

**California Arts Council
2018-2019 Reentry Through the Arts
Project Descriptions**

Reentry Through the Arts (RTA) supports arts and culture programs for adults who have served time in correctional institutions. Projects utilize arts and culture as part of a holistic approach to support adults who have been incarcerated to re-integrate into and contribute to their communities.

Learn more at <http://arts.ca.gov/programs/rta.php>.

Number of Grants Awarded: 24 | Total Investment: \$868,487

| Application ID, Organization, County, Grant Award Amount | Project Description |
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| RTA-18-5582 A NEW WAY OF LIFE REENTRY PROJECT <i>Los Angeles County</i> \$45,000 | With support from the California Arts Council, A New Way of Life Reentry Project will produce Testif-i. Testif-i is a multimedia anthology from, for and about formerly incarcerated women whose realities have been shaped by the criminal justice system. Testif-i seeks to reveal disparities in the criminal justice system through the stories of women adversely affected, humanizing the debate about solutions to mass incarceration by creating space for unheard voices. |
| RTA-18-5635 ACTORS GANG INC <i>Los Angeles County</i> \$45,000 | With Support from the California Arts Council, The Actors' Gang Prison (Reentry) Project will provide three ten-week workshops (once a week, four hours a day) at Walden House/HealthRIGHT 360-Los Angeles, specifically serving men over the grant year. Using theatre as a tool, The Reentry Project fosters self-esteem, tolerance, nonviolent expression, and heals trauma while preparing students for life beyond bars with emotional tools to successfully return to society. |
| RTA-18-6044 BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY <i>Alameda County</i> \$40,000 | With support from the California Arts Council, Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS), an award winning housing and service agency in Alameda County, will partner with local mural artist Aaron Beitias to engage 10 reentry participants in a healing, skill-building process of creating a mural depicting their experiences of reentry on an exterior wall of the the BOSS's Career Training and Employment Center (CTEC), where the participants are engaged in education and employment services. |

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| <p>RTA-18-6039 CENTER FOR YOUNG WOMENS DEVELOPMENT <i>San Francisco County</i> \$45,000</p> | <p>With support from the California Arts Council, Center for Young Women’s Development (Young Women’s Freedom Center) will engage formerly incarcerated women and gender nonconforming people in a project that combines art and healing. Through intensive retreats women will explore storytelling as a courageous act of vulnerability and power.</p> |
| <p>RTA-18-5548 COMMUNITY WORKS WEST INC <i>Alameda County</i> \$45,000</p> | <p>With support from the California Arts Council, Community Works West will provide Restorative Justice Arts workshops in Bay Area Reentry Centers. The project will support returning individuals through the practice of RJ healing circles and hands-on creative arts experiences in multiple art forms including music, performance and visual arts. These 12-week sessions will focus on repairing relationships and reconnecting formerly incarcerated people with themselves, their families, and communities.</p> |
| <p>RTA-18-6176 FRESNO ARTS COUNCIL INC <i>Fresno County</i> \$24,578</p> | <p>With support from the California Arts Council, Fresno Arts Council Inc will provide a 32-week Afro/Cuban drumming class in partnership with the Fresno County Sheriff’s Department Transition from Jail to Community program. Classes will be offered to 15 inmates while incarcerated and continued upon their supervised release.</p> |
| <p>RTA-18-4279 FRIENDS OUTSIDE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY <i>Los Angeles County</i> \$45,000</p> | <p>With support from the California Arts Council, Friends Outside in Los Angeles County will continue their collaboration with TheatreWorkers Project by providing increased opportunities for the formerly incarcerated and those on work release to redefine their personal narratives through theatre. Dads Back! Academy members’ participation in extended theatre, movement, and writing workshops will culminate in the creation of a performance piece presented to peers, at-risk youth, and the public.</p> |
| <p>RTA-18-6082 HOMEBOY INDUSTRIES <i>Los Angeles County</i> \$40,000</p> | <p>With support from the California Arts Council, Homeboy Industries will be able to continue offering our therapeutic Art Heals program implemented in 2018. A 10-month weekly Open Studio will be available to the Homeboy community, widening the circle of engagement with trauma-informed art making that focuses on the strengths of formerly incarcerated and/or gang-involved youth and adults. Art Heals will also include themed workshops, family events and community events.</p> |
| <p>RTA-18-5876 IDRIS ACKAMOR AND CULTURAL ODYSSEY <i>San Francisco County</i> \$45,000</p> | <p>With support from the California Arts Council, Idris Ackamoor and Cultural Odyssey will build on the momentum of its previous grant to advance its collaboration with the San Francisco Sheriff’s Department through its Women’s Resource Center. “Roads to Resilience” will provide the structure to allow the formerly incarcerated woman to explore the roots of her trauma and find ways for her to express herself through personal journals, prose, poetry, song, visual arts and movement.</p> |

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| <p>RTA-18-5601 MARIN SHAKESPEARE COMPANY <i>Marin County</i> \$45,000</p> | <p>With support from the California Arts Council, Marin Shakespeare Company will expand its Returned Citizens Theatre Troupe to provide more opportunities for formerly incarcerated actors to tell their stories through Theatre, to audiences of the general public, formerly incarcerated, and institutionalized youth. A Returned Citizen will be hired as Program Manager to help lead the expansion, and will work with Alliance for CHANGE to forge new relationships with organizations supporting Re-entry.</p> |
| <p>RTA-18-6076 MUCKENTHALER CULTURAL CENTER FOUNDATION <i>Orange County</i> \$30,563</p> | <p>With support from the California Arts Council, Muckenthaler will provide Storytelling & Visual Arts programs at two drop-in centers in partnership with GEO Reentry Services. Students will craft their stories and perform to help with reunification with family and job interviews, times when lives can be improved with good communication skills. Students will also learn how to constructively express them selves through visual arts while building their confidence, discipline, and esteem.</p> |
| <p>RTA-18-5987 MUSICIANS FOR EDUCATION INC <i>San Diego County</i> \$13,120</p> | <p>With support from the CAC, Musicians for Education (a.k.a. Street of Dreams) in collaboration with the Lighthouse and San Diego City College will provide The Importance of Art as Primary Prevention (TIAPP) arts education and social-bridge program for parolees learning to stay out of prison. TIAPP is a program for 100 parolees who have aged into the adult prison system. TIAPP is a train-the-trainer program at City College for drug and alcohol and criminal justice professionals.</p> |
| <p>RTA-18-5960 OPTIONS RECOVERY SERVICES <i>Alameda County</i> \$8,400</p> | <p>With support from the California Arts Council, Options Recovery Services will work with Berkeley Community Media to embellish its arts program offerings for reentry clients in Options' recovery residences. Specifically, reentry resident clients will be encouraged to participate in Options Reentry through the Arts program to receive instruction and support for video and visual arts projects directly related to their recovery from addiction.</p> |
| <p>RTA-18-5787 OUTSIDE THE LENS <i>San Diego County</i> \$45,000</p> | <p>With support from the California Arts Council, Outside the Lens will facilitate a transformative filmmaking and screening program giving formerly incarcerated women a platform to tell their stories. Through screenings and intensive filmmaking workshops OTL provides a safe space for dialogue and artistic expression for formerly incarcerated women, mothers, sisters, grandmothers and daughters to reintegrate into the community and become narrators of their own stories using the power of film.</p> |
| <p>RTA-18-6218 PLAYWRIGHTS PROJECT <i>San Diego County</i> \$24,000</p> | <p>With support from the California Arts Council, Playwrights Project will partner with EMRF, CTC, and CEO to provide eight 10-week playwriting programs to formerly incarcerated individuals. Out of the Yard curriculum utilizes instruction in theatre arts as a tool for learning and practicing interpersonal, problem solving, and communication skills required for reentry in the work place, home life and community.</p> |
| <p>RTA-18-5547 ROBBY POBLETE FOUNDATION <i>Solano County</i> \$36,000</p> | <p>With support from the California Arts Council, Robby Poblete Foundation will 1) expand our Art of Peace program to pay stipends to the selected ex offenders (also referred to as “clients”); 2) pair each client with an artist and welder to help with their pieces, if needed; 3) launch exhibit of their work. Our Art of Peace program takes materials from dismantled guns from our gun buyback program and transforms them into art for exhibits used to raise awareness about the impacts of gun violence.</p> |

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| <p>RTA-18-4274 STARFISH STORIES INC <i>Los Angeles County</i> \$40,000</p> | <p>With support from the California Arts Council, The Francisco Homes (TFH), a residential reentry organization in south LA, will engage TheatreWorkers Project (TWP) Director Susan “Susie” Franklin Tanner and a TWP artist team to plan and implement a series of theatre workshops that will provide opportunities for formerly incarcerated men on parole from serving life sentences to express their feelings, thoughts and life stories through the medium of Theatre.</p> |
| <p>RTA-18-4964 STRINDBERG LABORATORY <i>Los Angeles County</i> \$37,562</p> | <p>With support from the California Arts Council, The Strindberg Laboratory will provide three six-week Theater Workshop Series to formerly incarcerated Los Angeles Mission residents and community members. Each six-week series will culminate in a public workshop performance. The Strindberg Laboratory will also provide weekly cognitive behavior workshops for the participants of our theater training.</p> |
| <p>RTA-18-6022 SUCCESS CENTER SAN FRANCISCO <i>San Mateo County</i> \$40,000</p> | <p>With support from the California Arts Council, Success Center San Francisco (AKA Success Centers) will conduct three cycles of our Arts on the Outs Program, which will support formerly or currently incarcerated participants by using the arts as a vehicle to teach life skills, job readiness training, and wellness principles, helping them safely reintegrate into the community.</p> |
| <p>RTA-18-6188 TEATRO DE LAS AMERICAS INCORPORATED <i>Ventura County</i> \$12,008</p> | <p>With support from the California Arts Council, Teatros de las Américas in partnership with the Ventura County Probation Agency and the Ventura County Arts Council will offer arts instruction to adults recently released from the county jail as part of their re-entry plan. The workshops planned will be theater, painting and poetry with workforce training built into the workshops in set painting and planned murals.</p> |
| <p>RTA-18-5784 THE FOUNDATION FOR SANTA BARBARA CITY COLLEGE <i>Santa Barbara County</i> \$32,256</p> | <p>With support from the California Arts Council, the SBCC Atkinson Gallery and the SBCC Transitions Program will provide quality artistic instruction and experiences to formerly incarcerated adults enrolled at Santa Barbara City College. The activities supported by this grant will build a sense of community for Transitions students, increasing their success in college while providing creative and meaningful experiences that will decrease recidivism and help them reintegrate into the community.</p> |
| <p>RTA-18-5539 THE H E ART PROJECT <i>Los Angeles County</i> \$45,000</p> | <p>With support from the California Arts Council, artworxLA Teaching Artists will deliver four days of arts programming at its Academy for Visual Art and Design at L.A. Education Corps Pico Union High School. Living in a high-crime, high-poverty area, justice-involved students (ages 18-24) have re-committed to earning their high school diploma while gaining 21st-century skills, social service assistance, and industry-recognized certification that will help them secure employment in L.A.’s creative economy.</p> |
| <p>RTA-18-5634 THEATRE FOR CHILDREN INC <i>Sacramento County</i> \$40,000</p> | <p>With support from the California Arts Council, Theatre for Children Inc will deepen its successful five-year partnership with Sacramento County Probation Office to serve clients at Sacramento's Adult Day Reporting Centers, Volunteers of America and Sacramento Drug Court. Improv, role-play, playwriting and performance classes activate and enhance curriculum and help clients meet the challenges of reentry after incarceration. Six- to 24-week programs culminate in client performances.</p> |

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| <p>RTA-18-6140 TIA CHUCHAS CENTRO CULTURAL INC <i>Los Angeles County</i> \$45,000</p> | <p>With support from the California Arts Council, Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural will expand their writing component of their "From Trauma to Transformation" project, which seeks to change the national dialogue around mass incarceration through writing, poetry, spoken word, oral histories, theater, and memoirs created by incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals.</p> |
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