



CALI CATALYST

Guidelines

(effective March 1, 2022)

CALI Catalyst provides unrestricted grants of up to \$5,000 to California changemakers who are shifting the arts and culture sector in ways that tangibly give underrepresented voices more power and influence.

Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) was inspired by the actions of individuals who have made an impact in shifting power and influence in the arts and culture sector in 2020, and wants to help ensure that the momentum for field-wide change continues undeterred. 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 changing the field in ways that work better for marginalized people—BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and those with disabilities. The arts and culture 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.

To help ensure that the momentum for field-wide change continues undeterred, CALI Catalyst will support artists and arts workers who are on the frontlines of effecting greater inclusion, access, diversity, and equity in the arts and culture sector.

WHO CAN APPLY

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

*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. Review the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more details.

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.

AWARD DETAILS

- Unrestricted grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded.
- Year Two (2022) of the CALI Catalyst grant program’s two-year cycle has \$125,000 in available funding.

CALI Catalyst will prioritize grant support to the following:

- Applicants whose bold actions (**2020 or later**) are responding to the current moment’s fervent call for change in the arts and culture sector by tangibly helping underrepresented communities—including Black, Indigenous, people of color, LGBTQIA+, and people with disabilities—gain more influence and power at industry-wide levels.
- Applicants who played a causal role in the change that occurred (i.e., they decidedly influenced change at an industry level).
- Applicants who are of underrepresented communities; but if they are not, whose bold actions are in the interest of underrepresented communities and are visibly moving the needle for these communities to have more inclusion, influence, and power in the arts and culture sector.
- Applicants who reside in a non-metropolitan region.
- Applicants 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. Additionally, CCI contacts the references of top funding candidates and 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 influence the adjudication process.

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

1. Impact on arts and culture sector

- *Is the applicant’s changemaking action shifting entire sectors, such as the entirety of the museum or theatre sectors, to move away from the status quo?*

- *Are there tangible and measurable ways that the applicant is helping underrepresented communities gain more power and influence (e.g., through governance authority, causal “changing of the guards,” or shifting industry or regulatory policies and practices)?*
 - *Did the applicant play a causal role in the catalyzing change that was realized? In other words, was the applicant’s role seminal enough that without their involvement, change would not have occurred?*
- 2. Intention to enact greater inclusion, access, diversity, and equity**
 - *Is the applicant’s changemaking action aimed at helping underrepresented communities gain more influence and build power in the arts and culture sector?*
 - 3. Informed perspective**
 - *Does the applicant 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 Previews** in both .doc and .pdf formats available [here](#)), applicants 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 is hoping to positively impact. In addition, CCI will 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. For more information, review the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Please note that reference calls do not guarantee funding approval.

HOW TO APPLY

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

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.

Access the CALI Catalyst online application at: <https://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 & FEEDBACK

CCI staff are here to help and listen. 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:

