

Investing in Artists FAQs

1. Who can apply for this grant? Is the application process only for performing arts and media arts, or can visual artists and literary artists apply?

The *Investing in Artists* grants program is designed to support diverse working artists in the 11 Bay Area regions in the performing, dance, music, musical theater, opera, theater, and media arts fields. Visual artists, Craft and Literary artists are not eligible to apply. Playwrights are eligible as long as the proposed project results in a confirmed performance event for a public audience.

2. What are the 11 Bay Area Counties?

11 Bay Area counties, include Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma, Monterey and Santa Cruz.

3. How do you define “Performing Arts and Media Arts?”

Performing Arts and Media Arts category includes dance, music, theater, opera, film, animation, and the like.

4. How do you define “working artists”?

For the purposes of this grant program, eligible “working artists” are defined as adults who have received training in an artistic discipline or tradition; spend ten or more hours a week on their artwork; self-define as professional artists; and attempt to derive income from work in which they use their expert artistic practices and skills.

5. Is this grant only open to individuals or can organizations apply?

Only individual artists may apply for this grant. Applications will not be accepted from organizations. Artists that have their own 501(c)3 organizations may apply, but they must apply as an individual.

6. What about collaborative artist groups? Can this grant support more than one artist?

Grants will only be awarded to individual artists and are intended to support the work of one artist. In rare circumstances, we will accept applications from long-standing collaborative artists. To be considered, the collaborative must be joint creators of work, have an established track record of working together, and have developed their artistic career and reputation as a team. One individual from the collaborative must serve as the official applicant to CCI. This grant is not intended to support group performances or other group-based projects. If you apply as a collaborative, the application should be submitted by one individual member who will receive the funds and be responsible for administering those funds. Grants will not be made to multiple members of the same group nor can collaborative members submit separate applications as individuals.

7. Are previous *Investing in Artists* grantees eligible to re-apply for grants in the 2015–2017 funding rounds?

Beginning in 2015, artists who were previously funded in the Artistic Innovation category will be eligible to re-apply for a new grant after a two-year waiting period (i.e., if you received an Artistic Innovation grant in 2013, you will be eligible to re-apply for this grant beginning this year).

8. What will the review process be like? Who reviews the applications?

A grant review panel consisting of arts field experts will be convened following the close of each round of applications to make recommendations to CCI on final grant recipients. Additional field experts may also be used to advise on technical proposals or to conduct site visits with applicants to assess artistic practice, context, or work settings.

9. How are applications evaluated? What makes a competitive application?

This information is listed in the grant guidelines, and we encourage you to review it closely. The most competitive applications are the ones that are clearly written, generally brief and to the point, and demonstrate a strong alignment with each criteria.

Applications will also be evaluated based on the strength of the artist's work; clarity and readiness of the proposed project; timeliness and impact of the requested funding on the artist's career; and significance of the artist to a geographic community, tradition, or art form.

10. What does the term “critical juncture” mean?

As part of the review criteria for the Artistic Innovation category, applications must show that funding would come at a “critical juncture” in the artist's career. This means that you need to address how your proposed activities will push the boundaries of your artistic practice in a really significant way and you need to answer the ‘why now?’ question. Why is this the right moment in your career to undertake this project? Demonstrating a clear and significant critical juncture is important to putting together a competitive application.

11. What should I submit as a work sample?

The work sample is a critical part of the application and should represent your artistic work in the best possible light. When deciding how to present your work, please keep in mind that the panel will have fewer than 5 minutes to look at your work. Therefore, you should pick the strongest work and/or work segment to present first. It is a disservice to your application if the panel has to spend 3 minutes flipping between different formats or forwarding through the credits to see the actual work. Work samples in all formats, including video, audio, and text-based samples, must be uploaded and submitted with the online application. The list of acceptable work sample formats and specific instructions on accepted formats are included in the guidelines. Detailed Instructions for the current round are provided and under the “How to Upload Files” tab in the new GO™ system. **We strongly advise that you prepare and upload work samples well in advance of the deadline.** Should you wait until the day of the deadline and encounter

technical difficulties with file formats, the upload process, etc., the ability of technical assistance to resolve issues will be significantly limited.

12. Is preference given to emerging or established artists? Does career stage matter?

Artists have new and evolving challenges as they move through their career. For this reason, CCI does not give preference to emerging, mid-career, or established artists. Competitive applications will demonstrate the impact of the proposed project on the artist's career at the current point in time. Quality of artistic work and track record will also be factors in determining who receives a grant.

13. How many grants will you make?

There is no set number. The actual number of grants awarded will depend on the quality of the applications received and on the financial requirements of the funded projects. In general, we anticipate making 6-8 grants in each round of funding from 2015–2017.

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

Artists who receive funding through the *Investing in Artists* grants program should be aware that grant awards may be taxable as ordinary income. In some cases, CCI will work with grantees on an individual basis to make awards through either an artists' incorporated 501(c)(3) or individual business. However, we recommend that you consult a qualified tax advisor for further information.