
INVESTING
in
Artists

Grants Program Guidelines 2014

Visual Arts, Craft & Literary Arts

Deadline: July 1, 2014 by 6:00 p.m. PST

A Program of the **Center for Cultural Innovation**

Program Overview

The *Investing in Artists* grants program was established by the Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) in 2007 to enhance the working lives and strengthen the creative support system for California artists working in all disciplines. Over an initial eight rounds of funding from 2007 to 2011, CCI has awarded 180 grants totaling nearly \$1.5 million to a diverse range of artists working in various disciplines across the state.

Through the continued support of The James Irvine Foundation and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, CCI is pleased to offer an additional five rounds of funding for the *Investing in Artists* program from 2012 to 2014.

Beginning in mid-2012, the *Investing in Artists* grants program will incorporate some important guideline changes. Prospective applicants should read the current guidelines carefully, which may differ from previous versions, and make note of the following:

- In the Artistic Equipment and Tools category, maximum grants are now up to \$6,000 each. Grants in the Artistic Innovation category will remain the same, at up to \$10,000 each; and finally,
- Beginning in 2012, previous grantees in the Artistic Innovation category may now be eligible to re-apply in the same category, if they received a grant three or more years ago (i.e., for the current round, if you received an Artistic Innovation grant in 2011 or earlier, you may now re-apply). Previous grantees in the Artistic Equipment and Tools category may not re-apply in this category.

Grant Categories

Investing in Artists provides grants in two funding categories: **1) Grants for Artistic Equipment and Tools**, and **2) Grants for Artistic Innovation**. Through a competitive application process conducted over five rounds of funding from 2012 to 2014, approximately 100 grants of up to \$6,000 in the Artistic Equipment and Tools category, and up to \$10,000 in the Artistic Innovation category will be made to California artists.

CCI recognizes that the number of artists applying for grants will far exceed the number of awards that can be given. Therefore, to enhance the value of the *Investing in Artists* grants program, CCI also provides professional development grants through the Creative Capacity Fund (www.creativecapacityfund.org) to support attendance at workshops and conferences, or to work with coaches and consultants, to strengthen individual administrative skills. CCI also offers entrepreneurial training workshops, and sponsors a variety of artist-to-artist learning and networking opportunities throughout the year. Please visit CCI's website (www.cciarts.org) for more information on these additional support programs for artists.

Applicant Eligibility

The *Investing in Artists* grants program is designed to support diverse working artists in California in the performing, visual, literary, media, design and cross-disciplinary fields. As such, applicants representing a wide range of artistic practices, geographic regions and cultural expressions are encouraged to apply.

For the purposes of this program, eligible "working artists" are defined as adults who have received training in an artistic discipline or tradition, spend ten or more hours a week on their artwork, self define as professional artists, and attempt to derive income from work in which they use their expert artistic practices and skills. While serious artistic activity performed as a hobby or as part of volunteer community service may, in some cases, be considered technically eligible, successful applicants will have demonstrated a history of artistic accomplishment and a sustained commitment to deepening and expanding their artistic work.

General Eligibility Criteria:

- Application must be submitted by an individual working artist (see definition on previous page); organizations cannot apply.
- Must show proof of permanent residency in California for at least three (3) consecutive years prior to the application deadline.
- Must maintain permanent residency in California during the grant award period.
- Must be 18 years or older at the time of the application deadline.
- Cannot be a full-time or matriculated student.
- Must have exhibited, performed, presented and/or published artistic work in a public context within the last three years.
- Only **one** application total may be submitted per individual during each funding round; individuals may not submit applications in more than one funding category.
- For previous *Investing in Artists* grantees, the following eligibility rules will also apply:
 - a) Previous grantees in the Artistic Innovation category **ONLY** may now re-apply if they received a grant in this category three (3) or more years ago (i.e., in 2011 or earlier); previous grantees in the Artistic Equipment and Tools category may not re-apply in this category.
 - b) All previous grantees must have their required final grant reports submitted and approved by CCI prior to the application deadline to be considered eligible.

Funding Categories

1) Artistic Equipment and Tools – This category provides one-time capital acquisition grants up to \$6,000 each for individual artists to acquire tools, materials or equipment that will strengthen their long-term capacity to create work. When the cost of proposed equipment or tools exceeds the grant amount requested or awarded, artists must be prepared to provide other sources of income to fulfill the acquisition. Purchase of equipment or tools, or proposed capital improvements, must be completed within 12 months of grant award start date.

Funds may be used for:

- One-time acquisition of artistic equipment, technical equipment, software or peripherals necessary to advance the creation of future artistic work.
- One-time capital improvements to enhance artist's studio, rehearsal, production or presentation space.
- Professional fees for qualified technical, production, construction or design consultants required to implement capital improvements or acquisitions.

Ineligible costs:

- Routine rent or overhead expenses for artist's housing, office, studio or retail space.
- Artistic or administrative salaries, stipends or performance fees.
- Real estate purchase, including mortgage payments.
- Personal debt repayments.
- Consumable art supplies (e.g., canvases, clay, paint, etc.) used in association with ongoing artistic practice or for creation of a specific project.

Review criteria for Artistic Equipment and Tools:

- Demonstrated record of artistic achievement and quality of work.
- Clarity and rationale for proposed acquisitions or capital improvements, including identification of specific costs, tools and materials, and vendors or consultants (if any), required to carry out the project.
- Impact of proposed funding on the artist's career and ability to create new work.

2) Artistic Innovation – This category provides grants up to \$10,000 each for Artistic Innovation projects for individual artists to create new work that pushes the envelope of an artist’s creative process, explores new artistic collaborations, or supports artistic growth and experimentation that extends the boundaries of their art-making. Projects must be completed within 12 months of grant award start date.

Funds may be used for:

- Artist fee for applicant (up to \$5,000).
- Fees for artistic collaborators.
- Fees for technical consultants to support the artist’s creative capacity-building or artistic exploration.
- Project-related travel expenses or materials.

Ineligible costs:

- Organizational overhead or administrative expenses of an artist’s organization, including staff salaries (if any).
- Routine rent or overhead expenses for artist’s housing, office, studio, or retail space.
- Personal debt repayments
- Costs associated with presenting completed work to the public, including facility rental.

Review criteria for Artistic Innovation:

- Demonstrated record of artistic achievement and quality of work.
- Clarity, rationale and readiness of proposed project, including identification of specific work plans, timeline and collaborators (if any), required to carry out the project.
- Evidence that funding is coming at a “critical juncture” in the artist’s career (i.e., that the proposed project provides a significant opportunity to “push the artistic boundaries” at the right moment for the artist), and the potential long-term impact of the grant.

Review Process

A grant review panel consisting of field experts appointed by CCI will be convened following the close of each round of applications to make recommendations on final grant recipients. Additional reviewers may also be used to advise on technical proposals, or to follow up with applicants to assess artistic practice, context or work settings.

Deadlines

2014: Visual Arts, Craft & Literary Arts
Guidelines issued: May 7, 2014
Application deadline: July 1, 2014 by 6:00 p.m. PST
Project start date: October 1, 2014

How to Apply

Individual artists who meet the program’s eligibility criteria and are applying in the **Visual Arts, Craft, and Literary Arts** category may submit an online Application Form by **July 1, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. PST.**

The *Investing in Artists* online application can be accessed at: <http://cci.culturegrants.org>

Applications will be accepted online **ONLY** through the new GO™ system.

All applicants MUST register on the new online grants system before they will be able to access grant application forms.

Narrative Questions

1) Artistic Equipment and Tools – We recommend that you write the answers to the below questions in MS Word first and then cut and paste responses to the GO™ system. Applicants are encouraged to consider the specific review criteria for this category when composing their narrative responses.

1. Describe the specific tools, materials or equipment you are seeking to purchase, or capital improvements you are seeking to make, including costs and timetable for acquisition. Briefly discuss the research or rationale behind your request, in the context of your current or proposed future artistic work. (Max 500 words). *You will also include your Vendor Information here, if available, not to exceed one (1) paragraph each.* (Note: Applicants are advised that certain equipment items such as laptops and digital cameras are frequently requested in this category. If this applies to you, please make sure that you have articulated a strong case in responding to Question #2.)
2. How will the required equipment and/or improvements impact your work as an artist? In particular, how will it increase your long-term capacity to create work and why is it significant at this juncture in your professional life (Max 300 words)?
3. Provide a brief statement on your artistic practice and the nature of your work (Max 200 words). *You will also include a brief Artist's Resume here, not to exceed one (1) page.*

2) Artistic Innovation – We recommend that you write the answers to the below questions in MS Word first and then cut and paste responses to the GO™ system. Applicants are encouraged to consider the specific review criteria for this category when composing their narrative responses.

1. Describe the artistic innovation for which you are seeking funding, giving details on your timetable, required resources and collaborators, if any. Provide a clear and compelling artistic rationale explaining why it's important to undertake the project now (Max 500 words). *If applicable, you may include brief Bios of Key Project Collaborators here, not to exceed one-half (1/2) page each.*
2. Explain how your artistic innovation project is “pushing the envelope” for you or your artistic practice, and how it may affect your work in the future (Max 300 words).
3. Provide a brief statement on your artistic practice and the nature of your work (Max 200 words). *You will also include a brief Artist's Resume here, not to exceed one (1) page.*

Readability Tips: You cannot use **bold**, underline, *italics*, or bullets. Try CAPITALS for headings and * for bullets. The PDF will suppress single paragraph returns, so to make an empty line appear between paragraphs or section in the PDF, you MUST insert two (2) paragraph returns.

Work Samples

Work samples will accompany the review of Visual Arts, Craft and Literary Arts applications and must be uploaded to the new GO™ system using the “Support Materials” section of the online application.

Detailed instructions on uploading works samples, required information and file specifications have been provided under the “**How to Upload Files**” tab in the GO™ system.

In general, it is best to select examples of recent work and, if applicable, work that relates to your project. Avoid uploading samples that are dark or have poor visibility.

Work samples may not be submitted by mail. We strongly recommend that you upload work sample(s) well in advance of the application deadline, especially if you are submitting video samples in this round. Please note that formatting video samples to required format specifications can be a lengthy process and even very short video samples may take up to an hour or more to upload!

Work samples may be uploaded in the following formats:

1. JPEG Images

The panel will review up to 10 images total. Please upload in the order you would like the panel to review. 5 minutes total. Please note there is a file size limit of 4 MB per file.

2. Text Samples

The panel will review up to 10 pages of manuscript (either .doc or .pdf file). Please only include a sample that is 10 pages, if is part of a larger sample, create a sample with only 10 pages. There is a file size limit of 10 MB per file.

3. Video Samples

Although we strongly prefer receiving JPEG images, if you believe that a video sample will show your work in the best context, you may upload video samples for review. The panel will review up to 5 minutes total. We recommend that you save your videos as either QuickTime .MOV, Windows .AVI or .MPG files – these are the most common formats and they work well within our system. We specifically recommend the MPEG4 (H.264) format at a 640x480 resolution with MP3 audio. Resizing your video to these specifications before uploading will help your clips look better. Please note, individual video file samples cannot be more than 100 MB large each (500MB total).

Some resources that may help with formatting your video are: media-convert.com, <http://online.movavi.com>, and heywatch.com.

Panelist will review up to 10 images or 10 written pages, which equates to 5 minutes **total**. *Please note, if you are submitting more than one type of work sample, then you cannot submit the recommended total for each type. For example: you can submit 7 images and 2 minutes of video but **NOT** 5 minutes of video and 10 images.*

Make sure you preview each of your uploaded work samples. If the panelists are unable to view samples, your application may be disqualified.

An incomplete application that does not include all the required elements in the online Application Form and Work Samples by the established deadline will result in automatic disqualification of the application.

Application Resources

- Applicants can also access the 'frequently asked questions' page on our website at <http://www.cciarts.org/grantsprogram.htm>.
- If you have additional questions about the application process, contact Lauren Bailey, Managing Director, grants@cciarts.org, (800) 418-1671.