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What We Accomplish Together

Spring 2026, Vol. 4



**Entertainment
Community Fund**
Formerly The Actors Fund

Navigating the Health Insurance Journey

As an Entertainment Community Fund supporter, you know how challenging it can be to pursue a career in the performing arts. That includes finding and affording health insurance in an industry where job security is often nonexistent.

As Jim Bracchitta, the Fund's Managing Director of Health Services, says: "Imagine if you're an actor, musician, camera person or electrician. You may work for multiple employers sporadically. Those gaps in work can lead to gaps in coverage."

"Even in the best of times, getting and keeping insurance in the entertainment industry is a journey."

That journey is especially tough right now with the health insurance marketplace and eligibility requirements in flux. What's more, costs of premiums and co-pays have risen significantly for many. Jim reports recent increases as high as 50-60%.

As a result, he explains, "We're seeing more people coming to us for help. And we're seeing a lot of anxiety. People are really confused and scared about what's happening."

To help, the Fund provides health insurance counseling nationwide and continues to assist even when someone's



Our Health Benefits Specialists provided individual services to nearly 4,000 arts professionals in 2025.

Photo credit: Nina Prommer

income or circumstances change. In fact, Jim advises clients to pay close attention to their insurance status and stay in contact with their Fund counselor.

Plus, the Fund's Artists Health Insurance Resource Center holds workshops and seminars about the latest insurance options. The Center also assists with enrollment in Affordable Care Act plans, and offers an array of online resources, education and other tools.

Jim is a veteran actor himself with over 35 years in the industry and sees firsthand how much the generosity of donors achieves. "It can be life-changing for people to get insurance and help when they need it," he declares. "This is a really crucial service we provide at the Fund."

Your Impact in 2025



Over 22,000 clients served through the Fund's programs across 48 states



Over 4,300 people took part in Career Center services, over a 30% increase from 2024



Nearly 800 sessions of our clinical groups, educational seminars and workshops



500+ individuals received over \$5.2 million in emergency assistance in response to the CA wildfires.

Navigating Changes in the Creative Economy

The work we do at the Fund is intended to help those in the entertainment industry navigate changes in the creative economy. These are careers where incomes go up and down, and challenges are commonplace. In response, the Fund is there, every day with career services, financial planning, mental health supports, health insurance counseling, affordable housing, services for older adults and emergency financial assistance.

Today, we are increasingly concerned about the availability and cost of health insurance. We are committed to assisting those who are uninsured and strive to help arts workers secure and maintain coverage made possible by the Affordable Care Act. But with changes at the federal level, that will be an even greater challenge and will require further strengthening of our health insurance counseling programs.

And we're always striving to do more. Our award-winning Actors Fund Home in Englewood, New Jersey, now has its own Board of Trustees and Honorary Council to help us grow our care of older adults in need. With their support and approval from the city of Englewood, we will begin plans for the expansion of the state-of-the-art residence.

Our Housing Development Corporation, which pursues and develops affordable housing for artists, is overseeing the completion of The Hollywood Arts Collective in Los Angeles and anticipates the opening of Rialto West in Hell's Kitchen, New York City, this summer.

In the past few years, COVID, the simultaneous strikes and the wildfires in Los Angeles have pushed many in our community to the brink. Now, with a steep decline in film and television production in the United States and an industry-wide move toward mergers and consolidation, we anticipate a chronic crisis of underemployment. In addition, cuts in government grants and increases in costs have forced theater, dance and music companies to reduce operations, disrupting an already-fragile employment landscape. All of which means that more people will need the Fund's assistance to sustain their lives in the arts. **We intend to be there for them, thanks to your unwavering support.**



Joseph P. Benincasa
Joseph P. Benincasa (he, him, his)
President and CEO

Recent Entertainment Community Fund Events



Western Council members Charles Floyd Johnson and Glynn Turman at a book reading hosted by Johnson for Fund supporters in Los Angeles.

Photo credit: Nina Prommer



Brian Stokes Mitchell and Baayork Lee at our Broadway Brunch.

Photo credit: Tricia Baron



Tovah Feldshuh and Katie Couric at the dedication of the Feldshuh Fund for Women's Health Room at our Friedman Health Center for the Performing Arts in Times Square.

Photo credit: Emily Louick Photography



The Broadway company of *Just in Time* before our Producer's Picks performance.

Photo credit: Tricia Baron

Staff Spotlight: Keith McNutt

Keith McNutt has been Executive Director of the Western Region of the Entertainment Community Fund since 2006. He previously worked in and then managed the then-named AIDS Initiative (now HIV Initiative) at our New York office for over 11 years.

Keith says his tenure at the Fund has “allowed me to play a positive role in many of the largest crises this country has faced in recent history.” These include the HIV/AIDS epidemic, 9/11, the COVID-19 pandemic, California wildfires and Hollywood work stoppages. For the past decade, he’s also been focused on creating housing options for people in entertainment and the performing arts who struggle to afford rent.

“We are helping people have the best chance to have a stable life in a career that doesn’t often make that possible.”

—Keith McNutt,
Executive Director of the Western Region

He explains that “they’re on a career trajectory where they might not have health insurance or be able to pay their bills on a regular basis. The Fund offers something positive and beautiful at times when people aren’t feeling like there’s much of that going on.”



Keith McNutt with Gloria Kaufman, who was celebrated with the Fund’s Medal of Honor in 2023 for helping establish The Hollywood Arts Collective.

Photo credit: William Kidston

Keith stresses how deserving our clients are of the Fund’s support: “They elevate society in such unique, creative ways. They bring so much to all our lives. That’s no small thing.”

What he’s accomplished in over 30 years at the Fund is “no small thing,” either. **Thank you, Keith, for caring deeply about the entertainment community and for inspiring so many to follow your lead.**

— In Loving Memory: Gloria Kaufman —

Distinguished philanthropist Gloria Kaufman passed away last August at age 95. Gloria was a lifelong believer in the power of the arts to benefit all of us. The Fund and its clients are the recipients of Gloria’s extraordinary kindness, generosity and passion.

She believed that we must create affordable places where arts workers can live and work. In 2017, she helped launch the Fund’s Hollywood Arts Collective (HAC) to provide affordable housing and space in Los Angeles for entertainment professionals.

Gloria adopted the project with her trademark enthusiasm and energy. HAC’s Gloria Kaufman Performing Arts Theater is named in honor of her exceptional charitable giving.

She then made an even more significant gift to the Entertainment Community Fund to establish the Gloria Kaufman Vision Fund. With her donation, the Entertainment Community Fund began the process of planning five additional affordable housing residences for performing artists in Los Angeles County. These buildings will include commercial spaces to host arts-based services for residents and the surrounding communities.

The Fund will always remember Gloria’s commitment to a world in which those responsible for our cultural vibrancy receive the shelter, care and support they need to thrive. She truly led from the heart, often declaring, “I just want to make people happy.”

Through her legacy as a preeminent champion of the arts, Gloria will continue to do exactly that—and so much more!



Entertainment Community Fund

Formerly The Actors Fund

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—Your Newsletter Enclosed—



Save the Date!

Entertainment Community Fund Gala

Monday, June 1, 6 pm ET
Cipriani 42nd Street, New York, NY

Join us to celebrate and strengthen the entertainment and performing arts community across the nation. Your

support of the Gala allows the Entertainment Community Fund to address the unique needs of our community with services focused on health and wellness, career and life and housing.

Get your tickets at entertainmentcommunity.org/Gala2026.



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