

Investing in Artists FAQ

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, “working artists” who are eligible 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?

Yes. You may reapply if you are not funded, but you can only apply in one category each round. If you receive an Implementation grant in either category, you may not reapply.

6. If I didn't submit an application in Round I, can I still apply in Round II?

If you did not apply in Round I, or If you applied in Round I and were not funded, you are still eligible to apply in Round II for an *Implementation Grant* under Artistic Equipment & Tools or for a *Planning Grant* under Presenting and Marketing Work.

7. I don't understand the grant categories. How do they fit together? When do I apply for a Planning grant and when do I apply for an Implementation grant?

The Investing in Artists grants are divided into two categories: 1) Artistic Equipment and Tools and 2) Presenting and Marketing Work. The Artistic Equipment and Tools category only offers funds for Implementation. It is pretty straight forward, if your request is deemed competitive and selected for funding, you will receive a grant in an amount up to \$15,000. The Presenting and Marketing Work category is slightly more complex. Under this category we provide two types of grants, Planning grants and Implementation grants. In order to be considered for an Implementation grant in this category the artist must first receive a Planning grant. Planning grants are up to \$5,000 and Implementation grants are up to \$15,000.

8. What is the purpose of a Planning grant and what is the difference between the Planning grants and Implementation grants under Presenting and Marketing Work? Do I have to apply for a Planning grant?

Artists often end up working from project to project and are rarely given the opportunity to strategically plan for how they will increase the markets for their work. By offering planning grants, CCI is providing artists with the opportunity to step back and think strategically about the potential audiences for their work and how to best reach those audiences and investors. Planning grants can provide artists with the financial resources to conduct business planning and audience research or develop distribution strategies for their artistic work. In essence, the Planning grants will result in a road map that the artist will follow in the Implementation phase of the grant. Under the Presenting and Marketing Work category, you must apply and receive a Planning grant to be considered for an Implementation grant.

9. Can I use the Planning grants to develop a new work?

No. Grants made through the Presenting and Marketing Work category are for artists to expand the distribution of their existing, finished work to reach new audiences, collaborators or investors. Fee associated with the planning, commissioning and creation of new work are ineligible.

10. 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. For Presenting and Marketing of Work, it is planning, marketing or presenting activity you will undertake. The most competitive requests will be focused on larger career goals with long-term impact, you do not need to request funds for a specific artistic work.

11. I am a California artist, but the project I want to apply for will require me to travel. Can I apply for a project that will take place out of state?

Yes. We realize that artists must often travel to promote their work. We encourage artists to take advantage of special opportunities to present their work to new audiences, even if those opportunities require travel outside of California.

12. 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. Quality of artistic work and track record will also be factors in determining who receives a grant.

13. 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 will be key factors in evaluating applications.

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

A grant review panel consisting of 5 or more members will be convened following the close of each round of applications to make recommendations to CCI on final grant recipients. The panel will represent 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.

15. How many grants will you make?

There is no set number, it 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.