



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS OVER \$1.5 MILLION TO ADVANCE ACCESS TO ARTS AND CULTURE ACROSS THE STATE

As part of the program, grantees form a community of support network, sharing ideas and refining solutions to advance equitable access to practice and participate in arts and culture.

HONOLULU, HAWAI'I — The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) today announced the awarding of \$1,521,000 in grant funding to 28 art and culture organizations through its Equitable Access Arts & Culture program. This initiative is dedicated to enhancing equitable opportunities for all Hawai'i residents to engage in arts and culture, addressing barriers such as geography, socio-economic factors, and systemic inequities.

The grants, which provide two-year general operating support, empower local organizations to sustain and expand programs that foster inclusivity, diversity, and community engagement in the arts. "Eliminating barriers to arts and culture experiences is essential for preserving Hawai'i's unique identity and cultivating community well-being," says Elise von Dohlen, program director at HCF. "Through the collective effort of these grantees, we are shaping a more inclusive and vibrant future for the state's creative sector."

The 28 grantees include community centers, arts councils, theaters, and organizations dedicated to perpetuating Native Hawaiian knowledge. Below is the full list of grantee organizations.

Organization Name	Description	Location	Total Awarded
Anaina Hou Community Park	Serves as a community gathering place on Kaua'i's north shore, providing accessible arts and culture programs by addressing financial, logistical, and social barriers.	Kaua'i	\$55,500
East Hawai'i Cultural Center	Provides inclusive arts education and fosters community engagement through diverse programming in Hilo.	Hawai'i Island	\$55,500
Garden Island Arts Council	Enriches Kaua'i's community with accessible arts and cultural programs that reflect local needs and interests.	Kaua'i	\$35,000

Hāmākua Youth Center	Equips Hāmākua youth with life skills rooted in the Hawaiian values of kuleana, aloha, laulima, and mahalo to cultivate awareness necessary to thrive at home and beyond.	Hawai'i Island	\$55,500
Hana Arts	Ensures equitable access to creative learning by offering cultural and artistic opportunities for East Maui's isolated communities.	Maui	\$55,500
Hanona	Delivers hands-on Hawaiian cultural and arts education and restores the historical Kealaka'ihonua Heiau.	Maui	\$60,000
Hawai'i Children's Theatre	Inspires youth through the study, performance, and appreciation of theatre arts.	Kaua'i	\$35,000
Hawai'i Opera Theatre	Expands access to classical arts through educational outreach and reduced-price programs for underserved communities.	O'ahu	\$57,000
Hawaii Science & Technology Museum	Perpetuates Native Hawaiian traditions through STEM-focused programs like canoe carving and cultural revitalization.	Hawai'i Island	\$55,500
Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra	Fosters accessible classical music experiences and expands music education for diverse communities as the state's premier orchestra.	O'ahu	\$55,500
Hawai'i Youth Symphony	Promotes equitable music education and performance opportunities for children from all backgrounds across O'ahu.	O'ahu	\$55,500
Hawai'i's Volcano Circus	Addresses barriers to arts access in Puna and promotes sustainable community development through arts and education.	Hawai'i Island	\$55,500
Hökūlani Children's Theatre of Molokai	Enriches Moloka'i's youth through performing arts education and accessible artistic opportunities.	Moloka'i	\$55,500
Honolulu Theatre for Youth	Produces culturally relevant, high-quality plays and drama education programs for Hawai'i's youth.	O'ahu	\$57,000
Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center	Provides visual arts education and outreach to Title I students on Maui.	Maui	\$57,000
Hui O Wa'a Kaulua	Engages students in educational programs that use voyaging to excite and challenge them through hands-on, 'aina-based learning.	Maui	\$55,500
Kahalu'u Kūāhewa	Fosters community engagement and traditional Hawaiian practices through 'aina-based learning and stewardship.	Hawai'i Island	\$60,000
Kahilu Theatre Foundation	Serves as a cultural hub where generations of families can gather to	Hawai'i Island	\$57,000

	experience diverse programming and arts education.		
Kamuela Philharmonic Orchestra Society	Expands music education and offers free performances to underserved communities.	Hawai'i Island	\$60,000
Kaulana Nā Pua, Inc	Helps vulnerable youth find self-worth and self-esteem through hula, chant, and Hawaiian culture and values.	Hawai'i Island	\$57,000
Kōkua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services	Fosters arts and culture programs in the context of the health care environment, serving typically underrepresented populations.	O'ahu	\$55,500
Kumu Kahua Theatre	Showcases Hawai'i-focused stories and provides opportunities for local artists to explore the islands' contemporary and historical narratives.	O'ahu	\$57,000
Lāna'i Academy of Performing Arts	Fosters creativity and personal growth through inclusive performing arts programming and accessible performances.	Lāna'i	\$55,500
Lotus Arts Foundation	Inspires artistic excellence and accessibility by providing educational programs and performances in partnership with Title I and rural schools.	Kaua'i	\$35,000
Maui Public Art Corps	Provides a platform for underrepresented community members to share their stories, cultures, and experiences in public spaces.	Maui	\$55,500
Pōhaku Pelemaka	Preserves intergenerational Native Hawaiian knowledge and traditions through free cultural programs.	Hawai'i Island	\$55,500
Pu'uhonua Society	Perpetuates Native Hawaiian knowledge amongst Native Hawaiian and Hawai'i-based artists and cultural practitioners through low-cost or free workshops, film screenings, and professional development opportunities.	O'ahu	\$57,000
Ulu A'e Learning Center	Provides out-of-school and community programs rooted in Native Hawaiian values and arts education.	O'ahu	\$60,000
Total			\$1,521,000

The Equitable Access Arts & Culture program fosters a community support network, allowing grantees to collaborate, share knowledge, and collectively refine strategies to broaden equitable access.

For images of the grantee organizations, please visit [this Dropbox folder](#). All photos are provided courtesy of the respective grantee.

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About The Hawai'i Community Foundation

The vision of the Hawai'i Community Foundation is to create an equitable and vibrant Hawai'i in which all our Island communities thrive. With our more-than-107-year history, our trusted expertise, and the generous support of donors, we are working to address the root causes of our state's most difficult challenges, including expanding access to affordable housing, conserving freshwater resources, and ensuring the healthy development of Hawai'i's young children. We focus our efforts through the CHANGE Framework, which identifies six essential sectors affecting the overall well-being of these islands and its people. HCF works in communities across Hawai'i, with offices and staff located statewide. In 2023, HCF stewarded more than 1,160 funds, established by individuals, businesses, and organizations who share our passion for a better Hawai'i. We distributed over \$107 million in grants to the community from funds at HCF, contracts, and private foundations statewide, including scholarships assisting more than 1,000 Hawai'i students. For more information about HCF, please visit [Hawaiicommunityfoundation.org](https://hawaiicommunityfoundation.org) and follow our social media channels on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).