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## **MEDIA ARTS CENTER SAN DIEGO RECEIVES GRANT AWARD FROM CAL HUMANITIES**

(San Diego, CA) — Cal Humanities has recently announced the 2013 Community Stories grant awardees. Media Arts Center San Diego has been awarded \$10,000 for its project entitled “Land & Freedom: Talking Food Systems”.

Community Stories is a competitive grant program of Cal Humanities. Grants are awarded to projects that give expression to the extraordinary variety of histories and experiences of California’s places and people to ensure that the stories can be shared widely. These narratives help us find our commonalities, appreciate our differences, and learn something new about how to live well together.

Media Arts Center San Diego partnering with Project New Village, Bayside Community Center, Humanities advisor A.L. Anderson-Lazo, Ph.D., community advisor Lace Watkins, and local residents from San Diego’s City Heights, Linda Vista, and Southeastern San Diego communities will address the history and present-day growth of urban agriculture and neighborhood scale food systems through location based first person visual stories. The project will compile diverse stories of residents from underserved San Diego urban communities in an online interactive multimedia map; and will be accessible by mobile devices as an urban walking tour, to offer a genuine look at where the food system falls short; and at the same time to provide a model of empowerment that envisions a healthier community of greater access and equity.

“San Diego residents are leading a movement to improve access to healthy food and economic opportunity through traditional community gardens and farmers markets; and innovative projects like backyard growers’ certification and yard sharing,” said Brian Myers, project director of Land & Freedom. “The movement has changed public policy making it easier for small-scale agriculture to thrive in the urban environment.”

Community members who would like to participate or learn more about Land & Freedom: Talking Food Systems are encouraged to visit:  
[www.mediaartscenter.org/land-freedom-talking-food-systems/](http://www.mediaartscenter.org/land-freedom-talking-food-systems/)

“With our state’s incredible diversity, fostering communication and connecting people to a range of ideas is vital for our general welfare,” said Ralph Lewin, president and CEO of Cal Humanities. “Our grant award enables awardees to pursue the important work of engaging new audiences in conversations around stories of significance to Californians.”

Since 2003, Cal Humanities has supported approximately 400 story projects and granted nearly \$3 million to enable communities to voice, record, and share histories—many previously untold or little known. Through video, photography, murals, zines, documentary theater, audio projects, and more, these collected stories have been shared with broad audiences, both live and virtual. Cal Humanities is an independent non-profit state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information on Cal Humanities, please visit [www.calhum.org](http://www.calhum.org).

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