

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
November 21, 2024

COASTAL STORIES GRANT PROGRAM 2024

Project No. 24-039-01

Project Managers: Vanessa Aczon, Lexi Caruthers, Virgilio Cuasay, Sam Jenniches, Erica Johnson, Katie Nichols, Amanda Townsel, Fanny Yang

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Consideration and authorization to disburse up to \$1,301,915 to nine non-profit organizations for Coastal Stories projects that will create storytelling installations, murals, and/or other interpretive materials that represent diverse communities' perspectives that historically have been excluded from narratives of California's coast and publicly accessible lands.

LOCATION: Statewide (see Exhibit 1).

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [Project Location Maps](#)

Exhibit 2: [Coastal Stories 2024 Grant Round Announcement](#)

Exhibit 3: [Project Letters](#)

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution and findings.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes grants of a total amount not to exceed one million three hundred one thousand nine hundred fifteen dollars (\$1,301,915) to nine non-profit organizations for Coastal Stories projects that will create storytelling installations, murals, and/or other interpretive materials that represent diverse communities' perspectives that historically have been excluded from narratives of California's coast and publicly accessible lands ("the projects"). The nine grantees, grant amounts, and projects are as follows (presented in alphabetical order by grantee name):

- Crystal Cove Conservancy: One hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) to implement the Crystal Cove Japanese American Community Interpretation Project, which will engage a Community Advisory Committee to develop and install interpretive panels, a

modular digital exhibit, and a Japanese friendship garden; and to prepare final plans for a food garden representing the farming history and plans for programming to share the story of Japanese families prior to World War II at Crystal Cove and their forced removal and incarceration during World War II, at the Crystal Cove Historic District in Orange County.

- Friends of Friendship Park: One hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000) to implement the Friendship Park People’s Histories Project, which includes planning, designing, displaying, and installing a multi-component installation that amplifies cross-border and cross-cultural narratives, particularly focusing on Mexican-American and Kumeyaay communities; and providing, through an online platform, more in-depth installation information and interactive content in English, Spanish, and possibly Kumeyaay. The installations will be located on either Monument Mesa in Friendship Park or at an alternative location to be determined later, fostering dialogue and celebrating friendship across borders, in San Diego County.
- Ink People Center for the Arts, fiscal sponsor for Humboldt Asian and Pacific Islanders in Solidarity: One hundred seventy-four thousand nine hundred sixty-five dollars (\$174,965) to implement the Eureka Chinatown Monument and Programming project, which will design and install a permanent monument in Eureka and create a virtual tour, print maps, an illustrated children’s book, and community programming to tell the story of Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans who made Eureka their home, but who were forcibly driven out in 1885 due to anti-Chinese discrimination, in Humboldt County.
- Petaluma River Park Foundation: Fifty-seven thousand one-hundred twenty dollars (\$57,120) to implement the Petaluma River Park Coastal Stories project, which will research, develop, and design art installations for the Petaluma River Park that tell the experiences of three communities, Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI), Coast Miwok, and Latinx communities, with ties to Petaluma.
- R.A.C.E. Matters: Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to implement the Untold Coastal Stories project, which will create four bench murals with QR codes linking to multilingual audio recordings and other digital content on a project website that shares the stories of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities who live, work, and recreate on the Central Coast of California, including African American surfers and fisherfolk, Latino farmworkers, and the yak titʷu titʷu yak tiʰini (YTT) Northern Chumash Tribe, in San Luis Obispo County.
- Social Good Fund, fiscal sponsor for the Brower Dellums Institute for Sustainable Policy Studies and Action: One hundred seventy-two thousand eight hundred dollars (\$172,800) to implement the “We Are All Here; Town Stories” project, which will present stories of deep East Oakland communities, including Indigenous, Chinese, Black, and Latinx communities, through community engagement, story development, and embedding digital content into 14 interpretive signs along 0.8 miles of the San Leandro (Lisjan) Creek Greenway Trail, in Oakland, Alameda County.

- Sonoma Ecology Center, fiscal sponsor for Cradle Basket: One hundred sixty-seven thousand four hundred dollars (\$167,400) to install an art installation comprised of five hand-carved boulders, produce accompanying audio/visual content, and create programming for tours that share stories of five tribes along a pathway to a future Indigenous Environmental and Cultural Learning Center along the Napa River, in Napa County.
- Trust for Public Land: One hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$180,000) to implement the Buchanan Street Mall Memory Walk: Interpretive Signage Project, which will design and install eight decorative columns and accompanying interpretive panels that collect and share stories of San Francisco's Fillmore community, including its rich history and culture as a vibrant Black neighborhood, along a five-block pedestrian walkway and park in San Francisco.
- Xa Kako Dile: One hundred seventy-four thousand six hundred thirty dollars (\$174,630) to install both a mural and a six-panel kiosk, showcasing plant names, tribal territory maps, and original Pomo artwork at the Xa Kako Dile: indigenous garden in the unincorporated community of Caspar; and install five interpretative installations, either signage or kiosks, at partner locations in collaboration with the Mendocino Art Center, Noyo Center for Marine Science, Mendocino Land Trust, and the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, in Mendocino County.

Prior to commencement of each project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding.
4. Evidence that all permits and approvals required to implement the project have been obtained.
5. Any other applicable agreements determined necessary for the project by the Executive Officer.

Findings:

Based on the accompanying staff recommendation and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding implementing a system of public accessways to and along the California coast, including San Francisco Bay; and Chapter 4.5 of Division 21, regarding the resource and recreational goals of the San Francisco Bay Area.
2. The proposed projects are consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

3. The nine grantees are nonprofit organizations organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.
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STAFF RECOMMENDATION

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Staff recommends the Conservancy authorize disbursement of up to \$1,301,915 to nine non-profit organizations for coastal storytelling projects that will create storytelling installations, murals, and/or other interpretive materials that represent diverse communities' perspectives that historically have been excluded from narratives of California's coast and publicly accessible lands. These projects will enhance public access to lands within the Conservancy's jurisdiction by making the outdoors more welcoming to people and communities that historically and systemically face barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast. Communities who have been historically excluded from narratives of California's coast and publicly accessible lands will lead and engage in the projects.

The priorities of the Coastal Stories grant program are to:

- Promote a sense of belonging in outdoor spaces by presenting perspectives and/or contributions of historically excluded communities.
- Engage representatives of historically excluded communities to develop and share their coastal perspectives and stories.
- Improve educational content in California's outdoor spaces by correcting one-sided histories, retelling stories in inclusive ways, and developing new content that shares untold stories.
- Use creative forms of community engagement to develop storytelling products.
- Create storytelling products that are free and accessible to all members of the public, including historically excluded communities.

The projects will engage community members to develop and tell their stories in their preferred format. The proposed projects will add storytelling and interpretive elements to existing public accessways, trails, interpretive centers, and other public spaces.

The Request for Proposals for the 2024-2025 Coastal Stories grant round was released on February 5, 2024. The Conservancy received 59 pre-proposal requests for approximately \$8.1 million in Conservancy funding. From the submitted pre-proposals, the Conservancy staff invited 17 full project proposals that best met the grant program's priorities and eligibility; 15 of those invited submitted full proposals. Nine projects were selected for funding that will develop and share powerful stories, demonstrate effective partnerships between communities and landowners, use creative forms of storytelling, and have a plan for ongoing maintenance. Staff recommend funding the following nine projects for the 2024-2025 Coastal Stories grant round. The projects are arranged alphabetically by the grantee's name. Each project summary includes the grantee's name, project name, recommended funding amount, geographic region of the participants, project site location, and a brief project description.

Crystal Cove Conservancy

\$150,000

Crystal Cove Japanese American Community Interpretation Project

South Coast

This project will tell the story of Issei and Nisei (first- and second-generation Japanese immigrants, respectively) families that leased farmland along the Orange County coast and came together to build the Laguna Beach Japanese Language School, now part of the Crystal Cove Historic District. Collected photos, documents, and first-hand accounts will offer a window into life prior to World War II at Crystal Cove, and the impact of the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese American families during World War II. Although the Crystal Cove Conservancy (CCC) already restored the historic school and developed traditional interpretive historical exhibits, the current storytelling lacks context, depth, and celebration. This motivated the CCC to engage a Community Advisory Committee, comprised of Southern California Japanese community members, to explore how this story could be told more fully. The Community Advisory Committee has already engaged in the planning of the project and will lead storytelling development and project implementation.

The project will: (1) develop and install permanent interpretive panels to replace the outdated existing panels at the Japanese Language School (JLS); (2) develop and implement a modular digital exhibit that can be accessed both at JLS and remotely; (3) develop and implement a Japanese friendship garden adjacent the JLS; (4) develop final plans for a food garden representing the farming history; and (5) develop a “programs plan” to identify future programming that increases access to and visitation of JLS by Japanese American and Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

Site Description: The project will be implemented at the Crystal Cove Historic District, a 12.3-acre coastal portion of the 2,791-acre Crystal Cove State Park. The federally listed Historic District is an enclave of 46 vintage rustic coastal cottages originally built as a seaside colony in the 1930-40s and nestled around the mouth of Los Trancos Creek. Today, 37 of the 45 cottages and a historic Japanese language schoolhouse have been restored and turned into a national model for low-cost coastal accommodation and a setting for an idyllic outdoor classroom where underserved youth can study how our coastlines are changing. Crystal Cove State Park provides essential access to a three-mile stretch of mostly undeveloped coastline, 3,000 acres of backcountry habitat, and an 1,100-acre State Marine Conservation Area that attracts as many as 3 million diverse visitors each year. The project will center the Japanese Language School which is perched next to the cottage check-in office overlooking the Historic District at Crystal Cove State Park, a National Register of Historic Places Site. The Japanese Language School is unique to Orange County and the Pacific Coast.

Grant Application Qualifications: The CCC has successfully managed multiple grants from the Conservancy to preserve and restore infrastructure and enhance public access to the Crystal Cove Historic District, including grants totaling \$27.5 million for the restoration of cottages within the Historic District that serve as low-cost coastal accommodation and visitor serving amenities. With additional help from other supporters, the CCC has successfully completed the restoration of 38 cottages to date, with an additional 8 cottages underway as part of Phase III of the restoration. Additionally, the CCC has successfully completed projects to expand wheelchair

access at Crystal Cove and provide coastal experiences for students from low-income schools from 5 Southern California counties. As the official non-profit partner of the Crystal Cove State Park, the Crystal Cove Conservancy was awarded a concession contract set to expire or renew in 2056, which allows them to manage the cottages, foodservice operations, and shuttles in the park unit.

Friends of Friendship Park

\$175,000

Friendship Park People’s Histories Project

South Coast

This project will tell the story of Friendship Park, a historic cross-border meeting place on the ancestral land of the Kumeyaay, located at the U.S.-Mexico border. Through centering the voices of the Kumeyaay and Fronterizo communities (Chicano, Mexican-American, and Mexican), the project will highlight the rich history of cultural encounters at the park, which is a place that has served as a gathering point for generations.

First, Friends of Friendship Park (FOFP), in collaboration with California State Parks and informed by community input, will develop an installation with multiple components that showcases the diverse stories of Friendship Park and this westernmost section of the US-Mexico Border. This installation will explore the park’s role in fostering cross-cultural encounters and will incorporate multimedia elements, such as photography, audio, and written histories. The installation will first be displayed in San Diego's South Bay before being installed at either Friendship Park’s Monument Mesa or an alternative location to be determined later. Second, this project will leverage an existing online platform to provide the public with free, in-depth information about each installation through QR codes as well as interactive content in English and Spanish. Third, before permanent installation, the installations will travel and be displayed in southern San Diego County at publicly accessible locations to ensure widespread access to these stories.

This project preserves and amplifies stories that risk being erased and celebrates the park's role in providing a sense of belonging and fostering friendships despite physical borders.

Site Description: Friendship Park, located within Border Field State Park, sits at the U.S.-Mexico border and serves as a symbolic space for connection and division. To the east, the park is bordered by a Friendship Garden of native plants, while to the west, it meets the Pacific Ocean. The park’s centerpiece is the monument marking the international boundary between the U.S. and Mexico. Monument Mesa, on the U.S. side, offers ocean views and is the proposed location for the Coastal Stories installation.

Monument Mesa is accessible through Border Field State Park, which offers free access for pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians. However, a \$7 parking fee applies for those arriving by car. To improve access, FOFP will host special events where parking fees will be covered, and the traveling installations will be displayed at locations open to the public free of charge.

Should installation at Monument Mesa become temporarily or permanently infeasible, the grantee will identify an alternative and appropriate location for installation in coastal Southern San Diego County.

Grant Applicant Qualifications: FOFP was established in 2008, and has a strong track record of managing multiple grants and donations. FOFP has strong ties to communities whose stories will be featured in this project, particularly the Mexican-American community in San Diego’s South Bay. FOFP’s Board of Directors and staff include members who are from the area and actively engaged with local individuals and organizations. In carrying out the project, FOFP will convene a Community Advisory Council, comprising members of the community, as well as hire artists and designers from the area. Where FOFP lacks direct representation, such as with the Kumeyaay community, it is committed to meaningful engagement with community leaders in the project’s planning and design. FOFP will compensate community members who participate in project design and implementation. By spring 2025, FOFP anticipates having one or more Kumeyaay representatives on its Board of Directors. FOFP has a longstanding partnership with California State Parks, and together they have successfully collaborated on a range of initiatives, including the annual Fandango Fronterizo bi-national concert and La Posada Sin Fronteras.

Ink People Center for the Arts, fiscal sponsor for Humboldt Asian and Pacific Islanders in Solidarity (HAPI) Eureka Chinatown Monument and Programming **\$174,965**
North Coast

This project will tell the story of the Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans who made Eureka their home but were forcibly driven out in 1885. Although these communities played a vital role in the economic and social communities of Humboldt County, other residents with anti-Chinese sentiments pushed them out of Eureka and most of Humboldt County from 1885 to 1906. Some anti-Chinese ordinances remained in place until the 1950s.

The major storytelling component of this project is the design and installation of the Eureka Chinatown Monument structure, which will be located on a public city corner and is expected to include a plaza, monument sculpture, moon gate arch, and interpretive displays. The Eureka Chinatown Monument will serve as a site to share this story with all visitors and residents of Humboldt County. The project will also create printed maps and a website with a virtual tour of the historical Chinatown and the new monument. QR codes on interpretive panels will link to additional content on the website. Local visitor centers, such as the Clarke Historical Museum, will distribute the printed maps. The project will also create, print, and publish an illustrated children’s book about Eureka’s historical Chinatown with the Press at Cal Poly Humboldt, and will provide a 30-book classroom set to all elementary schools in the City of Eureka, and other schools as funds allow. The book will be available for free online through the Cal Poly’s Digital Commons website, which provides global accessibility.

The project includes conducting outreach to Asian-American children and families through school tours, the children’s illustrated book, and festivals and celebrations at the monument site. Outreach and engagement efforts to expand project reach post-construction will be funded using other, non-Conservancy funds. HAPI will lead the project, with a subset of HAPI called the Eureka Chinatown Project Monument Committee that is comprised of majority Asian-American residents of Humboldt County designing the monument. Stories and feedback from the community have already been collected through town halls, festivals, and small gatherings.

Project partners include the City of Eureka, the Moon family (living descendants of one of the originally expelled residents, Charlie Moon), and the Moon Creek Corporation.

Site Description: The Eureka Chinatown Monument will be installed on an under-utilized street corner owned by the City of Eureka at the intersection of 1st and E Streets. The site has historical significance as it is two blocks south of the center of the former Eureka Chinatown. The site is within view of the bayside warehouses where the Chinese people were imprisoned while waiting for the tide to turn so that the ships taking them to San Francisco could navigate Humboldt Bay. The City of Eureka, which has supported all elements of the Eureka Chinatown Project, has committed to managing and maintaining the monument once it is installed. This site is an open and public plaza; there will be no entry fees, and docent-led or self-guided tours are also free. The monument site will be designed to be accessible to visually- and mobility-challenged visitors.

Grant Application Qualifications: Ink People Center for the Arts has existed as a grassroots arts and culture organization in Humboldt County for 45 years. Ink People Center for the Arts provides fiscal sponsorship, financial oversight, and community support. Ink People Center for the Arts received a Coastal Stories grant in 2023; and, for decades, has successfully administered several federal, state, and community-based grants. Ink People Center for the Arts manages over 100 DreamMaker projects with a 2024 annual budget of \$2,635,203. HAPI is one of their DreamMaker projects, meaning it is a self-directed project created by people with a dream of making their community a better place through Art and Cultural engagement.

In 2019, Taiko Swing Humboldt (TSH) was formed; and, in 2021, TSH evolved into the Humboldt Asians and Pacific Islanders in Solidarity (HAPI). Taiko Swing Humboldt coordinated a week-long series of programs that explored the history of the WWII Japanese-American incarceration camps through swing music and taiko drumming, collaborating with San Jose Taiko. For the Eureka Chinatown Monument and Programming Project, HAPI has raised \$176,000 from individual donations, ranging from \$10 to tens of thousands of dollars and has been awarded California Humanities for All and the Humboldt Area Foundation’s Strategy grants.

Petaluma River Park Foundation	\$57,120
Petaluma River Park Coastal Stories	SF Bay

This project will share the powerful and untold stories of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI), Coast Miwok, and Latinx communities that helped shape the place and culture of Petaluma and what is now known as the Petaluma River Park (River Park).

Three storylines emerged through the Petaluma River Park Foundation’s (PRPF) community-led engagement process:

- The little-known legacy of Chinese immigrants’ contributions and experiences of racism during the creation of the City of Petaluma during the late 1800s and early 1900s, their use and development of the Petaluma River and the role they played in dredging the tidal slough and creating the peninsula portion of the River Park.

- The culture and experiences of the Coast Miwok (today included within the federally recognized Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria), original stewards of the entire watershed and whose ancestral land encompassed the current River Park site.
- The untold history of Latinx people in Petaluma and their status as the city’s largest immigrant population.

These coastal stories will be researched and then interpreted by artists who will design installations for the River Park. All installations, which may be two dimensional or sculptural, will be accessible to people of differing abilities. In addition to researching and designing future physical installations for River Park, stories will be told via live events, on the Petaluma River Park website, and through periodic publications of PRPF. Web content will be highly creative and interactive, utilizing state-of-the-art technology to provide an immersive user experience that will deepen educational engagement and provide accessible, multi-sensory, remote learning opportunities. To encourage participation by artists, researchers, and community members who will contribute stories, the project costs will include childcare services and onsite mental health (as a group) services. The mental health services are needed because of the high potential for people to experience trauma as they immerse themselves in the past experiences of their community in Petaluma.

This award will augment an ongoing Conservancy planning grant to design the River Park, providing resources to fund development of the Coastal Stories content and design of future installations.

Site Description: The project site is within and adjacent to the Petaluma River, which constitutes 12 miles of a 19-mile tidal slough that connects to the California Coast by flowing through the Petaluma Marsh into the northwest portion of the San Francisco Bay. While the River Park is in an early phase of design, the site offers a 1.4-mile loop trail open to the public from dawn to dusk and serves over 2,000 visitors each month through free, open use and special programming. The River Park is currently undergoing planning to complete park design and construction, including equitable public access, additional trails, and habitat restoration work, and is anticipated to be completed by mid-2028.

Grantee Application Qualifications: PRPF is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that formed in 2019 with the intent of acquiring the project site to transform it into a public park. PRPF executive staff have decades of combined experience in nonprofit management, project delivery, branding, and philanthropic campaigns. PRFP is managing a \$1,395,000 planning grant from the Conservancy for the River Park project. PRFP also has a grant from the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District for park planning and will fund some construction of the River Park.

R.A.C.E. Matters	\$50,000
Untold Coastal Stories	Central

This project will tell the story of Black, Indigenous and other People of Color (BIPOC)—including African-American, Pan-African, Indigenous, Mixteco, Asian American, Southwest Asian and

North African (SWANA), and Latinx community members—who, live, work, and recreate in the central coast of California.

R.A.C.E. Matters will host several gatherings and information sessions, where community members can provide input. These sessions will also serve as opportunities to identify BIPOC storytellers and artists, ensuring that the project reflects diverse voices and lived experiences within the community. R.A.C.E. Matters will collaborate with BIPOC organizations, cultural institutions, and advocacy groups to amplify their outreach efforts and engage with San Luis Obispo's BIPOC communities. Project partners include the yak tit'yu tit'yu yak tiłhini (YTT) Northern Chumash Tribe, County of San Luis Obispo Parks and Recreation Department, and the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County.

Stories will be collected through interviews of San Luis Obispo BIPOC community members, including, but not limited to, African American surfers and fisherfolk, Latino farmworkers, and the YTT Northern Chumash Tribe. The project will create four artistically rendered bench murals in San Luis Obispo County depicting the stories and connecting visitors to the cultural and natural heritage of the area. QR codes on the benches will direct the public to an interactive, project webpage with audio recordings and transcripts of community interviews in English, Spanish and possibly the local dialect of the storyteller, as well as photos and videos. The benches will also include braille plaques to provide access to those with vision impairments.

Site Descriptions: Three of the four bench locations will be located at Pismo Preserve, Octagon Barn Center, and Kathleen's Canyon Overlook, which are managed by the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County. The fourth bench location is in Oceano Memorial Park, which is managed by San Luis Obispo County.

- Pismo Preserve stretches 880 acres and offers diverse recreational opportunities, with over 11 miles of trail. The Preserve receives 185,000 visitors a year who come for the serene oak woodland and stunning panoramic vistas of the Pacific Ocean.
- Octagon Barn welcomes approximately 18,000 visitors a year and is located 300 feet away from San Luis Obispo Creek on the edge of the floodplain. The stream and the adjacent farmland are in full view from the Barn.
- Kathleen's Canyon Overlooks offers beautiful views of Black Lake Canyon, the Guadalupe Nipomo Dunes, and a diversity of wildlife. It is located on a the 55-acre open space park.
- Oceano Memorial Park is in southern San Luis Obispo County near several other parks and recreation areas, such as Ocean Memorial Campground and Lagoon, Pismo State Beach, and Oceano Dunes Recreation Area. Facilities of Ocean Memorial Park include a playground, basketball court, and BBQs.

Grantee Application Qualifications R.A.C.E. Matters, founded in 2016 and a Black-women designed and led organization, is representative of historically excluded groups in San Luis Obispo County. Since its founding in 2016, R.A.C.E. Matters has cultivated extensive partnerships with systemically under-resourced, excluded, and erased artists and cultural practitioners in the San Luis Obispo community. They ensure that their community has a voice in shaping their programs' trajectories. R.A.C.E. Matters provides multiple programs for BIPOC

communities with annual budgets that range from \$60,000 to \$120,000, serving over 1,000 people per year. One such program is RaiseUP SLO, in which R.A.C.E. Matters creates an inclusive and supportive environment for over 80 BIPOC youth per year, through community building, education, advocacy, and West African drumming experiences. R.A.C.E. Matters successfully manages the operations and community engagement required for this program with an annual budget of \$120,000.

Social Good Fund, fiscal sponsor of Brower Dellums Institute for Sustainable Policy Studies & Action (Brower Dellums Institute) **\$172,800**

We Are All Here; Town Stories **SF Bay**

This project will tell the social and natural history of the San Leandro (Lisjan) Creek area in East Oakland through content that will be linked to 14 community-designed, interpretive signs along the San Leandro (Lisjan) Creek Greenway trail. Interpretive web content will be developed by residents, historians, and naturalists who have ties to the immediate area. The stories will include tribal stories from the Confederated Villages of Lisjan, multiple communities that colonized and then industrialized the area, Chinese communities that built Chabot Dam on the creek, the Black community that was subsequently disenfranchised, and the Latinx community.

East Oakland’s neighborhoods have been cut off from green spaces, the creek, and the nearby shoreline by the 880 freeway, urban renewal, neglect, redlining, and race-based violence. Despite the community’s resilience, social activism, and rich history, the primary public media narratives focus on negative stories with historically inaccurate or outdated information. These East Oakland neighborhoods have three and four generations of residents still living there who can share their own stories.

This project includes: (1) creating storytelling content; (2) developing community engagement campaigns, tours, and events; (3) interviewing resident; (4) linking digital content to 14 interpretive signs along a 0.8 mile segment of trail located in “Deep” East Oakland along the San Leandro Creek Greenway; and (5) developing and printing interpretive materials and maps. Digital content will be added to an existing virtual tour website that will link to trail signage, and will include social and natural history, and audio recordings of one-on-one community interviews. This project will provide the interpretive elements and important community connections for the San Leandro (Lisjan) Creek Greenway Project, which will open its trail in early 2025. All the digital content will be added to the Oakland Stories Archive. Project partners include the landowner (Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District), community organizations and consultants (East Oakland Neighborhood Initiative, Sobrante Park Resident Council, Ninth Root), and a tribal organization (Sogorea Te’ Land Trust, an organization of the Confederated Villages of Lisjan).

Site Description: The physical site will be a 0.8 mile segment of trail located in “Deep” East Oakland along the San Leandro Creek Greenway from Columbia Gardens Park to the San Leandro Creek Staging Area at the Martin Luther King Shoreline Park. The class 1 trail connects these neighborhoods and 7 public schools along the trail to the Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline and the regional Bay Trail. The trail is flat and easily accessible with benches, bike racks, and controlled pedestrian crossings that will be open to the public free of charge from

dawn to dusk. The creek-side land where the interpretive signs will be installed is owned and maintained by the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. This project will serve the “Deep” East Oakland neighborhoods that have been historically disinvested and labeled as a low-income transportation corridor. The neighborhood is among the top 5% of negatively impacted neighborhoods in California according to CalEnviroScreen.

Grant Application Qualifications: The Brower Dellums Institute was founded in 1969 and has a mission to help facilitate community action by managing community-based projects; conducting action-based research; and hosting local, regional, and international conversations through formal and informal meetings, seminars, conferences, courses, and publications. The grantee has been working in the East Oakland community as a community-based organization since 2008 and helped to initiate the San Leandro (Lisjan) Creek Greenway project in partnership with Lake Merritt College faculty. All Brower Dellums Institute staff have either lived or currently live and/or work in East Oakland. 75% of their staff and consultants are members of the BIPOC community and represent multiple generations.

Sonoma Ecology Center, fiscal sponsor for Cradle Basket

\$167,400

Cradle Basket

SF Bay

The Cradle Basket project creates an Indigenous Environmental and Cultural Learning Center (IECLC) that will make visible the erased and marginalized indigenous people of Napa Valley. Named after the baskets used by California Native American people to carry babies, the project aims to give local California Native Americans a safe space to learn their origin and connect with their present tribal community, while also educating Napa Valley residents and approximately 3.85 million annual visitors.

The project consists of an art installation of 5 boulders with cultural carvings that will be placed around the Oxbow walking path, turning Oxbow Commons into the open air IECLC, where programs, classes, and tribal gatherings will occur. Each of the boulders will represent one of five tribes, and will feature hand-carvings and a QR code that links to a website with information and audio/video content about the tribe, the site’s tribal history, and the ecological and cultural significance of native flora and fauna along the Napa River. The project tasks include creation of the website and ongoing website stories, placement of donated boulders, the work of two stone carvers (one Wappo and one Pomo), and creation of programming for educational tours for the public. Tribal leaders and representatives will be compensated for their work to coordinate and build programs between the tribes and local schools, share stories, manage the project, and conduct outreach. The project will give voice to the stories, history, lifestyle, and cultures of the Native Californians who have lived in the Napa region for over 10,000 years, and that are still there today.

Site Description: The Oxbow Commons is a sacred site for the Wappo and Patwin people. Historically, this area was visited by the Miwok, Pomo, and Ohlone tribes for trade and river access. The Napa River was abundant with native plants and animals, and people swam in its clean waters. This park is adjacent to but not atop recently discovered archaeological sites,

including past tribal villages, a large burial site, and a round house. The placement of the five hand-carved boulders around the Commons will delineate the open-air IECLC.

The Oxbow Commons is an ADA accessible City park visited by thousands of residents and tourists with free public access. Oxbow bypass is a key part of the Napa River Flood Control Project designed as a wet/dry bypass channel to help with flood control by holding the high flows of the Napa River during winter months to prevent flooding in downtown Napa where the river's oxbow bend formerly caused water to back-up and flood. It was designated as Oxbow Commons in 2000 and opened after design and construction of flood control features in 2015. The grantee has initial approval and will work closely with Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to place the stones in locations compatible with flood protection goals.

Grant Applicant Qualifications: Sonoma Ecology Center (SEC) was established in 1990 and has 34 staff members, and an annual budget exceeding \$3,000,000. SEC routinely operates multiple public and private grant-funded projects simultaneously, many with multiple partners, and is the previous recipient of Conservancy funding. SEC is a fiscal sponsor of Sonoma Overlook Trail Stewards, as well as Cradle Basket. SEC has a written policy, updated recently, on how to operate fiscal sponsorship.

Cradle Basket's Indigenous partners conceived this project, grew the partnership that supports it, worked out agreements with the City of Napa, and created the final designs. Over the last several years, Cradle Basket, led by two Wappo leaders, built cooperation with local tribal members from other tribes, and partnerships with government agencies. City of Napa Parks and Recreation is partnering to coordinate construction and maintain the project. Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District determine boulder placement locations that are compatible with the flood protection features of the site. Cradle Basket is working to develop an Indigenous Environmental and Cultural Learning Center along the Napa River where Native folks from Wappo, Patwin people, Miwok, Pomo, and Ohlone people can gather and tell their stories.

Trust for Public Land **\$180,000**
Buchanan Street Mall Memory Walk: Interpretative Signage Project **Bay Area**

The Trust for Public Land (TPL), Citizen Films, and local community leaders are collaborating to develop the Buchanan Street Mall Memory Walk: Interpretive Signage Project, which will celebrate the history, culture, and ecology of San Francisco's Fillmore community. Once known as the "Harlem of the West," the Fillmore was a vibrant Black neighborhood renowned for its jazz scene, successful Black-owned businesses, and strong sense of community. Over time, redevelopment led to the displacement of many Black residents. This project aims to honor Fillmore's enduring culture by sharing the stories of both past and present residents, emphasizing the area's rich history and its cultural and ecological significance.

Buchanan Street Mall, a pedestrian walkway and park, stretches five blocks through the Western Addition in the Fillmore District. Each of the five blocks will be organized around a distinct storytelling theme, selected with community input: Healing & Remembrance (used

twice at each end of the Mall), Local Heroes & Cultural Icons, Togetherness, and Local Artists & Performers. The “Memory Walk” will feature eight decorative columns strategically placed at critical intersections, serving as gateways that reflect the themes of each block. In addition, a Memory Walk Advisory Committee—comprised of artists, local historians, ecologists, and intergenerational community members—will guide content curation for 32 18” x 48” storytelling panels that will be installed four to each column. Through these efforts, the Memory Walk will highlight the diverse generations of Fillmore residents who have shaped the neighborhood’s unique identity, enhancing the park’s sense of place and community.

Site Description: Buchanan Street Mall is a publicly accessible space managed by the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department (SFRPD). It is a pedestrian walkway and park that stretches five blocks through the Western Addition in the Fillmore District of San Francisco. The park underwent major renovations in the late 1980s and early 1990s and received repairs in the early 2000s. After years of underuse, the Buchanan Street Mall came alive again in 2015 after the SFRPD, project partners, and community members celebrated the first activation: installation of temporary gardens, benches, archways, lighting, and two “audio-domes,” providing stories from the neighborhood. Buchanan Street Mall is surrounded by many apartment buildings along with Rosa Parks Senior Housing, which relies on this park due to its proximity and accessibility. For many, this is their most easily accessible green space. The community has a deep attachment to this space, often identifying it as a Black space. This project aims to revitalize the neglected park by celebrating local Black history and culture while improving safety and accessibility for community members.

Grant Application Qualifications: TPL creates parks and conserves land to build healthy, vibrant communities for future generations. Since its founding in 1972, TPL has completed 4,695 land conservation projects across all 50 states, protecting over 3.8 million acres. In California alone, TPL has successfully completed 724 projects, safeguarding more than 475,672 acres. With expertise in handling complex land and water transactions and a skilled team capable of managing projects in-house, TPL has the experience to ensure the success of proposed initiatives. The organization has received numerous grants from California state agencies, including the Conservancy, and is adept at managing funds and reporting expenditures. TPL has the fiscal resources and staff to raise funds, engage communities, and ensure successful project completion.

Xa Kako Dile:

\$174,630

Northern Pomo People’s Traditional Relationship to the Land, Language & Plants North Coast

This project will tell the story of the Pomo people’s enduring relationship with the Mendocino coastal lands, ocean, plants, and original language, by illuminating the cultural traditions of the Pomo from both historical and contemporary perspectives. Many present-day Pomo feel unwelcome on the lands of their ancestors; by telling the Pomo people’s stories and showcasing native plant names, Pomo artwork, Pomo language, the project will create a welcoming space for native people who might still be affected by generational trauma from forced removal and genocide, promote healing in the community, and encourage their

presence at the coast. The project aims to encourage a broader societal shift towards recognizing the value of Indigenous perspectives in shared outdoor spaces.

The Pomo story will be told through various physical installations and recordings of Pomo elders reflecting on their connection to the land, ancestral activities, and current practices. Located at the Xa Kako Dile: indigenous garden, the centerpiece of the project will feature both a six-panel kiosk, showcasing native plant names, tribal territory maps, and original Pomo artwork as well as a mural depicting an original Pomo village. Other interpretative installations, either signage or kiosks, will be installed at five partner locations. All installations will include QR codes linking to Xa Kako Dile:’s website, where stories can be accessed in Pomo, English, and Spanish.

Project partners include Fortunate Farms LLC, who is leasing the land to Xa Kako Dile: for the project, Mendocino Art Center, Noyo Center for Marine Science, Mendocino Land Trust, Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, and additional Pomo community members who will contribute to the cultural knowledge and personal stories of the produced interpretative materials. Community engagement will include community workshops, one-on-one interviews, collaborative design sessions with the Pomo community, and working with local tribal organizations. The project seeks to educate non-Native visitors, general Mendocino County residents, and broader visiting public members about the rich indigenous cultural heritage.

Site Description: The primary project site is Xa Kako Dile: indigenous garden located on six acres of private farmland near the Jughandle State Reserve in the unincorporated community of Caspar in Mendocino County. The indigenous garden is owned by Fortunate Farm, LLC and is leased to Xa Kako Dile: for the next 40 years. Xa Kako Dile: manages and operates the indigenous garden for the use of tribal community members and the public. The indigenous garden is open to the public Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-2 and other times by appointment.

The location is deeply significant as it represents a space where Pomo cultural traditions are actively continued through tribal retreats, healing gatherings, and educational workshops. The site features medicinal, herb, and food plant gardens where culturally important plants are grown, directly connecting to the Pomo people’s traditional relationship with the land and its flora.

The project also has five other partner locations where signage and/or kiosks will be installed:

- Mendocino Art Center (MAC), owned by the 501(c)(3) of the same name, is located at 42500 Little Lake Street in Mendocino. Historically a mansion with a carriage house, outbuildings, and animal sheds, MAC is now a hub supporting art workshops, affordable artist lodging, events, and exhibitions. The campus has small apartments for visiting artists, shops, gardens, and several art studios. A kiosk will be placed in an outdoor location at MAC for public viewing.
- Noyo Discovery Center, located at 338 N Main Street in Fort Bragg, is owned by Noyo Center for Marine Science and is their exhibit space and retail store. It houses the world’s largest killer whale skeleton, an ocean immersion dome featuring 360 degree video of the underwater landscapes, and many more marine exhibits meant to highlight

the local kelp ecosystem, sea lion population, and other marine related topics. The building is free to enter for the public, and interpretative materials will be installed inside the Center.

- Noyo Center Marine Field Station, located at 32430 N Harbor Drive in Fort Bragg, is another location owned and managed by the Noyo Center for Marine Science. It is situated in Noyo Harbor, serving as a marine research base for blue economy projects, including restorative purple urchin aquaculture and abalone broodstock program. A kiosk will be installed on the outside of the field station.
- Old Smith Ranch Preserve, located east of Highway 1 and the Ten Mile Dunes, is about 8 miles north of Fort Bragg. The 49-acre property is owned and managed by Mendocino Land Trust. Interpretative materials will be placed at the trailhead/parking lot of the Old Smith Ranch Preserve, which also features a picnic area and three benches with spectacular views of the Ten Mile River.
- Mendocino Botanical Garden, owned by the 501(c)3 of the same name, is located at 18220 North Highway 1 in Fort Bragg, is a 47-acre botanical garden with more than 100,000 people visiting every year to experience its perennial, camellias, rhododendrons, and bird species. Several signs will be installed at multiple locations inside the garden.

Grant Applicant Qualifications: Established in 2022, Xa Kako Dile: is uniquely positioned to represent and engage with the historically excluded Northern Pomo community. As an Indigenous women-led and directed non-profit organization on ancestral Northern Pomo land, the Xa Kako Dile:'s entire structure and mission are deeply rooted in the community whose story the project aims to tell. Board members and key staff are all Indigenous women with strong ties to local tribal communities, which ensures that this project will be led by representatives of the communities whose stories will be told.

Xa Kako Dile: has demonstrated capacity in managing similar projects; existing funded programs focus on uplifting and empowering Indigenous communities through farming using traditional ecological knowledge, offering healing retreats, providing education on food sovereignty and traditional practices, and creating gathering spaces for workshops and ceremonies.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA:

The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria, last updated on September 23, 2021, in the following respects:

Selection Criteria

1. Extent to which the project helps the Conservancy accomplish the objectives in the Strategic Plan.

See the "Consistency with Conservancy's Strategic Plan" section below.

2. Project is a good investment of state resources.

This grant program and all of the proposed projects increase representation of diverse communities in California’s publicly accessible outdoor spaces, making the State’s parks, trails, and outdoors more welcoming and inclusive for all Californians, especially those that face barriers to accessing or enjoying nature and the coast. All of the projects document and share the histories and stories of systemically excluded communities, expand the State’s historical records, and provide a fuller interpretive history and sense of context and place to the public. These projects help the Conservancy achieve public access goals and goals of its Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Guidelines, as well as the California Natural Resources Agency’s Outdoors for All Strategy priority of “Fostering Belonging”. Additionally, the stories highlighted in these projects add perspective to what outdoor recreation and activities look like to different communities, expanding the constituency of Californians that will be able to see themselves reflected in public access features.

The broad interest in Coastal Stories funding from community-based organizations (CBOs) shows that sharing stories in their own voices is important to many communities. The proposed projects meet stated community desires and priorities, while also building organizational capacity and fostering meaningful partnerships between CBOs and landowning agencies that can continue to bear fruit into the future.

3. Project includes a serious effort to engage tribes. Examples of tribal engagement include good faith, documented efforts to work with tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated to the project area.

Six of the nine Coastal Stories projects proposed for funding include tribal representation in the stories: (1) Friends of Friendship Park will work with the Kumeyaay to share their history of the Friendship Park area, which is on Kumeyaay ancestral land; (2) Petaluma River Park Foundation will work with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria and other tribal representatives to honor the culture and experiences of the Coast Miwok; (3) R.A.C.E. Matters will work with the YTT Northern Chumash Tribe to share their history on the Central Coast; (4) Brower Dellums Institute will work with the Sogorea Te’ Land Trust, an organization of the Confederated Villages of Lisjan, to share their history of the San Leandro (Lisjan) Creek area; (5) Cradle Basket is comprised of tribal members and representatives and will share stories of Native Californians who have lived in the Napa River area for thousands of years; and (6) Xa Kako Dile: is a tribal organization and will create interactive content to share the Pomo culture, language, and traditions along the Mendocino coast. Overall, the proposed projects contribute State funding to self-determined storytelling for tribes. These projects will shed light on the cultural relationships tribes have with the lands across California. They will visibly incorporate indigenous voices, leadership, and perspectives on the California coast.

4. Project benefits will be sustainable or resilient over the project lifespan.

All the projects will continue to deliver benefits over a reasonable period. The projects have plans and parties responsible for maintenance, and signage produced will be displayed for at least 15 years. Grantees will be encouraged to double-print the signage and flip the sign once one side is worn. Project partners will also consider the weathering of posters and graffiti

removal protocols for publicly displayed material. Many of the projects are incorporating QR codes, which will link the on-the-ground installations to web-based information. This technology allows the grantees to update and maintain the web-based information without needing to re-print the signage or public art.

Most projects will create digital files (audio, video, and text) and repositories to permanently document the stories they collect. Additionally, Conservancy staff are working to collect and consolidate digital content so that the stories shared may be enjoyed by a larger statewide audience.

5. Project delivers multiple benefits and significant positive impact.

The primary purpose of Coastal Stories projects is to create a more inclusive and welcoming outdoor environment for communities that have been historically excluded in California. In addition to enhancing public access to parks and open spaces, these projects deliver multiple benefits. By planning for and installing murals, modern and inclusive signage, and other interpretive exhibits, these projects enhance recreational amenities and beautify spaces for all Californians. The projects increase equity and environmental justice by increasing the representation of historically excluded communities’ stories. Additionally, underserved community members will be compensated for their contributions to these projects. The projects will provide job and volunteer opportunities that allow community members to be involved in sharing their stories. Finally, these projects strengthen partnerships between landowning agencies and community-based organizations, individuals, and tribes – partnerships that may manifest in agencies better serving communities and other meaningful projects.

6. Project planned with meaningful community engagement and broad community support.

All nine proposed projects are community-driven and will actively engage the communities of focus in project design and implementation. All nine of the grantees leading the proposed projects are either made up of members of historically excluded communities or are directly partnered with historically excluded community members to co-create the project. The projects actively engage participants from their communities of focus through interviews, community meetings and events, and tribal consultations. Collectively, these projects engage approximately 50 existing partner organizations to ensure quality connections with their target communities.

PROJECT FINANCING

Coastal Conservancy	\$1,301,915
Others	\$1,843,350
Project Total	\$3,145,830

The anticipated source of Conservancy funding for most of the proposed projects is the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 40, Public Resource Code sections 5096.600 et seq.). Proposition 40 appropriates funds to the Conservancy for: “acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration, and

protection of land and water resources.” (PRC section 5096.650(b)(1)). Proposition 40 defines “development” as: “improvement, rehabilitation, restoration, enhancement, preservation, protection, and interpretation.” (PRC section 5096.605(c)). It defines “preservation” as: “identification, evaluation, recordation, documentation, interpretation, protection, rehabilitation, restoration, stabilization, development, and reconstruction, or any combination of those activities.” (PRC section 5096.605(j)). Coastal Stories projects preserve and interpret land and water resources because in providing historical and other information regarding the relationships of people to those resources, the projects record, document, and interpret those resources. The proposed projects will create storytelling installations, murals, and/or other interpretive materials representing diverse communities and perspectives historically excluded from narratives of California’s coast and publicly accessible lands.

The anticipated source of Conservancy funding for the Petaluma River Park Foundation grant is the Fiscal Year 2022/23 appropriation from the General Fund to the Conservancy for the purpose of “urgent sea level rise adaptation and coastal resilience needs”(Budget Act 2022, SB 154) as amended by the Budget Act of 2023, SB 101). The coastal resilience funds are available as described in Section 52 of Chapter 258 of the Statutes of 2021, which sets forth a detailed description of the purposes of the climate resilience funds, including projects for the purpose of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code. This project is consistent with those purposes because it will promote and enhance the Petaluma River Park, which will provide open space and natural areas that are accessible to urban populations.

In making grants pursuant to Proposition 40, the Conservancy must give priority to projects that include a commitment for a matching contribution. (PRC section 5096.651). Contributions may be in the form of money, property, or services. (PRC section 5096.651). All the proposed projects have a matching contribution, and the matching contribution was included in the scoring criteria in the grant review process. There will be documentation of matching contributions for all projects in this year’s grant round.

Project partners will provide approximately \$1,843,350 in matching funds for the 2024-2025 Coastal Stories grants. In addition, they will give roughly \$183,840 of in-kind services from community volunteers, staff, and project partner volunteer time, art material donations, and free site and facility usage via partnerships between organizations.

Unless specifically identified as “Required Match,” the other sources of funding and in-kind contributions described above are estimates. Although matching contributions will be documented for each project, the Conservancy will not consider a failure to provide matching funds to be a breach of the grant. The Conservancy does not typically require matching funds or in-kind services, nor does it require documentation of expenditures from other funders or in-kind services. Typical grant conditions require grantees to provide any additional funds needed to complete a project.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION:

Funding the projects proposed under this authorization is consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation, Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, specifically Chapter 9 (Sections 31400 et seq.) regarding establishing a system of public accessways to and along the California coast and Chapter 4.5.

In Chapter 9, Section 31400 states the Legislature's intent that the Conservancy play a principal role in implementing a system of public accessways to and along the state's coastline, including San Francisco Bay. Section 31400.1 authorizes the Conservancy to grant funds to nonprofit organization to develop, operate, or manage lands for public access purposes to and along the coast.

In Chapter 4.5, Section 31162 authorizes the Conservancy to grant funds to nonprofit organizations to promote, assist, and enhance projects that provide open space and natural areas in the nine counties of the Bay Area that are accessible to urban populations for recreational and educational purposes

The proposed projects recommended for funding in this staff recommendation will help achieve public access along the California coast and the recreational and educational goals of the Bay Area by enhancing public accessways to make them more inclusive for diverse communities. In accordance with Section 31400.2, the amount of the funding supplied was determined by the total amount of funding available for the Coastal Stories grant program, the fiscal resources of the applicant, the urgency of the project relative to other eligible projects, and the application of factors described in the solicitation. Section 31400.3 authorizes the Conservancy to provide such assistance as is required to aid public agencies and nonprofit organizations in establishing a system of public coastal accessways and related functions necessary to meet the objectives of this division.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S [2023-2027 STRATEGIC PLAN](#):

The nine projects proposed for funding assist the Conservancy in meeting several of its Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives. Relevant Goals and Objectives are listed below, along with the names of the proposed projects that meet each goal.

Consistent with **Goal 1.1 Commit Funding to Benefit Systematically Excluded Communities**, all nine proposed projects commit funding to projects that benefit systematically excluded communities. Proposed projects are led by people from systemically excluded communities, include engagement with and participation by people from systemically excluded communities, reduce barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast for members of the community, and elevate voices from the community by incorporating culturally relevant interpretative storytelling elements or artistic styles in project design and educational materials.

Consistent with **Goal 1.3, Support Meaningful Engagement by Systematically Excluded Communities**, all nine proposed projects include meaningful engagement processes with storytellers and the communities whose stories are being told and work with the public in co-visualization processes to develop the stories that best reflect community priorities.

Consistent with **Goal 2.2 Coastal Stories Program**, all nine proposed projects include activities that plan, develop, and implement storytelling installations or materials (such as murals, signage, monuments, or guides) that represent communities and voices that have been historically excluded from accounts of California’s coast and publicly accessible lands.

Consistent with **Goal 2.5, Recreation Facilities & Amenities**, all nine proposed projects support planning and implementation of educational and interpretive facilities and signage, including multi-lingual signage that enables people to enjoy natural, cultural, and historical resources.

CEQA COMPLIANCE:

Conservancy staff reviewed the nine proposed projects for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and its implementing regulations (Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Sections 15000 et seq.). All the proposed projects are categorically exempt under CEQA. Applicable statutory and categorical exemptions to CEQA are listed below:

Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Sections 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies) and 15306 (Information Collection): The below proposed project is statutorily exempt from review CEQA pursuant to Section 15262 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) because the project involves only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions that have not yet been approved or funded, and it will include consideration of environmental factors. The project is also categorically exempt pursuant to Section 15306 of Title 14 of the CCR because the project involves basic data collection, research, experimental management, or resource evaluation activities that will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

- Petaluma River Park Coastal Stories (Petaluma River Park Foundation)

Title 14 of the CCR, Section 15301 (Existing Facilities): Six of the proposed projects (below) are categorically exempt under Section 15301 of Title 14 of the CCR, which exempts operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use, including existing bicycle and pedestrian trails (Section 15301(c)) and maintenance of wildlife areas and stream channels to protect fish and wildlife resources (Section 15301(i)).

- Crystal Cove Japanese American Community Interpretation Project (Crystal Cove Conservancy)
- Eureka Chinatown Monument and Programming (Ink People Center for the Arts, fiscal sponsor for HAPI)
- Untold Coastal Stories (R.A.C.E. Matters)
- We Are All Here; Town Stories (Social Good Fund, fiscal sponsor for the Brower Dellums Institute for Sustainable Policy Studies and Action)

- Buchanan Street Mall Memory Walk: Interpretative Signage Project (Trust for Public Land)
- Northern Pomo People's Traditional Relationship to the Land, Language and Plants (Xa Kako Dile:)

Title 14 of the CCR, Section 15311 (Accessory Structures): Seven of the proposed projects (below) are categorically exempt under Section 15311 of Title 14 of the CCR, which exempts the construction or placement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant to) existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities, including on-premises signs and placement of seasonal or temporary use items, including items from time-to-time in publicly owned parks or other facilities designed for public use (Section 15311(a), (c)).

- Crystal Cove Japanese American Community Interpretation Project (Crystal Cove Conservancy)
- Friendship Park People's Histories Project (Friends of Friendship Park)
- Eureka Chinatown Monument and Programming (Ink People Center for the Arts, fiscal sponsor for HAPI)
- Untold Coastal Stories (R.A.C.E. Matters)
- Cradle Basket (Sonoma Ecology Center, fiscal sponsor for Cradle Basket)
- Buchanan Street Mall Memory Walk: Interpretative Signage Project (Trust for Public Land)
- Northern Pomo People's Traditional Relationship to the Land, Language and Plants (Xa Kako Dile:)

Upon approval, Conservancy staff will file a Notice of Exemption for each project.