

Investing in Artists FAQ (as of March 31, 2008)

1. Who can apply for this grant? Is the application process only for visual artists, or can dancers and musicians apply?

The *Investing in Artists* grants program is open to working artists in California in the performing, visual, literary, media, design, and cross-disciplinary fields. For the purposes of this grant 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.

2. Is this grant only open to individuals or can organizations apply?

Only individual artists may apply for this grant. Applications will not be accepted from organizations. Artists that have their own 501(c)3 organizations may apply, but they must apply as an individual.

3. What about collaborative artist groups? Can this grant support more than one artist?

Grants will only be awarded to individual artists and are intended to support the work of one artist. In rare circumstances, we will accept applications from collaborative artist groups. To be considered, the collaborative must be joint creators of work, have an established track record of working together, and have developed their artistic career and reputation as a team. This grant is not intended to support group exhibitions or other group based projects. If you apply as a collaborative, the application should be submitted by one individual member that will receive the funds and be responsible for administering those funds. Grants will not be made to multiple members of the same group nor can collaborative members submit separate applications as individuals.

4. Can I apply in more than one grant category in a round?

No. An artist can only submit one application total per round.

5. If I am not funded can I reapply?

If you have not received funding in either Round I or II, you may still apply for a grant in Round III under Artistic Equipment and Tools. We are not accepting applications for Planning under Presenting and Marketing Work at this time.

6. Can I apply for an Implementation grant under Presenting and Marketing Work if I have not received a Planning grant?

No, you must receive a Planning grant under Presenting and Marketing Work in order to be eligible for an Implementation grant in this category. Planning grants are intended to inform the strategy the artist will use in the distribution of their work. These grants

provide a roadmap for the artist, which will allow them to be more effective and efficient in the implementation of their presenting and marketing activities.

7. How do you define project? Do I need to apply for a specific artistic project?

For the purposes of this grant, CCI takes a broad definition of the term project. In essence, the project is what you will spend the funds on. For Artistic Equipment and Tools it is the equipment you will acquire or the studio upgrades you will make. The most competitive requests will be focused on the capital acquisitions that will have a long-term impact on your ability to make work. You do not need to request funds for a specific artistic work.

8. What will the review process be like? Who reviews the applications?

A grant review panel consisting of 5 or more arts field experts will be convened following the close of each round of applications to make recommendations to CCI on final grant recipients. The panel will have expertise in multiple disciplines and will be selected based on the range of applications we receive. Additional field experts may also be used to advise on technical proposals or to conduct site visits with applicants to assess artistic practice, context, or work settings.

9. How are applications evaluated? What makes a competitive application?

Each grant category has a different set of review criteria against which applications are evaluated. This information is listed in the grant guidelines, and we encourage you to review it closely. The most competitive applications are the ones that are clearly written, generally brief and to the point, and demonstrate a strong alignment with each criteria point. Applications will also be evaluated based on the strength of the artist's work; clarity and readiness of the proposed project; timeliness and impact of the requested funding on the artist's career; and significance of the artist to a geographic community, tradition, or art form.

10. What should I submit as a work sample?

The work sample is a critical part of the application and should represent your artistic work in the best possible light. When deciding how to present your work, please keep in mind that the panel will have less than 5 minutes to look at your work. Therefore, you should pick the strongest work and/or work segment to present first. It is a disservice to your application if the panel has to spend 3 minutes flipping between different formats or forwarding through the credits to see the actual work. The list of acceptable work sample formats is listed on the last page of the application forms. Please note that we are not accepting slides or VHS. Images and video need to be on CD or DVD and should be both Mac and PC compatible.

11. Is preference given to emerging or established artists? Does career stage matter?

Artists have new and evolving challenges as they move through their career. For this reason, CCI does not give preference to emerging, mid-career, or established artists. Competitive applications will demonstrate the impact of the proposed project on the artist's career at the current point in time. Quality of artistic work and track record will also be factors in determining who receives a grant.

12. Do artists outside of the Bay Area and Los Angeles have a chance?

Yes. CCI seeks to support a broad diversity of the state's artists through the *Investing in Artists* grants program. The significance of the artist's work to a geographic community, tradition, or art form is specifically considered in the application review process. However, applicants should also be aware that this grants program is highly competitive and that, unfortunately, many good proposals cannot be funded due to the limited grant dollars available.

13. How many grants will you make?

There is no set number. The number of grants awarded will depend on the quality of the applications received and on the financial requirements of the funded projects. In general, we anticipate making between 25-35 Planning grants and 20-25 Implementation grants over all three rounds.

14. What's next after Round III?

Round III marks the final round of funding under the current *Investing in Artists* grant guidelines. When the *Investing in Artists* grants program was launched in June 2007, it was designed to be a pilot program that would test new funding strategies for building the capacity of individual artists. Once Round III closes in 2008, CCI will evaluate the program to incorporate lessons learned from the pilot phase with the aim of launching a second phase of the grants program in the spring of 2009. Your feedback on any aspect of the *Investing in Artists* grants program is welcome, and you may email your comments to us at grants@cciarts.org.