

Berkeley Arts Recovery Grants for Artists and Cultural Practitioners



Las solicitudes se aceptarán solo en inglés. La aplicación es breve y sencilla. Por favor, encuentre un amigo que pueda ayudarlo a traducir y enviar su solicitud antes de la fecha límite del 11 de mayo a las 12 PM (mediodía) hora del Pacífico.

The **Berkeley Arts Recovery Grants for Artists & Cultural Practitioners** is a program led by the City of Berkeley's Civic Arts Program and is made possible by federal funding resulting from the American Rescue Plan Act. The Berkeley Arts Recovery Grants for Artists & Cultural Practitioners makes available \$275,000 in the form of grants up to \$10,000 to help the City's artists and cultural practitioners. Distribution of the Berkeley Arts Recovery Grants for Artists & Cultural Practitioners is through a partnership between the City of Berkeley's Civic Arts Program and the Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI). CCI, a trusted intermediary focused on the economic security of people in the arts, is administering this grant program.

The Berkeley Arts Recovery Grants for Artists & Cultural Practitioners will distribute support to reflect the cultural and geographic diversity of the City of Berkeley—including those who are of historically underserved communities, and are especially vulnerable financially due to this ongoing economic crisis. Although not factors in grant decisions, we strongly encourage the following with financial needs to apply: individual applicants of historically marginalized communities, which may include, but are not limited to, African and African American, Arab, Asian and Asian American, Latinx, Middle Eastern, Native American and Indigenous, Pacific Islander; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, Transgender and Gender-Variant people; people with disabilities; women; and those who are low-income, have high debts, have difficulty obtaining or retaining sources of income, or live in immigrant and refugee communities.

ABOUT THE FUND

The Berkeley Arts Recovery Grants for Artists & Cultural Practitioners is in response to the economic disruptions resulting from or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency and is intended to help mitigate the ensuing financial needs of individuals that have resulted from the pandemic—a federally recognized "qualified disaster." The arts and culture sector remains hard hit, effectively disrupting artists and arts workers' ability to earn income. Individuals are the backbone of arts and culture—exhibitions and performances, educational arts programming, community-anchoring cultural

enterprises, and services by nonprofit arts organizations—and they need financial help to remain in our communities and contribute to making them meaningful and vibrant.

This grant program is for artists and cultural practitioners residing in Berkeley who need financial help as a result of this federally recognized qualified disaster. Individuals may apply only once for up to \$10,000. Funds are unrestricted and can be used in any way that alleviates financial hardship. Applicants will be asked to describe their pandemic-induced financial needs, and we ask that you only apply if you are experiencing immediate and serious needs. This is because we want to reserve as much of the available funds as possible for those facing significant financial hardships.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES

CCI will operate the Berkeley Arts Recovery Grants for Artists & Cultural Practitioners program with the following ethos:

- *Trust:* We intend to operate the program in a way that provides some relief from stress, anxieties, and isolation. To that end, we ask for relatively little by way of documentation. We trust that those who apply have met the criteria and that their artistic and cultural practices or professional role(s) have been contributing to Berkeley's rich and varied cultural vitality.
- *Generosity:* No funder can fully address the financial impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. Before applying, we ask individuals to self-assess their financial state of need. This way, we can stretch the program's resources to help those with the most urgent needs.
- *Sensitivity:* We recognize how debilitating it can be to live with financial precarity. We are committed to notifying all applicants as quickly as possible after the program deadline, and issuing payments promptly.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Must be a current, full-time resident of the City of Berkeley;
2. Must be an artist and/or cultural practitioner. Eligible applicants will make their primary income* in the arts and culture sector; this may include roles as fine artists, including literary, visual, and performing artists; musicians; teaching artists; culture bearers or cultural practitioners; art-making enterprises such as jewelry makers; and specialized artist workers (e.g., lighting or sound designers, fabricators); and
3. Cannot have a conflict of interest (family or financial relationships) with the boards, staff, and directors of CCI or the City of Berkeley's Civic Arts Program and Civic Arts Commission.

**Applicants will be asked to provide their arts-related income range for calendar years 2019 and 2020, and the percentage of lost income experienced since mid-March 2020. Percentage of lost income will be a factor that is considered as part of the funding distribution process.*

APPLICATION PROCESS

DEADLINE EXTENDED: MAY 11, 2022 at 12 p.m. (Noon)

The Berkeley Arts Recovery Grants for Artists & Cultural Practitioners program will accept applications from April 4, 2022 to May 11, 2022. Applicants will be notified about their award status on May 25,

2022. Please note the amount awarded may be less than the amount requested in order for the program to benefit as many applicants as possible.

Funding will be distributed in consideration of the following factors (in no predetermined order):

- Applicants' percentage of income lost from arts and culture related-profession;
- Applicants' residence in U.S. census tracts that have the collective characteristics of historically vulnerable communities—defined as areas of lower-than-median income; populations primarily composed of African and African American, Latinx, Native American and Indigenous, or Pacific Islanders; populations with concentrations of people with disabilities; or populations primarily composed of immigrant communities; and
- Geographic spread of awards across the City of Berkeley's eight council districts.

The aforementioned factors will receive consideration in distributing funding. However, if the Berkeley Arts Recovery Grants for Artists & Cultural Practitioners program receives so many requests that meet these factors that the amount that can be awarded would be substantially reduced, CCI will also use a randomized lottery to distribute funding.

Grants will be unrestricted and can be used toward any expenses that alleviate financial pressures due to the COVID-19 federally recognized qualified disaster. Rather than a final report, grantees will receive a survey about the impact and use of the funds. The survey responses will provide important information about how to help those in the arts.

PREPARING YOUR APPLICATION

The application is deliberately simple in order to encourage requests for support. You will need to prepare the following:

- **Name, Address, and Council District:** Documentation must be uploaded that shows the applicant's name and address as listed in their application. This can be a driver's license, utility bill, or bank statement. Make sure to block out any sensitive information. In addition, applicants will enter the council district in which they reside. Locate your district at: <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/CouncilDistrictSearch.aspx>
We are requesting this information as proof of residence in the City of Berkeley. Unhoused applicants may provide a letter from a Berkeley-based shelter, the Hub, or another Berkeley-based homeless service program as proof of Berkeley residency and for the purposes of identifying a Council District.
- **Role(s) in Arts & Culture Sector:** Applicants will identify the type of role(s) they play in the Bay Area's arts and culture sector from these options: Artist; Culture Bearer; Cultural Practitioner; Maker; Specialized Artist Worker; and Teaching Artist. More than one option can be selected.
 - Artists and makers will need to provide a link to their own, or any, website that best represents their artistic work. Links may be to a website, YouTube, Soundcloud, Instagram, Facebook, etc.
 - Culture bearers, cultural practitioners, specialized arts workers, and teaching artists will need to provide the name of their primary employer or cultural business; occupation/title; and the URL of a site that verifies their arts-related work and/or cultural influence.

- Optional Support Material: Applicants who are unable to link to a website may upload a single attachment that demonstrates their artistic and cultural practice, such as a photo of a public performance, news article, or marketing materials, which helps us understand the applicant's practice if it is not documented online.

We are requesting this information as proof of having a public-facing role in the arts and culture sector.

- **Narrative:** Applicants will need to respond to two questions.
 - (1) Describe your artistic and cultural work in contributing to the City of Berkeley. Your response will not be a criterion for awarding funds but will help us understand the breadth of artmaking and cultural production that is both to be celebrated and is under threat due to COVID-19's economic impact. (150 word limit, which equates to roughly one or two paragraphs)
 - (2) Describe your current financial situation, with specificity about why you have lost income since mid-March 2020, and why you need the funds now. For example, just saying that COVID-19 led to lost income is not enough specificity. Instead, use this section to describe the kind of artmaking or cultural work you do and how your work has been unable to earn income. [350 word limit, which equates to roughly three paragraphs]

**Please note that the Berkeley Arts Recovery Grants for Artists & Cultural Practitioners application does not require social security or tax identification numbers, and CCI will neither request nor collect these items so as to encourage everyone who meets the eligibility requirements to apply.*

REVIEW PROCESS

Funding recommendations will be made by CCI. Notifications will then be sent to all applicants regarding their application status.

Grantees will need to review and sign CCI's grant agreement before payment processing can commence. Payments will be made via direct deposit after grantees create an account with Tipalti, a third-party direct deposit payment processing platform, and may take three to five business days. Checks are available in lieu of direct deposit, if preferred, but may take additional time to receive. Note: CCI does not have any control of when payments will be received. Once grantees successfully open an account with Tipalti or CCI submits a check request, we will not be able to track payment processing by grantees' financial institutions or delivery by USPS mail. What we can share is that in the thousands of transactions CCI has processed, three to five business days is typical.

TIMELINE

- **Monday, April 4, 2022 at 9 a.m. Pacific Time:** Application Cycle Opens
- **Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 12 p.m. (Noon) Pacific Time:** Application Cycle Closes
- **Wednesday, May 25, 2022 by 5 p.m. Pacific Time:** Notifications Made
- **Thursday, May 26, 2022:** Grantee Payment Processing Begins

HOW TO APPLY

DEADLINE EXTENDED: MAY 11, 2022 at 12 p.m. (Noon)

Applications will be accepted beginning April 4, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. and accepted until May 11, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. (Noon). Completed applications must be submitted by the deadline—no exceptions can be made as this will negatively impact the processing of all applications.

The Berkeley Arts Recovery Grants for Artists & Cultural Practitioners online application can be accessed at: <https://centerforculturalinnovation.submittable.com/submit>

Applications will be accepted online ONLY through CCI's Submittable platform. All applicants MUST create an account in Submittable before they will be able to access the grant application.

Additionally, applications will be accepted in English only. The application is brief and simple. If English is not your first language, please find a friend who can help to translate and submit the application by the deadline of May 11, 2022 at 12 p.m. (Noon) Pacific Time. Similarly, if you have a friend who you think qualifies but is not an English speaker, please help them to translate and submit the application by the deadline of May 11, 2022 at 12 p.m. (Noon) Pacific Time.

QUESTIONS & SUPPORT

We're here to help! If you have questions about the Berkeley Arts Recovery Grants for Artists & Cultural Practitioners program or the application process, contact CCI at grants@cciarts.org or 213.705.9112.

If you are experiencing issues with the Submittable platform, contact Submittable directly at support@submittable.com. You may also reach out to CCI at grants@cciarts.org or call us at 213.705.9112. For Deaf applicants and those with hearing loss, contact CCI using the [California Relay Service](#)—our staff are trained in making and receiving these calls.