

# California Art Leaders Investments (CALI) Accelerator Frequently Asked Questions

*(effective February 16, 2019)*

## **1. Who is eligible to apply for a CALI Accelerator grant?**

Eligible applicants must:

- Be a current California resident.
- Have worked for fewer than 10 consecutive years in the arts field. Please note that by consecutive years, we mean fewer than 10 years back-to-back.
- Currently work with a nonprofit arts organization in California as an administrator, artist, board member, or key volunteer. Working refers to an official committed relationship with a nonprofit arts organization, as confirmed by the organization and the applicant's resume.
- Be registered online as a member of the CALI Accelerator cohort. You are registered in the cohort if you completed the online CALI Accelerator survey.
- Previous grantees who have not received an award within the past 12 months of this application.

## **2. When are applications due? When will I find out if I have been awarded a CALI Accelerator grant?**

Applications are processed on a monthly basis. Applications are due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month with a one-month turn around. For example, if you submit an application by the September 15 deadline, you will receive notification of your award status by October 15.

## **3. When can the activities for which I am applying begin?**

The start date for your proposed activity or activities must occur at least 60 days after the application deadline. For example, for an application received by September 15, the requested activity must take place after November 15. It is important to plan ahead.

## **4. What type of activities do CALI Accelerator grants fund?**

CALI Accelerator grants support professional development opportunities for emerging arts professionals to identify, exercise, and hone their leadership vision and voice in ways that help applicants shape their discipline, organization, or the broader arts and culture sector. As examples, competitive activities may include organizing a conference panel, being the face of a project at the applicant's employer-institution, co-authoring an article, or working with a consultant or coach to apply for an executive-leadership position.

In order to reflect the diversity of the state, funding priority is given to those whose perspectives are not well represented or who come from communities who have been underserved historically by the conventional arts and culture field.

## **5. What makes this iteration of the program different from when it was called NextGen?**

In its first years, the NextGen program was a professional development pipeline for young talent; then, when it was renamed California Arts Leaders Investments (aka CALI), it emphasized externally facing opportunities that prepared emerging arts professionals for managerial-level roles (i.e., workplace-specific skills and knowledge attainment). With this iteration, the CALI Accelerator program emphasizes individual leadership development that prepares grantees to be influential in their organization, discipline, or larger arts and culture field. CALI Accelerator grants therefore prioritize activities that will help grantees develop their leadership vision and voice while acquiring professional knowledge and skills. In so doing, the next generation of arts leaders will be better equipped to exert their voice in shaping the field.

**6. What types of activities or costs are NOT eligible?**

We are open to considering a wide range of professional development activities as long as a strong case is made for how the activity will enable the applicant to practice their leadership vision and voice in the arts. Applicants can request support to cover any direct cost for leadership opportunities like stipends for collaborators, printing production fees, fees for service, catering costs, travel costs, and registration fees, etc.

It is important that the activity budget is well-documented, including other committed sources of income if the total activity cost exceeds the \$1,000 grant maximum.

Ineligible activities are those focused primarily on personal artistic practice and activities beginning fewer than two months after the nearest application deadline.

Ineligible expenses are funding to offset an applicant's regular salary or wages; funding to offset general operating costs of the applicant's sponsoring arts organization; and/or funding to offset fees associated with college tuition or for college credit activities.

**7. Does the proposed activity have to demonstrate an impact on my organization's administrative capacity?**

CALI Accelerator grants are aimed at advancing the careers of individual arts administrators. Therefore, the proposed activity or activities only need to demonstrate an impact on the individual's leadership development.

**8. Can I apply for CALI Accelerator funding for multiple activities?**

Applicants are eligible to apply for multiple activities in their application since they may only receive one CALI Accelerator grant per 12 months. We therefore encourage applicants to think strategically about their professional development needs.

**9. Can I still submit an application for an upcoming deadline if some of my information is incomplete or, as of yet, unconfirmed?**

We cannot review incomplete applications or applications missing support materials. However, we review applications monthly. If you are unable to submit your complete application for the current deadline, we encourage you to reapply next month!

**10. How often can I apply? How often can I receive funding?**

Applicants may only receive one CALI Accelerator grant per 12 months. For example, if you applied for funding in May 2017 and were awarded, you must wait to apply again until May 2018. For this reason, we encourage you to plan ahead and apply for your professional development activity or activities well in advance. In order to meet the demand for funds and to support the maximum number of applicants, partial funding may be awarded.

**11. How do I submit an application online?**

To submit an application online, you must first register for a new account [here](#). Once you are registered, you can complete the online application form. Upon submitting your application, you will be sent an automatic email informing you that your application has been received. You can check the status of your application by logging into your profile on the CCI website.

*Note: Applications must be completed in one sitting. Once you submit your application you cannot update the form. Please note that applications will only be accepted through our website.*

**12. What is a Scope of Work or a Work Plan?**

If you are applying to hire a consultant a *Scope of Work* is a brief document, preferably drafted in collaboration with the consultant or service provider, outlining the major activities/topics to be engaged in during a specific timeline and any deliverables you expect to accomplish as a result.

If you are applying for an independently organized leadership opportunity, a *Work Plan* is a document that provides more specific details about your proposed activity. The *Work Plan* should highlight the major activities you will engage in through your proposed project/activity and document any expected milestones toward the completion of the activity, as well as any partners or people involved in it and their qualifications, timeline, locations, etc., as appropriate. You do not need to submit a *Work Plan* if you are applying to participate in an already developed activity (e.g., attending a conference or workshop).

**13. Why do I need to submit a resume and what should it include?**

Your resume should represent your professional background outlining any academic training, current and previous employment, other community affiliations and activities, and any other information you would like to include. We use this information as further background to your application.

**14. Who provides the “Authorized Signature” and how do I submit their signature online?**

The “Authorized Signature” should be from a senior staff member other than yourself who has the authority to make financial decisions on behalf of your organization. If you are the executive director of your organization, the authorized signature must come from a board member, preferably your board chair.

When filling out the online application, you (the applicant) will type in the “Authorized Signatory’s” name, title, and email address. Once your application is complete the “Authorized Signatory” will receive an email from CCI informing them that a CALI Accelerator application has been submitted on behalf of their organization.

**15. If I am awarded CALI Accelerator funding, how long do I need to wait before a grant check is issued to my organization?**

Once you have received your award letter and returned your signed Grant Agreement, a check for the total amount of the award will be issued within 30 days. After completing the funded activities, you are required to submit a very brief grant report.

**16. If my organization or I were awarded a Quick Grant, am I still eligible for CALI Accelerator funding?**

Yes. If you have received a Quick Grant award, you are still eligible to apply for CALI Accelerator funding as long as you meet the eligibility requirements described above. Please note that if you apply for CALI Accelerator and Quick Grant funding for the same activity, you will only be awarded through one program.

**17. My arts organization is fiscally sponsored. Do I still qualify for CALI Accelerator funding?**

Fiscally sponsored organizations that are applying for a CALI Accelerator grant are considered on a case-by-case basis. Please contact us at [cali@cciarts.org](mailto:cali@cciarts.org) to discuss your eligibility further. If you are applying as a fiscal receiver you must provide the fiscal sponsor’s tax ID number and a copy of the fiscal sponsorship agreement between your organization and the fiscal sponsor.

**18. If I am unable to complete the activity I received funding for, what do I need to do?**

Should you be awarded a CALI Accelerator grant and not be able to complete the activity as described in your application, you must notify us immediately in writing either by email at [cali@cciarts.org](mailto:cali@cciarts.org) or by direct mail describing why you were unable to complete the activity. CCI staff will work with grantees in such cases. Failure to notify CCI in a timely manner may require you to return the grant funds and disqualify you from future funding consideration.