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INVESTING  
*in*  
*Artists*

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**Grants Program Guidelines 2015**

**Performing Arts and Media Arts**

**Deadline: July 1, 2015 by 6:00 p.m. PDT**

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. Since that time with the support of The James Irvine Foundation and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, CCI has awarded over \$2 million to 270 diverse artists working in various disciplines across the state.

Through the continued support of The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, CCI is pleased to offer an additional three rounds of funding (2015-2017) for the *Investing in Artists* program for Bay Area Performing and Media artists.

**Beginning in mid-2015, 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:**

- *Investing in Artists* grants program will fund Performing Arts and Media Arts working artists in 11 Bay Area counties, including Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma, Monterey and Santa Cruz.;
- Grants will be accepted under the Artistic Innovation category where maximum grants are now up to \$7,500 each; and finally,
- Beginning in 2015, artist who were previously funded in the Artistic Innovation category will be eligible to re-apply for a new grant after a two-year waiting period (i.e., if you received an Artistic Innovation grant in 2012, you will be eligible to re-apply for this grant beginning this year).

## Grant Category

*Investing in Artists* provides grants in one funding category: **Grants for Artistic Innovation.** Through a competitive application process conducted over three rounds of funding from 2015 to 2017, approximately 20 grants of up to \$7,500 will be made to Bay Area Performing Arts and Media Arts 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](http://www.creativecapacityfund.org)) to support attendance at workshops and conferences, to work with coaches and consultants, or 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](http://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 the Bay Area in the performing, dance, music, musical theater, opera, theater and media arts. As such, applicants representing a wide range of cultural expressions and artistic practices in the performing arts and media arts disciplines 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 in the 11-county Bay Area region for at least three (3) consecutive years prior to the application deadline. This region is comprised of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma, Monterey and Santa Cruz counties.
- Must maintain permanent residency in the 11-county Bay Area region 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 performed or presented artistic work in a public context within the last three years.
- Only **one** application total may be submitted per individual during each funding round.
- For previous *Investing in Artists* grantees, the following eligibility rules will also apply:
  - a) Previous grantees in the Artistic Innovation category may now re-apply if they received a grant in this category two (2) or more years ago (i.e., in 2012 or earlier).
  - 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 Category**

**Artistic Innovation** – This category provides grants of up to \$7,500 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 \$3,500).
- 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

### **2015: Performing Arts and Media Arts**

Guidelines issued: May 4, 2015

Application deadline: July 1, 2015 by 6:00 p.m. PST

Project start date: October 1, 2015

### **2016: Performing Arts and Media Arts**

Guidelines issued: May 2016, TBD

Application deadline: July 1, 2016 by 6:00 p.m. PST

Project start date: October 1, 2016

### **2017: Performing Arts and Media Arts**

Guidelines issued: May 2017, TBD

Application deadline: June 30, 2017 by 6:00 p.m. PST

Project start date: October 1, 2017

## How to Apply

Individual artists who meet the program's eligibility criteria and are applying in the **Performing Arts and Media Arts** category may submit an online Application Form by **July 1, 2015 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 CCI's GO™ system.

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

## Narrative Questions

**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 your artistic profession or 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 must 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 Performing Arts and Media Arts applications and must be uploaded to the GO™ system using the “Support Materials” section of the online portal.

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. 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. Audio Samples

The panel will review up to 5 minutes total. We recommend that you use .AIFF, .WAV, .XMF, and .MP3 files – these are the most common formats and work well with our system. Please note there is a file size limit of 10 MB.

### 2. Video Samples

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://media-convert.com), <http://online.movavi.com>, and [heywatch.com](http://heywatch.com).

### 3. Text Samples

**For theater artists applying as playwrights only:** Although we strongly prefer receiving video samples from all performing arts applicants, if you primarily identify as a playwright and believe that a text sample will show your work in the best context, you may upload a text sample for review. The panel will review up to 10 pages of manuscript (either .doc or .pdf file).

Panelist will review up 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 2 minutes of audio and 3 minutes of video but **NOT** 5 minutes of audio and 5 minutes of video.*

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](mailto:grants@cciarts.org), (800) 418-1671.