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**Arts Council supports creativity and vibrancy in Santa Cruz County  
Granting \$180,000 to 59 recipients**

**SANTA CRUZ, CA — Feb. 10, 2016** — During the next month the Santa Cruz Symphony will present two youth concerts for 4,000 students, the first-ever Santa Cruz Ragtime Festival will come to Downtown Santa Cruz, the Museum of Art & History is hosting an exhibit on Wild Mushrooms and Functional Fungi, and Kuumbwa Jazz is bringing Malian guitarist/vocalist Habib Koité and South African singer Vusi Mahasela to Santa Cruz. Every day of the week students of all ages will take classes in a variety of artistic disciplines thanks to organizations like Senderos, Tannery World Dance, Motion Pacific, Young Writers Program, Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre, and others.

Each of these and more than 50 other recipients have been awarded grants for their work in 2016 through Arts Council Santa Cruz County's Grant Program. Winter 2016 grants range from \$500 to an individual artist to assist with gear upgrades to \$16,200 for a prominent nonprofit arts venue. Funded projects serve a range of ages, disciplines and geographic regions within Santa Cruz County. Most grants require matching funds from additional sources. The full list of 59 recipients can be found on [artscouncilsc.org](http://artscouncilsc.org)

Santa Cruz has the 5th highest density of artists per capita in the nation and Arts Council has provided grants and support to keep Santa Cruz's creative culture thriving for 36 years now. Arts Council brings funding in from a variety of federal, state and local grant sources, and then distributes that funding through five distinct grant programs.

"Santa Cruz is a creative community, and I'm proud of the work the Arts Council has done for almost four decades to bring funding into the county and distribute that funding to individuals, projects and programs that promote vibrancy throughout the County," says Crystal Birns, Grants & Technical Assistance Manager.

"Kuumbwa Jazz is very appreciative to be included as a Sponsor Grantee," said Bobbi Todaro, Managing Director of Kuumbwa Jazz. "Arts Council grants help us to bring musicians from nearly every continent to Santa Cruz, and reach nearly 30,000 people in 2015."

The Grants Program is committed to supporting artistically excellent work, increasing the success of artists and arts organizations, expanding equitable access to the arts and engaging new audiences in the arts. The Spring Cycle is currently open, with an application deadline of March 18, 2016. Interested artists can visit [santacruz.culturegrants.org](http://santacruz.culturegrants.org) to learn more about our grant programs and guidelines, and apply online.

**Arts Council Santa Cruz County**

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### **About Arts Council Santa Cruz County**

Arts Council Santa Cruz County's mission is to promote, connect, and invest in the arts in order to stimulate creativity and vibrancy in Santa Cruz County. Through Open Studios Art Tour, artists connect with their neighbors and art appreciators; through projects like Ebb & Flow River Art Project, the community comes together to enliven public spaces; through SPECTRA and Mariposa's Art students experience art in schools; and through the Grants program, critical support is provided to artists and organizations that make our home colorful, vibrant, and extraordinary. Learn more at [artscouncilsc.org](http://artscouncilsc.org).

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### **Grantee Photos for your use:**



Senderos Ensemble Musical performs at Dia de los Muertos at MAH  
(Photo Credit: Crystal Birns)



Lyndsey Loosley performs at Motion Pacific (Photo Credit: Crystal Birns)



Santa Cruz Symphony Youth Concert (Photo Credit: Santa Cruz Symphony)



Joshua Redman (Photo Credit: rr jones)