

Title

Rhythmix Rising Seas Project

03/19/2024

by Jennifer Radakovich in 2024 Cultural Arts and Arts Programming RFP

id. 45955159

Rhythmix Cultural Works
2513 Blanding Ave
Alameda, California
94501
United States
(510) 865-5060
info@rhythmix.org

Original Submission

03/19/2024

Score n/a

Enter the name of your public art proposal Rhythmix Rising Seas Project

Are you a nonprofit organization or government agency? Yes

Please provide the name of the nonprofit organization or public entity submitting this proposal Rhythmix Cultural Works

Please provide the name of primary point of contact Janet Koike

Provide the daytime phone number for the primary point of contact +15108167695

Provide the email address for the primary point of contact janet@rhythmix.org

Please provide the name of secondary point of contact Jennifer Radakovich

Provide the daytime phone number of the secondary point of contact +15108655060

Provide the email address for the secondary point of contact jennifer@rhythmix.org

Please provide the address for the organization or public entity submitting this proposal 2513 Blanding Avenue
Alameda
California
94501
US
37.76931
-122.23489

Which level of grant are you requesting? \$10,000

Where will the proposed cultural arts or arts programming be held? East End (other than Park Street area)
West End (other than Webster Street area)
Alameda Point
Alameda Landing

Please describe the organization's interest in the project, initial vision for the work, and relevant experience or background (Letter of Interest).

The Rhythmix Rising Seas project will present a series of five events that combine traditional global music, with site-responsive theater and immersive dance, designed to increase climate awareness and engage audiences with the potential impact of rising sea levels around Alameda. Community artist and Rhythmix Cultural Works' (RCW) founder, Janet Koike, will draw from her experience of creating three site-responsive, immersive, multi-disciplinary productions of Island City Waterways to develop the Rising Seas project. The vision for Rising Seas is to utilize the arts to inspire the community to become part of a city-wide effort to mitigate climate change, engage people in imagining a better future, and provide a sense of hope through community dialogue and action. Sharing the stories, music, and dance of island cultures will give a global perspective of people who have a history of living in balance with respect for their natural surroundings. Site-specific stories will tell the history of the land, shedding light on the past, present and future of Alameda's waterfront. The immersive dance score will mix original music with the voices of Alameda residents and sustainability leaders, sharing their thoughts on the joys and concerns of living on an island amid a climate crisis. Rising Seas poses the question, "where do we draw the line?", by acknowledging the fragility of living on an island, surrounded by water and vulnerable to flooding. At the end of each performance, the audience will be invited to tie an upcycled ribbon to a 50' "seaweed" rope banner to symbolize a personal commitment to join the community in drawing a line against climate change.

Over the past sixteen years, RCW has offered a variety of programs designed to engage and reflect the populations that it serves. Programs for underserved and underrepresented youth, programs that are free or low-cost to low-income families, programs that ignite and inspire community involvement, and programs that reflect the culture and diversity of the Bay Area are the foundation of the organization's mission.

RCW presented a series of Island City Waterways site-specific performances in 2016, 2018 and 2022 that featured over 40 performing artists at each event to celebrate Alameda's unique waterfront locations through music, dance, theater and storytelling. This program served thousands of Alameda residents and was offered free to the public to help connect the community with the history of their island city. RCW also brings free performances to city parks and locations near low-income neighborhoods in Alameda to provide easy access to global arts traditions for underserved, intergenerational audiences and the opportunity to see professional artists that reflect their cultural heritage.

Rising Seas will address the topic of climate change through the arts and by partnering with local non-profit organizations to demonstrate pro-environmental strategies that will hopefully empower people to make more environmentally conscious decisions.

Please provide a summary of the overall program being proposed (Concept of Proposed Program).

Rising Seas will highlight a diversity of Bay Area ensembles who share Alameda's concerns about rising sea levels. To convey a global perspective on climate change, artists including Maze Daiko, Gamelan Sekar Jaya, Batey Tambó and Hālau Ka Ua Tuahine, will include traditional dance and music about the sea in their performances, and talk about the impacts of climate change on their cultural traditions and island homes of Japan, Bali, Puerto Rico and Hawaii.

Under the direction of Jeff Raz, three theatrical characters from the past and present will struggle to understand how humanity finds itself in a climate predicament and deliberate about the actions needed for a sustainable future. Beginning with the “big dig” of the Tidal Canal in 1902 that gave birth to the Island City of Alameda, stories of the land beneath their feet will push audiences to see Alameda’s history through a new lens.

Interviews with climate adaptation leaders and local residents expressing the joys and concerns of island life will be used to launch the Rising Seas project and inform the community about climate actions underway before the exhibit and performances begin. Select voices will be blended into a soundscape designed for ODC/Dance choreographer KT Nelson. KT will work with local dancers and artist-created seaweed ropes to indicate rising sea levels and flood lines. Teaching the audience simple movements for drinking, treading water or extending a helping hand, the dancers will provide an immersive art experience that encourages the community to work together.

Please provide a description of each of the components of the overall program, major component activities, timelines and the roles of key personnel, as well as involvement of any other partner organizations (Program Description and Work Plan).

RCW founder and creative director, Janet Koike will be overseeing the Rising Seas project and is currently working individually with local Alameda visual artists, costume designers, and performing artists to conceptualize and realize this climate-driven artistic vision. There will be one gallery exhibition and five free public performances of Rising Seas in 2024-2025.

Developing stories for the first waterfront site is already underway with SF Mime Troupe veteran Ed Holmes and theater-artist Colin Epstein, under the direction of Jeff Raz. RCW plans to collaborate with Costanoan Ohlone-Mutsun and Chumash artist, Kanyon Sayers-Roods to add an indigenous perspective to these stories as well.

Composer, Tina Blaine has started writing new music and recording interviews with climate adaptation leaders and will blend their commentary with the intergenerational voices of local residents into a soundscape designed for the dancers.

ODC/Dance choreographer KT Nelson will start working with local dancers in May 2024 to develop the choreography using artist-created seaweed ropes to indicate rising sea levels and flood lines. The dancers will encourage audience interaction by teaching simple movements to create an immersive art experience.

RCW staff will assist with outreach to community partners, sponsors and administration of schedules, performer contracts, development of collateral materials, press release, ads, PSA's. Staff will also help coordinate

rehearsals in the RCW theater for dancers, actors and musicians and secure sites with the Alameda Recreation and Parks Department (ARPD) and East Bay Regional Parks (EBRPD).

Rhythmix will partner with the City of Alameda's Sustainability and Resilience team, and climate adaptation organizations including CASA (Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda), dedicated to raising awareness and mobilizing the community to achieve Alameda's Climate Action and Resiliency Plan. RCW has already initiated outreach to ARPD, REAP Climate Center, West End Arts District and Radium Presents, in addition to local arts, culture, and business organizations in Alameda and neighboring East Bay communities. Additional partners may include the Alameda Free Library, the West Alameda and Downtown Alameda Business Associations, as well as the Oakland Latino Chamber of Commerce, to strengthen community ties and assist with outreach.

Community partners will have a presence at each of the five events to share information, offer demonstrations and provide climate and sustainability resources, in addition to inclusion on RCW's website and promotional materials. East Bay Regional Parks will send a mobile education unit with materials that support EBRPD climate adaptation strategies.

In 2025, Rhythmix will collaborate with ARPD and EBRPD to present performances at Bohol Circle Immigrant Park, Crab Cove/Crown Beach and De-Pave Park. The Rising Seas project will support the City of Alameda's plans to transform paved tarmac at Alameda Point into a thriving ecological park that adapts to future sea levels with restored wetlands, acting as a new model for Climate Positive resilient landscapes.

Please provide a statement of the program's goals and indication of the steps to be taken to achieve those goals. Response should provide an indication of how progress toward goals would be evaluated or monitored (Goals).

The overriding goal of the Rising Seas Project is to utilize the arts to create opportunities for connection between the community and partnering organizations that facilitate meaningful discourse about climate change issues and reinforce the City of Alameda's updated Climate Action & Resiliency Plan. The Rising Seas website will be posting and circulating interviews with local climate leaders, organizers and activists talking about strategies for climate resiliency and action. Sound bites from these interviews will be woven together with intergenerational voices from the local community to accentuate the soundscape for the dance, "Where do we draw the line?", choreographed by KT Nelson (ODC/Dance).

Each Rising Seas concert, story and dance event aims to inspire the audience to join together to draw a line against climate change. This will be symbolized by the personal action of tying a ribbon onto a 50' rope. This action will give the participants the opportunity to connect with each other and collectively commit to increasing their climate awareness and future actions.

As a series of performances, the project intends to gather individuals and groups around the island of Alameda to experience art that informs and motivates them to band together and support the City of Alameda in climate action. Free public performances at five different waterfront locations around Alameda in 2024-2025, will help make the arts accessible to people who might not ordinarily experience it.

The Rising Seas project plans to serve diverse audiences from Alameda and neighboring East Bay communities with a focus on families and youth. By presenting the music, dance and stories of international island cultures on the island of Alameda, Rising Seas will share different cultural perspectives of island life and enhance our understanding and appreciation of diverse ethnicities. Hopefully, this project will metaphorically bring our islands closer together with the reminder that we are all connected by the same water.

Over the grant period, RCW will engage volunteers to conduct on-site surveys with participants and post-event electronic surveys for RSVP registrants of the events to determine the quality of their experience. RCW will also endeavor to collect relevant data to analyze the "Rising Seas" impact on the non-profit organizations referenced above through its partnerships.

Please provide the proposed program budget. Submission can include a combination of narrative and table(s) that convey how fund dollars would be dedicated to the various components of the proposed program and its administration. Response should also indicate whether/how any other funding sources would be leveraged to implement the program (2 page maximum).

[**Rhythmix_RisingSeasBudget_2024-25.pdf**](#)

Please provide a schedule for your proposal. Submission should include the proposed date(s) that the cultural arts or arts programming will be held along with key milestones leading up to the specified date(s). The submission should also include a proposed program for the the cultural arts or arts programming (e.g. schedule of event(s)).

Please provide a description of the proposer's organization, including its history, track record for providing art and cultural programing, and ability to carry out the work proposed (Organizational Capacity).

Rhythmix Cultural Works (RCW) was established in 1999 as the 501(c)3 umbrella for the RhythMix world music ensemble and cultural exchange programs to Cuba and Japan. Since 2007, RCW has served as Alameda's only cultural arts center and a significant arts presenter for the island, serving more than 200,000 people with performances of world music, dance, theater, exhibits and community events. RCW has a strong track record in presenting free and meaningful programs to the public at offsite locations as well as free or affordable productions at its theater on Blanding Avenue. Examples of RCW's programming include: Island City Waterways (ICW), is a free site-specific performance series offered in 2016, 2018 and 2022 that each featured 40+ performing artists to celebrate Alameda's unique waterfront locations and history through music, dance, theater and storytelling. A series of eight Love Our Island Art Walks were offered free to the public in 2018-19 to activate Alameda's business districts with visual art installations in empty storefronts accompanied by live performances to increase pedestrian traffic. In 2021-22, five ICW Art Walks featured Alameda's socio-cultural history on Park Street, Webster Street and the former Naval Air Station. The Performance, Art & Learning (PAL) program offers multicultural assemblies to K-5 elementary students with over 100,000 students served throughout Alameda County since 2012. Partnering with Alameda's Recreation and Parks Dept, RCW presented four concerts and two free festivals celebrating Asian, Pacific Islander, Latin and Indigenous global arts and culture, with plans for additional festivals in 2024.

Please upload videos, images or other materials relevant to the proposer's organization, including its history, track record for providing art and cultural programing, and ability to carry out the work proposed.

[**Rhythmix_Rising_Seas_Work_Sample_URL_Links.pdf**](#)

Please also provide an organizational chart showing personnel (2 page maximum).

[**RCW_Org_Chart_2024_v3.pdf**](#)

By checking this box, checked you are attesting to the following: I, as the primary contact of the organization or public entity, solemnly swear that I have reviewed and completed this application in its entirety and fully understand its contents. The answers given to each and every question, any information or any and all documentation furnished for processing the grant application, or otherwise contained herein are full and true to the best of my knowledge and belief under the penalty of perjury.

Signature of primary contact of organization or public entity

Title of signatory (e.g. Executive Director) Jennifer Radakovich

Rhythmix Rising Seas Project Schedule & Key Milestones 2024-2025

Key Milestones: March – June 2024: Develop script and dance choreography, compose and rehearse music, record and edit interviews with local residents and climate adaptation leaders to post on RCW website for project launch. Rising Seas website development, Creation and installation of artwork for Rising Seas exhibition, design and distribution of first round of collateral materials, social media, press release, ads, PSA's.

Event #1: June 8, 2024: Rising Seas Gallery Exhibition Opening in the Rhythmix K Gallery and Public Preview of the Rising Seas Project in the Rhythmix Cultural Works courtyard.

Key Milestones: June – August 2024: Additional Dance, Music and Theater Rehearsals, distribution of collateral materials, press release, ads, PSA's, dress rehearsals with all performers.

Event #2: August 24, 2024: Rising Seas Exhibition Closing and Kick-off of Rising Seas performances, at a commercial waterfront location behind RCW adjacent to the Park Street Bridge in Alameda. (Confirmation of site pending construction schedule. Rhythmix parking lot is the alternate site if Tidewater location is not accessible).

Key Milestones: September – December 2024: Confirmation and scheduling of all artists and secure artist contracts for 2025 Rising Seas performances. Confirm all waterfront locations for 2025 performances with Alameda Recreation and Parks Department and East Bay Regional Parks to present performances at Bohol Circle Immigrant Park, Crab Cove/Crown Beach and De-Pave Park.

Key Milestones: January – April 2025: Additional Script Development for May, June, July 2025 waterfront locations, Dance, Music and Theater Rehearsals, distribution of collateral materials, press releases, ads, PSA's, dress rehearsals with all performers. Confirm accessibility, parking, signage, registration, etc. for all waterfront sites.

Event #3: May 2025 Bohol Circle Immigrant Park, 2901 5th Street, Alameda, CA.

Event #4: June 2025 De-Pave Park, Alameda Point, Alameda, CA (Seaplane Lagoon Promenade is the alternate site if De-Pave Park is not accessible)

Event #5: July 2025 Crab Cove/Crown Beach, 1252 McKay Ave, Alameda, CA.

2024-2025 Rhythmix Rising Seas Budget: (June 8, Aug 24, 2024) + (May, June, July 2025) Email: info@rhythmix.org. Phone: 510-865-5060		
INCOME	Source	
Received	Individual Donations	\$13,900.00
Received	William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	\$10,000.00
Received	Kiwanis Foundation of Alameda	\$1,000.00
Received	Taiko Ventures	\$2,500.00
Committed	City Alameda Recreation & Parks Dept	\$5,000.00
Committed	Bloomberg Philanthropies	\$20,000.00
Projected	Business Sponsorships	\$10,000.00
Projected	Zellerbach Family Foundation	\$15,000.00
Projected	City of Alameda Public Art Fund	\$10,000.00
In-Kind	Theater Rental (10 days x \$1,000 for rehearsals)	\$10,000.00
In-Kind	Creative Director	\$3,500.00
TOTAL BUDGET		\$100,900.00
	TOTAL RAISED as of March 2024	\$65,900.00
EXPENSE	OPERATING COSTS - Not Including Payroll Taxes or Benefits	
Description	Professional Fees	
Creative Director	(Janet Koike, In-Kind)	\$3,500.00
Script Writer	Ed Holmes, SF Mime Troupe	\$2,000.00
Lead Choreographer	KT Nelson/ODC/Dance Choreography and Rehearsals	\$4,500.00
Director	Jeff Razz	\$3,000.00
Sound Designer	Composition & Sound Design for Dancers	\$2,000.00
Dancers	\$30/hour x 90hrs= \$2700 x 6 Dancers Includes development rehearsals and 5 performances	\$16,200.00
Actors	\$30/hour x 60hrs = \$1800 x 2 Actors Includes rehearsals and 4 performances	\$5,400.00
Musicians	Music Ensembles for ICW Park Performances (4 events x \$2500)	\$8,000.00
Prop Design and Construction + materials	Development of Props for Dancers & Audience participation	\$1,800.00
Costumes	Costume Design and Materials \$250/each x 8 (6 dancers + 2 Actors)	\$2,000.00
Stage manager	Stage Mgr Fee \$300 x 5 events	\$1,500.00
Sound technician	\$500 x 5 events	\$2,500.00

Sound Equipment Rental	\$1000 x 5 events	\$5,000.00
Photo documentation	\$350 Photographer Fee x 5 events	\$1,750.00
Video Documentation & Editing	Video Recording & Editing: \$1000 x 5 events	\$5,000.00
PR/Marketing/Ads + Collateral	\$1000 x 5 events	\$5,000.00
Social Media & Website Management	100 hours x \$25/hour	\$2,500.00
Project Coordinator	Responsible for Scheduling, Contracts, Payments, staffing at events, etc. 200 hours x \$25/hour	\$5,000.00
Theater Rental (In-Kind)	Theater Rental & Cleaning (10 days x \$1,000 for rehearsals)	\$10,000.00
Stipends for climate orgs	\$150 x 10 organizations	\$1,500.00
Worshkops	Hands-on climate demonstration/ workshops: \$300 x 10	\$3,000.00
Hospitality	150 x 5 events	\$750.00
Sub-Total		\$91,900.00
Contingency 10%		\$9,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$100,900.00



RHYTHMIX CULTURAL WORKS

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART • FEBRUARY 2024

