



## Press Release

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### **Local Arts get a \$150,000 Boost from the Cultural Council**

The Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County has received a three-year grant of \$150,000 from the James Irvine Foundation to help support a diverse range of small to medium size arts organizations and individual artists. “We are glad to be able to strengthen our grant awards to these arts organizations and artists” explains Alberto Rafols, Executive Director of the Cultural Council. “The artistic breadth of small/medium size arts organizations in Santa Cruz County is tremendous. Better funding means more art experiences for people throughout the County, and more spending in local businesses. Their work is absolutely vital to the community’s economic and cultural health.”

Artists and small/medium size arts organizations funded by the Cultural Council’s 29 year-old Grants Program include contemporary dance companies, ethnic festivals, youth orchestras, traditional theatre, Taiko drumming, choral music, visual arts galleries, literary arts programs, performing arts associations, and many other disciplines that enrich the community. Grants are competitive and are awarded to organizations and artists that demonstrate artistic merit, service to the community and administrative competence. For 80% of awardees, the Cultural Council is the only source of grant funding.

This is the second three-year grant received by the Cultural Council from the James Irvine Foundation. The previous James Irvine Foundation grant funded the production of cultural festivals county-wide and provided professional and management assistance to cultural groups.

For more information about the Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County’s Grants Program, contact Nabil Ghachem, Grant Program Coordinator, 831-475-9600 x 16, or [grants@ccscc.org](mailto:grants@ccscc.org).

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The Cultural Council leads the community in advancing the arts of Santa Cruz County through Grants to arts organizations and artists, SPECTRA arts learning in Santa Cruz County public schools, and the Open Studios Art Tour.

The James Irvine Foundation is a private, nonprofit grantmaking foundation dedicated to expanding opportunity for the people of California to participate in a vibrant, successful and inclusive society. For more information, visit [www.irvine.org](http://www.irvine.org).