



California Relief Fund for Artists and Cultural Practitioners

Spanish: Estamos aceptando aplicaciones para el Fondo de California de Alivio para Artistas y Practicantes de la Cultura. La aplicación es breve y sencilla y recomendamos en que personas que no hablan el idioma inglés apliquen y le recomendamos que busque un amigo, vecino o familiar que pueda ayudarlo a completarla. Favor de entregar o enviar su aplicación antes del día 18 de Agosto. [Preguntas Frecuentes de la Aplicación](#)

Chinese (Mandarin): 我们正在接受加州艺术家和文化从业人员救济基金的申请。申请语言目前只接受英语，但我们鼓励非英语使用者提交申请。申请过程简短简单，我们建议您找一个朋友来帮助您完成申请填写。请在8月18日截止日期之前提交您的申请。[常见问题](#)。

Portuguese: Estamos aceitando formulários para o Fundo California de Alívio para Artistas e Praticantes da Cultura. Este formulário é muito breve e simples, nos encorajamos pessoas que não falam inglês aplicar, e recomendamos que você encontre um amigo para ajudá-lo a concluí-lo. Favor de enviar os formulários antes de 18 de Agosto.

The **California Relief Fund for Artists and Cultural Practitioners** is a partnership between the California Arts Council (CAC) and the Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI). The California Relief Fund for Artists and Cultural Practitioners is distributing \$920,000 from the CAC's general fund to help artists and cultural practitioners (including fine and performing artists, teaching artists, culture bearers, and maker-based sole or collective creative entrepreneurs) who comprise the various and diverse cultural communities of

the state of California. The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI), a trusted intermediary focused on the economic security of people in the arts, is administering and adjudicating this Fund.

Given how long the financial consequences of the coronavirus pandemic will last, the Fund welcomes additional support. Please contact Laura Poppiti, CCI Grants Program Director, at laura@cciarts.org if you would like to help with a tax-deductible contribution.

BACKGROUND

The California Relief Fund for Artists and Cultural Practitioners is a response to the economic crisis, and ensuing financial needs of individuals, that has resulted from the coronavirus pandemic. The large-scale shutdown that was needed to slow the spread of COVID-19 has continued to put the entire arts sector on hold, effectively disrupting artists' ability to earn income. Individuals are the backbone of arts and culture--exhibitions and performances, educational arts programming, community-anchoring cultural enterprises, and social impact-based creative entrepreneurship--and they need financial help to remain in our communities and contribute to making the state artistically and culturally vibrant.

The California Relief Fund for Artists and Cultural Practitioners is for artists and cultural practitioners who need financial help as a result of this federally recognized qualified disaster. Grants will be distributed to reflect the cultural and geographic diversity of the state of California—including those who are of historically underserved communities who are especially vulnerable financially due to this economic crisis. Although not factors in grant decisions, we strongly encourage the following to apply: Those of historically marginalized communities, which may include, but are not limited to, African and African American, Arab, Asian and Asian American, Latinx, Middle Eastern, Native American and Indigenous, Pacific Islander; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, Transgender and Gender-Variant people; people with disabilities; women; and those who are low-income, have high debts, have difficulty obtaining or retaining sources of income, or live in rural or immigrant and refugee communities.

The Fund was initiated by the California Arts Council, a state agency with a mission of strengthening arts, culture, and creative expression as the tools to cultivate a better California for all. It supports local arts infrastructure and programming statewide through grants, initiatives, and services. The California Arts Council envisions a California where all people flourish with universal access to and participation in the arts.

ABOUT THE FUND

The California Relief Fund for Artists and Cultural Practitioners makes available \$920,000 total, in \$1,000 award amounts, to artists and cultural practitioners (i.e., fine artists, including literary, visual, and performing artists; teaching artists; culture bearers; and maker-based sole or collective-based creative social entrepreneurs) who are current, full-time residents of the state of California.

Applicants will be asked to describe their financial needs, and are requested to only apply if facing immediate need. This is meant to reserve as much of the Relief Fund as possible for those facing significant financial threats. The Fund will distribute support as broadly and widely as possible throughout the state of California, prioritizing both geographic diversity and geographic communities

based on U.S. census tract data that have collective characteristics of historically vulnerable communities: The geographic factors are areas of lower-than-median income; populations primarily composed of African and African American, Latinx, Native American and Indigenous, or Pacific Islanders; populations with concentrations of people with disabilities; or populations primarily composed of immigrant communities. The combination of these factors enable us to support those communities that will be made even more vulnerable in this economic recession.

APPLICATION & REVIEW PROCESS

The Fund will accept applications from July 22 until August 18, 2020. Applicants will be notified about their award status on September 1, 2020. If the Fund receives more application requests than funding allows, CCI will prioritize geographic diversity and will use a lottery system that is weighted to prioritize applicants who live in U.S. census tracts that predominantly have the aforementioned characteristics.

The \$1,000 grants will be unrestricted and can be used toward any personal expenses that alleviate financial pressures due to the COVID-19 federally recognized qualified disaster. Receiving support does not require that the recipient is contracted or obligated to perform any work for CCI or the state of California. Rather than a final report, grantees will receive an online survey about the impact and use of the funds. The survey responses will provide important information about how to help those in the arts.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES

CCI will operate the Fund with the following ethos:

- *Trust:* We intend to operate this Fund in a way that provides some relief from stress, anxieties, and isolation. To that end, we ask for relatively little by way of documentation. We trust that those who apply have met the criteria and that your artistic and cultural practices or professional role have been contributing to the state of California's rich and varied cultural vitality.
- *Generosity:* No funder can fully address the financial impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. Before applying, we ask individuals to self-assess their financial state of need. This way, we can stretch the Fund's resources by helping more people and those with the most urgent needs.
- *Responsibility:* We recognize how debilitating it can be to live with financial precarity. We are committed to notifying all applicants as quickly as possible after the program deadline, and issuing payments promptly.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Must be a current, **full-time** resident of the state of California; and must upload ONE proof of current residency in the state of California. Proof is demonstrated by including a legible photo of a current state driver's license or ID; or most-recent utility bill, health insurance statement, bank statement, or other document. The name and address must match that used in the application form.
- Must be an artist or cultural practitioner; and must provide documentation that demonstrates applicant's professional role in arts and culture.

- Must not be eligible for or currently receiving CA-state unemployment insurance (UI) benefits (Applicants receiving CARES benefits through the [Pandemic Unemployment Assistance \[PUA\] program](#) ARE eligible for funding);
- Cannot have a conflict of interest (family or financial relationships) with the boards, staff, and directors of CCI and California Arts Council and state-level elected officials and their staffs; and
- Can only apply once.

PROPOSAL

- Describe your current financial situation, what loss of income you have been facing since mid-March, and why you need the funds now. [The questions can be answered in about ½-page length]

TURN-AROUND & PAYMENT PROCESS

All applicants will be notified about their status. Grantees will need to complete CCI’s grant agreement, and the online payment processing form through Tipalti.com. Payments will be made via direct deposit and may take three—five business days. Checks are available in lieu of direct deposit, if preferred.

- Wednesday, July 22, 9 a.m. PDT– Application Cycle Opens
- Tuesday, August 18, 3 p.m. PDT– Application Cycle Closes
- Tuesday, September 1, 5 p.m. PDT– Notifications Made

HOW TO APPLY

Applications will be accepted beginning Wednesday, July 22 at 9 a.m. PDT and accepted until Tuesday, August 18 at 3 p.m. PDT.

Completed applications must be submitted by the deadline—no exceptions will be made.

The California Relief Fund for Artists and Cultural Practitioners online application can be accessed at: <https://ccigrants.gosmart.org/>

Applications will be accepted online ONLY through CCI’s GO Smart™ system. All new applicants MUST register for an account with the GO Smart™ system BEFORE they will be able to access the grant application.

Applications will be accepted in English only. The application is brief and simple, and we encourage non-English speakers to find a friend, neighbor, or family who can help you apply.

QUESTIONS

If you have questions about the Fund or the application process, contact CCI at grants@cciarts.org with the subject line: “CA Relief Fund” and your best contact number. Because our physical offices are closed,

sending an email is the best way to reach us. [You can also read our Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) about the application here.](#)

CCI STAFF ARE HERE TO SUPPORT APPLICANTS WITH TECHNICAL QUESTIONS.

Contact grants@cciarts.org with the subject line “CA Relief Fund Tech Support” for assistance. We will try to respond as quickly as possible, but we may need a full business day to respond.

CONTACT US FOR SUPPORT!