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San Luis Obispo Museum of Art Awarded California Arts Council “Art & Youth” Grant
State funds support free school tours for all

Tuesday, November 18, 2025 (San Luis Obispo, CA) - The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) is pleased to announce the award of a \$18,000 grant through the California Arts Council’s *Arts & Youth* 2025 program. SLOMA was featured as part of a larger announcement from the California Arts Council. A total of 679 awards for nonprofit organizations and units of government throughout California will be disbursed across seven different programs, including a second year of funding for the State-Local Partners program awarded in the previous fiscal year. These grants comprise an investment of more than \$19.5 million in support for the state’s arts and cultural landscape and creative workforce.

“Arts and culture are a powerful tool for community connection, well-being and a critical pillar of our state’s creative economy,” said California Arts Council Executive Director Danielle Brazell. “This year’s investment of \$19.5 million in grant funding is provided in every corner of the state. Funding to nonprofit arts and cultural organizations ensures the public has access to high-quality artistic and cultural programming reflective of the people of California. This funding is a vital investment in the state’s creative workforce, furthering that the power of art and creative expression can continue telling the stories of our communities. Congratulations to all grantees!”

“On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank Governor Newsom and the Legislature for this critical funding, ensuring the arts remain an important force in sustaining our democracy,” Council Chair Roxanne Messina Captor said. “The Council is often faced with the difficult task of balancing the overwhelming need for arts funding with the total amount allocated to fund, but we are incredibly proud of our collective work to assert and support priorities that expand our resources as far as we can. As we look ahead to the CAC’s 50th anniversary in 2026, this robust investment sets the foundation for another five decades of cultural growth, civic engagement, and artistic excellence across California.”

Grant awards and outreach for the season emphasized the Council's three previously identified priorities for 2025-26 local assistance funding: organizations serving historically and systemically underserved communities located in the lower two quartiles of the Healthy Places Index (HPI); first-time CAC grantees; and small organizations with total revenues of \$250,000 or less.

The California Arts Council grant to SLOMA will sustain and expand the museum's free youth tour program, serving K-12 students and youth-focused organizations across SLO County, with a focus on historically underserved communities. This program will engage kids year-round through in-classroom and out-of-classroom programming and directly addresses the persistent lack of access to visual arts education for K-12 kids, particularly among Title 1 schools serving SLO County communities in the lowest quartile of the California Healthy Places Index. The grant will also support hands-on art-making activities inspired by SLOMA's exhibitions as well as curriculum materials for our county's hardworking educators.

"We're grateful to the California Arts Council for investing in local youth through its *Arts & Youth* program," said Leann Standish, SLOMA Executive Director. "This support ensures that every student in our region, regardless of background or resources, can experience the power of art through a free, guided visit to their community's art museum. These tours spark curiosity, build confidence, and help young people see themselves as creators. We're proud to partner with CAC in expanding access to meaningful arts education for our community's future leaders."

Teachers and youth-serving organizations interested in visiting SLOMA can book a tour at <https://sloma.org/visit/tours/>. Transportation subsidies are available for Title 1 schools and organizations serving low-income communities.

About the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art

The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) is an innovative and accessible museum located on California's Central Coast. The museum presents an outstanding exhibitions program that features artists from California and around the world, as well as an ongoing series of dynamic events that engage visitors of all ages. SLOMA is located in downtown San Luis Obispo on the west end of Mission Plaza, at the heart of the city's cultural corridor. A destination for art lovers, and those just beginning to experience art alike, the museum provides a welcoming space and offers free admission to all. More information can be found at www.sloma.org.

About the California Arts Council

The California Arts Council is a state agency with a mission of strengthening arts, culture, and creative expression as the tools to cultivate a better California for all. It supports local arts infrastructure and programming statewide through grants, initiatives, and services. The California Arts Council envisions a California where all people flourish with universal access to and participation in the arts.

A related press release from the California Arts Council, as well as a full list of grantees, can be found at <https://arts.ca.gov/press-release/introducing-californias-2025-state-arts-grantees/>.

Members of the California Arts Council include: Roxanne Messina Captor, Chair; Leah Goodwin, Vice Chair; Gerald Clarke; Caleb Duarte; Vicki Estrada; Roy Hirabayashi; Alex Israel; Dorka Keehn; Phil Mercado; Nicola Miner; Rick Stein. Learn more at www.arts.ca.gov.

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