



Press Release

For Immediate Release
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Center for Cultural Innovation Awards Tool and Equipment Grants to Craft, Folk, and Traditional Artists

San Francisco Bay Area – The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) today announced 20 new grantees of the Investing in Artists: Tools & Equipment program. Awards of up to \$5,000 were made to individual craft artists, folk and traditional artists, and crafts-people to support the purchase and/or repair of tools or equipment that support their ability to make object-based work. This program is made possible with the support of the Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation.

The 2025 cycle awarded a total of \$60,000 to individual craft artists residing full-time in full-time in Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, or Wisconsin.

Out of 272 eligible applications, the 20 Investing in Artists: Tools and Equipment grantees include:

Aimie Lee – Ohio

\$3,950

Paper, Book Arts

To purchase a large stainless-steel vat.

HYPERLINK "<http://aimeelee.net/>" aimeelee.net

Alexandra Clarke – Wisconsin

\$2,677

Wood, Fiber, Metal, Leather, Basketry

To purchase a Tormek Sharpening System and specialty woodworking tools.

HYPERLINK "<https://alexandra-cl Clarke.com/>" alexandra-cl Clarke.com

Amanda Ewing – Tennessee

\$2,220

Wood, Metal

To purchase a Scroll Saw, Oscillating Spindle Sander, and optimized woodworking tools.

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Amir Khadar – Minnesota

\$3,085

Ceramic, Fiber

To purchase specialized weaving, embroidery, and quilting tools.

amirkhadar.com/visual-art

Ana María Agüero Jahannes – Louisiana

\$3,205

Ceramic, Fiber, Wood

To purchase a woodworking bench and a Juki DNU-1541 industrial sewing machine.

April Felipe – Ohio

\$3,075

Ceramic, Fiber

To purchase a Glazetech kiln, a Shimpo slab roller, and a tabletop downdraft ventilation system.

aprildfelipe.com

Erika NJ Allen – Ohio

\$3,743

Ceramic, Mixed Media

To purchase a kiln.

erikanjallen.com

Gabrielle Soltis – Michigan

\$2,283

Leather, Ceramic

To purchase a skiving machine and optimized leatherworking tools.

gabriellesoltis.com

Jeremy Haney – Kentucky

\$3,948

Wood

To purchase specialty luthier tools.

Jessica Bell – Texas

\$1,975

Metal, Fiber

To purchase a portable MIG welder setup.

jesslbell.com

Jill Baker Gower – Illinois

\$3,288

Jewelry, Metal

To purchase an enameling kiln, air compressor, and Gravermax.

jillbakergower.com

Josue Ramirez – Texas

\$3,913

Mixed Media, Ceramic

To purchase an electric kiln and a slab roller.

@ raw_mirez

Joyce Morrow Jones – Ohio

\$3,950

Fiber, Mixed Media

To purchase a computerized long-arm quilting machine.

joycemorrowjones.com

Kacie Lees – Illinois

\$1,382

Glass, Metal

To purchase a set of neon bending fires.

kacielees.com

Katie Vota – Illinois

\$1,031

Glass, Metal

To purchase specialty textile weaving tools.

katievota.com

Lenie Caston-Miller – Texas

\$3,950

Ceramic, Metal

To upgrade studio wiring and replace kiln elements and thermocouple.

leniecastonmiller.com

Lola Ayisha Ogbara – Illinois

\$3,950

Ceramic, Sound

To purchase a ceramic kiln.

lolaogbara.com

Maura Wright – Missouri

\$3,424

Ceramic, Paper

To purchase a Laguna Pro-V Seamless Spray Booth.

maurawrightstudio.com

Susan Hensel – Minnesota

\$2,133

Fiber, Wood

To purchase and install a 17", 2HP bandsaw.

susanhenselprojects.com

T.C. Carruthers – Tennessee

\$2,818

Fiber, Paper

To purchase an industrial sewing machine.

goodkidrageworld.square.site

Investing in Artists: Tools & Equipment enables individual craft artists to purchase artistic tools and equipment that supports their ability to make object-based work. “The nature of hands-on making requires access to tools, both equipment and practical, to cultivate expertise and proficiency,” said Rebekah Frank, Program Officer at the Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation. “Limited access acts as a barrier to an individual’s capacity to learn and establish a sustainable foundation for their practice. In response, the Foundation partners with CCI to provide small grants directly to artists and craftspeople, aiming to support the structural needs of their individual work.”

“The 'Investing in Artists: Tools & Equipment' awards support individual craft artists and craftspeople with the material needs of their practice—from covering the physical costs of new equipment or the repairs of essential tools necessary to ensure the safety and continued ability to practice their craft,” said Stephanie Imah, CCI’s Director of Grants. “Through these opportunities, diverse craft communities build and foster a culture of engagement, rooted in curiosity and guided by an understanding of the material and physical world.”

Six, three-member grant review panels were invited by CCI to review and score the Tools & Equipment applications. Panelists included **Scout Cartagena**, glass artist and printmaker, Illinois; **Doug Naselroad**, founder of the Appalachian School of Luthiery, Director of the Troublesome Creek Stringed Instrument Co., master luthier specializing in the mountain dulcimer, Kentucky; **Corey Pemberton**, Executive Director of Crafting the Future, painter and glass artist, California; **Carolyn Huber**, Member and Artist Relations Specialist at American Craft Council, practicing craft artist, Tennessee; **Victoria Ahmadizadeh Melendez**, Adjunct Associate Professor at Tyler School of Art, practicing glass neon artist, Pennsylvania; **Vivianne Siqueiros**, co-organizer of The Color Network, practicing ceramics artist, California; **Felicia Greenlee**, practicing woodworking artist, South Carolina; **Lindsey Hayakawa**, Advancement Coordinator at Craft Emergency Relief Fund (CERF+), Illinois; **Chava Krivchenia**, Assistant Curator at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Wisconsin; **Adrienne Benjamin**, anishinaabe artist, jingle dress maker, and creative entrepreneur based in the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe community in rural Minnesota; **Victoria Manganiello**, co-founder of Craftwork Collective, Assistant Professor at New York University and Parsons School of Design, New York; **Aaron D. Williams**, Community Liaison at Zygote Press, Ohio; **Ghermayn Baker**, Founder of Point by Point Studio, woven furniture restoration specialist and basket-weaver, California; **Tony Bingham**, cast metal and glass sculpture artist, Alabama; **Angelique Scott**, ceramic artist, Virginia.

About the Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation

The Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation seeks ways to support individuals who explore and ask through fieldwork in natural sciences, create and captivate as they promote mastery in craft, teach and try as they support students in public education, and conserve and connect as they encourage care for our food systems and natural world. Learn more about the Foundation’s partners and work at www.Maxwell-Hanrahan.org.

About the Center for Cultural Innovation

The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) was founded in 2001 as a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Our mission is to support individuals in the arts—artists, culture bearers, and creative entrepreneurs—to realize greater self-determination so as to unfetter their productivity, free expression, and social impact, which contributes to shaping our collective national identity in ways that reflect the diversity of society.

For more information about CCI, please visit www.cciarts.org.

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