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## **EPACENTER RECEIVES GRANT AWARD FROM CALIFORNIA HUMANITIES**

EAST PALO ALTO, CA. — California Humanities has announced the first round of Civics + Humanities Middle Grades grant awards. EPACENTER has been awarded \$15,000 for its project "WE'RE STILL HERE! EAST PALO ALTO YOUTH SPEAK."

Civics + Humanities Middle Grades Grants is a pilot program that offers \$5,000-\$15,000 grants to support civics and humanities education for California's middle grades-aged youth (grades 6-8 or ages 10-14) in school and out-of-school settings. In the critical middle grades years, California Humanities sees a powerful opportunity to cultivate the skills and habits young people need to actively engage in civic life through their school years and into the future.

Over the next year, EPACENTER will work with Kameelah Rasheed, a Guggenheim Fellow and former EPACENTER Youth Action Team member, on a community media and storytelling project for middle school youth. The project will teach youth how to use media production and multimedia storytelling to explore the impact of gentrification on their lives and what it means to "still be here." Kameelah Rasheed, who will lead the project, was born in East Palo Alto and is now known for her work on installations, book art, immersive text-based installations, large-scale public text pieces, publications, collages, and audio recordings. Rasheed's art explores memory, ritual, discursive regimes, historiography, and archival practices through fragments and historical residue. "We are very excited Kameelah is returning to EPACENTER to help a new generation of youth tell stories from their community," says EPACENTER Executive Director Nadine Rambeau. "And we are thrilled to receive our first grant from California Humanities for this project."

"We are proud to welcome the second cohort of the Civics + Humanities Middle Grades Grant Program," said Rick Noguchi, President and CEO of California Humanities. "Middle schoolers are exploring who they are and where they belong. These projects help them study real-life problems and get involved in their community in a welcoming environment."

A complete list of all Civics + Humanities Middle Grades Grants can be found on the calhum.org website [here](#).

**ABOUT EPACENTER:**

**EPACENTER** is a creative youth development center created to harness the power of art, design, technology, and culture to accelerate positive outcomes for vulnerable youth in East Palo Alto. Its state-of-the-art facility was driven by a community-based outreach effort, filling a much-needed gap in East Palo Alto to give local youth access to free quality arts instruction, job training, and workforce development programs. The 25,000 square foot facility provides local youth with a space they asked for specifically: a safe learning environment where they can access a multitude of exciting opportunities to develop their creativity and learn job skills. For more information, visit [epacenter.org](http://epacenter.org).

**ABOUT CALIFORNIA HUMANITIES:**

[California Humanities](http://calhum.org), 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](http://calhum.org), or like and follow on [Facebook](#), [X](#), and [Instagram](#).