



The San Diego Women's Foundation to Present \$181,650 to Five New Community Partners at it

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The San Diego Women's Foundation will award \$181,650 to five new community partners at its annual Grants Celebration on June 7, 2011, at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park. Grants recognized programs that provide accessible artistic and cultural experiences that engage and educate underserved K-12 youth, while honoring the diversity of the San Diego region. More than 250 people are expected to attend the community-wide celebration.

This year's awardees, now regarded as community partners, are: The San Diego Center for Children: "Therapeutic Music Program" (\$45,000); Playwrights Project: "Writing Lives" (\$29,650); San Diego Opera: "Words and Music" (\$50,000); California Center for the Arts Escondido: "My Story: Literacy Through the Arts" (\$25,000); and Eveoke Dance Theatre: "REFUGE in the Arts" (\$32,000).

These grants mark the 11th year of granting for The San Diego Women's Foundation and moves the organization past the \$2 million mark in donations to 58 nonprofit programs since its founding. "Our focus on Arts & Culture recognized several outstanding community partners that connect underserved children with artist and cultural experiences," said Cindy Olmstead, president of The San Diego Women's Foundation. "These partners have demonstrated a true commitment to K-12 youth, and the results of their programs have enriched the lives of these children as well as their communities."

Shari Fisler, executive director of the Ocean Discovery Institute, one of the community partners funded in 2010, noted, "The San Diego Women's Foundation support has been instrumental in transforming a community by empowering youth and families to protect nature in their neighborhood. Funding enabled Ocean Discovery Institute to expand our environmental efforts by tripling the number of volunteers to over 1,000 and increasing the diversity of those engaged. Thanks to these efforts, an environmentally and socially degraded canyon has been transformed into a healthy habitat that the community now enjoys and protects as their own."

Peter Bergstrom, executive director at Camp Stevens, a 2010 community partner, added, "Thanks to our partnership with the San Diego Women's Foundation, Camp Stevens has developed and introduced a new environmental education program for junior high and high school students. *SEEDS: Eco-Logic for Teens* empowers, educates and transforms students in a dynamic and enriching outdoor classroom. *SEEDS* will help develop a generation of empowered environmental stewards committed to preserving natural spaces and resources."

Each year The San Diego Women's Foundation, a supporting organization of The San Diego Foundation, enters a process of review for grants in specific interest areas, which include Arts and Culture, Education, Health and Human Services, and Environment. The San Diego Women's Foundation educates and inspires women to engage in significant and sustainable philanthropy to strengthen the San Diego community.

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About The San Diego Women's Foundation

Founded as a supporting organization of [The San Diego Foundation \(http://www.sdfoundation.org/\)](http://www.sdfoundation.org/), The San Diego Women's Foundation has grown to an organization of more than 200 members. Each member has committed to an annual contribution of \$2,000 for a minimum of five years and has one vote to determine where grants will be awarded each year. The power of many women giving together has made a significant impact on the San Diego Region. Since it was founded in 2000, the Foundation has now exceeded \$2 million in grants to 58 nonprofit programs. For more information, please visit www.sdwomensfoundation.org (<http://www.sdwomensfoundation.org/>) or call (619) 235-2300.