Dear Friends,

Ten years ago, in 2001, the time seemed right to establish a new organization dedicated to strengthening the support system for artists, and doing it by bringing together expertise and resources across sectors in ways that hadn’t been tried in the arts before.

We started out in a modest way, serving perhaps 100 artists in our first year, and have since grown by leaps and bounds by focusing our efforts on launching the most promising new ideas and programs that have now directly served a total of more than 20,000 artists in California, and beyond. And despite the economic challenges of recent years we have been able to steadily expand our early program offerings, develop new programs and continuously explore new ideas to help artists increase their sustainability.

The Center for Cultural Innovation’s growth has been fueled by a knowledgeable board, innovative research and program development, and a philanthropic community that supports and believes in our mission. It is also made possible by our exceptional staff team that has worked cooperatively, and entrepreneurially, to produce an impressive body of work at CCI.

This 2011 Annual Report summarizes our work of the past year, but also reflects the sum of our vision, aspirations and program work of the past decade. My thanks to everyone who helped to make it possible – we look forward to the next ten years ahead.

Sincerely,

Cora Mirikitani
MISSION + VISION

The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) was founded in 2001 as a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Its mission is to promote knowledge sharing, networking and financial independence for individual artists and creative entrepreneurs by providing business training, grants and by incubating innovative projects that create new program knowledge, tools and practices for artists in the field.

CCI believes that by linking the natural creativity and tolerance for risk of artists and creative entrepreneurs to the latest business tools and practices, and by helping to connect them to new financial resources, and to one another, CCI can give artists the knowledge and economic independence needed to bring their work and ideas into the marketplace, and establish a new voice for artists based on their collective clout. This is our vision. Knowledge is power. Personal networks build community. And financial independence supports creative freedom. This is what drives our work at the Center for Cultural Innovation.
THE national research studies that supported the launch of CCI identified the lack of working capital and access to grants as one of the primary barriers for working artists in the United States. With that in mind, creating innovative grant programs that would directly serve individual artists in California was a key goal for CCI.

In 2007, CCI launched the Investing in Artists (IA) grants program providing funding up to $10,000 to California artists working in all disciplines in two grant categories: 1) Artistic Equipment & Tools; and 2) Artistic Innovation projects. In 2009, we launched the Creative Capacity Fund as a professional development mini-grants program which now administers the statewide Quick Grant program, co-funded by 10 arts funding partners, plus the NextGen Professional Development program. More recently, in 2011, CCI assumed administration of the well-established Artists' Resource for Completion (ARC) grant program for Los Angeles artists, on behalf of The Durfee Foundation.
INVESTING IN ARTISTS
CCI initially launched the Investing in Artists (IA) grants program in 2007 to enhance the working lives and strengthen the creative support system for California artists working in all disciplines. Supported by The James Irvine Foundation and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the IA Grants program has now provided $1.45 million in grants to 161 artists statewide, working in all disciplines.

From October 2010 to October 2011, CCI made three rounds of grants to Performing and Media artists, and Visual, Craft and Literary artists, respectfully. CCI is truly proud of the positive impact this program has made on the artistic community and looks forward to continuing this important grants program for California artists as it looks towards 2012.

ARTISTS WHO RECEIVED GRANTS IN THE LAST THREE CYCLES OF FUNDING ARE:

Round VI, Performing and Media Arts
(awarded October 2010)

13 Artistic Equipment & Tools Grants:
• Tandy Beal (Multidisciplinary, Felton)
• S. Leo Chiang (Media Arts, San Francisco)
• Nara Denning (Media Arts, San Francisco)
• Arthur E. Dong (Media Arts, Los Angeles)
• Peter Esmonde (Media Arts, San Francisco)
• Mark G. Izu (Multidisciplinary, San Francisco)
• Larry Karush (Music, Los Angeles)
• Susan R. Mogul (Media Arts, Los Angeles)
• Jude Narita (Theater, Marina Del Rey)
• Naoyuki Oguri (Dance, Venice)
• Gang Situ (Music, San Francisco)
• Marilee Talkington (Theater, San Francisco)
• Theresa Wong (Music, Berkeley)

“This equipment has really changed the caliber of my work and presentation. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!”
- Elaine Buckholz, Visual Artist, San Francisco
11 Artistic Innovation Grants:
• Lily Cai (Dance, San Francisco)
• Leilani Chan (Theater, Los Angeles)
• Paul Dresher (Music, Berkeley)
• Paul S. Flores (Theater, San Francisco)
• Janie Geiser (Multidisciplinary, Los Angeles)
• Nancy Keystone (Theatre, Los Angeles)
• Victoria E. Marks (Dance, Los Angeles)
• Margaret Jenkins (Dance, San Francisco)
• Jay Rosenblatt (Media Arts, San Francisco)
• Keith Terry (Multidisciplinary, Oakland)
• Sarah E. Wilson (Music, Kensington)

Round VII, Visual, Craft and Literary Arts
(awarded April 2011)
14 Artistic Equipment & Tools Grants:
• Jessica K. Bodner (Visual Arts, Ventura)
• Natalie Bookchin (Visual Arts, Los Angeles)
• George-Ann Bowers (Visual Arts, Berkeley)
• Rebecca Chamlee (Crafts, Simi Valley)
• Adriane Colburn (Visual Arts, San Francisco)
• Eileen Cowin (Multidisciplinary, Santa Monica)
• Patsy Cox (Visual Arts, Los Angeles)
• David Maisel (Visual Arts, Sausalito)
• Elizabeth A. McKenzie (Literature, Santa Cruz)
• Patricia A. Montgomery (Crafts, Oakland)
• Michael Namkung (Multidisciplinary, San Francisco)
• Genevieve Quick (Visual Arts, San Francisco)
• Favianna Rodriguez (Visual Arts, Oakland)
• Joe Scarpa (Visual Arts, Sacramento)

12 Artistic Innovation Grants:
• Claude Collins-Stracensky (Visual Arts, Los Angeles)
• Lia Cook (Crafts, Berkeley)
• Beatriz da Costa (Multidisciplinary, Long Beach)
• Brian K. Dempster (Literature, Mill Valley)
• Ruth M. Hodgins (Visual Arts, San Francisco)
• Cheryl Klein (Literature, Los Angeles)
• Amitis Motevalli (Multidisciplinary, Los Angeles)

"The grant is an important validation of what we’re doing, not only in the performance field, but also amidst a national culture that is not necessarily inclined to value art."

-Nancy Keystone
Theater Artist, Los Angeles
Grant Programs

Round VIII, Performing and Media Arts
(Awarded October 2011):

14 Artistic Equipment & Tools Grants:
- Sam Breen (Theater, Santa Clarita)
- Kyle Bruckmann (Music, Oakland)
- Gamo Da Paz (Folk/Traditional, Los Baños)
- Rebecca Goodman (Multidisciplinary, Vista)
- Jacqueline Gordon (Media Arts, Palo Alto)
- Kristy Guevara-Flanagan (Media Arts, Oakland)
- Franco Imperial (Music, San Jose)
- Lars Jan (Multidisciplinary, Los Angeles)
- Alexander Kritselis (Multidisciplinary, Los Angeles)
- Deann Liem (Media Arts, Berkeley)
- Loren Mach (Music, Oakland)
- Nina Menkes (Media Arts, Venice)
- Edward Schocker (Music, Berkeley)
- Pamela Z (Multidisciplinary, San Francisco)

13 Artistic Innovation Grants:
- Alex Braidwood (Media Arts, Los Angeles)
- Ellen Bruno (Media Arts, San Francisco)
- Broderick Fox (Media Arts, Los Angeles)
- Guillermo Galindo (Multidisciplinary, Berkeley)
- Sean Griffin (Multidisciplinary, Torrance)
- Dee Hibbert-Jones (Media Arts, San Francisco)
- Sha Sha Higby (Multidisciplinary, Bolinas)
- Shinichi Iova-Koga (Dance, San Francisco)
- John Leaños (Media Arts, San Francisco)
- Lionel Popkin (Dance, Santa Monica)
- Yuriko Romer (Media Arts, San Francisco)
- Michael Sakamoto (Multidisciplinary, Montebello)
- Susan Sifton (Multidisciplinary, Los Angeles)

Investing in Artist grantees from all eight funding rounds were celebrated at gatherings held in Los Angeles and San Francisco in October 2011. The celebrations included a forum to introduce CCI’s exciting new partnership with United States Artists/USA Project Site, which is an innovative online fundraising platform. IA grantees from all eight rounds will be eligible to participate and raise funds for artistic projects from their own network and an ever-expanding national network of supporters.
GRANT PROGRAMS

ARC GRANTS PROGRAM
In FY11, CCI expanded its grantmaking activities to include administration of The Durfee Foundation’s ARC Program (Artists’ Resource for Completion). The ARC grants program was established in 2000 in an effort to provide a dedicated resource for individual artists living in Los Angeles County to present their work to the public.

ARC grants provide rapid, short-term assistance on a quarterly basis to individual artists to enhance their ability to present their work for a specific, imminent opportunity that may significantly benefit their careers. Artists in any discipline are eligible to apply.

In the first two grant making cycles from January through June 2011, CCI awarded $104,897 to 37 individual Los Angeles artists.

1st Quarter ARC Grantees:
Michael Arata (Visual)
Mona Jean Cedar (Multidisciplinary)
Zoe Crosher (Visual)
Robert Crouch (Multidisciplinary)
Roni Feldman (Visual)
Mark S. Greenfield (Visual)
Mark E. Hagen (Visual)
Daniel M. Hawkins (Visual)
Leslie Ishii (Theater)

Paul Outlaw (Theater)
Sandra Powers (Media Arts)
Phil Ranelin (Music)
Kimberly Schoenstadt (Visual)
Wu Ingrid Tsang (Visual)

“...The generous grant I received from the Center for Cultural Innovation allowed me to present my work under the best possible conditions, making it my most successful exhibition to date.”

—Mark Steven Greenfield, Visual Artist, Los Angeles (First Quarter 2011 ARC Grantee)
GRANT PROGRAMS

Quintan Ana Wikswo (Visual)
Kevin P. Williamson (Dance)
Meg Wolfe (Dance)
Kristina Wong (Theater)
Naisa Y. Wong (Theater)

2nd Quarter ARC Grantees:
Jennifer Ann Bloom (Theater)
Howard Edelman (Literature)
Beto Gonzalez (Music)
Tm Gratkowski (Visual)
Virginia Grise (Theater)
Carmela Hermann (Dance)
Lars Jan (Multidisciplinary)
Lawrence S. Karush (Music)
Sir Sahaj Kaur (Photography)
Laida Lertxundi (Film)
Curtis McElhinney (Photography)
Richard Newton (Visual)
Sarah Vasanti Saxena (Theater)
Laurie Ann Sefton (Dance)
Adriana Sevahn Nichols (Theater)
Waewdao Sirisook (Dance)
Gabrielle Renee Strong (Multidisciplinary)
John Trevino (Photography)

Informal feedback from local artists about the transition of administration of the program from the Durfee Foundation to CCI has been positive and we have been pleased to meet our community outreach goals. Since assuming administration of the ARC program, CCI has also greatly appreciated the opportunity to engage more deeply with Los Angeles based artists and their work.

“Collaborating with Carlos Garnett for the celebration of Eric Dolphu Day has lifted my own career as an international cultural ambassador and will help me in seeking future cultural exchange grants.”

-Phil Ranelin, Musician, Los Angeles (First Quarter 2011 ARC Grantee)
GRANT PROGRAMS

THE CREATIVE CAPACITY FUND
Established in 2009 by a consortium of California arts funders, the Creative Capacity Fund (CCF) was created as a mini-grants program to strengthen the work of artists and arts administrators by providing access to capacity building and career enrichment opportunities through conferences, workshops and to work with qualified consultants and coaches. CCF administers two professional development grant programs:

- **THE QUICK GRANT PROGRAM**, which provides $500-$1,000 in reimbursement funding to engage consultants or participate in workshops and conferences that will significantly impact their administrative capacity or business skills.

- **NEXTGEN ARTS** The Leadership Initiative, which provides up to $1,000 for California emerging arts leaders for their professional development needs, and NextGen Innovation Grants which provides up to $10,000 for arts organizations to explore new ways of doing business to support a next generation of arts administrators. In addition to these grant programs, CCI also organizes semi-annual convenings of the leaders of regional emerging arts leadership groups in California.

The Creative Capacity Fund is designed to provide a quick and easy way for cultural workers and artists to act on professional development needs and opportunities. As such, the program accepts proposals on a monthly basis using an online application process. CCF’s website also provides a calendar of relevant workshops and events, a service provider listing, and peer-to-peer articles on a range of professional development topics.
GRANT PROGRAMS

QUICK GRANT PROGRAM

Current participating funders in the Quick Grant program included the San Francisco Arts Commission, San Francisco Grants for the Arts/Hotel Tax Fund, the San Francisco Foundation, the Walter and Elise Haas Fund, the Fleishhacker Foundation, the City of San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs, The Lia Fund, the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, Los Angeles County Arts Commission and the California Community Foundation.

PARTICIPANT POSITION

In FY11, 239 Quick Grants were awarded to 136 individual artists and 104 non-profit arts organizations in the Bay Area and Los Angeles. Small to mid-sized organizations received significant support to help build their organizational capacity and artists used the funds to participate in professional development workshops, conferences and for coaching/consulting to hone their business skills and advance their careers.

“Thank you so much for the wonderful opportunity to attend Theatre Communication Group’s Theatre Conference. Due to the budget cut, I could not have been able to attend this conference without your grant. In three days I was able to learn about new ways of marketing our productions, especially about how to utilize social media to engage younger audience. I will continue to put it into practice and continue to expand our audience.”

Kaz Matamura - Managing Director
Fire Rose Productions
Grantee April 2011
Los Angeles, CA
GRANT PROGRAMS

NEXTGEN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS
As part of the The NextGen Arts Leadership Initiative funded by The James Irvine Foundation and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, California non-profit arts administrators between the ages of 18-35 were invited to participate in the NextGen Leadership Survey to qualify for NextGen professional development grants. In FY11, CCF awarded NextGen funding to 103 individuals statewide to support their career advancement.

Grantees explored a variety of “out-of the box” formats for their professional development beyond workshops and conferences. For example, one applicant organized a crowd-sourced mentorship program engaging leaders from across the field. Another grantee traveled to various East Coast museums to explore institutional approaches to public programming.

NEXTGEN INNOVATION GRANTS
CCI also created a NextGen Innovation Grants program to help exemplary arts organizations explore new program ideas and practices that could enhance their next generation staff leaders. In a competitive grants process involving 54 applicants statewide, CCF awarded one-year grants up to $60,000 to the following seven arts organizations to pursue innovative solutions to supporting their emerging leaders:

- Balboa Park Cultural Partnership (San Diego, CA)
- California Presenters (Sacramento, CA)
- Cornerstone Theater Company (Los Angeles, CA)
- Headlands Center for the Arts (Sausalito, CA)
- Ink People, Inc. (Eureka, CA)
- Khmer Arts Academy (Long Beach, CA)
- Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (San Francisco, CA)

“The current economic climate is such that professional development opportunities are difficult to come by, and when funds are available, senior staff generally receive higher priority. Therefore, this grant is much needed for younger arts professionals seeking an opportunity to deepen their connection to the field…”

Kathryn Jaller
Contemporary Jewish Museum
San Francisco CA
TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Providing professional development training to individual artists has been a cornerstone of CCI’s programming since our inception 10 years ago. We have directly impacted the lives and careers of more than 10,000 California artists over the last decade by teaching them essential business skills and sharing knowledge and resources to help them advance their artistic practice.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR 2011 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM INCLUDE:


First published in 2008, the 2nd edition has many important changes. The content has been updated to reflect both the evolution in our curriculum as well as more current business realities that impact artists and their arts business. The new version is also much more hands-on in its approach.

After conversations with nationally regarded thought leaders in arts administration, content was developed by several CCI trainers. It was field-tested in Business of Art programs in both Los Angeles and San Francisco during the spring of 2011. Based on feedback from artists and trainers, some editorial revisions were made during the summer and the book will be published in January 2012.

“What heart and soul in the CCI program — you are all lovely. So much to carry on with — Thank You!”

Erin Jourdan
Early reviews of the publication have been quite positive. Ann Markusen, Director of the Arts Economy Initiative, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota said, “The Business of Art’s career path and personal planning chapters will help the millions of self-employed artists, here and abroad, see themselves as entrepreneurs and proactively reach out for the tools they need. Our Arts Economy Initiative’s surveys and interviews with thousands of American artists over the past decade reveal that great gains in aesthetic quality and economic security can be achieved with the right know-how. This book should be prominently stowed on every artist’s reference shelf.”

Professional Development programming expanded into new markets including Ventura County and Long Beach.

Collaborations with both community foundations and local cultural entities helped CCI expand its professional development programming in new communities in FY11. Together with leaders from the Ventura Community Foundation, we created a custom program in September 2010 to offer Business of Art training and philosophies to individual artists from Ventura County.

Our long-standing partnership with the Arts Council for Long Beach continued to expand. Once again, the Arts Council

“I really enjoyed this class -- it helped me legitimize myself to myself. I loved the camaraderie and I felt a lot of support from my classmates. Even though I’m just getting started on the business end of things, I didn’t feel out of my league, and that was wonderful. Thank You.”

Gloria Newton
Training and Professional Development Programs

During the past year there were other significant accomplishments:

- CCI provided a total of 120 hours of direct professional development training to artists throughout California. A total of 40 workshops were produced throughout California during the FY attended by over 1,500 people.
- Our signature program, Business of Art, was presented to 18 Cultural Equity grantees of the San Francisco Arts Commission in the spring of 2011. We also presented the program in Los Angeles to 25 artists.
- We continue to offer subject-specific classes in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Topics include Grant Strategies, Strategic Planning, Tax Tips, Marketing and Social Media.
- For the 2nd year, we developed a professional development program in collaboration with the California Community Foundation to support the Foundation’s Fellowship for Visual Artists program. The 2010-2011 Fellows (eleven mid-career and seven emerging) participated in a special Business of Art retreat at the UCLA Conference Center in Lake Arrowhead in November 2010.
- Our collaboration continued with the Sacramento Region Community Foundation providing professional development programs for their Advancing Sacramento Arts Program, which focuses on capacity-building concerns.
- CCI continued to participate in the quarterly Arts Tune Up programs sponsored by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission where over 300 artists and arts administrators participated in technical assistance training sessions. Arts Tune Ups were held in Long Beach, Los Angeles, Venice and Carson.

CCI fills a niche in our arts ecosystem in L.A. by focusing on individual artists and small organizations. As a funder, it’s important to have partners to help strengthen our grantmaking and CCI does just that—whether it’s through the Creative Capacity Fund or our professional development partnership on the Fellowship for Visual Artists retreat.

Leslie Ito, Program Officer, Arts, California Community Foundation

offered scholarships for Long Beach residents to attend CCI workshops in Los Angeles. In addition, the Arts Council hosted CCI at The Collaborative Gallery where we offered three of our signature workshops in June 2011.
TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

As we look toward the future, we anticipate continued growth in professional development offerings. For 2012, we will be designing and piloting a “next steps” coaching program to help Business of Art graduates maintain their momentum and energy from their classroom experience. We will explore utilizing technology to expand our services and increase the knowledge-base of artists but also look for opportunities to build community and increase peer-to-peer learning and experiences.
NURTURING CALIFORNIA’S NEXT GENERATION ARTS LEADERS - FULL SURVEY REPORT

An integral part of the NextGen Leadership Initiative was a benchmark study commissioned by CCI and written by noted research economist Ann Markusen. Based on the results of the NextGen leadership survey, the report analyzed information from over 1,300 emerging art leaders in California between the ages of 18-35 who provided detailed information about their career needs, status and aspirations. These results were then translated into a revelatory report describing current attitudes among NextGen arts leaders and making recommendations that can begin to bridge a looming leadership gap in the non-profit arts sector.

“I love where I work. I just wish that the organization could grow to support both my own growth and the growth of those that I supervise.”

“I strongly believe in the effectiveness of mentorship. My mentor took me under his wing and allowed me to participate in his work and gave me many responsibilities. I learned through his example, and I also learned by being given the experience to do new things and being trusted to figure them out properly.”
RESEARCH PROJECTS

LOS ANGELES: AMERICA’S ARTIST SUPER CITY – POLICY BRIEF

In 2010, CCI commissioned noted research economist Ann Markusen to write a policy brief that analyzed census, employment and other research data on artists in the Los Angeles area. As the title implies, Markusen found that L.A. has the largest concentration of working artists of any major metropolitan city in the United States, yet with little policy focus or direction to support these human resources. To help promote a more robust discussion in the public domain, this report was incorporated and presented as part of the 2010 Otis Creative Economy Report presented to Los Angeles arts, business and civic leaders in November 2010.

“Los Angeles artists also stimulate community life and place-making through their gifts of leadership and skills to celebrations, festivals, dances, community murals, community organizing and the mentoring of younger people in artistic practice.”

“Los Angeles hosts the largest pool of artists of any metro in the nation and is the top net attractor of young artists.”
Because much of CCI’s work is produced and disseminated virtually, we recognized the need to develop a new and more robust website that provides greater back-end infrastructure for data management, and increased user functionalities to communicate CCI’s many offerings to our artist constituency. We were fortunate to be awarded a Website Development Grant from the Taproot Foundation, which supported an outstanding team consisting of a web technologist, designer, copywriter, photographer and project manager to work with CCI staff to create a new generation website for CCI. This development project occurred over a six-month period in 2011, and the new website will be beta-tested in late 2011 with a public launch anticipated in early 2012.
Center for Cultural Innovation continued its pattern of well-managed growth in FY11, with income of $1,822,132 received against program and operating expenses totaling $1,522,111. This trend combining growth with living within our means has been steadily maintained over the past three years, as shown in the following Unrestricted Activity Trend Report on CCI’s finances, produced by the California Cultural Data Project. For further information on CCI’s audited financial statements for FY11, please contact the CCI Administrative Office at 244 S. San Pedro Street, Suite 401, Los Angeles, CA 90012.
ADMINISTRATION + FINANCES

CCI WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES THAT SUPPORTED ITS PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS IN 2011:

Arts Council of Long Beach
California Community Foundation
City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs
City of San José, Office of Cultural Affairs
The Fleishhacker Foundation
The James Irvine Foundation
Leveraging Investments in Creativity
The Lia Fund
Los Angeles County Arts Commission
Sacramento Region Community Foundation
San Francisco Arts Commission
The San Francisco Foundation
San Francisco Grants for the Arts/Hotel Tax Fund
The Taproot Foundation
Ventura County Community Foundation
The Walter & Elise Haas Fund
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

CCI WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2011:

Bill Viola Studio
Bonnie Brooks
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Karen Constine
Carla Gordon
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Michelle Houston
Nancy Keystone
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Lorna Lathram
Michael and Nancy Leb
Elana Mann
Cora Mirikitani
Mari Riddle
Philip Ross
Allison Sampson
Koji Takei
Jan Williamson
Terry Wolverton
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