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# CALI ACCELERATOR

## Grant Guidelines *(effective April 16, 2020)*

The health and vitality of California’s arts and culture sector hinges upon the ability of emerging arts leaders to shape the future of the field in ways that are vibrant, inclusive, equitable, and diverse. Yet, the perspectives of early career administrators, younger professionals, and those who come from underrepresented backgrounds due to geography, gender association, socio-economic circumstances, education levels, and ethnicity have tended to be marginalized. This is problematic as the arts and culture field needs this very combination of voices to be robust and relevant. In response to these circumstances, CCI is helping emerging arts professionals access opportunities that identify, exercise, and hone their leadership vision and voice.

With support from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, CCI is providing emerging California arts leaders with scholarships through the California Art Leaders Investments Accelerator (aka CALI Accelerator) program to pursue activities that emphasize developing their leadership vision and voice while acquiring professional knowledge and skills. Put another way, **CALI Accelerator is a grant program that supports professional development activities that enable grantees to be influential in shaping their discipline, organization, or the broader arts and culture field.**

In October 2018, guidelines were updated to emphasize individual leadership development that prepares applicants to be influential in shaping their discipline, organization, or larger arts and culture field. These changes were reflected with the addition of “Accelerator” to the CALI program name. Prior to this iteration, the program was known as CALI and even earlier, as the NextGen Arts Program. Please review the CALI Accelerator guidelines carefully as they have changed.

**ALERT—NEW TEMPORARY GUIDELINES:** In light of the impacts of COVID-19 on the arts and culture sector statewide, the CALI Accelerator grant program will temporarily expand its guidelines to reflect the ever-changing needs of emerging arts leaders across the state. In addition to the usual opportunities that qualified under our CALI Accelerator guidelines prior to April 16, 2020, applications with proposed activities that will enable emerging arts leaders to

shape or pivot to an unprecedented new reality for their organizations post-COVID-19 will now be accepted. Understandably, many organizations are strategizing around implementing new business models, restructuring their programming efforts, and focusing on next steps to survive. To accommodate the needs of the field, we welcome applications from individuals who fit the eligibility criteria per our guidelines and who plan to exercise leadership to bolster their organization's short- and long-term vision. From meeting with a strategy consultant on how to develop a new strategic plan for the organization to attending an online technical support workshop for Zoom, the CALI Accelerator Grant Program welcomes applications that will help the arts and culture sector, and its organizations and emerging leaders, pivot to the new realities of COVID-19 and its aftermaths.

## PURPOSE

The California Art Leaders Investments Accelerator (aka CALI Accelerator) program provides grants to emerging arts leaders in California to pursue professional development opportunities and activities that will confer them with professional learning while also enabling them to identify, exercise, and hone their leadership vision and voice. The assumption is that having an informed vision and an authoritative voice is what distinguishes arts professionals from performing work to *being influential* in their organization or their field. 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.

## AWARDS

Individuals meeting the CALI Accelerator program eligibility criteria below may apply for one grant of up to \$1,000 per year to support the direct costs of proposed leadership activities. Otherwise, there are no restrictions to the number of times one can apply or number of grants one has received previously. Grant applications are accepted and funding decisions are made on a rolling basis throughout the year with an application deadline on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month (see **HOW TO APPLY** for details). Grants are awarded in advance of proposed activities, and payments are made through the applicant's nonprofit arts organization (i.e., the qualifying place of work).

## ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible, individuals must:

- Currently work or be officially affiliated with a California nonprofit arts or cultural organization as an administrator, artist, key volunteer, or board member;
- Be a current California resident;
- Have been employed fewer than 10 consecutive years in the arts field;
- Be registered with the CALI Accelerator cohort by completing the online CALI Accelerator survey. If you are already registered (previously called the NextGen Arts survey), you DO NOT need to take it again. If you have not registered, please complete

the online survey located [here](#) to be eligible to apply for the current CALI Accelerator grant review; and

- Not have received a grant from this program (formerly called NextGen Arts) within the past 12 months of this application.

Priority will be given to individuals who are:

- Not well represented by the conventional arts and culture field;
- In entry-level or middle-management positions within their organization, or who have recently transitioned into executive leadership or board member positions;
- At organizations outside of the major metropolitan areas of Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area in order to encourage participation throughout the state; and
- Not previously supported through the NextGen Arts or CALI program.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Provide a professional development opportunity, and
- Enable the applicant to identify, exercise, and hone their leadership vision and voice.

## ELIGIBLE COSTS

CALI Accelerator grants may be used for a wide range of activities aimed at strengthening the individual's leadership vision and voice, including:

- Tuition or registration fees for workshops, conferences, and trainings;
- Travel and hotel expenses;
- Fees to work directly with consultants or career coaches; and
- Directly associated costs, which may include web hosting fees, publication costs, or stipends for collaborators.

Ineligible expenses include:

- Funding to offset applicant's regular salary or wages;
- Funding to offset general operating costs of the applicant's sponsoring arts organization;
- Activities beginning less than 60 days after the nearest application deadline. (Applications are due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.); and
- College tuition or funding for college credit activities.

## HOW TO APPLY

Applications are due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month with a one-month turnaround. Applications received after the 15<sup>th</sup> of a given month will be reviewed in the next month's application cycle.

Applications must be submitted through the online application which can be accessed [here](#). Because applications must be completed in one sitting, the questions below are only a reference for drafting your proposal and do not include all of the information that will be required from you upon applying. We recommend drafting your responses to these brief narrative questions in a Word Document and then cutting and pasting the answers into the online form where appropriate. Please see the online CALI Accelerator FAQs for answers to common application questions or contact us at [cali@cciarts.org](mailto:cali@cciarts.org).

**1. Activity Description:** *Please provide a brief description of each leadership-building activity you wish to undertake. Include specific information on service providers, name and title of program participants, program website, dates, times, locations, etc. for each activity requested. Please also provide specific budget information for the requested activity or activities such as anticipated expenses for the workshop/conference, consultant, flight, ground transportation, accommodations, etc. as relevant. If requesting a consultant or proposing independently organized activity(ies), please provide a detailed timeline including both the start and end dates of the project and expected dates for key lessons/topics covered. If requesting multiple activities, please list in priority order. [100 word maximum for each activity description field. The online application provides four "Activity Description" fields.]*

**2. If you received a NextGen or CALI grant in the past, please describe how this new opportunity builds on the benefits conferred as a result of prior supported activities.** [100 word maximum]

**3. Please describe why being a leader in your discipline, organization, and/or the broader arts and culture field is important.** [100 word maximum]

**4. How will you use the proposed activity(ies) to help you to exercise or hone your leadership vision or voice, and how do you hope you can use this opportunity to influence your discipline, organization, and/or the broader arts and culture field?** [200 word maximum]

**5. Activity Budget\***

- Total cost of proposed activity(ies) including travel.
- Total requested from the CALI Accelerator program.
- Itemized budget listing registration fees, airfare costs, accommodation fees, transportation fees or consultant rate/ fee per session/hour. Please also list any additional committed source(s) of funding for your activity, if needed.

*\* Please take into consideration when making your plans that partial funding may be awarded.*

**6. Required Attachments**

- Applicant's resume

**If requesting a consultant:**

- Consultant's professional bio or resume.
- Scope of Work from proposed consultant or Work Plan for customized activity. (Please see the online FAQs for more information.)

**If applying through a fiscally sponsored organization\*:**

- Fiscal sponsor's tax ID number.
- Copy of fiscal sponsorship agreement between applicant organization and the fiscal sponsor.

\* Fiscally sponsored organizations that are applying for CALI Accelerator funding are considered on a case-by-case basis. Please contact us at [cali@cciarts.org](mailto:cali@cciarts.org) to discuss your eligibility further.

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO NOTE

- *Applicants requesting funds to pursue independently organized activity(ies) or to hire a consultant or coach must upload a Work Plan or Scope of Work and any consultant's bio or resume to the "Attachments" section of the online application. (Please see the online CALI Accelerator FAQs for more information.)*
- **Activities beginning less than 60 days after the application deadline will not be considered.** For example, an application received by August 15 will be notified of approval by September 15. However, the requested activity must take place after October 15. Please plan ahead.
- *In order to meet the demand for funds and to support the maximum number of applications, **partial funding** may be awarded.*
- *It is the applicant's responsibility to enroll in the activity specified in their application or to make any necessary contracting agreements with the consultant(s) identified in their application.*
- *Should you be awarded a CALI Accelerator grant and not be able to complete the activity as described in your application, you must notify CCI immediately. Failure to complete the requested activity and/or notify CCI may require you to return the grant funds.*
- *Grant requests will be awarded on a competitive basis, as long as funds are available for a given month. Priority will be giving to applicants who have not already received support through the NextGen Arts or CALI program.*

#### QUESTIONS?

Contact the Center for Cultural Innovation at (415) 288-0530 or by email at [cali@cciarts.org](mailto:cali@cciarts.org).