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Cultural Council's Artist Relief Fund helps local creative professionals out of work

LAKE WORTH BEACH, Fla. (June 11, 2020) — The Cultural Council for Palm Beach County recently **raised more than \$45,000** to date through its crowd-sourced [Palm Beach County Artist Relief Fund](#) to help local creative professionals who have lost critical income due to COVID-19.

Launched in March with a goal of \$10,000, the Facebook Fundraiser allows the Council to directly award **small grants of \$250** to individual creative professionals (including visual artists, actors, musicians, dancers and others) living in Palm Beach County. The fundraiser runs on Facebook through June 21.

Thanks to community members and the support of the **Great Charity Challenge** and **The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Fund of the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties**, the Council has awarded grants to **49 individuals** to date, and will continue to award more grants as long as funds are available.

"Palm Beach County is home to an extraordinary cultural community composed of top-notch organizations and exceptional creative professionals, and we value their enormous contributions," said Dave Lawrence, the Council's president & CEO. "As the COVID-19 health crisis sweeps the nation, the financial impact on this community is profound. This prompted the Council to launch the Artist Relief Fund. Now more than ever, support for creative professionals is essential to a stronger and more vibrant community."

"Receiving this grant is really impactful for me," said Shani Simpson, a multidisciplinary artist based in Lake Worth. "Over the years I've applied for other grants, and this is the very first grant I've received. I want to thank the Cultural Council for seeing [an issue] that was global and for taking time to act local."

The Council opened [grant applications](#) in early April. Applications were reviewed and approved by Cultural Council board and staff members, with a goal to fund as many creative professionals as possible. To date, the **Council has awarded grants to the following individuals:**

- Yanis Abreu-Gonzalez, dancer
- Isabella Addison Hernandez, visual artist
- Galina Alvarez, dancer
- Nery Arevalo, musician
- Molly Aubry, visual artist
- Anthony Burks Sr., visual artist
- Joseph Calderaio, musician
- Lauren Carey, dancer
- Gustavo Correa, musician
- Amanda Davis, dancer
- Frank Derrick, musician
- Elizabeth Dimon, actor
- Carlos Galindez, dancer
- Nicole Galluccio, visual artist
- Harley Galeano, musician
- Patti Gardner, actor
- Mik Groninger, musician
- Ray Gross, sculptor
- Andrea Ellison, actor

- Oliver Hanfmann, musician
- Jason Hanley, musician
- Rodney Hansen, musician
- Emma Harris, actor
- Sharon Koskoff, visual artist/teacher
- Gabriele Kraus, visual artist
- Paul Lampert, actor
- Joshua Lubben, musician
- Deborah Marquez, dancer
- Melissa Mastrangelo, visual artist
- James McCreavy, musician
- Craig McInnis, visual artist
- Michelle A. M. Miller, visual artist
- Lindsey Mills, musician
- Anna Nunes, dancer
- Kevin Oliveira, musician
- Agata Ren, visual artist
- Kaitlin Richardson, musician
- Arturo Romay, musician
- Jessica dos Santos, dancer
- Maxine Schreiber, visual artist
- Pamela Shapiro, visual artist
- Anthony Silver, musician
- Shani Simpson, visual artist
- Brett Staska, musician
- Martha Streinesberger, visual artist
- Trina Slade-Burks, visual artist
- Michael Tirsch, musician
- Shakeera Thomas, visual artist
- Alexis Thompson, musician

Grant applications remain open for creative professionals at palmbeachculture.com/artist-relief-fund. For more information about the Palm Beach County Artist Relief Fund, visit the Cultural Council's [Facebook Fundraiser](#).

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ABOUT THE CULTURAL COUNCIL FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY

The Cultural Council for Palm Beach County is the only organization solely dedicated to supporting arts and culture in The Palm Beaches, Florida's Cultural Capital®. In its sustaining effort to foster growth of the cultural sector, the Council provides support services to cultural organizations and creative professionals, administers public and private grant programs, advocates for cultural funding, enhances local arts education, and promotes cultural tourism.

The Council serves as a venue highlighting works by Palm Beach County visual and performing artists at its headquarters in the historic Robert M. Montgomery, Jr. Building in Downtown Lake Worth Beach. The building is also home to the Roe Green Uniquely Palm Beach Store featuring items by local artisans; the Jean S. and Frederic A. Sharf Visitor Information Center; and the outdoor Project Space, offering the best view of the building's iconic Martin Luther King Jr. mural by Brazilian artist Eduardo Kobra.

The Council is open** to the public Tuesdays through Fridays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, noon to 5 p.m. For more information, including a comprehensive calendar of cultural events in The Palm Beaches, visit www.palmbeachculture.com.

****The Cultural Council's headquarters is closed to the public until further notice due to COVID-19. Please visit palmbeachculture.com or follow the Council (@palmbeachculture) for updates.**