

SANTA CRUZ CITY ARTS COMMISSION'S COMMITMENT TO EQUITY, INCLUSIVITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The Santa Cruz Arts Commission is committed to pursuing equity, inclusivity and environmental justice in all of our projects and programs. We recognize that historical and ongoing inequities, biases, and barriers exist and are perpetuated within communities and institutions unless they are directly and intentionally addressed and systematically changed.

We support public art and programming that addresses and explores how race, gender, sexuality, ability, socioeconomic status, immigration status, religion, class, etc. are interconnected and create overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or advantage.

We recognize that broader social issues and inequities are inextricably linked to environmental issues and we recognize that historically unrepresented neighborhoods and communities are often subject to the disproportionate burden of pollution and contamination and will be the most impacted by climate change and climate change related disasters—unless intentional efforts are made to counteract inequitable environmental impacts.

In contrast, we believe that the most equitable institutions and communities are also the most joyful, vibrant and healthy—and we believe that the arts can be particularly effective in amplifying diverse voices and in helping people imagine more equitable ways of being. To this end, the Santa Cruz City Arts Commission specifically pursues equity, inclusivity and environmental justice through:

- **Accessibility:** Providing funding and public art project commissions to historically marginalized artists and in historically marginalized neighborhoods.
- **Capacity Building:** Building the capacity, resilience and economic viability of individual artists from historically marginalized communities through training and partnerships that support artists.
- **Cultural Representation and Integrity:** Supporting public art and programming that represents historically marginalized people and communities while demonstrating the ethical use of material with specific cultural origins and context.
- **Partnerships:** Partnering with organizations that represent and support people from underrepresented and marginalized groups.
- **Ongoing Evaluation:** Remaining humble and open in the pursuit of equity, inclusivity, and environmental justice—acknowledging that while there is no one solution to addressing the myriad of inequities in our community, we commit to the ongoing evaluation of all our own projects and programs and how they can better support equity, inclusivity and environmental justice.