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Fruitvale Arts-based Community Development Investment for Oakland, California
Peralta Hacienda Historical Park - one of 64 National Endowment for the Arts Our Town projects selected nationwide

Oakland, CA - National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Chairman Jane Chu announced 64 awards totaling \$4.3 million supporting projects across the nation through the NEA's Our Town program. Peralta Hacienda Historical Park is one of the organizations for an award of \$50,000 to design and rebuild the historic core. The NEA Our Town grant program supports creative placemaking projects that help to transform communities into lively, beautiful, and resilient places with the arts at their core. The NEA received 240 applications for Our Town this year.

"For six years, Our Town has made a difference for people and the places where they live, work, and play," said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. "Projects such as the one led by Peralta Hacienda Historical Park help residents engage the arts to spark vitality in their communities."

This project will build the Historic Core at Peralta Hacienda Historical Park, a six-acre historic site in the diverse, low-income district of Fruitvale, in Oakland, California. The project designer is Walter Hood, Landscape Architect.

The whole is a two-acre plaza for community events, performances, markets, classes, courses, workshops, exhibitions and food celebrations:

- The project includes a gallery without walls called the Pavilion of California Cultures to celebrate community stories in many media with a unique design with panels that close to form an indoor space for receptions and events, and can be switched easily for new displays by artists and community groups.
- The project will commemorate the first Mexican family in the Oakland area, the Peraltas, with an evocative, symbolic, walk-in structure with interactive installations at the site of their adobe home, which is located in the Historic Core.
- The project is crowned with a massive community banquet table where community members can cook and eat together, exchanging food traditions, and an authentic adobe oven.
- The plaza's stage will be enhanced with state of the art outdoor lighting and sound capacity for performances and cultural celebrations.

Community members have worked for nearly 40 years to create this center for arts, culture and heritage at Peralta Hacienda Historical Park.

For a **complete list of projects** for Our Town grant support, please visit the NEA web site at arts.gov. The NEA's online resource, [Exploring Our Town](#), features case studies of more than 70 Our Town projects along with lessons learned and other resources.

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