
INVESTING
in
Artists

Grants Program Guidelines 2009-2011

**Round IV: Performing Arts & Media Arts
Deadline: July 15, 2009**

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 will incorporate a number of significant program guideline changes. Prospective applicants should read the current guidelines carefully, which may differ from previous versions, and make note of the following:

- Applications will now be accepted online **ONLY**, through the CultureGrants Online™ system;
- Maximum grant awards are set at \$10,000 for implementation of projects in all funding categories (planning grants are no longer provided);
- The 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category called “Grants for Presenting and Marketing Work” which included both Planning and Implementation grants, has been replaced by a new category called “Artistic Innovation” to support a wider range of new work and innovative approaches proposed by artists;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, Crafts, & 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 at anytime.

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 grant program, “working artists” who are eligible to apply 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) Previous Artistic Equipment and Tools grantees are ineligible to apply again in this category, but may apply for an Artistic Innovation grant;
 - b) Previous Presenting and Marketing grantees who have received either a planning or implementation grant are eligible to apply for an Artistic Innovation grant, or may be eligible to apply for a one-time Artistic Equipment and Tools grant.
 - c) All previous grantees who have not yet submitted a final grant report will be ineligible to apply until all required reports have been submitted and approved by CCI prior to the application deadline.

Funding Categories

1) Artistic Equipment and Tools – This category provides one-time implementation grants up to \$10,000 each (with the average grant being closer to \$10,000) 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, performance materials or technical supplies 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 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.

Review criteria for Artistic Equipment and Tools:

- Demonstrated record of artistic achievement, and quality of work.
- Clarity and readiness of proposed acquisitions or capital improvement project, including identification of specific costs, tools and materials, and vendors or consultants (if any), required to carry out the project.
- Evidence that funding comes at a "critical juncture" in the artist's career, and will enhance the artist's long-term capacity to create work.
- Significance of the artist to a geographic community, tradition or art form in California.

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:

- Direct costs associated with the creation of new artistic work or exploration of new work processes, including artist's time (not to exceed 50% of the total grant request).
- Fees for artistic collaborators, travel or supplies.
- Fees for technical consultants to support the artist's creative capacity-building or artistic exploration.

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 quality of work.
- Clarity, rationale and readiness of proposed project, including identification of specific tools, materials, vendors or consultants (if any), required to carry out the project.
- Evidence that funding is required 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.
- Significance of the artist to a geographic community, tradition or art form in California.

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 IV: Performing Arts and Media Arts applications**

Guidelines issued: May 22, 2009
 Proposal deadline: July 15, 2009
 Project start date: October 1, 2009

Round V: Visual Arts, Craft and Literary Arts applications

Guidelines issued in November 2009 and proposals due in January 2010 (check back for specific dates).

Round VI: Performing Arts and Media Arts applications

Guidelines issued in May 2010 and proposals due in July 2010 (check back for specific dates).

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 15, 2009 at 10:59 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) Grants for 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.

1. Describe your current work as an artist. Please elaborate on any significant artistic activities, awards or accomplishments, as well as any relevant community involvement or regional leadership in the arts. (Max 600 words)
2. Describe the tools, materials, or equipment you are seeking to acquire or capital improvements you are seeking to make. Why have you identified these specific materials and/or improvements? Please describe any research you have completed. (Max 600 words)
3. Are there other resources or supports that you will need? If you have identified any consultants or vendors who will assist you, please provide their name, a brief summary of their qualifications, and a description of the role they will play. (You may attach a brief bio for each consultant below). (Max 300 words)
4. What is the timetable for acquiring the requested tools and/or making the proposed capital improvements? Please provide specific dates as possible. (Max 300 words)
5. 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 600 words)

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.

1. Describe your current work as an artist. Please elaborate on any significant artistic activities, awards or accomplishments, as well as any relevant community involvement or regional leadership in the arts. (Max 600 words)
2. Describe the 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. Attach bios for key project collaborators below, as applicable. (Max 1200 words)
3. Explain how your artistic innovation project is "pushing the envelope" for you or your artistic work process, and how it will enhance your work as an artist in the future. Describe the artistic risks you foresee, if any. (Max 600 words)

Work Samples

Work samples will accompany the review of Performing Arts and Media Arts applications, but will be mailed in separately from the online Application Form. A Work Sample Cover Sheet, completed as part of your online Application Form, must be printed and enclosed with your work sample submission when you mail it in.

Work samples will be accepted in the following formats:

1. Audio CD

The panel will review up to 5 minutes total. Please indicate the track number(s) that you would like reviewed, in priority order.

2. DVD

The panel will review up to 5 minutes total. Please provide a navigation menu and make sure that the DVD is able to be played on a standard DVD player.

3. Text Samples

The panel will review up to 10 pages from a libretto or script. (Please note, when possible, work samples showing the work performed are preferred to written samples.)

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

In addition to these work samples, you may submit up to two reviews of your work. Please do not send catalogs or other bulky items.

Work Sample Submission Instructions

Submit five (5) identical copies of your work sample in one of the formats listed above. Make sure each copy is clearly labeled with your name and application number as assigned on your online Application Form. Complete the online Work Sample Cover Sheet and print one (1) copy to enclose with your work samples. Do not submit a hard copy of your full application.

If you choose to submit reviews, include only one copy, labeled with your name.

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

Do not submit master copies. CCI is not responsible for lost or damaged materials. Work samples will not be returned unless you provide a self addressed stamped envelope with proper postage.

Work samples with cover sheet must be postmarked on or before July 15, 2009 and sent to the following address:

Investing in Artists Program
Center for Cultural Innovation
244 S. San Pedro St., Suite 401
Los Angeles, CA 90012

An incomplete application that does not include all the required elements in the online Application Form, plus mailed Work Samples and Cover Sheet **postmarked** by the established deadline, will result in automatic disqualification of the application.