



MEDIA RELEASE

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Foundation's Grants Support Arts Education for Underserved Youth *Initial funding awards \$22,400 to five nonprofit organizations*

Over 140 low-income youth in the Sacramento region will receive high-quality performing arts instruction as the result of five grants awarded by [Sacramento Region Community Foundation](#) (the Foundation) from its **Dennis Mangers Fund for Young Performing Artists** (the Fund), the Foundation announced today.

Launched last year to improve access to performing arts education and training for underserved youth locally, the Fund recently granted \$22,400 to support a wide array of training opportunities in dance, music, theater, and theater production at [California Musical Theatre](#), [Lincoln Theatre Company](#), [Sacramento Ballet](#), [Sacramento Youth Symphony](#), and [Sinag-Tala Filipino Theater & Performing Arts Association](#).

The inaugural grants from the Fund are the first associated with the Foundation's arts initiative, [Transforming the Creative Economy](#), which aims to foster a thriving cultural community in the Sacramento region by supporting arts organizations as they innovate, diversify and build board capacity, and develop new audiences as the needs of the Sacramento region's communities evolve.

"From providing tuition-free strings instruction in an accessible environment to exposing Filipino high school students to culturally relevant arts training while they earn credit for college, these grants support innovative and community-driven arts programs throughout the Sacramento region," said Linda Beech Cutler, the Foundation's chief executive.

According to Cutler, in addition to providing seasonal and year-round scholarships for underserved youth in the region, the recipient organizations address many significant barriers that can prevent low-income families from accessing arts training. "These programs take seriously the need to develop support systems addressing the obstacles low-income families encounter when pursuing arts education, such as the challenge to arrange reliable transportation to and from classes," she said.

Named for Dennis Mangers, who is Chair of the Foundation's Board of Directors and whose career in public service in California has spanned five decades, the Foundation's Fund supports a cause personal to him. As a child, Mangers' family was unable to afford the costs of private arts instruction, which prevented him from pursuing high-quality training and advancing his passion for the performing arts.

"Dennis' story motivates this Fund and these grants," said Cutler. "We want to ensure that all talented youth in our communities are able to enjoy the opportunities he couldn't. We want to ensure they can discover and develop their artistic passions, and contribute their burgeoning talents to our vibrant region."

To learn more about Sacramento Region Community Foundation and its commitment to fostering a thriving cultural community, please contact Shirlee Tully, 916-795-9000 or shirlee@sacregcf.org, or visit sacregcf.org.

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Sacramento Region Community Foundation has been the trusted steward of charitable assets, a community catalyst for meaningful change and the advocate for shaping vital impact through philanthropy since 1983. As the center of philanthropy in the Sacramento Region, the Foundation's mission is to transform our community through focused leadership and advocacy that inspire partnerships and expand giving. Learn more at www.sacregcf.org.