



CALI CATALYST

INFORMATIONAL SESSION

April 3, 2024

WHAT IS CALI CATALYST?

CALI Catalyst is a CCI grant program that awards unrestricted grants of up to \$7,500 to California artists and arts workers who are creating tangible impact within the arts and culture sector, shifting power and influence to historically underrepresented voices.

WHO DOES CALI CATALYST SUPPORT?

CALI Catalyst prioritizes support for the following:

- Applicants whose bold change-making actions (2020 or later) are upending the status quo and creating tangible change in the arts and culture sector, shifting it towards greater equity and inclusion, and helping historically marginalized communities, including Black, Indigenous, people of color, LGBTQIA+, and people with disabilities, gain more influence and power at industry-wide levels. By “tangible change,” we are referring to actions that resulted in visible, measurable, and concrete impacts or results.
- Applicants who played a causal role in the change that took place (i.e., they decidedly influenced change at an industry/sector level).
- Applicants who reside in a non-metropolitan region.
- Applicants who have not previously received CALI Catalyst funding.



2024 APPLICATION ROUNDS

- **Round #1**

Applications will be accepted from March 13 to May 6, 2024, at 11:59 a.m. PT.

Notifications will be sent via Submittable on July 1 by 5 p.m. PT.

- **Round #2**

Applications will be accepted from June 12 to August 5, 2024, at 11:59 a.m. PT.

Notifications will be sent via Submittable on September 30 by 5 p.m. PT

ELIGIBILITY

CALI Catalyst applicants can be individuals or teams of individuals.* To be eligible for funding consideration:

- Applicants must be artists or arts workers (e.g., arts administrators, cultural producers, culture bearers, creatives, cultural practitioners, teaching artists, or specialized technicians).
- Applicants (including all team members) must reside full-time in California. Applicants' change-making action(s) must have taken place or started (i.e., the action is still in progress) on or after January 1, 2020.
- Applicant's change-making action must have impacted the arts and culture sector at a local, regional, state, or national level in tangible and measurable ways.

**Only one application will be accepted per team (i.e., individual team members cannot submit separate applications that describe the same action). Teams will therefore need to select a single team member to apply, and if funding is approved, this individual will be responsible for fulfilling the grant requirements.*

INELIGIBLE

The following are **ineligible** for funding consideration:

- Organizations (e.g., nonprofits, for-profits, fiscally sponsored organizations) requesting funding to support their operations;*
- Individuals or teams of individuals who describe a change-making action that started or took place before January 1, 2020;
- Individuals or teams of individuals who are requesting funding to support an organization;
- Individuals or teams of individuals who have a conflict of interest (family or financial relationship) with the board, staff, or directors of the Center for Cultural Innovation;
- Requests for funding to support a project that is in the beginning or developing stages; and
- Incomplete applications or applications with inaccessible (e.g., password-protected, broken links) attachments.

**Individuals and teams associated with an organization can apply. However, their change-making must have been influenced and driven by the individuals within the organization and align with the review criteria.*



REVIEW CRITERIA

1. Impact on the arts and culture sector

- Is the applicant's change-making action creating a tangible impact and shifting an entire arts and culture sector away from the status quo (such as the museum or theatre sectors)? *Meaning, the change-making actions resulted in visible, measurable, and concrete results beyond creating awareness about an issue.*
- Is the applicant helping historically marginalized communities gain more power and influence within the arts and culture sector in tangible and measurable ways? *This could happen through the shift of power within leadership dynamics or organizational structures, or by influencing industry and regulatory policies and practices.*
- Did the applicant play a causal role in the change-making action and its impact? *In other words, was the applicant directly involved in driving the change-making action and its effects?*

2. Intention to enact greater inclusion, access, diversity, and equity within the arts and culture sector

- Is the applicant's change-making action meant to help historically marginalized communities gain more influence and build power within the arts and culture sector?
- What was the catalyst for the change-making action? *In other words, why did the applicant decide to take action?*

3. Informed perspective

- Does the applicant have direct experience with the arts and culture sector, and do they belong to a historically marginalized community?

APPLICATION: Narrative

1. Overview

- Describe the action that you undertook that resulted in tangible change within the arts and culture sector. Include relevant dates, the circumstances that prompted your action, and your specific role in initiating this change. Explain how your involvement was pivotal or foundational to the action.

2. Intention

- Explain why you decided to undertake this action. Include your initial goals and expectations.

3. Impact

- Describe the tangible results of your change-making action within the arts and culture sector. Highlight the tangible and measurable ways in which historically marginalized communities have gained power and influence as a result. If your action is ongoing, provide an update on its progress and its impact to date.

4. Perspective

- Describe your role and experience within the arts and culture sector. Your response must include how long you have been in the sector, roles you've held, communities you've supported, and any other factors that have shaped your perspective. Please indicate whether you belong to a historically marginalized community.



APPLICATION: Support Materials and References

SUPPORT MATERIALS

- One to two-page résumé, CV, or bio that references applicant's current role(s) in the arts and culture sector and summarizes experience and activities in the field.
- Upload up to three (3) ephemera directly related to the applicant's change-making work. Examples may include relevant URLs, press, official records, screenshots, or photo/video documentation.

Note: The most helpful materials will prove that the action and its impacts were visible in the community, region, or field and documented in a publicly accessible way, such as press, social media posts that have amassed some attention, official records (i.e., meeting minutes), etc.

REFERENCES

- Provide two (2) references who can speak to the applicant's demonstration of the review criteria, and speak on behalf of the communities the applicant has positively impacted. **References who are family (including spouses and partners), long-time friends, or with whom the applicant has an active financial relationship will not be accepted as these are considered conflicts of interest.**
- CCI will also call on individuals in the field of a competitive applicant's work so that the people directly meant to benefit will influence the adjudication process.

APPLICATION TIPS

- Review all ephemera—Guidelines, FAQs, Application Preview, Grantee Directories...this webinar!
- Attend a Drop-in Q&A Drop-in and receive support from staff in real time:
 - Drop-in Q&A #1: April 10 at 12 p.m. (noon) PT. Register [HERE](#).
 - Drop-in Q&A #2: April 19 at 12 p.m. (noon) PT. Register [HERE](#).
 - Drop-in Q&A #3: April 23 at 5 p.m. PT. Register [HERE](#).
- Be clear and to the point—avoid responses that are overly technical or dense/abstract.
- Have a friend, etc. look over your application to see if any important details were left out or whether anything is unclear.
- Reach out to CCI staff with questions! We're available at grants@cciarts.org (include CALI Catalyst in the subject line) or call us at 415.288.0530.





**Center for
Cultural
Innovation**