

Artists' Adaptability Circles

2024/2025 FUNDERS PROSPECTUS



Overview

Artists' Adaptability Circles (AAC) is a Bay Area **community-driven granting and leadership development program** designed to address the needs of artists, culture bearers, and arts workers. Rooted in mutual aid, AAC focuses on process, journey, and support for individual artists as its goal, rather than outputs or deliverables.

AAC began in 2020 as a response to the pandemic's impact on artist communities. As many programs sought to meet the immediate financial needs of artists, arts workers, and culture bearers, a small group of Bay Area arts leaders came together to ask what type of work was still not being funded.

With our founding arts leaders becoming an advisory circle to guide the AAC program, we sought to deeply impact small groups of BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+, disabled, and other historically under-resourced artists by empowering them to address self-identified issues arising in their lives, practices, and communities, while simultaneously, providing tools and resources to support their continued work together.

The program's goal is to fund grassroots, artist-led work that is already happening within our Bay Area ecosystem but that may not be eligible for existing funding opportunities. Specifically, **we seek to listen to and support small groups of artists, arts workers, and culture bearers:** to compensate them for their time participating in the program, provide \$10,000 in flexible funding, create opportunities for them to engage in mutual aid, and to build a network amongst participants.

AAC does this by centering the trust built within our creative communities, and the knowledge and experiences of participating artists, arts workers, and culture bearers.



When we think about how we behave and how we live our lives day-to-day as creatives, that can help us **re-vision and reimagine what an artist is** and how we participate in society as creatives.

—ESAILAMA G. ARTRY-DIOUF, PHD



We hope to show that direct investment in groups of individual artists has an exponential impact in our communities. If we assume that artists can better identify and address their own needs and the needs of their culturally specific communities, then we can create larger and deeper change by investing directly in small groups of individual artists. This impact has the potential to extend beyond the Bay, aiming to **combat colonized concepts of art to provide authentic support to historically under-resourced artists** throughout the US.

ARTISTS' ADAPTABILITY CIRCLES STRUCTURE 2024-2025 VISION



CURRENT LEADERSHIP & PARTNERS



Advisory Circle

- Included Circles
- Mentor(s)

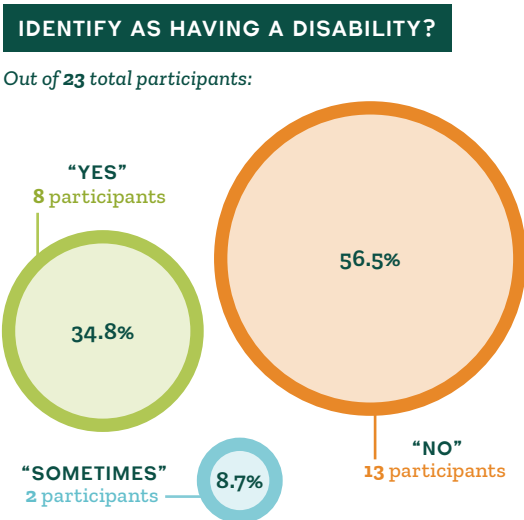
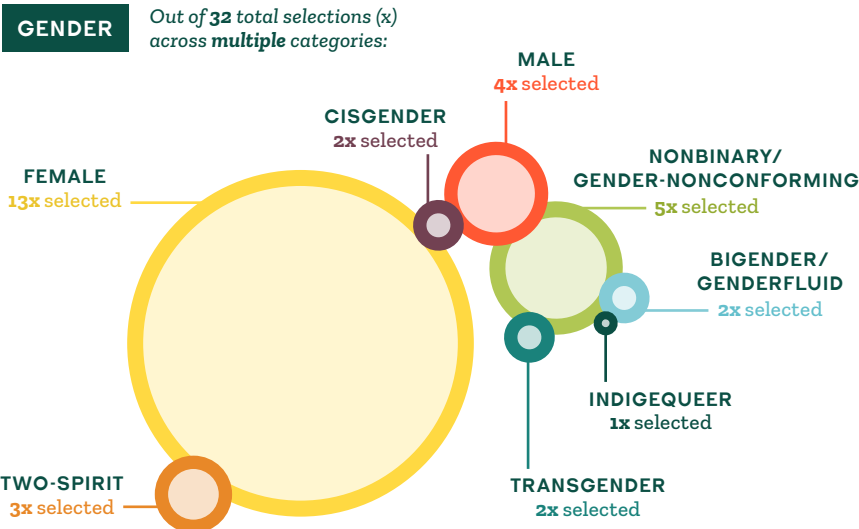
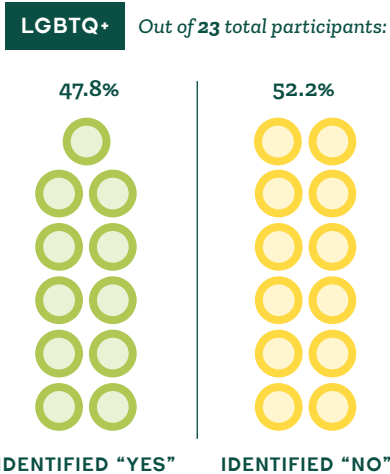
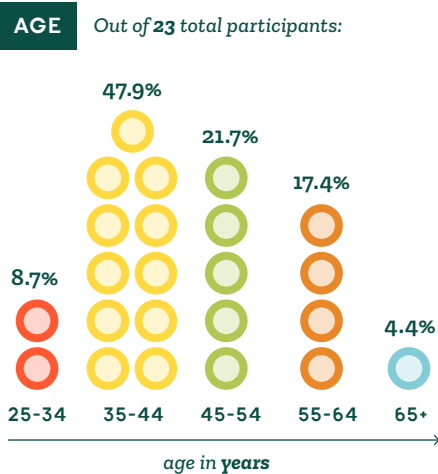
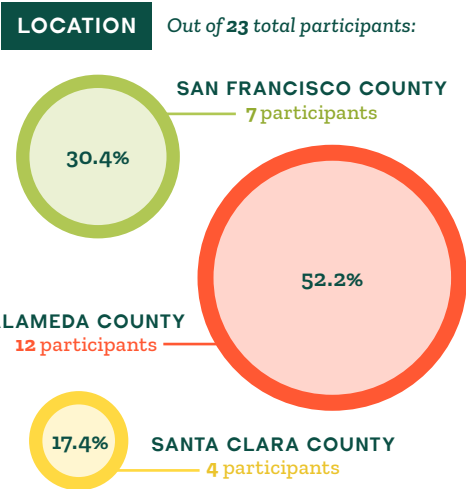
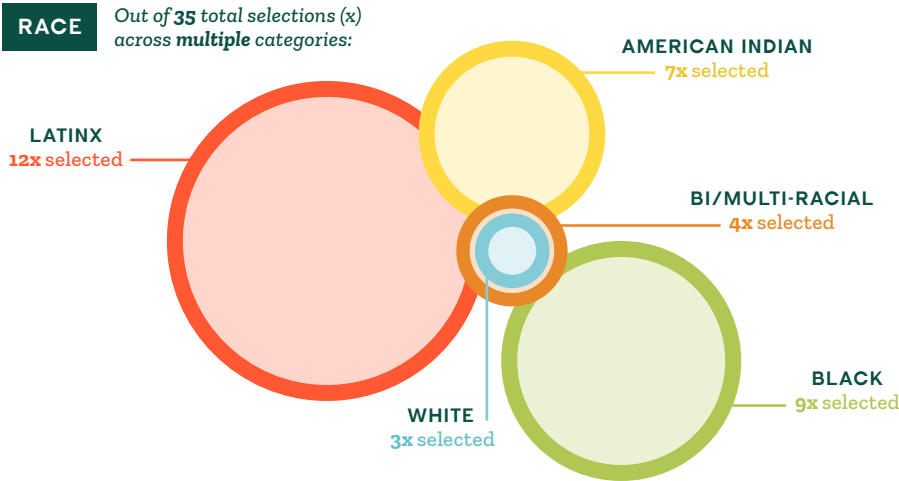
Artist Cohort

- Artist Circle Steward
- Individual Participant

Demographics

AAC is designed to serve historically under resourced artists, arts workers, and culture bearers, including those rooted in **Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities** as well as **LGBTQIA2S+** and **disability communities**.

PROGRAM DEMOGRAPHICS COHORT I (2022-2023)



Funding Ask

Having completed a **six-month beta round** and a **two-year first round** of AAC, the program is **seeking deeper investment from Bay Area and national funders** to continue honing this new model. With dedicated funding from core funders (the Mellon Foundation, Zellerbach Family Foundation and San Francisco Foundation) we seek specifically to **fundraise to increase artist stipends and to build out more robust support for artist circles.**

“

Meeting artists where they are. We're not asking anyone to perform for us. We're not asking anyone to produce for us. The idea is that you as artists are out there doing this work with a group of people that you regularly do this work with. Here's some money, time, and support to continue doing that.



—RHIANNON EVANS MACFADYEN

BUDGETARY INFO

With the baseline budget of Cohort II (January 2024–December 2025) funding in place, **AAC will deeply support an estimated 25 Bay Area artists, arts workers, and culture bearers** as they identify and address issues in their lives, practices, and communities. We are currently **seeking to raise an additional \$185,000 which includes support for:**

INCREASED ARTIST STIPENDS

From **\$2,000 to \$3,600** to better compensate participants for their time in the program. From **\$4,000 to \$4,500** to compensate artist stewards for their time in the program and additional administration needed for the circle to participate.

INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY

\$10,000 to support live and auto-generated captions, ASL interpretation, and accessibility needs for artist circles.

RESPONSIVE COHORT NEEDS

\$20,000 to support emergent participant needs such as training, professional development, and care needs.

INCREASED IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES

Created during the pandemic, the AAC seeks to begin **providing more in-person networking, development activities, and stipends** for participant travel.

EXPANDED ADVISORY/MENTORSHIP

An additional **\$35,000** to expand community advisors (artists, arts workers and culture bearers, micro orgs) who might not otherwise have capacity to participate.

FACILITATOR REST RETREAT

\$7,000 to support a multi-day retreat to support connectivity, resilience, and planning for AAC administrators and facilitators.

A noteworthy difference this year is that **funding will be pooled in two places** (instead of five). **EAP** is holding funds for program administration and facilitation. **Independent Arts & Media** is holding funds for artist and community stipends, as well as flexible artist funding which **includes the following:**

*This amount includes fiscal sponsorship for EAP (Intersection for the Arts) and an administrative fee for Independent Arts & Media to distribute artist funding.

Full budget information is available [here](#).

BASELINE EXPENSES

\$402,353

TOTAL COMMITTED

\$420,234

- ARTISTS FEE*
\$158,950
- PROGRAM EXPENSES
\$25,855
- ADMINISTRATIVE & FACILITATION EXPENSES*
\$217,548

EXPANDED PROGRAM EXPENSES

\$605,125

TOTAL NEEDED FOR ABOVE

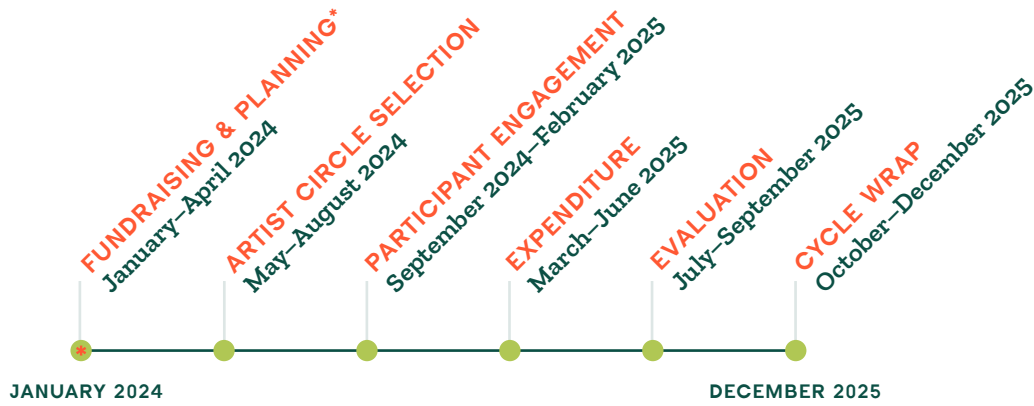
\$184,891

- ARTISTS FEE*
\$219,450
- PROGRAM EXPENSES
\$68,180
- ADMINISTRATIVE & FACILITATION EXPENSES*
\$317,495

TIMELINE INFO

The **2024/2025 Round** of AAC will happen from January 2024 to December 2025, **phased as follows:**

* Fundraising for the 2024/2025 Round cycle will need to be **finalized by April 2024** to ensure program continuity within the timeline on the right.



Artist Testimonials



“

When we look back at **traditional societies**, art is integrated into everything. Art is what you do, how you celebrate, how you heal and adjudicate it is all of these things. What AAC is allowing is a little bit of **a return to that understanding of art.**

–CHRIS EVANS

“

This program or project is a delightfully anti-capitalist endeavour. I love it. It’s a **paradigm shift.**

–XTAL AZUL

“

I have been involved with the **Bay Area American Indian Two Spirits (BAAITS)** for over 20 years and I really consider myself somebody who is a culture bearer and a storyteller...and because AAC was able to give a grant to our group I suddenly felt like maybe **I am an artist, too.**

–RUTH VILLASENOR

“

The flexibility that this grant has allowed–**in terms of defining our goal and our action, giving us time**–has been really important. It basically allowed us to develop a project that integrates teaching, performance and community action.

–HECTOR LUGO



For more information, or to discuss potential investment in AAC, please contact EAP Co-Director Rhannon Evans MacFadyen at rhannon@emergingsf.org.

The Artists’ Adaptability Circles program was developed in partnership with Diamond Wave, Emerging Arts Professionals / San Francisco Bay Area (EAP), La Peña Cultural Center, Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino American (MACLA), SOMArts Cultural Center, the Walter & Elise Haas Fund, San Francisco Foundation, and Zellerbach Community Foundation, with support from the Bisemi Foundation, Inc., the Castellano Family Foundation , the Mellon Foundation, and the Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation.

