



Press Release

For Immediate Release
June 1, 2021
Contact: Lauren Bailey
213.687.8577
info@cciarts.org
www.cciarts.org

Center for Cultural Innovation Announces New Grant Program for California Arts and Culture Changemakers

Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay Area – The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) today launched the newest phase of its evolving-with-the-times California Arts Leadership Investments (CALI) program. Rebranded as CALI Catalyst, the program will award unrestricted grants of up to \$5,000 to California changemakers who are shifting the arts and culture sector in ways that give underrepresented voices—Black, Indigenous, people of color, LGBTQIA+, and people with disabilities—more power and influence.

CALI Catalyst will prioritize funding to individuals whose bold, changemaking actions are shifting the needle for underrepresented communities to have more influence and power, and moving the sector towards greater inclusion, access, diversity, and equity. The CALI Catalyst grant program is meant to give such leaders financial support, understanding that the fear of financial risk is, itself, a silencer and discourages changes to the status quo.

The program is open to individuals and teams of individuals, and both applications and nominations are accepted. To be eligible for consideration, applicants/nominees must be an artist and/or arts worker, and reside permanently in California. CALI Catalyst will award a total of \$125,000 across three rounds of funding in 2021.

“In response to the changing dynamics of the field, CALI Catalyst was developed to support individuals who are explicit about changing the arts and culture sector in ways that are needed by those whose voices have not been adequately heard,” remarked Program Director Laura Poppiti. “Artists and arts workers here in California, and around the United States, aren’t waiting passively for the sector to dismantle its entrenched practices of harm and extraction; no, they’re overtly challenging systemic and industry-wide inequities, and consequently, having reverberating impacts. We hope that with CALI Catalyst, these individuals will feel further seen and validated as catalyzers of greater inclusion, access, diversity, and equity.”

CALI Catalyst is made possible with support from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

LOS ANGELES
244 S. San Pedro Street
Suite 401
Los Angeles, CA 90012
P: 213.687.8577

BAY AREA
1446 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
P: 415.288.0530

cciarts.org
ambitio-us.org

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About the Center for Cultural Innovation

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 individuals in the arts by providing business training, grants, and incubating innovative projects that create new program knowledge, tools and practices for artists in the field, and conditions that contribute to realizing financial self-determination. For more information about CCI and the CALI Catalyst grant program, please visit www.cciarts.org.

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