



INVESTING IN ARTISTS

ARTISTIC INNOVATION

INFORMATION SESSION

JULY 17, 2024

ABOUT

The **Investing in Artists: Artistic Innovation** program (**fka Investing in Artists**) supports diverse, Bay Area working artists who are developing **new work** in the **performing or media arts** that pushes the envelope of their creative process, explores new artistic collaborations, and/or supports artistic growth and experimentation that extends the boundaries of their art-making.

Through a competitive application process conducted over three rounds of funding from 2024 to 2026, **approximately eight grants of up to \$9,000 each will be made annually to Bay Area performing and media artists**, with Bay Area County eligibility rotating every year.

IA: Artistic Innovation is supported by the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation and administered by the Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI).





Courtesy of 2023 Investing in Artists grantee, Hannah Mayree.
Briones Park, photo by Ashleigh Castro, 2023.



ASHLEIGH CASTRO
PHOTOGRAPHY

GUIDELINES



ELIGIBILITY

To be **eligible** for funding consideration, applicants:

- Must reside full-time in Alameda, Contra Costa, or San Francisco County when applying and for the duration of the grant period (November 2024 – November 2025).
- Must be an individual working artist*.
- Must propose a new project.
- Projects that have already taken place or that will take place before the start of the grant period are ineligible. See the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information.
- Must have performed or presented artistic work in a public context—including online/digital platforms—within the last three years (i.e., since 2021).
- Must be 18 years or older at the time of the application deadline.

ELIGIBILITY (cont'd)

The following are **ineligible** for funding consideration:

- Artist collectives, coops, or collaboratives;
- Nonprofit or fiscally sponsored organizations;
- Group performances or other group-based projects;
- Individuals playing a supportive or “producer” role in developing an individual artist’s work (such as curators, producers, designers, technicians, fabricators, and advisors);
- Full-time or matriculated students;
- Applicants who submit more than one application;
- Incomplete applications and those with inaccessible work samples or other required files; and
- Individuals who have a conflict of interest (family or financial relationship) with the board, staff, or directors of the Center for Cultural Innovation.

REVIEW CRITERIA

Panelists will evaluate applications against the following artistic innovation criteria:

- **Readiness:** Clarity, rationale, and readiness of proposed project, including identification of specific work plans, timeline, and collaborators (if applicable) required to carry out the project;
- **Critical Juncture:** 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. In other words, there is a compelling rationale as to why the artist should be supported at *this particular moment*; and
- **Artistic Achievement:** Demonstrated record of artistic achievement and quality of work.

TIMELINE

Application Opens	July 3 at 9:00 a.m. PT
Drop-in Q&A's	July 26 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. PT Register Here
	August 7 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. PT Register Here
	August 13 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. PT Register Here
Application Deadline	August 26 at 11:59 a.m. (morning) PT
Application Notifications	October 30 by EOD
Grant Support Period	November 2024 - November 2025



Courtesy of 2023 Investing in Artists grantee, Bia Gayotto.
Self-portrait, Redwood Forest. 2023.

APPLICATION

NARRATIVE

- **Project Description:** Describe the artistic innovation project for which you are seeking funding, providing details with regards to your concept, stage of development, timeline, required resources, and collaborators, if any.
- **Collaborators** (Optional): If applicable, include up to three brief bios for key collaborators and describe how they are supporting the project.
- **Why Now?:** Explain how your artistic innovation project is “pushing the envelope” for your artistic profession or practice, how it may affect your work in the future, and why it is important to undertake this project now.
- **Applicant Context:** Provide a brief statement about your artistic practice and the nature of your work.

RÉSUMÉ & BUDGET

RÉSUMÉ

- Brief, **one-page** résumé that summarizes experience and activities in the field.

BUDGET

- Upload a **one-page** version of your project budget.
 - If project's total expenses are projected to exceed the amount requested from Investing in Artists (up to \$9,000), list additional income sources and their status.
- [Sample project budget](#) (next slide)
- Required Budget Notes section

BUDGET

Applicants must upload a budget; however, they are not required to use this budget template. Please create a project budget using your preferred format.

Please note: Project Budgets are limited to one page. If this template is used, make sure the orientation is set to "Portrait" and view the "Page Break Preview" to ensure that the page limit is adhered to.

Investing in Artists - Project Budget Template		
<i>Income</i>		
Item	Amount	Status (e.g., prospective, pending, confirmed)
Investing in Artists: Artistic Innovation	\$ 9,000.00	Pending
In-Kind Donation	\$ 5,000.00	Confirmed
ABC Foundation Grant	\$ 10,000.00	Pending
Crowdfunding	\$ 2,000.00	Confirmed
Income Total	\$ 26,000.00	
<i>Expenses</i>		
Item	Amount	Notes (You may also use the Budget Notes section in the application form)
Lead Artist	\$ 5,000.00	\$50/hr x 100 hrs
Video Editor	\$ 7,500.00	Flat rate, about 120 hrs @ \$62.50/hr
Actors	\$ 7,500.00	Flat rate, \$2500 per actor, includes 3 days of production + 2 rehearsal days
Equipment	\$ 3,500.00	Camera, lights, and additional mics
Supplies & Other Production Expenses	\$ 2,500.00	Costumes, catering, transportation
Expense Total	\$ 26,000.00	

WORK SAMPLES

- The work sample is a critical part of the application and should represent your artistic work in the best possible light.
- A minimum of **one**, and no more than three, work samples are required. Samples may include audio, video, or written manuscripts. ***Video is the preferred work sample type.***
- Panelists will review up to **FIVE (5) minutes** total. Keep this in mind when selecting samples that are lengthy. You may cue your sample to a specific starting point, edit it, or provide playback instructions. **If you are submitting more than one type of work sample, then you cannot submit the recommended total for each type.** For example, you can submit 2 minutes of audio and 3 minutes of video but NOT 5 minutes of audio and 5 minutes of video.
- Select examples of recent work and avoid samples that have poor visibility or audio quality.
- **Samples must be uploaded directly to Submittable** – we will not accept links to an outside platform.



Courtesy of 2023 Investing in Artists grantee, Taylor Price.
Taylor in her studio, Vacaville, CA. Photo by Orlando Pelagio. 2022.

TIPS & TECHNIQUES

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- Review all grant ephemera—Guidelines, FAQs, Application Preview, Sample Project Budget.
- Attend a Drop-in Q&A Drop-in and receive support from staff in real time:
 - Friday, July 26 at 12 p.m. PT. [Register Here.](#)
 - Wednesday, August 7 at 10 a.m. PT. [Register Here.](#)
 - Tuesday, August 13 at 5 p.m. PT. [Register Here.](#)
- Be clear and to the point—avoid responses that are overly technical or dense/abstract.
- Have a friend, etc. look over your application to see if any important details were left out or whether anything is unclear.
- Apply early.
- Reach out to CCI staff with questions! We're available at grants@cciarts.org (include IA - Artistic Innovation in the subject line) or call us at 415.288.0530. You schedule a time to speak [here](#).





**Center for
Cultural
Innovation**