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KERN DANCE ALLIANCE AWARDED ONE of SEVEN STATE GRANTS for CULTURAL ARTS PROJECT

KERN COUNTY, CA.- June 20, 2024 - [Kern Dance Alliance](#) (KDA) announced that it has received one of seven state grant awards from the [California Humanities](#), a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities, for their Taste of Dance program that celebrates Kern County's cultural diversity through culinary and performing arts. **This is the first time, since 2019, the California Humanities has awarded a Humanities for All Project Grant applicant from the City of Bakersfield.**

[Taste of Dance: A Delectable and Rhythmic Exploration of Culture in California's Central Valley](#) will produce a series of free events will take place at local culinary institutions, parks, and festivals that will cultivate awareness, preserve heritage, and celebrate the contributions that four immigrant communities— **Basque, Filipino, Punjabi, and Italian** —have made to the rich cultural diversity of Kern County.

Taste of Dance will feature Immersive and engaging activities developed by community partners, including food tastings, dance and music performances, workshops, lectures, and discussions, that will enable them to share their histories, cultures, values, and stories. By providing accessible and inclusive experiences and making special efforts to engage local high school youth and people with disabilities, **the project will help to create a welcoming community for all Bakersfield residents.**

Taste of Dance started as a [pilot project created by KDA Board Member, Noor EIKereamy](#), in 2023. Due to the success of the program, the KDA Board agreed to operate the program again in 2024 which tasked KDA Executive Director, Andrea Hansen, with the role of securing funding for the project. Hansen applied to the California Humanities in January 2024 and KDA received notification they had been funded with a **\$24,900 grant this spring.**

Andrea Hansen noted, *"KDA is proud to secure state funding to support local arts projects and to boost our economy. Taste of Dance celebrates not just culture, but also promotes community, education, and an appreciation for the diversity in Kern County. With assistance from the California Humanities grant, KDA will be*

able to create more arts jobs that will pay artists and culture bearers to help our community grow stronger and more unified.”

KDA is one of seven organizations in the state of California to receive an award. **Less than 10% of all of the applicants were selected to receive a 2024 grant which totaled \$174,405.** KDA will join an exclusive list of awardees that represent projects up and down the state.

Taste of Dance has also received funding from the Arts Council of Kern County and KDA is seeking additional sponsorships for the program to ensure the entirety of the Taste of Dance program is offered for free to the community.

**TASTE of DANCE GRANT AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT
PRESS KIT:** [Taste of Dance Press Kit](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.kerndance.org/TOD

Email info@kerndance.org

ABOUT CALIFORNIA HUMANITIES

The California Humanities’ Project Grant program, a branch of our Humanities for All competitive grant program, provides funding twice a year for public humanities projects of up to two years duration from the award date. Launched in 2016, the program has made 170 awards, totaling \$3.2 million. Learn more about the Humanities for All Grant Program [here](#).

[California Humanities](#), a statewide nonprofit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities, promotes the humanities—focused on ideas, conversation, and learning—as relevant, meaningful ways to understand the human condition and connect people to each other in order to help strengthen California. California Humanities has provided grants and programs across the state since 1975. To learn more, visit calhum.org, or like and follow on Instagram, Facebook, X, YouTube, and LinkedIn.



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