations evolved to support their communities in holistic ways and as a result developed significant and meaningful arts and cultural programs to better serve the needs of their communities.

**Diverse:** composed of distinct qualities and characteristics; age, ethnicity, ancestry, family or marital status, gender identity or expression, language, national origin, physical and mental abilities, political affiliation, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, veteran status, citizenship status and other characteristics that make individuals unique.

**Equality:** means each individual or group of people is given the same resources and opportunities, regardless of their circumstances. In social and racial justice movements, equality can increase inequities in communities as not every group of people needs the same resources or opportunities allocated to them in order to thrive.

**Equity:** acknowledging that not everyone starts in the same place. Equity means meeting communities where they are and allocating resources and opportunities as needed to create equal outcomes for all community members in addition to striving to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of some groups.

**Folk and Traditional Arts:** which include crafts, dance, music, oral traditions, visual arts, and others, are those that are learned as part of the cultural life of a community whose members share a common ethnic heritage, cultural mores, language, religion, occupation, or geographic region. These traditions are shaped by the aesthetics and values of a shared culture and are passed from generation to generation, most often within family and community through observation, conversation, and practice.

**Inclusion:** the act of creating an environment in which every person feels welcomed, respected, supported, and valued to fully participate. An inclusive and welcoming place embraces differences and offers respect in words and actions for all people, where each person is able to share the full spectrum of their humanity and be seen and heard without fear.

**Institutional Racism:** institutional racism, or systemic racism, describes societal patterns and structures that impose oppressive or otherwise negative conditions on identifiable groups based on race or ethnicity. It is a form of racism that is embedded as normal practice within society or an organization. It can lead to such issues as discrimination in resource allocation, criminal justice, employment, housing, health care, political power, and education, among other issues. In arts and culture funding, institutional racism has led to the historical exclusion and undervaluing of BIPOC communities and individuals, and an inequitable distribution of philanthropic dollars.

**Practicing Artist:** a person that intentionally creates or practices art in any discipline and:

- Has formal or informal training in the artistic field.
- Is committed to devoting significant time to artistic activity, as is possible financially.
- Is or is working towards earning some portion of their income from their art.
- Disciplines include, but are NOT limited to: musician, painter, poet, choreographer, ceramicist, storyteller, performer, playwright, sculptor, photographer, printmaker, animator, cartoonist, textile and fashion designer, and filmmaker.