

## Investing in Artists: Artistic Innovation

### FOR REFERENCE ONLY

(effective February 24, 2026)

***The Investing in Artists: Artistic Innovation Application Preview is for REFERENCE ONLY.***

*All Investing in Artists applications must be submitted online through CCI's Submittable platform, [here](#). We will not accept applications submitted by mail or email using this form.*

*For technical assistance (e.g., password or upload issues), request support at: <https://www.submittable.com/help/submitter/>. Submittable's business hours are 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. MT. They aim to respond within 24 business hours.*

**Responses to all questions/prompts are required unless otherwise noted.**

### ELIGIBILITY QUIZ

1. Are you 18 years or older?
2. Are you a full-time or matriculated student?
3. Have you performed or presented artistic work in a public context—including online/digital platforms—within the last three years (i.e., since 2023)?
4. Do you live full-time in Marin, Napa, Solano, or Sonoma County?

### SECTION 1: CONTACT INFORMATION & PROJECT DETAILS

1. In which Bay Area county are you a full-time resident?
  - *Options: Marin, Napa, Solano, or Sonoma*
2. Legal First Name
3. Legal Last Name
4. OPTIONAL: Other Names (e.g., Stage, Artist, Preferred, or Chosen Name)
5. Pronouns
6. Home Address
7. City
8. State
9. Zip Code
10. Daytime Phone Number
11. Email
12. OPTIONAL: Website URL
13. Are you a past Investing in Artists: Artistic Innovation grant recipient?

*Note: Investing in Artists: Artistic Innovation was formerly known as just Investing in Artists. If you're unsure, please reach out to CCI staff.*

  - *Options: Yes, No, I don't know*
  - *If yes, in which year(s) did you receive an Investing in Artists: Artistic Innovation grant?*
14. Funding Request:

*Note: Whole numbers only (no symbols, commas, or other punctuation).*

*Applicants may request up to \$9,000, and the requested amount must match the Project Budget.*

***We recommend asking for the full amount—asking for less will not make your application more competitive.***
15. Which discipline best describes the proposed new project? (Select One)
  - *Options: Animation, Computer/Digital Arts, Dance, Film, Music, Musical Theatre, Opera, Other Emerging Technologies (Please elaborate; 5 words max), Sound, Theatre, Video, XR (AR, MR, VR), Write-in Option (25 words max)*

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16. Are there any other discipline(s) that characterize the proposed new project? (Select up to three)

- *Options: Animation, Computer/Digital Arts, Dance, Film, Music, Musical Theatre, Opera, Other Emerging Technologies (Please elaborate; 5 words max), Sound, Theatre, Video, XR (AR, MR, VR), Write-in Option (25 words max)*

17. Provide a brief one-sentence summary of your request. Begin your summary with "*To support...*" (65 words max)

*Note: The request summary will introduce your proposal to panelists and should briefly describe your project. If you are awarded funding, this summary may be used in your grant contract and public-facing announcements.*

## SECTION 2: NARRATIVE

The narrative provides panelists with fundamental details about your project and its alignment with the review criteria, and you are strongly encouraged to consider the review criteria in the Guidelines when composing your responses. Per word limits, 350 words amount to roughly three paragraphs, and 150 words amount to approximately one paragraph.

Note: We have enabled rich text formatting, which allows applicants to add bold, underlined, or italicized font and numbered or bulleted lists. However, we will not accept hyperlinks in lieu of narrative details. Additionally, do not use hyphens/dashes ("—" or "--") to begin a paragraph—using these will cause Submittable to reject your response.

1. **Project Description:** Describe the artistic innovation project for which you are seeking funding, providing details with regard to your concept, stage of development, collaborators (if any), timeline, and required resources. (350 words max)  
*Note: Applications with missing timelines may be considered less competitive.*
2. **Collaborators (OPTIONAL):** If applicable, include up to three brief bios for key collaborators and describe how they are supporting the project. (350 words max)
3. **Why Now?:** Explain how your Artistic Innovation project is “pushing the artistic boundaries” of your creative process and art-making, supports your artistic growth, experimentation, and long-term goals, and why it is important to undertake this project now. (350 words max)
4. **Applicant Context:** Provide a brief statement about your artistic practice and the nature of your work. (150 words max)

## SECTION 3: RÉSUMÉ

Applicants must upload a brief artist’s résumé, not to exceed one page (.pdf, .doc, and .docx formats accepted). The résumé is a helpful, at-a-glance reference for panelists to familiarize themselves with your experience and activities in the field.

1. **Upload a one-page version of your résumé.**

## SECTION 4: PROJECT BUDGET

Applicants must upload a one-page version of the project budget. The project budget is a tool for conveying to panelists what you need to *fully* realize your proposed new work. Labor, materials, equipment, research, and travel are examples of items that may need to be reflected in the project budget. In addition, note that Investing in Artists: Artistic Innovation funding can be used in any way that supports the development of the new work.

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In addition, we encourage applicants to compensate themselves, as well as any collaborating artists, staff, designers, contractors, et al., with a fair living wage. Wages should be compliant with State, local, and federal laws. Resources for considering appropriate rates and ranges are available at the [Working Artists and the Greater Economy \(W.A.G.E\) Fee Calculator](#) and [MIT's Living Wage Calculator](#).

1. **Upload a one-page version of your project budget.** If your total expenses are projected to exceed the amount requested (up to \$9,000) from Investing in Artists: Artistic Innovation, list your additional income sources and their status (.xls, .xlsx, .doc, .docx, and .pdf file formats accepted).  
*Note: A sample project budget is available [here](#). (Note: The sample project budget is for applicants' reference. You are not required to use this template.)*
2. **Enter the total income for your project (including pending and prospective funds):**  
*Note: The amount entered should match the income total in your uploaded budget.*
3. **Enter the total expenses for your project:**  
*Note: The amount entered should match the expense total in your uploaded budget.*
4. **Budget Notes:** Explain any items that need clarification to help panelists interpret your budget. Additionally, if your budget is not balanced (i.e., your income exceeds your expenses or vice versa, your expenses exceed your income), explain your intentions. For example, how will excess income be utilized if there is a net profit? Alternatively, how will you secure the funds needed if there is a deficit where your income sources fall short of your expenses? It's OK if your budget is not balanced; however, you will want to explain any discrepancies so that panelists can understand your plans. (150 words)

*Note: Budget notes can be bulleted or in a narrative format—whichever is easier, so long as the concept is clear and easy to understand. We strongly encourage each applicant to provide budget notes; however, if you have none, enter "Not applicable."*

### SECTION 5: WORK SAMPLES

Work samples are required and critical for helping panelists acquaint themselves with your work. Generally, it is best to select examples of recent work (2023 or later) and, if applicable, work related to the proposed project. Additionally, we recommend avoiding samples that have poor visual or audio quality.

Panelists will review up to 5 minutes total. Please note, if you are submitting more than one type of work sample, 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. If you are uploading a manuscript, ten pages equate to 5 minutes.

#### Requirements

- Only one work sample is required; applicants can submit up to three. **Unless your work is best represented through audio or text-based materials, we strongly encourage submitting video documentation of your work sample(s).**
- Work samples must be uploaded directly to the Submittable platform. We will not accept a document that links to an outside platform such as Vimeo, YouTube, Issuu, etc., nor will we review password-protected samples. **Failure to upload work samples directly to Submittable will result**

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**in your application being marked as incomplete and, therefore, ineligible for funding consideration.**

- There is a size limit of 400 MB per uploaded file and 800 MB for the complete application submission. If uploading a video or audio sample, cue the sample to the desired start time or include playback instructions in the work sample description, if applicable.
- We strongly advise all applicants to test their materials for functionality before uploading. Corrupted, password-protected, or otherwise inaccessible work samples will render the application incomplete and ineligible for review.
- Each uploaded work sample must be accompanied by a one- to two-sentence description that includes contextual information and viewing/playback instructions if applicable. For example, “Recording of my one-woman show, SOLO, presented in February 2022 as part of the XYZ Festival. Start sample at 00:05:03 and play until 00:08:18.”

The following file formats will be accepted:

- **Video:** .avi, .mp4, .mov, and .mpg files accepted. If your sample is more than 5 minutes, include the desired start/end times in the work sample description. We recommend the MPEG4 (H.264) format with a minimum 640x480 resolution and MP3 audio. Resizing your video to these specifications before uploading will help your samples look better. **Uploading at least one video work sample is strongly encouraged.**
- **Audio:** .aiff, .wav, .m4a, and .mp3 files accepted. If your sample is more than 5 minutes, include the desired start/end times in the work sample description.
- **Manuscripts:** .doc, .docx, and .pdf files accepted from theatre artists applying as playwrights only. We will not accept manuscripts from any other applicant type. In addition, please note that we strongly prefer receiving video samples from all applicants; however, if you primarily identify as a playwright and believe that a text sample will show your work in the best context, you may upload a text sample for review. Up to ten (10) letter-size (8.5 x 11 inches) pages may be uploaded.

*For technical assistance (e.g., password or upload issues), request support at:*

<https://www.submittable.com/help/submitter/>. Submittable's business hours are 9 am – 5 pm MT. They aim to respond within 24 business hours.

1. **Upload Work Sample(s).**
2. **For each work sample submitted, provide a one- to two-sentence description that includes contextual information and viewing/playback instructions, if applicable. (50 words)**  
*Note: For example:*
  - Sample 1: “Recording of my one-woman show, SOLO, presented in February 2022 as part of the XYZ Festival. Start sample at 00:05:03 and play until 00:08:18.”

## SECTION 6: AWARD ADMINISTRATION

If you are recommended and approved for funding, the information requested below will expedite the preparation of your grant contract and processing of your award payment. We appreciate your support.

1. **Who will receive the funds if you are awarded a grant?**

*Options:*

- *I will receive the funds.*

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- *I will use a business, nonprofit, or fiscal sponsor.*
    - Provide the business, nonprofit, or fiscal sponsor's name and mailing address. If the authorized contract signatory is someone other than yourself, enter their first and last name, title, email, and phone number.
  - *I'm not sure; please contact me.*
2. **Bio:** Provide a brief bio including your county of residence and preferred pronouns. (100 words max)  
*Note: This bio may be used in public-facing marketing materials.*
3. **Image:** Upload a landscape-oriented photograph (2023 or later) that is representative of your work. (jpg, .png, and .pdf file formats accepted)  
*Note: This photo will be used in public-facing marketing materials.*
4. **Photo Credit:** Enter the names of any individuals in the photo (L to R), location, photographer credit, and year.

### SECTION 7: DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY

CCI is committed to distributing resources fairly and in ways that reflect the diversity of application pools and populations. To that end, we ask you to fill out demographic data so we can better understand the communities we serve. Additionally, the information you provide may be used in summary statistics (i.e., without attribution to individual applicants) and shared with program partners.

The online application will provide response options for the questions below, including “Prefer Not to State.”

1. With which gender(s) do you identify?
2. Do you identify as LGBTQIA?
3. Do you identify as a person with a disability?
4. How do you identify?
5. What is your age range?
6. What is the highest degree or level of education you have completed?
7. Do you owe any student loans currently?
8. Annual household income:
9. What is your primary artistic discipline or area of cultural production?
10. Select any other artistic disciplines or areas of cultural production in which you work:
11. What is your career stage?
12. Approximate number of years you have been creating art or engaging in cultural practices with the intent to earn income from your work:
13. Estimated percentage of income derived from your art/cultural practice or arts-based business:
14. Select all the ways in which you try or have *tried* to raise money
15. Select all the ways in which you have *succeeded* in raising money.
16. How did you hear about this opportunity?

### SECTION 8: CERTIFICATION

I certify I have read and met the eligibility requirements stated in the Investing in Artists guidelines and

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that all the information provided in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. I further acknowledge that the Center for Cultural Innovation is not liable for damage or loss of materials submitted.

At any time, if the Center for Cultural Innovation determines that my application is false, misleading, improperly submitted, or fails to further the Investing in Artists: Artistic Innovation objectives, the Center for Cultural Innovation may, at its sole discretion, suspend or demand the return of funds. Lastly, I agree not to sue the Center for Cultural Innovation if the Center for Cultural Innovation suspends payment or demands repayment.

**[check box]** By checking this box, I certify the above to be true.