
INVESTING
in
Artists

Grants Program Guidelines 2009-2011

**Round VI: Performing Arts and Media Arts
Deadline: July 9, 2010**

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. Following an initial three rounds of funding made to 54 artists in 2007 and 2008, CCI is pleased to continue the grants program from 2009-2011, supported by The James Irvine Foundation and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Beginning in 2009, the *Investing in Artists* program incorporated a number of significant guideline changes. Prospective applicants should read the current guidelines carefully, which may differ from previous versions, and make note of the following:

- Applications and work samples will now be accepted online **ONLY**, through the CultureGrants Online™ system and applicants are urged to review the online submission requirements well in advance of the deadline;
- Maximum grant awards are set at \$10,000 for implementation of projects in all funding categories (planning grants are no longer provided);
- A previous funding category called “Grants for Presenting and Marketing Work,” which included both Planning and Implementation grants, has been replaced by a new category called “Artistic Innovation” to support a wider range of new work and innovative approaches proposed by artists;
- Applications deadlines will be rotated, and applications reviewed, by discipline-specific groupings: *Performing Arts & Media Arts*, and *Visual Arts, Craft, & Literary Arts*; and finally,
- The administrative office for *Investing in Artists* has been changed to CCI’s Los Angeles office at this new address:

CCI *Investing in Artists* Grants Program
 244 S. San Pedro Street, Suite 401
 Los Angeles, CA 90012
 Toll free: (800) 418-1671
 CCI Office: (213) 687-8577
 Email: grants@cciarts.org

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 2009 to 2011, approximately 100 grants of up to \$10,000 each will be made to California artists, totaling \$1 million in new support to individual 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* program CCI works with a variety of local arts partners to offer entrepreneurial training and mentoring workshops, sponsor artist-to-artist learning and networking opportunities, and promote access to other innovative financial tools and cost-saving programs geared to the needs of artist applicants and grantees alike. In doing so, CCI will not only give grants but also empower artists to share knowledge, build community and secure other funding mechanisms that can help sustain their creative lives.

If you are interested in becoming a local arts partner with CCI to produce training and capacity building programs in your community, please contact our office.

Applicant Eligibility

The *Investing in Artists* grant 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 above); 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, matriculated student.
- Must have exhibited, performed, presented and/or published artistic work in a public context within the last three years.
- Only one application may be submitted per individual during each funding round.
- For previous *Investing in Artists* grantees, the following eligibility rules will also apply:
 - a) All previous Artistic Equipment and Tools grantees are ineligible to apply again in the same category, but may apply for an Artistic Innovation grant;
 - b) Previous Artistic Innovation grantees are ineligible to apply again in the same category, but may be eligible to apply for a first-time Artistic Equipment & Tools grant.
 - c) 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 implementation grants up to \$10,000 each for individual artists to acquire tools, materials or equipment that will strengthen their long-term capacity to create work. Acquisition of equipment or tools 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.
- Routine art supplies used in association with ongoing artistic practice or for creation of new work.

Review criteria for Artistic Equipment and Tools:

- Demonstrated record of artistic achievement, and/or tradition, 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 one-time 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 (not to exceed \$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).
- Costs associated with presenting completed work to the public, including facility rental.

Review criteria for Artistic Innovation:

- Demonstrated record of artistic achievement, and/or tradition, 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

Round VI: Performing Arts and Media Arts applications

Guidelines issued: May 12, 2010
Proposal deadline: July 9, 2010
Project start date: October 1, 2010

Round VII: Visual Arts, Craft and Literary Arts applications

Guidelines issued in November 2010 and proposals due in January 2011 (check back for specific dates).

Round VIII: Performing Arts and Media Arts applications

Guidelines issued in May 2011 and proposals due in July 2011 (check back for specific dates).

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 9, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. PST**.

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

Applications will be accepted online **ONLY** through the CultureGrants Online™ system.

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 CultureGrants Online™ 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, and identify your vendor/suppliers, if available (Max 500 words). *You will also include your Vendor Information here, if available, not to exceed one 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 your Artist's Resume here, not to exceed two (2) pages.*

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 CultureGrants Online™ system. Applicants are encouraged to consider the specific review criteria for this category when composing their narrative responses.

1. Describe the artistic innovation project for which you are seeking funding. Be as specific as possible by identifying the collaborators, resources and timeline required to implement your proposed project (Max 500 words). *You will also include Bios of Key Project Collaborators here, not to exceed one page each.*
2. Explain how your artistic innovation project is "pushing the envelope" for you or your artistic practice, and how it might influence 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 your Artist's Resume here, not to exceed two (2) pages.*

Work Samples

Work samples will accompany the review of Performing Arts and Media Arts applications and must be uploaded to the CultureGrants Online™ system using the Manage Work Samples section. 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 can no longer be submitted by mail. We recommend that you test and save your uploaded work sample(s) well in advance of the application deadline. Please note that a 5-minute video may take an hour or more to upload!

Work samples may be uploaded in the following formats:

1. From Audio CDs

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 they work well within our system. Please note there is a file size limit of 10MB.

2. From DVDs

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 640x480 resolution with MP3 audio. Resizing your video to these specifications before uploading will help your clips look better. Please note there is a file size limit of 500MB.

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

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

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

- CCI offers free informational workshops and webinars for prospective applicants. An updated schedule can be found on our website at <http://www.cciarts.org/workshops.htm>
- 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 Katy Hilton, Grants Manager, grants@cciarts.org, (800) 418-1671.