

Press Release

Contact: Lili Williams, lwilliams@SacGuitarSociety.org, (916) 572-7464

Date: June 5, 2019

Sacramento Guitar Society Awarded Three California Arts Council Grants *Youth Arts Action, Veterans in Arts, Artists in Communities*

SACRAMENTO, CA – Today the California Arts Council announced three separate grant awards to the Sacramento Guitar Society (SGS) totaling \$14,692:

- \$5,600 as part of its **Youth Arts Action** program – one of 244 grantees chosen in the state
- \$4,592 as part of the **Veterans in Arts** Program – one of 46 grantees chosen in the state
- \$4,500 as part of the **Artists in Communities** Program – one of 96 grantees chosen in the state

These awards were featured as part of a larger announcement from the California Arts Council, with grant funds totaling a projected \$24,508,541 for 2018-19, the highest investment in statewide arts programming since the 2000-01 fiscal year.

Youth Arts Action grant program supports projects for youth from infancy through age 24 that operate outside of school time, in artistic venues and community settings as well as on school sites. This program encourages relevant, dynamic, and innovative community building and learning through youth-focused arts and culture projects.

Sacramento Guitar Society will use the funds received from this grant, plus an equal match from the organization's own funds, to create a new program for learning the guitar accessible to people in our communities at eight (8) local public libraries in Sacramento County. Selection of the library will be based on the demographics of the community that the library serves, with an emphasis on those with the highest rate of poverty statistic.

"We strive to bring equity and access to music education to students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds because music education is not just about the arts; it is a critical component to a well-rounded education, providing students with emotional development and analytical skills that will help them succeed in other areas of their lives. Study after study proves these connections, which is why we have made it our mission to offer such opportunities to everyone." – Lili Williams, President & Grant Writer

To view a complete listing of all Youth Arts Action grantees, visit

http://arts.ca.gov/programs/program_files/1819/CurrentGrantees/FY18-19_Project_Descriptions_YAA.pdf.

Veterans in the Arts Grant program addresses the needs and improves the lives of California's veterans by increasing equity, access, and opportunities for veterans to participate in quality arts programming that is sensitive and responsive to their unique experiences. VIA provides project support for nonprofit arts organizations, local arts agencies, and veteran's assistance agencies to reach veterans and their families.

Sacramento Guitar Society will use the funds received from this grant, plus an equal match from the organization's own funds, to extend the healing power of music education to Veterans who complete the program offered by *Guitars4Vets*, another nonprofit dedicated to helping Veterans heal thru music therapy.

"For the average person, listening to music is a temporary mood-altering experience. But for Veterans who have experienced exceptional traumatic events, learning to play an instrument like the guitar provides many other

benefits. According to Psychology Today (Bringing Music to Veterans, Nov 8, 2017), these benefits include ‘an overall improved quality of life, opportunities for peer and social engagement, enhanced memory recall, as well as sensory stimulation and general physical engagement.’ Having worked with many Veterans in the past, I sought out this grant for the Sacramento Guitar Society as a way to give back to our Veterans.” – Lili Williams, President & Grant Writer

To view a complete listing of all Veterans in the Arts grantees, visit

http://arts.ca.gov/programs/program_files/1819/CurrentGrantees/FY18-19_Project_Descriptions_VIA.pdf.

Artists in Communities (AC) grant program centralizes artists and their artistic processes as vehicles for community vitality. AC grants support sustained artistic residencies in community settings. Artists must work closely with organizational partners and community members to produce creative projects that are relevant and responsive to their community.

Sacramento Guitar Society will use the funds received from this grant, plus an equal match from the organization’s own funds, to continue its existing beginner and intermediate guitar orchestras in the cities of Sacramento and Davis, CA (4 orchestras in total). This program is a community service, offering access to free group guitar music education. Rehearsal schedules and locations can be found at

<http://orchestra.SacramentoGuitarSociety.org>.

“Our Community Guitar Orchestras in Sacramento and Davis provide participants the opportunity to learn and improve their skills, as well as the opportunity to socialize with others who share the joy of playing the guitar. To further the community impact of this program, small ensembles of participants schedule their own events to perform at various venues, bringing arts exposure to schools, as well as life enrichment to seniors at senior centers. In addition, each orchestra hosts an annual Holiday Concert and a Spring Concert, taking in donations to help raise the matching funds needed for this grant. This program is open to the public and I hope more people take advantage of it to develop or enhance their musical journey.” – Lili Williams, President & Grant Writer

To view a complete listing of all Artists in Communities grantees, visit

http://arts.ca.gov/programs/program_files/1819/CurrentGrantees/FY18-19_Project_Descriptions_AC.pdf.

###

“Arts and culture are inextricably linked to our humanity,” said Nashormeh Lindo, California Arts Council Chair. “They serve as a universal touchpoint for understanding and addressing our societal issues—dismantling inequity, healing trauma, reframing justice, inspiring truth and shaping futures. The Council is humbled to support the vital work of Sacramento Guitar Society and its passionate efforts to make a better California for us all.”

The Sacramento Guitar Society’s mission is to *promote, share, and celebrate the art of the guitar and its music by providing education and performance opportunities to people of diverse cultures, ages, abilities, and economic means*. The Society operates to raise awareness and celebrate the richness and diversity of the guitar and its music through monthly meetings, concerts and workshops, special presentations, community outreach and community service. E.I.D. 59-3777305

The mission of the California Arts Council, a state agency, is to advance California through the arts and creativity. The Council is committed to building public will and resources for the arts; fostering accessible arts initiatives that reflect contributions from all of California's diverse populations; serving as a thought leader and champion for the arts; and providing effective and relevant programs and services.

Members of the California Arts Council include: Chair Nashormeh Lindo, Vice Chair Larry Baza, Juan Devis, Jodie Evans, Kathleen Gallegos, Jaime Galli, Donn K. Harris, and Louise McGuinness. Learn more at www.arts.ca.gov.