



Press Release

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SEEFest Receives California Arts Council “Local Impact” Grant *State funds extend the reach of the arts to local underserved populations*

[LOS ANGELES, CA] – The California Arts Council, a state agency, announced its plans to award a grant to the South East European Film Festival, SEEFest, as part of its Local Impact program.

The Local Impact program fosters equity, access, and opportunity by providing project and partnership support for small arts organizations with operating budgets under \$1 million. All projects extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations that have limited access to the arts.

With support from the California Arts Council, South East European Film Festival will celebrate cultures and activate community participants of South East Europeans living in California to develop and express their own creative and artistic abilities through cross-cultural programs and workshops, culminating with the weeklong film festival in May 2018.

“SEEFest is honored to be among the 130 organizations that were awarded Local Impact grants from the California Arts Council,” said Vera Mijojlic, Founder and Director of SEEFest. “This critical funding will enable us to celebrate SEE cultures and engage local communities with programs that transcend language and borders through a cinematic journey halfway across the globe which in turn helps us better understand challenges in our own backyard.”

SEEFest is one of just 130 grantees chosen for this highly competitive program, which received applications from 203 organizations statewide. The news of SEEFest’s grant was featured as part of a larger announcement from the California Arts Council, which can be viewed online at <http://arts.ca.gov/news/pressreleases.php>.

“The Local Impact program eliminates barriers keeping low-income, rural, and historically underserved communities from equal access to arts programs,” said Donn K. Harris, Chair of the California Arts Council. SEEFest’s project helps to further the Arts Council’s vision of enriching the lives of all Californians through arts participation, while allowing the local community to access their own creativity.”

To view a complete listing of all Local Impact grantees, visit http://arts.ca.gov/programs/files/CAC_LocalImpact_Grantees_2016-17_FINAL.pdf.

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SEEFest educates about and promotes cultural diversity of South East Europe through its annual presentations of films from this region and year-round screenings and programs. SEEFest organizes conferences and retrospectives, serves as the cultural hub and resource for scholars and filmmakers, and creates opportunities for cultural exchange between Southern California and South East Europe. It was founded in 2006 by Vera Mijojlić, long-time film critic and cultural entrepreneur.

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.