



CALI CATALYST

Frequently Asked Questions

(effective March 1, 2022)

1. What is CALI Catalyst?

The California Art Leadership Investments (CALI) Catalyst grant program supports artists and arts workers who are on the frontlines of effecting greater inclusion, access, diversity, and equity in the arts and culture sector. Through bold actions, these individuals are tangibly helping underrepresented communities—including Black, Indigenous, people of color, LGBTQIA+, and people with disabilities—gain more influence and power in the arts and culture sector. We consider these bold actions to be “changemaking” because they are *visibly* moving the needle for underrepresented communities to have more influence and power at an *industry-wide level*.

2. What do you mean by “arts and culture sector?”

CCI is a nonprofit arts intermediary that supports individual artists and arts workers. In our work, we understand the “arts and culture sector” to encompass a wide spectrum of creative industries, artistic disciplines and practices, cultural expressions, and areas of focus, and all at varying scales. However, we’re more interested in knowing how CALI Catalyst applicants self-define “arts and culture sector,” and importantly, what aspect(s) of it they are trying to overtly influence. (See Question 9 to learn about CALI Catalyst’s 2021 grantees.)

3. Who is eligible to apply for a CALI Catalyst grant?

CALI Catalyst is open to individuals and teams of individuals (See Question 5 for additional information regarding “teams”).

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must:

- Be an artist or arts worker (e.g., arts administrator, cultural producer, culture bearer, creative, cultural practitioner, teaching artist, or specialized technician); and
- Be a full-time resident of California.

Additionally, to be eligible for review, an applicant’s action must have taken place or commenced (i.e., the action is still in progress) on or after January 1, 2020. We are prioritizing this timeframe as these individuals may be suffering an immediate financial fallout as a result of catalyzing industry-level shifts in the arts and culture sector.

The following are ineligible for funding consideration:

- Organizations;
- Individuals or teams of individuals who are requesting funding to support an organization; and
- 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.

4. What does CALI Catalyst funding support?

CALI Catalyst awards unrestricted grants of up to \$5,000 to individual artists and arts workers whose bold actions (enacted on or after January 1, 2020) have shifted the arts and culture sector in explicit ways that work better for marginalized people—BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and those with disabilities. Grant awards are unrestricted and therefore, not tied to the support of a project or a proposed outcome. Instead, the award’s unrestricted nature is meant to support individual grantees in whatever way is most needed. However, CALI Catalyst funding, or any portion thereof, may not be used for lobbying, political campaigns, voting efforts, or in a manner inconsistent with CCI’s charitable purpose under IRS Section 501(c)(3). Further details are provided in the CALI Catalyst grant agreement.

5. I work closely with a team of collaborators. Can we submit a joint application?

If applying as a “team,” only one application will be accepted per team (in other words, individual team members cannot submit separate applications for 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 such as final reporting and providing a completed W-9. If an individual grant recipient wants to share their award with a team of collaborators, they may do so; however, CCI will not assume responsibility for any further due diligence regarding the team’s membership.

6. I know an individual/team of individuals who would be a great candidate for funding. How can I help this potential applicant?

The best way to help a potential applicant is to share this opportunity with them and, if needed, support their preparation of an application. This may mean helping the applicant to compose narrative responses, select ephemera, or identify references. You might also support the applicant by reviewing their application for clarity and completeness, or reaching out to CCI staff on their behalf with questions.

7. I work at an organization. Can I apply?

CALI Catalyst is a grant program for *individuals*, and funding is meant to support the *person* who is enacting change in the arts and culture sector. If you are seeking funding to support an organization—such as a 501(c)3 nonprofit, fiscally sponsored project, cooperative business, for profit entity, or collective, to name a few—then this program is not for you. To be clear, employment or membership in an organization is fine, but funding is meant to support the needs of individual grantees and not those of the organization with which they’re affiliated.

8. I have an *idea* for a changemaking action. Can I apply?

CALI Catalyst will only consider applications from applicants whose action took place or commenced (i.e., the action is still in progress) on or after January 1, 2020. We are prioritizing this timeframe as these individuals may be suffering an immediate financial fallout as a result of catalyzing industry-level shifts in the arts and culture sector.

9. What are some examples of changemaking actions within the arts and culture sector that align with the review criteria?

Examples of changemaking actions within the arts and culture sector that align with the review criteria can be illustrated by CALI Catalyst's inaugural 2021 grantees. To learn more about the individuals and teams supported, search CCI's Past Recipient directory by clicking [here](#).

10. Who reviews the applications?

Applications are reviewed internally by a diverse team of CCI staff who have varied experiences with sector discrimination, exclusionary practices, and the power of artists and arts workers to have profound impacts. The internal review process is meant to support the program's one-month response turnaround. However, in addition to contacting the references of top funding candidates, CCI also calls on individuals in the field of a competitive applicant's work. In so doing, the people directly meant to benefit from an individual or team's work are able to influence the adjudication process.

11. How are applications evaluated? What makes for a strong application?

Applications are evaluated against the criteria listed in the CALI Catalyst guidelines. Please review these closely.

In general, the most competitive applications are the ones that are clearly written, brief and to the point, and demonstrate a strong alignment with each criterion. Please note: while we welcome applications from changemakers who are working in varying ways and contexts, we discourage applications that describe having issues with any particular person as these conditions may have impact within an organization, but are too isolated to be felt industry wide.

12. How do I apply for funding?

Applications will only be accepted through CCI's Submittable platform. Applicants MUST create an account in Submittable before they will be able to access the grant application. The application can be accessed at: <https://centerforculturalinnovation.submittable.com/>. Information about using Submittable is available [here](#).

13. When are applications due? When will I learn about my application status?

CALI Catalyst will offer three open application cycles in 2022. These include:

Cycle #1

Applications accepted from March 1 to April 29 at 12 p.m. PT (noon). Notifications shared on June 1.

Cycle #2

Applications accepted from May 3 to June 30 at 12 p.m. PT (noon). Notifications shared on August 3.

Cycle #3

Applications accepted from July 6 to August 31 at 12 p.m. PT (noon). Notifications shared on October 5.

14. What should I prepare for the Support Materials section? And, are there file format or length specifications?

Applicants must upload a brief résumé, bio, or CV that references their current role(s) in the arts and culture sector, and is no longer than two (2) pages (.pdf, .doc, and .docx formats accepted).

In addition, applicants must upload documentation of their changemaking action. A minimum of one, and no more than three, samples can be uploaded. Samples should demonstrate that the action was public-facing. Examples may include relevant URLs, press, screenshots, or photo/video documentation. Acceptable file formats are .pdf, .doc, .docx, .jpg, .png, .mp4, .mov, .avi, and .wmv. Individual samples have no page or time limits.

15. Who should I use as a reference and what information do you need?

We suggest choosing references who can attest to the applicant's demonstration of the review criteria, and speak on behalf of the communities the applicant is hoping to positively impact. In addition, references should not be a family member nor should they be engaged in an active financial relationship with the applicant.

Regarding information needed, applicants will need to provide contact information (phone number and email) for both references and indicate the nature of their relationship. References must be able to commit to a 15-minute phone conversation with CCI staff at a mutually agreed upon time. Currently, staff can only accommodate phone conversations in English. References who are not fluent in English are welcome to have a translator on the call.

CCI staff will *only* contact the references of top candidates for funding. 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. Please note that reference calls do not guarantee funding approval.

16. If my request for funding is declined, can I reapply in a subsequent 2022 application round?

Unless a new body of work is being addressed, applicants who are declined in 2022 will not be able to reapply.

17. If I am awarded a grant, how will I receive the funds?

If approved for a grant, you will have the option of receiving a direct deposit payment through Tipalti.com—CCI's secure, third party accounting software platform—or via a mailed check. In either case, CCI's preference is to issue a single payment for the full amount of the grant award. Processing times will depend on the method of payment chosen and the return of your electronically signed grant agreement along with any requested attachments such as the Form W-9. To be clear, grantees do *not* need a fiscal sponsor or other 501(c)3 nonprofit intermediary to receive funding as CALI Catalyst supports individuals and not organizations or projects.

We understand that fund disbursement may impact disability-related community support or other social benefits; therefore, we will structure options that work for each person's unique financial situation.

18. If I am awarded a grant, is it considered taxable income?

Please be aware that grant awards may be taxable as ordinary income. As CCI cannot offer legal or tax advice, grantees are advised to consult with an accountant, tax expert, and/or benefits specialist. We understand that fund disbursement may impact disability-related community support or other social benefits and are willing to structure options that work for each person's unique financial situation.

19. If I am awarded a grant, will I need to submit a report?

If you are awarded a grant, you will need to complete a brief final report that describes the impact and use of funding (i.e., line item expenses). Reports will be due within nine months of signing the grant agreement. CCI will provide further instruction, including how to submit the report through Submittable, in the grant agreement. In addition, grantees must submit a final report that is approved by CCI before they are eligible to reapply for CALI Catalyst funding.

20. If I've received funding through another CCI grant program, am I eligible to apply for CALI Catalyst support?

Yes, you are eligible! Funding through another CCI grant program has no bearing on your eligibility to apply for or receive funds through CALI Catalyst.

21. How often can I receive funding through CALI Catalyst?

Individuals may receive one CALI Catalyst grant per calendar year. If you are a current grantee, you must submit your final report to CCI for approval before you can be considered for funding again. Additionally, please be aware that CCI prioritizes first-time CALI Catalyst applicants.

22. How many grants will you make?

Year Two (2021) of the CALI Catalyst grant program's two-year cycle has \$125,000 in available funding. We anticipate making 20-25 grants.

23. Will you publicize the names of grantees?

The names of CALI Catalyst grantees will be included in CCI's Annual Report, an online publication that is produced each fiscal year (July 1 - June 30) and available for download on our website. CALI Catalyst grantees may also be highlighted through CCI's communication channels including our e-newsletter, social media accounts, website, and press releases.

24. If I am awarded a CALI Catalyst grant, does that mean that CCI and its funding partners agree with or endorse my changemaking action?

CCI and its funding partners do not take a position on the sentiments or actions expressed by CALI Catalyst applicants and grantees. This ensures that the adjudication and award processes remain focused on sector and community impacts, and not on individual institutions or actors.

25. What happened to CALI Accelerator grants?

CALI Accelerator is part of a lineage of the evolving-with-the-times CALI program, which has been marked by different phases of grantmaking priorities since its launch in 2011. In its first years, CALI (fka, the NextGen program) was a professional development pipeline for young talent; then, when it was renamed CALI (California Arts Leadership Investments), it emphasized externally facing opportunities that prepared emerging arts professionals for managerial-level roles (i.e., workplace-specific skills and knowledge attainment). CALI Accelerator, offered from October 2018 - January 2021, prioritized activities aimed at helping grantees develop their leadership vision and voice while acquiring professional knowledge and skills as a means of preparing grantees to be influential in their organization, discipline, or larger arts and culture field. In response to the changing dynamics of the field, CALI Catalyst has emerged to support changemakers who are explicit about changing the arts and culture sector in ways that are needed by those whose voices have not been adequately heard.