DATE: January 14, 2016
TO: Recycling Board
FROM: Wendy Sommer, Executive Director
BY: Meri Soll, Senior Program Manager
SUBJECT: Creative Growth - Non Profit Update

SUMMARY
The Board has requested periodic status reports on grant recipients. At the January 14, 2016 meeting, Creative Growth will provide an update and brief presentation to the Recycling Board on the reuse and waste reduction activities they have been engaged in as a result of receiving grant funding from StopWaste.

DISCUSSION
The Recycling Board has awarded grants through the Grants to Nonprofits program for the past 19 years via an open request-for-proposal process. In that time, the Recycling Board has awarded approximately $7.5 million dollars in grant funding from the Competitive and Reuse grants program.

In 2013, Creative Growth applied for and received a $10,000 grant to produce 500 reusable cloth bags. Creative Growth Art Center in Oakland serves adult artists with developmental, mental and physical disabilities, providing a professional studio environment for artistic development, gallery exhibition and representation and a social atmosphere among peers. Working with their artists and reusable materials, Creative Growth was able to create 500 unique, reusable bags. This project provided a blank canvas for their artists to express visionary iconography and design. Marking the completion of the yearlong project, the bags were part of an exhibition entitled Carry On, which featured the 500 one-of-a-kind tote bags. Each bag was made from 90 percent re-used or recycled materials.

A recent New York Times Magazine article highlighted the important and prolific work done by Creative Growth. Matt Dostal of Creative Growth will attend the Board meeting to present an overview of grant activities and outcomes. This project was their first time receiving grant funds from StopWaste.

RECOMMENDATION
This item is for information only.