

Press Release: 21 Top Bay Area Arts & Culture Nonprofits Identified by 127 Experts

Art is the imagination expressed through the senses. -Anonymous

In the 1960s, there was an explosion of nonprofit arts organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 1961, before the birth of the National Endowment for the Arts, San Francisco passed a law to require part of the hotel tax to go to funding the arts. Over time, each Bay Area region evolved to have different kinds of arts and culture groups across all disciplines, styles, and ethnicities: jazz, classical, folk, dance, choreography, visual arts, literary arts, poetry, film, video, and so on. In fact, at one point, the San Francisco Bay Area was second only to New York in terms of having the largest number of dance companies. Therefore, with decades of support and development, the vibrancy and variety among the arts in the Bay Area has led to a unique texture in the cultural fabric of this region. Today there are hundreds and hundreds of arts and culture nonprofits, of all sizes and varieties, all across the Bay Area.

While the arts are an important part of our society and add texture and meaning to our lives, **only 4% of total giving was to arts and culture nonprofits in the US in 2009**, or \$12.64 billion (out of about \$300 billion). (From the Giving USA 2010 report.)

Because of the Bay Area's long and rich history around the arts, we decided to find out more about the outstanding nonprofits at work. Therefore, **Philanthropedia surveyed 127 Bay Area arts and culture experts** (with an average of 22 years of work experience in the field) to identify those organizations that were making the biggest impact in the arts and culture field. We believe a high-impact arts and culture nonprofit is one which is successful at creating or producing something of value to those who care about the arts and culture. A high-impact arts and culture nonprofit is able to contribute to the field by creating meaningful work and/or helping others develop an appreciation for the arts and culture.

Bay Area arts and culture experts (funders, researchers, nonprofit senior staff, government officials, etc.) **identified 21 top arts and culture nonprofits (out of 190 total reviewed nonprofits)** working in the San Francisco Bay Area. Experts were asked to recommend nonprofits that are developing or producing new work, are focused on performance, preservation and promotion of traditional culture, have an educational component, serve any age or type of audience, have any budget size, and/or represent any genre or discipline of art.

The following is the list of the top-recommended high-impact nonprofits working on arts and culture in the Bay Area. "Agree" is the number of experts who agree that the nonprofit has had the most impact in the field. "Disagree" is the number of experts who disagree that the nonprofit has had the most impact in field.

21 Top High-Impact Nonprofits	# of Experts who Agree	# of Experts who Disagree	Year Founded	Location
Berkeley Repertory Theatre	77	1	1968	Berkeley, CA
Intersection for the Arts	73	2	1965	San Francisco, CA
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts	65	5	1986	San Francisco, CA
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art	64	4	1935	San Francisco, CA
Theatre Bay Area	60	2	1976	San Francisco, CA
Youth Speaks	57	5	1996	San Francisco, CA
Oberlin Dance Collective	56	3	1971	San Francisco, CA
San Francisco Symphony	57	9	1911	San Francisco, CA
Joe Goode Performance Group	48	6	1986	San Francisco, CA
Axis Dance Company	44	2	1987	Oakland, CA
Z Space Studio	46	5	1993	San Francisco, CA
Dancers' Group	46	5	1982	San Francisco, CA
CounterPulse	40	3	1991	San Francisco, CA
Southern Exposure	40	5	1974	San Francisco, CA
Shotgun Players	38	4	1992	Berkeley, CA
Performing Arts Workshop	33	3	1965	San Francisco, CA
Alliance for California Traditional Arts	31	5	2002	Fresno, CA
TheatreWorks	32	8	1976	San Francisco, CA
Playwrights Foundation	29	9	1976	San Francisco
Movimento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana de San Jose (MACLA)	23	3	1989	San Jose, CA
Cutting Ball Theater	23	9	1999	San Francisco, CA

We invite you to visit the profiles of each of these top organizations on our website to read the expert reviews here: <http://www.myphilanthropedia.org/top-nonprofits/bay-area/arts-culture>. Experts commented on the impact each nonprofit has had, what the nonprofit's other organizational strengths are, and how each organization could further improve.

We also invite your feedback. Please tell us what you think and what experiences you've had with these great organizations! We can be reached at feedback@myphilanthropedia.org.

###

<http://www.myphilanthropedia.org/>

Contact:

Erinn Andrews, COO

650-200-3705

erinn.andrews@myphilanthropedia.org

For Immediate Release: September 16, 2010