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**Prebys Foundation Awards \$13.375 Million in Emergency Grants to  
Protect San Diego's Arts Community**

Grants Aim to Safeguard Against Government Budget Cuts, Donor Fatigue and Inflation

**SAN DIEGO, CA** – Today the Prebys Foundation announced it is awarding 61 San Diego arts and culture organizations a combined **\$13.375 to protect San Diego's vibrant arts scene** from federal and state funding cuts, local budget shortfalls, donor fatigue and inflation.

The investment includes **\$8.625 million** in unrestricted operating support for **22 organizations** ranging from major cultural anchors to grassroots community arts groups. It also includes **\$4.75 million for venues and spaces funding to 39 organizations** in order to preserve and enhance affordable, accessible places for creativity and connection.

"The arts are not a luxury. They are essential infrastructure for a thriving, equitable, and prosperous region," said Prebys Foundation CEO **Grant Oliphant**. "When we invest in the arts, we invest in jobs, innovation, understanding, and the shared spaces where our community's stories and healing come alive."

Without immediate intervention, leaders warn, the loss of programming, partnerships, venues, and jobs could impact San Diego's entire cultural ecosystem and economy.

"As San Diego's last remaining independent art-house cinema, the Digital Gym Cinema is a vital cultural hub where the community can come together to experience film," said **Ethan Van Thillo, Executive Director & Founder of Media Arts Center San Diego (MACSD)**. "At a time when all cinemas face tremendous challenges to sustain themselves, this support allows us to expand our programming and provide more opportunities for community connection."

The grants will also help keep the doors open to some of the city's most important cultural centers.

"With the devastating budget cuts to the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences, museums such as ours are facing not only financial uncertainty, but also an existential challenge," said **Micah Parzen, CEO of the Museum of Us**. "This funding is a critical vote of confidence in the importance of values-based work by cultural institutions throughout San Diego County during this tenuous time of historical erasure."



Organizations were selected based on their civic and cultural leadership, broad reach, and community impact and accessibility, with special consideration for those representing a diverse range of disciplines and geographies, and facing public funding cuts.

**The awarded organizations include:**

Rapid Response Grants	
Organization Name	Total
La Jolla Playhouse	1,000,000
San Diego Museum of Art	1,000,000
San Diego Symphony	1,000,000
The Old Globe	1,000,000
Arts District Liberty Station	\$500,000
Fleet Science Center	\$500,000
La Jolla Music Society	\$500,000
Mingei International Museum	\$500,000
Museum of Us	\$500,000
San Diego Botanic Garden	\$500,000
The San Diego Natural History Museum	\$500,000
San Diego Opera	\$500,000
Institute of Contemporary Art	\$100,000
Pacific Arts Movement	\$100,000
San Diego Ballet	\$100,000
Playwrights Project	\$100,000
TranscenDANCE	\$100,000
Art of Elan	\$25,000
Center for World Music	\$25,000
Classics 4 Kids	\$25,000
Project [BLANK]	\$25,000



San Diego Master Chorale	\$25,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,625,000</b>

Venues & Spaces Grants	
Organization Name	Total
A Reason to Survive	\$125,000
Arms Wide Open	\$150,000
Athenaeum Music & Arts Library	\$80,000
Barrio Artists Partnership	\$150,000
Bonita Museum & Cultural Center	\$39,000
Bread & Salt Gallery	\$100,000
CCAЕ Theatricals	\$140,000
Centro Cultural de la Raza	\$125,000
Culture Shock Dance Troupe	\$85,000
Cygnēt Theatre Company	\$250,000
Dreams & Ducats	\$200,000
Escondido Arts Partnership	\$50,000
Fern Street Community Arts	\$150,000
Gray Area Foundation for the Arts	\$100,000
Ilan-Lael Foundation	\$100,000
Karen Organization of San Diego	\$250,000
Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla & Cupeno Indians	\$150,000
Malashock Dance	\$100,000
Media Arts Center San Diego	\$125,000
Movement BE	\$150,000
MOXIE Theatre	\$150,000



Venues & Spaces Grants	
Organization Name	Total
Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego	\$200,000
Oceanside Historical Society	\$50,000
OnStage Playhouse	\$100,000
San Diego Civic Youth Ballet	\$245,000
San Diego Dance Theater	\$100,000
San Diego Made	\$100,000
San Diego Youth Symphony	\$150,000
Sherman Heights Community Center	\$80,000
Veterans Art Project (via SEE)	\$100,000
Space 4 Art	\$200,000
Spreckels Organ Society	\$81,000
T3 Triple Threat Youth Mentors	\$30,000
The Art Center Ramona	\$10,000
Unci Intertribal	\$90,000
Uprise Theatre	\$100,000
Urban Collaborative Project	\$125,000
Via International	\$150,000
Youth Philharmonic Orchestra	\$70,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,750,000</b>

“These grants are designed to keep doors open, artists working, and community partnerships alive,” said **Dr. Emily Young**, Executive Vice President of the Prebys Foundation. “If we wait, we risk losing not just organizations but the spaces and connective tissue they provide for the entire community.”

**About Prebys Foundation:**

The Prebys Foundation is the largest independent private foundation in San Diego County. Dedicated to creating an inclusive, equitable, and dynamic future for all, the Foundation invests



in four program areas: visual and performing arts, youth success, healthcare, and medical research. Learn more at [prebysfdn.org](http://prebysfdn.org).

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