In 2018, three artist-focused organizations — CultureBank@Yerba Buena Center for The Arts, TACA and Ignite/Arts Dallas — partnered to tackle one radical question:

*What does the act of true community investment look like?*

**ARTIST-INVESTOR COHORT**

**PHASE ONE**

CultureBank@TACA is a radical, national collaboration between San Francisco partners, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and CultureBank@YBCA, and Dallas partners, TACA – The Arts Community Alliance, and SMU Meadows’ Ignite/Arts Dallas: A Center for People, Purpose + Place. CultureBank@YBCA is the recipient of the 2018 Meadows Prize awarded by SMU Meadows School of the Arts and Ignite/Arts Dallas. The Meadows Prize is made possible through generous support from the Meadows Foundation.
Fred Villanueva – Ash Studios’ mission is to encourage interracial and inter-generational dialogue and collaborations between creatives and residents, to empower creatives to have a voice in public life, and to promote and create opportunities for economic self-determination for creatives.

What will Fred do: Create an Outdoor Painting Program. The Program seeks to activate a 10,000 sq. ft. Art Lot as a gathering place for the local community of artists and residents who desire to share skills, resources, vision, and communal expression.

Jin-Ya Huang - Break Bread, Break Borders (BBBB) is a social justice cultural initiative, designed to create opportunities and provide support for refugees and immigrants in the greater Dallas/Fort Worth area.

What will Jin-Ya do: Explore its ability to enhance infrastructure so that it can cater to more people and reach a wider audience for storytelling. BBBB plans to optimize and streamline its website, define job descriptions, and create standard operating procedures to enhance capacity and support scalability.

Sara Cardona – Teatro Dallas recognizes the power of theater to foster an understanding of both cultural differences and similarities, and it is their hope to promote a sense of community while celebrating our diverse traditions through high quality professional performances. Teatro Dallas is especially committed to the cultural empowerment of the Latinx community through the representation of its varied experiences, voices, and aesthetic expressions.

What will Sara do: Explore new collaborative performance methodologies together with members of the West Dallas and Oak Cliff community to uncover unheard voices and narratives of these rapidly gentrified spaces.
Tisha Crear – Recipe Oak Cliff makes healthy, vegan options accessible in the food insecure areas of Oak Cliff.

What will Tisha do: Host Conversations with friends and neighbors to discuss collective ways to activate neighborhood vacant space. The dinner menu and topics will be geared towards looking at short term activities/projects/outcomes that can be easily mounted with maximum impact. The first dinner will focus on beautification & urban agriculture as neighborhood resource. The second dinner will ask ‘What if?’ and look into ways to activate and utilize unused space across from Recipe Oak Cliff.

Ofelia Faz-Garza – Semillitas Literary Initiative (SLI) is focused on planting the seeds that will grow lifelong readers. Their purpose is to help develop good reading habits, reinforce the idea that reading can be fun and engaging, and provide a comfortable place to discuss ideas and opinions.

What will Ofelia do: Develop a toolkit that contains printed materials (including a guide for implementing a neighborhood children’s book club using the SLI model, coloring pages, short stories, etc.) and audio content (via a new podcast). The toolkit will be disseminated in the community at community reading nooks, neighborhood book exchanges, and other SLI events and online through social media channels.

VET – Artcycle TX is a movement that encourages artists to re-purpose, re-design and re-distribute unused (or gently-used) art related resources and supplies.

What will VET do: Develop a centralized platform for Artcycle TX. The platform will allow the community to come together to engage in the recycling and upcycling of valuable art-related found objects and discarded items through barter, exchange or purchases on-line, as well as a community “FREE 4 ALL” (give-away) event.