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**OC ARTS AND CULTURE RESILIENCE FUND AWARDS ASSISTANCE TO ARTISTS**

\$30,000 awarded in first round of grants to individual Orange County artists

Irvine, CA (July 29, 2020) – The OC Arts and Culture Resilience Fund has awarded a first round of relief totaling \$30,000 to individual Orange County artists. The Fund was launched last month by Orange County's nonprofit arts council, Arts Orange County (ArtsOC), in partnership with Charitable Ventures and the Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF) to support creative artists and local nonprofit arts and culture organizations as they face significant challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding was awarded to 40 artists who reside in Orange County and have experienced significant financial losses due to COVID-19. Each artist received a one-time grant of \$750. Support for the artist assistance grants came from the generosity of the Larry and Helen Hoag Foundation and other contributors to the OC Arts and Culture Resilience Fund.

"The artists receiving this assistance range from actors and singers to musicians and arts educators, painters and craftspeople, dancers and directors, and reside in every area of the county," said Richard Stein, president and CEO of ArtsOC. "They have experienced the cancellation of the art festivals, concerts and theatrical productions where they earn their livelihoods and the closure of the schools and after-school programs where they teach. It is our sincere hope that the assistance we provide will provide a portion of what they need until the arts venues can reopen safely and they can resume work."

"Without art, there is no culture and no advance to civilization. The OC Arts and Culture Resilience Fund acknowledges the need to keep us whole and creating until such time as we can all return to the space where the world can once again celebrate art," said Sheri, a jeweler, and Brian, a mixed media artist from Laguna Woods. "We are grateful for the grant, but also for the awareness that we, too, need that helping hand."

The OC Arts and Culture Resilience Fund continues to accept donations to meet the needs of more individual artists and the local arts organizations that hire them. Community members are encouraged to donate at <https://charitableventuresoc.org/resilience-fund-arts/>

About Arts Orange County

Arts Orange County's mission is to be the leader in building appreciation of, participation in and support for the arts and arts education in Orange County, California. A nonprofit organization incorporated in 1995, it is designated by the Board of Supervisors as the official local arts agency and State-Local Partner for the County of Orange. It is the community's principal advocate for the arts and arts education, providing direct programs, services and consulting to the public, artists, arts organizations, education and local government. To learn more, visit ArtsOC.org

About Charitable Ventures

Charitable Ventures was launched in 2007 to encourage the growth of innovative regional nonprofits and to build the capacity of the nonprofit sector. As a regional incubator, Charitable Ventures has fiscally

sponsored more than 60 community projects and regional initiatives since inception. In 2020, Charitable Ventures anticipates sponsoring more than 35 active projects on track to raise between \$14 and \$16 million, and is the region's Administrative Community Based Organization for the 2020 Census. Visit charitableventuresoc.org for more information.

About Orange County Community Foundation

Founded in 1989, the Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF) works with donors, strengthens the local nonprofit sector and works to find solutions to community needs. Since its inception, OCCF has awarded \$690 million in grants and scholarships and ranks in the top one percent in grantmaking activity among more than 780 U.S. community foundations. For more information, visit oc-cf.org or call 949-553-4202. Be a part of our conversation on [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). View OCCF's 2019 annual report [here](#).

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