

**City of Santa Fe Arts and Culture Departments Announces**

**“Culture Connects Coalition Artist Relief Fund”**

**Challenge Grant Lannan Foundation**

**March 20, 2020 -** The City of Santa Fe recognizes the important role that artists and creatives have played in our culture and our economy. That’s why it is with great pleasure that the City Arts and Culture Department announces its partnership with Lannan Foundation in the creation of the Culture Connects Coalition Artist Relief Fund. Lannan Foundation has put forth a $10,000 Seed Grant and then a Challenge Grant of $15,000 to support artists during this time.  The partnership recognizes the impact that COVID-19 precautions are taking on our artist community and aims to provide a measure of relief.

The Culture Connects Coalition fund’s first initiative is a response to the current COVID-19 public health pandemic and the subsequent suspension of events in our community.  The impact of these suspensions will have a ripple effect throughout our artistic community, adversely impacting artists, their families and the greater community. Following the City of Boston’s lead, awards from $500-$1,000 will be made to artists-in-need through a less-formalized grant process through the Culture Connects lens of equity, inclusion and access. Depending on funding levels and the number of requests, priority will be given to artists from communities that have been historically and systemically economically disadvantaged.  Our goal is to support as many Santa Fe artists as possible.

“Lannan Foundation lives by our commitment to support contemporary artists, writers and activists around the world and in our local Santa Fe community. These city-wide program and event cancellations are both absolutely necessary for public health and are having devastating and immediate effects on artists’ livelihoods.We are honored to partner with the City of Santa Fe’s Arts and Culture Department on the Culture Connects Coalition Artist Relief Fund to facilitate individual support of our cultural workforce. We ask our fellow funders and arts patrons to join us in supporting our artists and our community during this time of need.”

Vince Kadlubek has taken up the Challenge and committed $5,000. “This is a tremendously tough moment and my heart is truly with everyone struggling with this new reality. Independent artists in Santa Fe are in an especially difficult situation, as independent contractors are already feeling a massive impact from economic impact. We all need to do our part to lift each other up in this moment.”

And joining Vince in taking up the call of the Challenge Grant is our newly appointed Arts Commissioner Tamara Bates, Culture Connects chair JoAnn and Bob Balzer, and arts supporters Susan and Steven Goldstein.

“This challenge grant exemplifies that spirit of Santa Fe and the special place that art and culture occupy in our community. After the Crash of ’29, America responded by supporting our artists, and the amazing results are still here for all of us to enjoy and marvel at. Now it’s our turn in this time of challenge to support *our* artists with the sure knowledge that their work will enrich us all for years to come.” Mayor Alan Webber

Please contact the Arts and Culture Department to make your contribution and pledge your support: pkkamiyama@santafenm.gov; call us at 505.955.6653.

The fund will go live in April with award distribution between 15-30 days upon request and review.

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