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HaGomel
Healing women through creative community

HAGOMEL COMMUNITY AWARDED $18,000 CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL GRANT TO SUPPORT HEALING ARTS PROGRAMMING

Organization expands community partnerships and staff wellness workshops, exhibits at statewide domestic violence prevention conference, and announces remaining 2026 public workshops.

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — HaGomel Community has been awarded an $18,000 grant from the California Arts Council (CAC) to support nonprofit operations and advance its mission of fostering healing, resilience, and community through expressive arts for women who have experienced sexual and other trauma. The award comes in a highly competitive year for nonprofit operating support, recognizing the importance of HaGomel's work and the role of the arts in creating supportive spaces for mental health and long-term wellbeing.

HaGomel Community offers trauma-informed workshops, retreats, and creative experiences that bring women together through visual arts, writing, sound, and movement. Through in-person and virtual programming and partnerships with community organizations, HaGomel makes space for women to explore their creativity, practice self-expression, and build meaningful connections.

"This grant is an important investment in our mission to support women through the healing power of the arts," said Elya Braden, President and Founder of HaGomel Community. "We are grateful to the California Arts Council for recognizing the value of our work and helping us expand access for women to experience healing, resilience, and connection through creative community."

Expanding Community Partnerships Through Staff Wellness

Building on its established community partner model, HaGomel is expanding its programming to include **Staff Wellness Workshops** for organizations serving survivors and other vulnerable communities. These workshops offer staff opportunities to step away from the demands of their work and reconnect with themselves through creative expression, embodied movement, mindfulness, and self-care practices.

Following its first staff wellness workshop with Survivor Justice Center in February 2026, HaGomel recognized a growing need to support the well-being of the professionals who dedicate themselves to helping others. Since then, the organization has facilitated a Kintsugi Paper Bowls activity with the team at Peace Over Violence and launched a new partnership with UCLA Rape Treatment Center through a Self-Care Mini-Books workshop.

HaGomel to Exhibit at California's Partnership to End Domestic Violence Conference

On November 18–19, 2026, HaGomel Community will exhibit at the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence's *Building Thriving Communities Conference* in Sacramento. The organization will share its approach to communal expressive arts, self-care, and resilience while connecting with advocates, service providers, and potential community partners and funders from across California.

The conference offers an opportunity to introduce HaGomel's programs to organizations working to prevent domestic violence and support survivors. By building relationships with additional service providers, HaGomel hopes to expand access to creative healing experiences and bring its community-centered model to more women and the professionals who serve them.

Upcoming Virtual Workshops Offer Opportunities for Creative Connection

HaGomel Community invites women to participate in its remaining public virtual workshops of 2026. Each gathering offers a welcoming space to explore creativity, reflect on personal experiences, and connect with others.

- **November 14 | The Journey: Exploring Change Through Art | 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m. PT** — Led by Dr. Jessica Bianchi, this gentle expressive arts workshop uses guided visualization and watercolor or pastels to explore life journeys, challenges, and transitions through color, shape, line, and texture.
- **December 5 | Elements of Healing: Dance, Movement, & Renewal | 9–10:30 a.m. PT** — Led by Vicki Alvarez and Clory Rossi-Shewan, this virtual movement session explores the four elements—Earth, Fire, Water, and Air—as pathways to grounding, energy, balance, and flexibility, helping participants reconnect with their bodies and inner strength.
- **December 19 | Manifesting Your Future with Vision Boards | 9:30–11:30 a.m. PT** — Led by Elya Braden, this creative workshop invites participants to envision their hopes, dreams, and goals for 2027 by creating a personal vision board that can inspire purpose and possibility in the year ahead.

Women are encouraged to visit HaGomel Community's website to learn more and register for upcoming workshops. Virtual programs welcome participants from around the world, creating opportunities for women to connect across distances through shared creative experiences.

About HaGomel Community

HaGomel Community is a nonprofit organization based in Southern California dedicated to supporting women trauma survivors through creative community. Its mission is to provide expressive arts programming that fosters emotional and psychological healing from sexual and other trauma. Through a trauma-informed, multi-modal approach, facilitators weave together visual arts, writing, movement, sound, and theater exercises into workshops offered in-person and virtually. HaGomel also partners with community organizations serving women and trauma survivors to expand access to expressive arts and supportive communities where women can explore self-expression, build resilience, and connect with others.

To learn more about HaGomel Community, explore upcoming workshops or discover ways to partner and get involved, visit hagomel.org .

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