



CALI CATALYST

Guidelines

(as of June 1, 2021)

CALI Catalyst provides unrestricted grants to California changemakers who are shifting the arts and culture sector in ways that give underrepresented voices more power and influence.

Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) is inspired by the actions of individuals who have made an impact in shifting power and influence in the arts and culture sector in 2020. We acknowledge and give credit to people like Taylor Brandon, who held the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art more accountable for its censorship of Black voices; Ely Sonny Orquiza, creator of “The Living Document of BIPOC Experiences in Bay Area Theater Companies,” which collected anonymous testimonials of racism within the region’s theater industry; and former Marciano Art Foundation workers in Los Angeles, whose efforts to unionize led to greater awareness of the need to protect museum workers.

Individuals who take bold actions do so with risks to their jobs, social standing, and reputations. But this is precisely the moment when the arts and culture sector can embrace and support people who are shifting the field in ways that work better for marginalized people—BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and those with disabilities. The sector is better for it when strong voices and actions, for example, expose discriminatory hiring and employment practices that plague the arts and culture nonprofit and commercial industries; disrupt philanthropic practices that harm communities; and dismantle barriers to entry for artists and arts workers to be supported. 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 CALI Catalyst grant program accepts applications and nominations.

WHO CAN APPLY

CALI Catalyst applicants/nominees can be individuals or teams of individuals*. To be eligible for CALI Catalyst consideration, applicants/nominees 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.

*Only one application will be accepted per team (i.e., individual team members cannot submit separate applications that describe the same “bold” 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. Review the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more details.

The following are ineligible for funding consideration:

- Organizations;
- Individuals, teams of individuals, or nominators who are requesting funding to support an organization; and
- Individuals, teams of individuals, nominators, or nominees who have a conflict of interest (family or financial relationship) with the board, staff, or directors of the Center for Cultural Innovation.

AWARD DETAILS

- Unrestricted grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded.
- Year One (2021) of the CALI Catalyst grant program’s two-year cycle has \$125,000 in available funding. Because 2021 is the fund’s pilot year, we cannot anticipate the volume of applications that will be received or the number of awards that will be made. Further, we expect to learn a lot in the program’s first year. For this reason, CCI may revise guidelines and/or application requirements in light of observations made during the Year One pilot.

CALI Catalyst will prioritize grant support to the following:

- Applicants/Nominees whose bold actions—either those that have already taken place (**2020 or later**) or are in progress—tangibly help underrepresented communities including Black, Indigenous, people of color, LGBTQIA+, and people with disabilities, gain more influence and power in California’s arts and culture sector.
- Applicants/Nominees who are of underrepresented communities; but if they are not, whose bold actions are in the interest of underrepresented communities and are explicitly moving the needle for these populations to have more inclusion, influence, and power.
- Applicants/Nominees who reside in a non-metropolitan region.
- Applicants/Nominees who have not previously received CALI Catalyst funding.

REVIEW PROCESS & CRITERIA

Applications will be 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. Applications will be evaluated based on their ability to establish the following:

1. Impact on arts and culture sector

- Is the applicant/nominee’s changemaking action shifting assumptions and, potentially, sector-wide behavior?

2. Intention to enact greater inclusion, access, diversity, and equity

- Is the applicant/nominee’s changemaking action aimed at helping underrepresented communities gain more influence and build power?

3. Informed perspective

- Does the applicant/nominee have direct experience with the arts and culture sector and are they of an underrepresented community?

CCI does not take a position on the sentiments or actions expressed by CALI Catalyst applicants and grantees. This ensures that the adjudication process remains focused on sector and community impacts, and not on individual institutions or actors.

APPLICATION

In addition to answering the application's narrative and demographic questions, and providing support materials (**Application Preview** available [here](#)), applicants/nominators will need to provide the names and contact information for two references who can speak to the review criteria above. CCI will *only* contact the references of top candidates for funding, and we strongly suggest references who can speak on behalf of the communities the applicant or nominee is hoping to positively impact. Review the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more details.

Please note that reference calls do not guarantee funding approval.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications are due by 5 p.m. PT on the 15th of every other month, with a one-month response turnaround. For the 2021 award cycle, application deadlines (and notification dates) are:

- July 15 (notification by August 15)
- September 15 (notification by October 15)
- November 15 (notification by December 15)

The CALI Catalyst online application is available at:
www.centerforculturalinnovation.submittable.com

Applications will be accepted online ONLY through CCI's Submittable platform and applicants MUST create an account in Submittable before they will be able to access the grant application. Learn more about using Submittable, [here](#).

DELIVERABLES

Grantees 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. Additional details are available in the **Frequently Asked Questions**, [here](#).

QUESTIONS

CCI staff are here to help! Please email us at cali@cciarts.org or call 415.288.0530 for assistance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The CALI Catalyst grant program is made possible with support from:

