



## 2020-2021 Vibrant City Grant Recipients

### Arizona Hip Hop Alliance

**Description:** Hip Hop has been an integral component of many major sociopolitical revolutionary moments in history. The mission of AZ Hip Hop Alliance is to bring together local Hip-Hop-focused artists, local vendors and businesses, and the locals of the Tempe community to re-ignite a public space (Kiwanis Park), to create meaningful, artistic moments together, and to celebrate life. A one-day festival will offer opportunities for performance, exchange, dialogue, access, and celebration through the lens of Hip Hop expression and the Hip Hop elements. The festival will create space and offer the resources necessary for the community to engage with one another, engage with their local spaces, and engage with dance, music, visual arts, and other vital forms of expression. The projected date for this festival is Spring 2021

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### Higher Octave Healing

**Description:** Higher Octave Healing intends to serve teens and adults with Developmental Disabilities and the community of Tempe. Rock Together: A Virtual Community Music Festival is a week-long virtual event that will take place in the Spring of 2021 finishing by May 31, 2021, featuring local artists engaged with rock bands composed of teens and adults. Performances will be livestreamed on social media platforms (Youtube, Facebook, etc.) from Higher Octave Healing's clinic space at the Arizona State University's Music Therapy Clinic in Tempe. Band members with developmental differences, including autism, Down syndrome, and other special needs, will perform a setlist of their choosing and support other members by learning music on various instruments. Each band member has their own individually assessed and tracked life-skill goals which all promote increased independence in mental, emotional and physical decision-making. Guest artists will teach and perform with band members

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### The Holdeman Art Group

**Description:** The Holdeman Art Group aspires to bring fine arts education to all students ensuring that we honor and acknowledge the diverse population of our community. In partnership with our families, our art group strives to provide an innovative learning environment that creates a sense of openness and connectivity through art. The objective of the group's 2020-2021 programming is to bring a mural to Holdman's campus, thus creating a



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positive and welcoming atmosphere for all of our students, staff, and surrounding community members. Placing a unique piece of art that depicts our diverse population will help inspire pride in the Holdeman Community now, and for generations to come.

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### **I Am Root, LLC**

**Description:** As technology continues to advance the way society operates, we have to adapt and expand with it. The ROOT conference will be a place for growth and learning; a conference for creative artists, academics and entrepreneurs. The conference will encourage dialogue surrounding group actions to better our living, working, and recreational environments using a culmination of perspectives, voices, and experiences to engage common issues in our shared communities. Through workshops, performances, and discussions we can share knowledge and bridge the gaps between three important parts of a community: creatives, academics, and entrepreneurs. The conference is scheduled for Spring 2021.

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### **Methods of Madness Dance Theater**

**Description:** Tempe Drive-in Dance Film Festival is a free site-specific pop-up performance for the Tempe community. Dance enthusiasts, film lovers and drive-in movie day dreamers come together for an evening of choreography for camera and community gathering through the comfort of your own car. This event will feature local artists from diverse backgrounds and in varying stages of their artistic journey. The festival will increase exposure for the artists by presenting their work to the Tempe community and provide a free and safe evening of performance appropriate for all ages. Reimagining creative spaces is essential to the survival of movement arts, drive-in film screenings such as the Tempe Drive-in Dance Film Festival can bring us together as these films become a relic and reflection of today.

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### **Tempe Artist Guild**

**Description:** The purpose of the Tempe Artists Guild is to: promote and advance the appreciation and practice of art; encourage and support art education through the development and cooperation of artists; and to support art-related community projects. Since the Coronavirus outbreak, TAG has found new ways to serve the art community. TAG has pivoted away from in-person activities, and now holds events online. In future programming,



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TAG will focus on transitioning the monthly Speaker Series and future Art Workshops to attractive, robust virtual platforms.

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### **The NQRMAL Show**

**Description:** The NQRMAL Show is a new Tempe-based queer performing arts showcase that presents LGBTQ-identified performing artists from the Phoenix metro area. The NQRMAL show is a community-centered program that offers queer artists a paid platform to present their work and queer audience members a chance to connect with their community through art while celebrating the work of local, queer creatives of various disciplinary backgrounds. The second run of the NQRMAL show will take place in October 2020. The show will feature pre-recorded performance sets from six local artists drawn from the queer community in Tempe and its surrounding areas in a single-night event. The kinds of art the NQRMAL show will present include, but are not limited to, dance, theatre, music, and spoken word. The show will be hosted virtually over Facebook Live.

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### **The Sacred G's**

**Description:** The Sacred G's are a street arts collective rooted in Hip Hop culture, dance, and conscious community. Fusing street dance styles and Spirit-inspired movement, they create open-hearted messages for the empowerment, inspiration, and artistic enrichment of humanity to instill feelings that connect to the heart and to catalyze social change. In Fall 2020, a team of five LED suit dancers will roam throughout Tempe parks while they engage with passerbys in a family-friendly and social distanced manner. This fusion of street dance in glowing LED suits will be non-verbal and non-tactile. The theatrics feature a continuous guerrilla-style storyline and interactive performance art.

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### **Film Ethnographer LLC**

**Description:** This art program is designed to help special needs children gain positive self-image through the depiction of an autistic superhero called Focus. The program develops artistic skills, self-confidence, and self-esteem so that the teachings might have a lasting impact on the participants' quality of their life as they develop into adulthood. This remote comic art program is entitled: "Focus Loves Tempe". The students will learn about drawing human figures and



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Focus, the autistic superhero (exploring issues relating to human expressions to self and identity), landscapes (Tempe landmarks, relating to a sense of community identity), and visual story telling through comics. The Zoom class is scheduled to take place in Spring 2021.

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### **Yes And Productions (The Ladies)**

**Description:** Room for Two is a drive-up, pop-up performance produced by Yes And Productions and performed by the comedic theater troupe The Ladies. Audience members purchase a parking spot, drive-in, and watch from their car, by the light of their high-beams, and to the soundtrack broadcast through their car radios. By fusing elements of dance, interaction, improvisation, alternative comedy, and immersive theatre the result is a strange, delightful, undefinable, experiential event. Room for Two provides a safe and socially distant live performance experience allowing even the most vulnerable population to enjoy a live art show during a pandemic. This performance will take place in Spring 2021.

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### **Marcos Fine Arts Foundation**

**Description:** The Marcos Fine Arts Foundation (“MFAF”) is an independent, community non-profit whose mission is to ensure the future of fine arts education at Marcos De Niza High School (“Marcos”) and to empower the Marcos fine arts student community. In this year of COVID-19 uncertainties, Marcos has experienced a significant challenge in keeping students engaged in the fine arts. To address these issues, we are launching the Marcos Fine Arts Festival. The Festival is a digital event where student performances can be shared online. We also created an education program that will teach students the skills they need to create digital videos to share their artistic creations. Ideas from students include short plays; musical, instrumental or dance performances; and demonstrations of how their visual art pieces are created. The Marcos Fine Arts Festival will be held in the Spring Semester 2021.

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### **Kraken Still and Film**

**Description:** Kraken Still and Film (KSAF) was founded by Lawrence Fung in 2018 with a small cast of dancers and composers. KSAF is an interdisciplinary dance and visual art company that celebrates a mix of styles including contemporary ballet, breaking, and contact vocabularies, as well as the use of photography and film to showcase movement in various mediums. Kraken



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Still & Film will host an outdoor, evening performance and film screening of their latest work in Summer 2021 at Hudson Park.

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### Venus Clapback

**Description:** Venus Clapback is a podcast and web series hosted by two Black women. The event Therapy in the Park will collaborate with Zojo.Life a local healing directory dedicated to informing Black Women of the therapeutic resources available to us in the Valley. The event will utilize mindfulness, breath work and yoga with interviews from healers and therapists focusing on the importance of their work, and conclude with a Question and Answer session featuring Venus Clapback. The event will take place in Spring 2021.

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### Nayika- Woman Reimagined

**Description:** Nayika is a new musical theatre piece born out of the need for authentic stories about the experience of women throughout history. Inspired by the Indian classical art concept of the Ashtanayikas, eight fictional characters created over 3,000 years ago, Nayika takes a fresh approach by updating the stories of these women. Nayika will happen as a two part project. The first part is the creation of the album/mixtape. The second part of this project is the live workshop and first live performance. The goal of the piece is to help bring people who have never gone to the theatre to step into this space for the very first time and claim it as their space. The performance will take place in Spring 2021 at ASU's Tempe Campus.

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### Coley Curry

**Description:** Four women, four artists, black and POC, will facilitate a series of intimate talks/workshops on journeying towards other economies. These workshops are based in storytelling, ritual, centering body/spiritual/life work, and unlearning (and healing from) current dominant economic realities. By sharing strategies, tools and history around money and compensation participants are practicing and taking an active role in resisting existing economic structures that have historically and currently oppressed our communities and artistic practices. These workshops will be offered through zoom in Spring 2021.



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### **Melanie Sainz**

**Description:** This project is entitled “Friendship Shared One Bead at a Time.” The mission of this project is to foster an understanding of the connection to the natural world and the importance of adornment amongst the various tribes of Native American/First Nations people of North America. This program will be made available to the constituents of the Native American Program at the Tempe Elementary School District. An instructional video and supply kits will be made available to participants. This project will take place in Spring 2021.