



**Bay Area Cultural Funders
for Equity (BACFE)
Spring Learning Exchange 2024**

The Bay Area Cultural Funders for Equity (BACFE)

BACFE - A diverse set of funding organizations, exploring what a place-based collaborative focused on arts, culture, and equity could accomplish.

In late 2023, BACFE awarded \$1.2 million dollars in unrestricted, general operating support to 30 historically under-funded, and/or underacknowledged cultural workers, cultural organizers and arts organizations in based in the Bay Area.

The 30 Grantee Partners were invited to participate in learning exchanges to promote mutual learning and relationship building between funders and grantee partners.



Friday, May 10th. BACFE members and recently selected grantee partners at The California Endowment for the Spring Learning Exchange - a day focused on meaningful interactions, building mutual understanding, and establishing actionable steps for continued co-learning. It was our first time meeting in person since the establishment of the BACFE in 2021.

BACFE MEMBERS

Akonadi Foundation | Ceclia Chen
California Arts Council | Jon Moscone
California Arts Council | Ayanna Kiburi
California Wellness Foundation | David Littlefield
Chrysalis Fund | Jessica Love
City of Oakland Cultural Affairs | Roberto Bedoya
City of San Jose Cultural Affairs | Kerry Adams-Hapner
City of San Jose Cultural Affairs | Ron Muriera
David and Lucile Packard Foundation | Tamara Alvarado
Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation | Nilofar Gardezi
Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation | Devorah Levine
East Bay Community Foundation | Debrah Giles
Ford Foundation | Lane Harwell
Grants for the Arts San Francisco | Vallie Brown
Grants for the Arts San Francisco | Tabitha Tapia
Grants for the Arts San Francisco | Amy Chou

Kenneth Rainin Foundation | Ted Russell*
Kenneth Rainin Foundation | Sarah Williams
San Francisco Arts Commission | Lex Leifheit
San Francisco Arts Commission | Denise Pate
San Francisco Foundation | Esailama Artry-Diouf, Ph.D.*
San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce
Development | Jerry Trotter
Silicon Valley Community Foundation | Mauricio Palma
Tao Rising | Alex Haber*
Tao Rising | Vanessa Camarena-Arredondo*
The California Endowment | Christine Tien
Walter and Elise Haas Fund | Faiza Buhkari
Walter and Elise Haas Fund | Natalia Vigil
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation | Adam Fong*
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation | Emiko Ono
Zellerbach Family Foundation | Margot Melcon

*-Current and Past Steering Committee Members

BACFE GRANTEE PARTNERS, 2024

Afsaneh Art & Culture Society | Sharlyn Sawyer

Alena Museum | Seven Asefaha

American Indian Cultural District | Sharaya Souza

Artist as First Responder | Ashara Ekundayo

ARTogether | Leva Zand

Black Cultural Zone | Carolyn Johnson

Bridge Builders to the New Generation | Shamawn L Wright

Cheza Nami Foundation | Catherine (Ciiku) Ndungu-Case

Civic Design Studio | Tommy Wong

Contemporary Asian Theater Scene | Leianne Wong Lamb

East Bay Center for the Performing Arts | Ruthie Dineen

El Comalito Collective | Edgar Arturo Camacho

EPACENTER | Nadine Rambeau

FIERCE Advocates | Sheryl Lane

Galería de la Raza | Ani Rivera

Granny Cart Gangstas | Ava Tong

Grown Women Dance Collective | Tonya Amos

Holy Stitch Factory Fellowship | Julian Prince Dash

Lower Bottom Playaz | ayodele nzinga

Malonga Arts Collective | Naomi Diof

Malonga Arts Collective | Shiree Dyson

Malonga Arts Collective | Deborah Vaughan

Malonga Arts Collective | Muisi-kongo Malonga

Peacock Rebellion | Lexi Adsit

Peacock Rebellion | Katherin Canton

Quilt Magazine | Assata Conley

Raizes Collective | Isabel Lopez

Rawley Delane Clark

Samoan Community Development Center | Patsy Tito

Silicon Valley African Film Festival | Chike C. Nwoffiah

Silicon Valley De-Bug | Charisse Domingo

Sogorea Te' Land Trust | Inés Ixierda

Watsonville Film Festival | Consuelo Alba Speyer

Weaving Spirits Festival of Two-Spirit Performance |

Javier Stell-Fresquez

The Bay Area Cultural Funders for Equity (BACFE) North Star Statement

“We commit to amplifying the voices, power, arts, and cultures of people of color and other vulnerable communities in the Bay Area, particularly those living at or near poverty, to advance equitable community well-being.”

Activity: BACFE “Community Quilt”

Members and Grantee Partners were invited to reflect on the BACFE North Star and the roles they each play in systems change. Through reflection and discussion, they envisioned what community well-being would look like when the most marginalized are heard and met with consistent support and resources.

We captured those visions on individual "quilt squares," which were assembled into a “Community quilt”.

The quilt was a collective representation of shared commitment and interconnectedness between Grantee Partners and Funders.

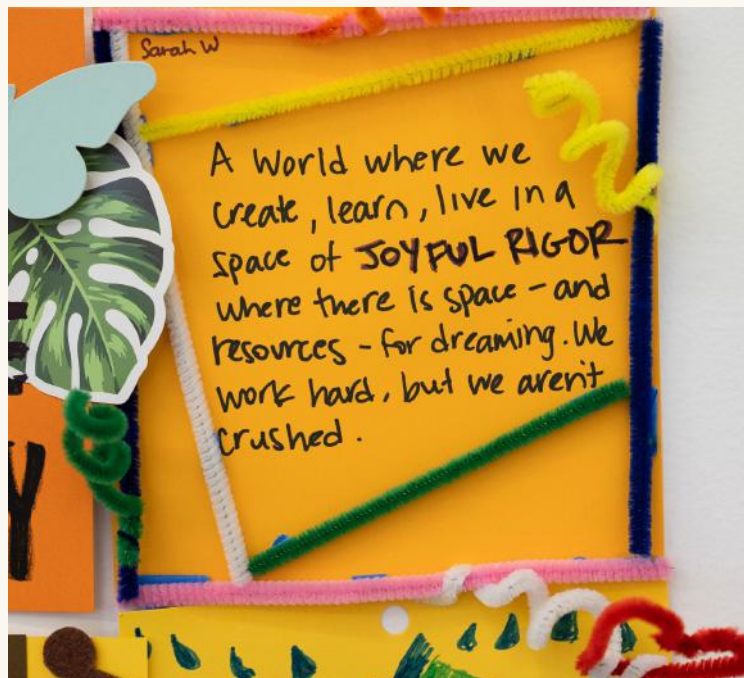
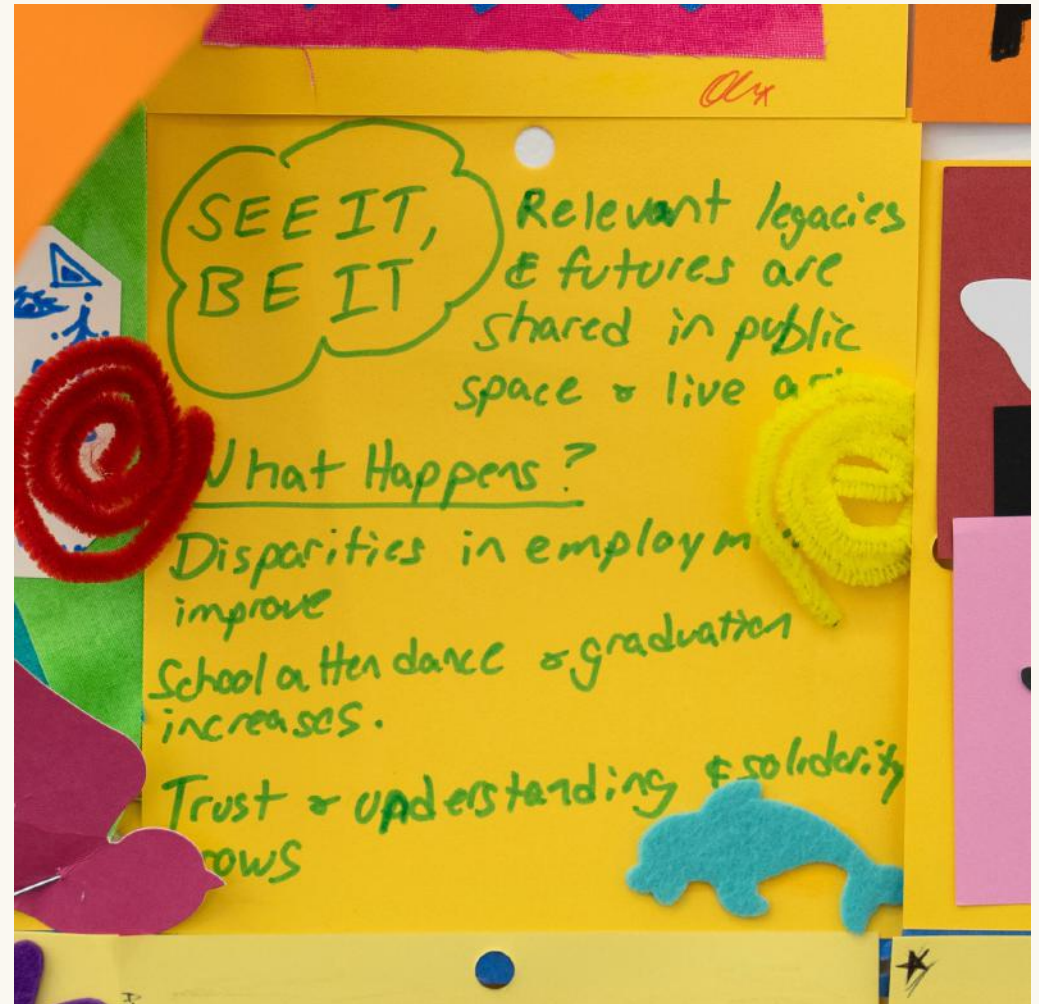
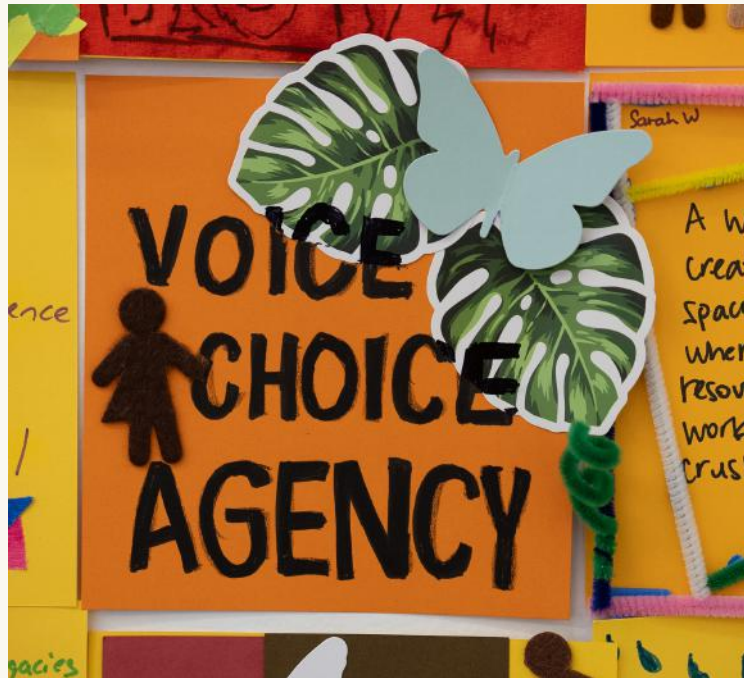
Pictured: BACFE Members & Grantee Partners weaving visions/ futures inspired by the prompt and the North Star.



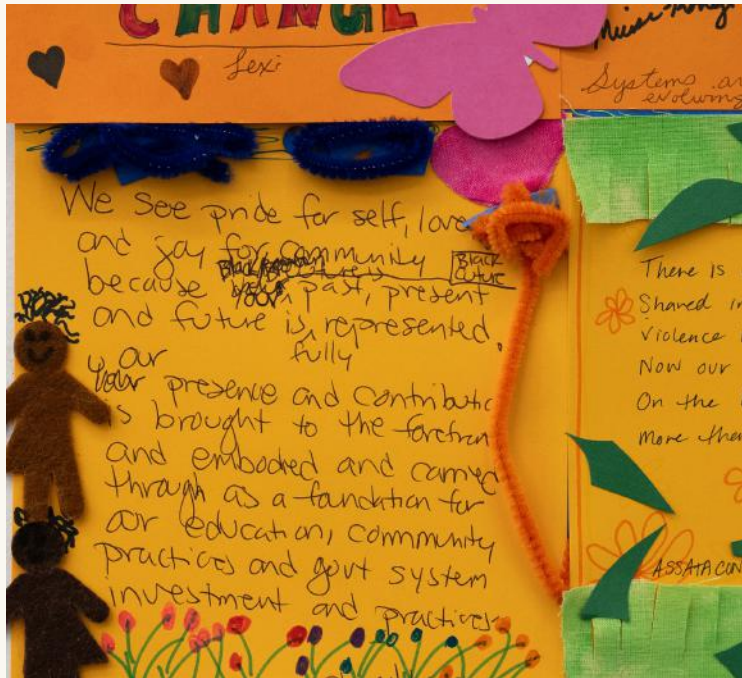








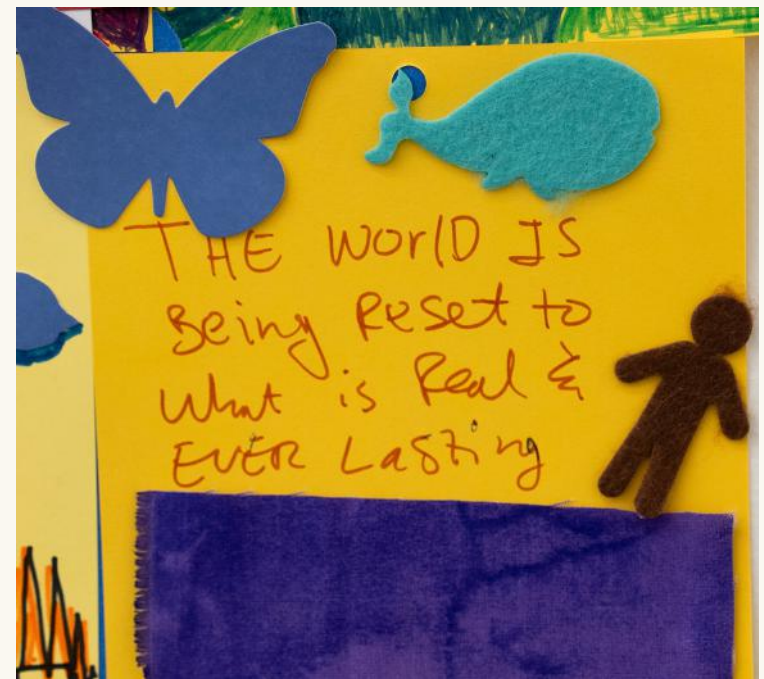
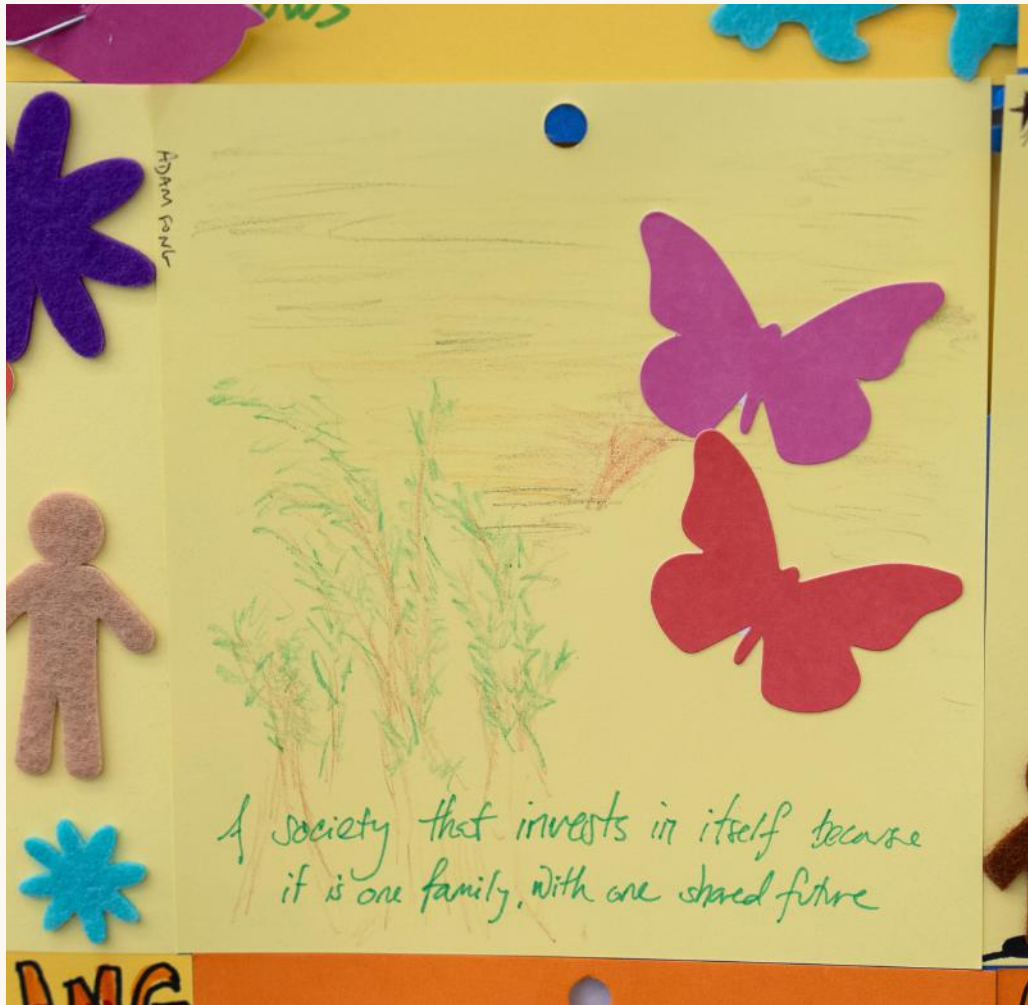
“A world where we create, learn, live in a space of JOYFUL RIGOR where there is space - and resources - for dreaming. We work hard, but we aren’t crushed.”



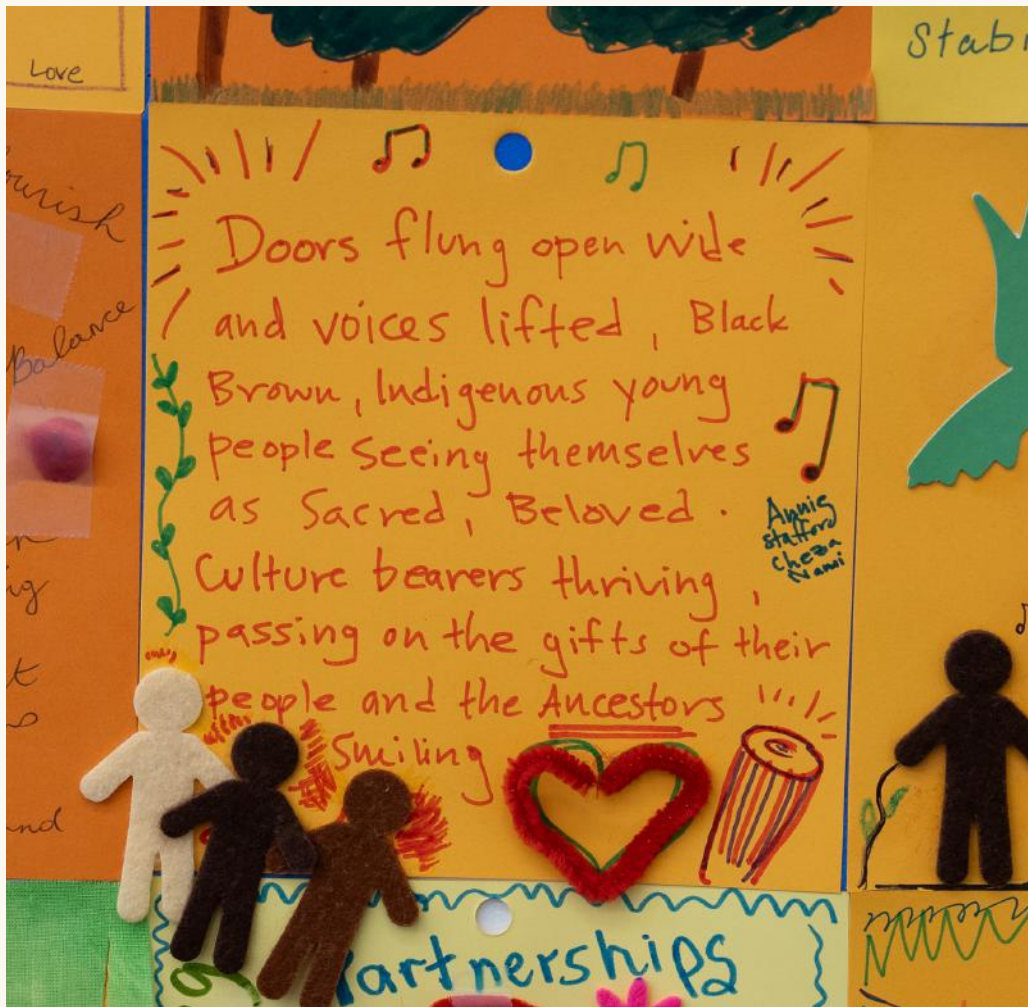
“We see pride for self, love and joy for community (Black culture) because our past, present and future is represented fully...”



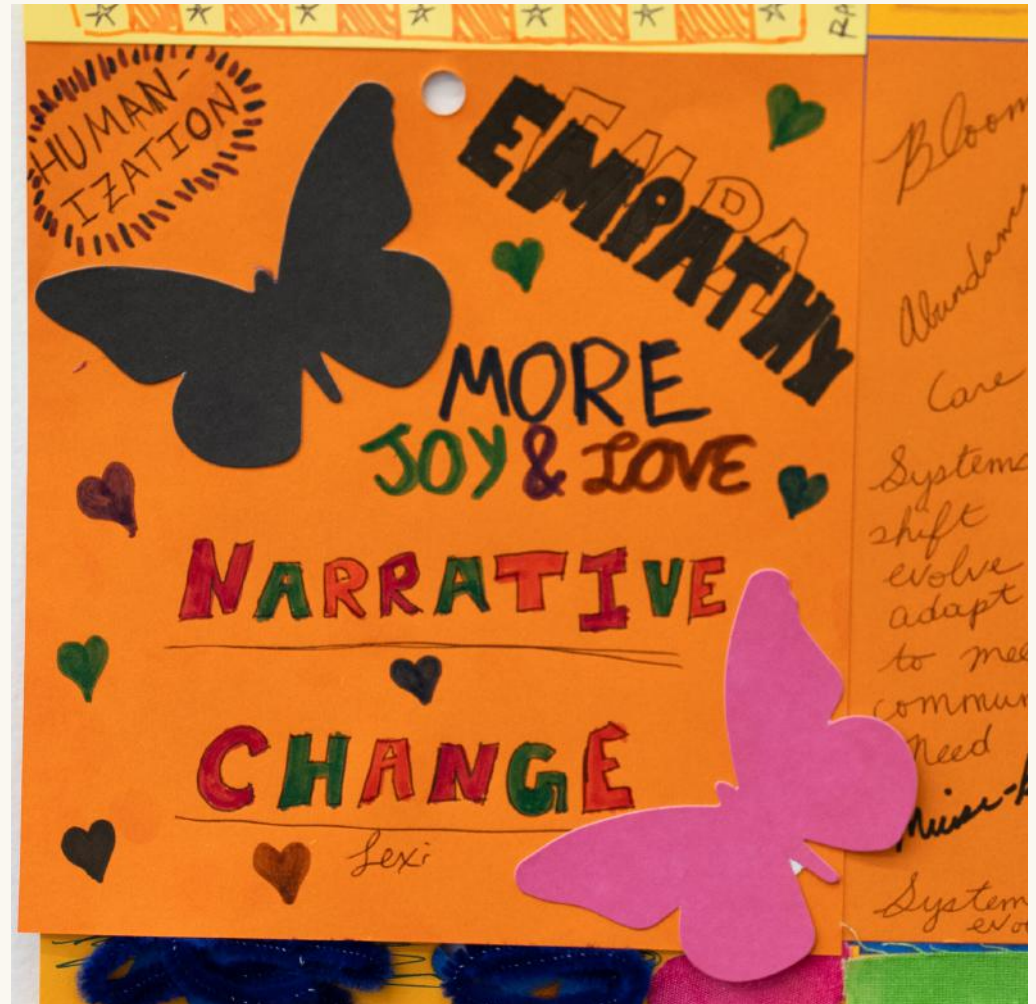
“Funding is no longer based on who writes the best grant, funding is not competitive. Funding relationships are about support & trust.”



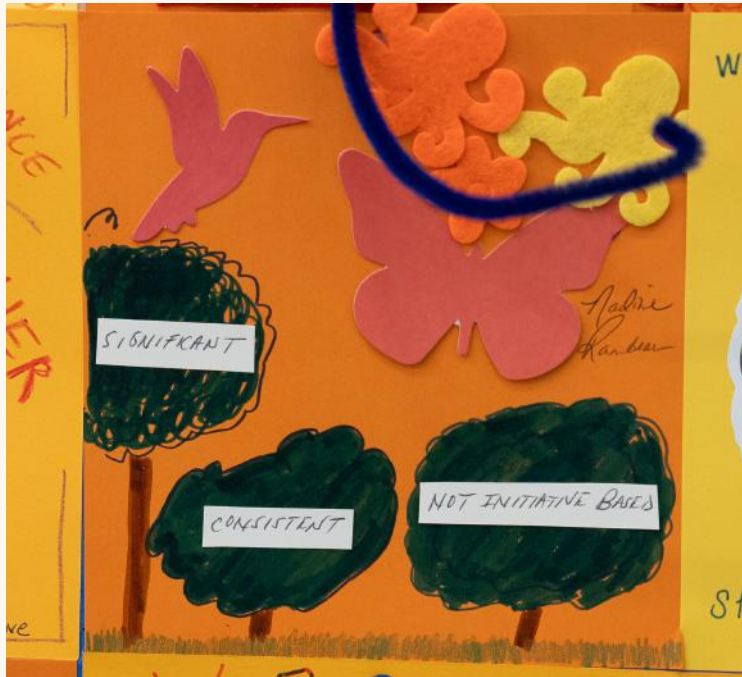
“The world is being reset to what is real & everlasting”



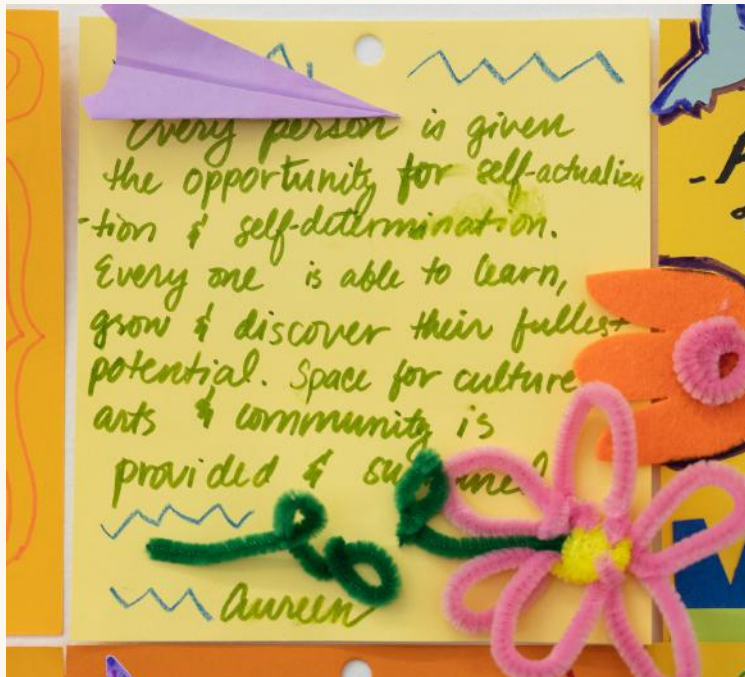
“Doors flung open wide and voices lifted, Black, Brown, Indigenous you people seeing themselves as Sacred, Beloved.”



“Artists and culture bearers at the center”



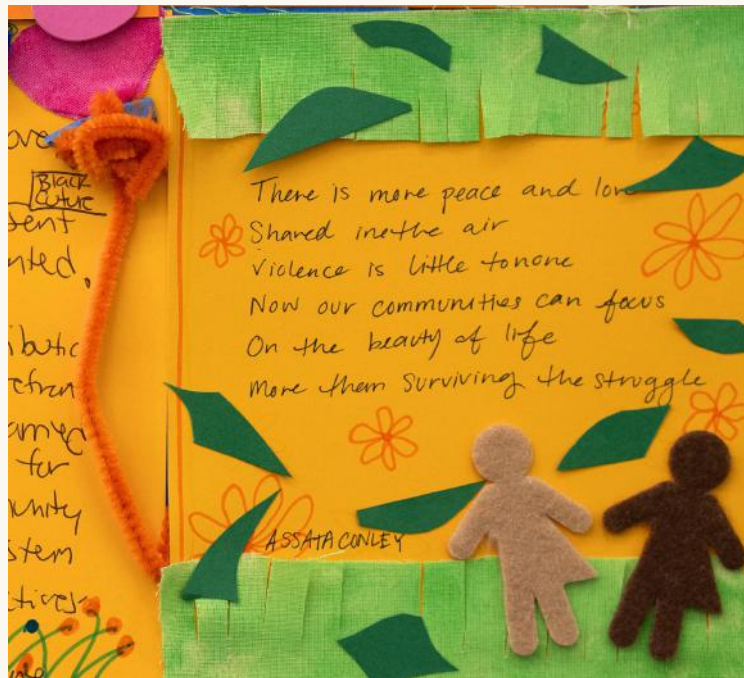
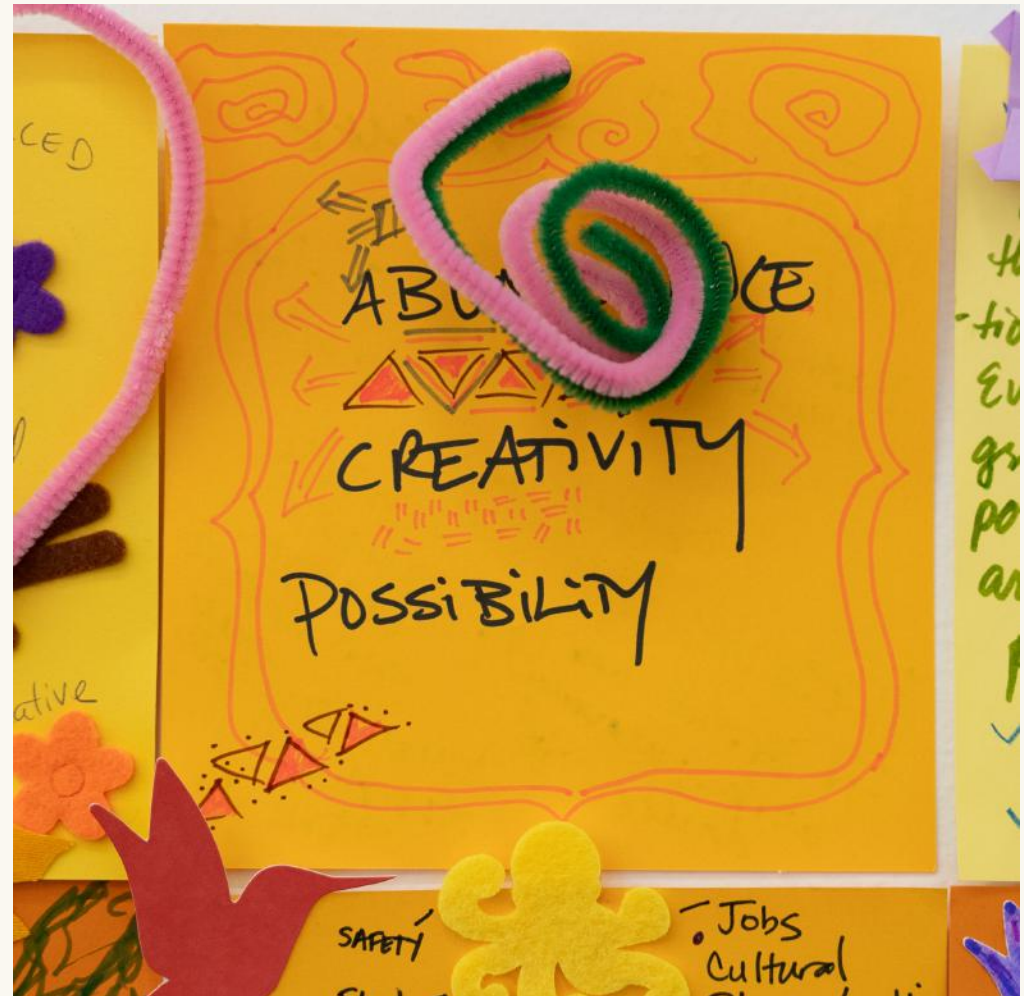
“Significant. Consistent. Not Initiative Based.”



“Every person is given the opportunity for self actualization & self determination. Everyone is able learn, grow & discover their fullest potential.”



“People Power”



**“There is more peace and love shared in the air
Violence is little to none
Now our communities can focus on the beauty of life
more than surviving the struggle”**



Acknowledgements

BACFE Steering Committee Members:

Adam Fong | Hewlett Foundation

Alex Haber | Tao Rising

Esailama G. Artry-Diouf, Ph.D. | SSan Francisco Foundation

Vanessa Camarena-Arredondo | Tao Rising

Venue Partner: The California Endowment

Photography: Hunter Crates

Since 2022, the BACFE's learning journey has been facilitated by Art in Praxis, an organizational development firm facilitating experiences and launching experiments that harness the wisdom of groups to do deep, creative, strategic work while building relationships and culture.

Facilitator & Experience Designer: Jess Solomon

Project Manager & Event Coordinator: Syon Davis

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