

LOS ANGELES COUNTY PERFORMING ARTS RECOVERY GRANT

Supporting the Recovery, Sustainability, and Equity of the Performing Arts in Los Angeles County

An initiative of the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture,
administered by the Center for Cultural Innovation



The Los Angeles County Performing Arts Recovery Grant (Initiative) is a new grant initiative designed to support the continuing recovery of Los Angeles County's (County) dynamic performing arts sector through flexible funding support that centers the artistic and creative process. It will deliver one-time funding to artists, independent producers, and small and mid-sized performing arts organizations that have a demonstrated history of developing, producing, and/or presenting work in the performing arts disciplines, such as dance, music, theater, folk, and traditional arts, with a history of public-serving performances, festivals, events, and engagement activities. A total of \$1.2M is available.

Grants of up to \$30,000 will be awarded through a competitive grant application process to support the creation, documentation, and/or presentation of new or existing artistic work. Competitive applicants will have a strong background in the performing arts, a supportive regional audience, and play a meaningful role in the local arts ecosystem. Competitive applicants will also reflect the cultural and geographic diversity of the County and propose projects that support the mission and vision of the LA County Department of Arts and Culture, including the advancement of cultural equity and inclusion in the region, and align with the goals of the Initiative.

The LA County Performing Arts Recovery Grant is an initiative of Arts and Culture. The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI), a nonprofit intermediary focused on the economic security of individuals in the arts, is administering the Initiative on behalf of Arts and Culture.

BACKGROUND AND GOALS

Arts and Culture is a local arts agency with a mission to advance arts, culture, and creativity throughout the County. It fulfills its mission by investing in the County's cultural life and providing leadership, services, and support in key program areas—grants and technical assistance for nonprofit organizations, countywide arts education initiatives, commissioning and care for the County's civic art collections, research and evaluation, career pathways in the creative economy, professional development, free community programs, and cross-sector strategies that address civic issues. All with a lens of cultural equity and inclusion. Arts and Culture previously operated as the Los Angeles County Arts Commission (Arts Commission) until transitioning into a full-fledged County Department in 2019. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Arts and Culture has supported the relief and recovery of the arts and

creative sector of the region, in addition to its ongoing programs. The Initiative is part of this work. For more, please visit www.lacountyarts.org.

The John Anson Ford Theatres are owned by the County and were previously operated by the Arts Commission in partnership with the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Ford Theatre Foundation. Over decades of performances, programs, and support, the Ford Theatres were known for sustaining diverse artists and audiences in Los Angeles County. In 2016, the Ford Theatres separated from the Arts Commission as each began operating as stand-alone County entities, and in December 2019, operation of the Ford Theatres was transferred to the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association. As part of the dissolution of the Ford Theatre Foundation in 2020, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) approved remaining Ford Theatre Foundation funds to be transferred to Arts and Culture to establish a non-renewable regrant fund to support the region's diverse performing artists, producers, and organizations, in the spirit of the former Ford Theatre Foundation.

In 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic disruption began, with the performing arts sector hard hit by shutdowns, losses, and revenue and audiences still lagging significantly today from pre-pandemic levels, even as other sectors of the County's creative economy are recovering. In addition, the pandemic disproportionately impacted communities of color and those already facing barriers, historic disinvestment, and systemic inequity. Artists and other creative workers in the performing arts identifying as female and BIPOC, among others, have also seen disproportionate impacts on employment, opportunities, and wages.

The arts play an important role in the health, well-being, economy, civic engagement, and positive outcomes of our communities. The performing arts are important and vital to the County arts ecology.

This initiative seeks to stimulate the continuing recovery of the County performing arts field through flexible funding support that centers the artistic and creative process.

In addition, the Initiative aims to carry on the spirit of the former Ford Theatre Foundation, support the mission and vision of Arts and Culture, and advance cultural equity and inclusion:

Arts and Culture Mission: To advance arts, culture, and creativity throughout Los Angeles County.

Arts and Culture Vision: We envision a region in which arts, culture, and creativity are integral to every aspect of civic life for all people and communities.

Cultural Equity and Inclusion (Adapted from [Countywide Cultural Policy](#)): Ensuring all people, including those historically underrepresented or marginalized, are represented in the development of policy and in the fair and equitable distribution of cultural resources, with a strengths-based approach such that diverse forms of artistic and cultural expression are supported, and cultural organizations, artists, communities, and artistic practices are valued.

In January 2023, Arts and Culture partnered with CCI and consultant Alison De La Cruz to convene a roundtable of diverse members of the Los Angeles County performing arts field. Key needs were affirmed and identified, including but not limited to flexible funding to support the creation, documentation, and presentation of artistic work, as well as creative space, technology and equipment, equitable partnerships, connectivity, and care. It was important to hear directly from the field to inform the development of this grant opportunity. All participants were compensated, and we thank these individuals for their insights, time, and knowledge.

The goals of the Initiative are to:

- support the County’s performing arts sector;
- stimulate the sector’s continuing recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;
- support the creation, presentation, and documentation of artistic work for County audiences and communities;
- advance cultural equity and inclusion, and equitable partnerships; and
- strengthen the region’s cultural infrastructure and creative capacity.

ELIGIBILITY

The Initiative supports Los Angeles County-based individual artists, independent producers, and small and mid-size performing arts organizations—including nonprofits, for-profits, fiscally sponsored organizations (Models A or C), and producing collectives—that are a part of the cultural performing arts community that performs regularly throughout the region. Also eligible are those that participated in or would have been eligible to participate in the Ford Theatres’ Artist Partnership Program (APP), Big World Fun (BWF), and Jam Sessions (JS) programs.

Depending on the applicant category (i.e., individuals or organizations), additional criteria must be met to be eligible for funding consideration.

Individual artists and independent producers must also:

- Reside full-time in Los Angeles County;
- Be 21 or older;
- Have a documented history (at least five years) of developing, producing, and/or presenting work in the performing arts (dance, theater, music, and traditional and folk arts) in a public context, including online/digital platforms, in Los Angeles County;
- Cannot be a full-time or matriculating student; and
- Cannot have a conflict of interest (family or financial relationships) with the boards, staff, and directors of CCI, LA County’s Board of Supervisors, or Arts and Culture.

Organizations must also:

- Be based in Los Angeles County;
- Have a mission that expressly centers on the performing arts;
- Have a documented history (at least five years) of developing, producing, and/or presenting work in the performing arts (dance, theater, music, and traditional and folk arts) in a public context, including online/digital platforms, in Los Angeles County;
- Annual operating budget/total revenue cannot exceed \$5M;
- Cannot be a County-owned or operated organization or facility; and
- Cannot have a conflict of interest (family or financial relationships) with the boards, staff, and directors of CCI, LA County’s Board of Supervisors, or Arts and Culture.

We value the work of the following artists, arts workers, and organizations; however, they are outside this initiative’s scope and **ineligible** for consideration:

- Arts education organizations, such as those that focus on K-12 school and/or afterschool programs. Teaching artists can apply so long as they have a performance practice outside of K-12 programming.
- Organizations for which the performing arts are not central to their programming, mission, and/or focus (such as media, film, and visual arts).

- Buskers and street performers.
- Specialized technicians, stage crew, vendors, and other back and front-of-house team members. (NB: while these individuals are ineligible to apply, compensation/salaries for their services may be reflected in an eligible applicant’s budget.)
- Applicants—organizations or individuals—whose project does not involve creating, documenting, and/or presenting new or existing artistic work.
- Educational institutions which lead to a degree or diploma, including but not limited to private or public schools or scholarship programs, colleges, and universities. This includes departments and programs therein, with the exception of arts organizations that possess independent 501(c)(3) status.
- K-12 schools, including public, private, and continuation.
- Student groups, recreational or social organizations.
- Municipal or County government agencies or departments.
- Private membership organizations that are not open to the general public.
- Federal, State, County, or municipal departments and agencies.
- Organizations with a “SUSPENDED” or “INACTIVE” Status with the California Secretary of State at the time of application.

Applicants may apply only once and to only one category. In other words, you may not apply both as an Individual and as the primary contact of an Organization, even if you meet the eligibility criteria in both categories. This is so we can support as many unique applicants as possible in a competitive application process. In addition, we will not accept applications that request support for the same project, regardless of category.

The performing arts are known to be collaborative art forms, with creation, documentation, and presentation of work often requiring collaboration among artists, choreographers, directors, producers, and presenters, as well as musicians, composers, dramaturgs, photographers, videographers, lyricists, book writers, and designers of all kinds. As such, applicants are welcome to include partners and collaboration in their proposed project activities.

Producing collectives will need to select a single representative (i.e., a lead applicant) to apply, and if funding is approved, this individual will be responsible for fulfilling the grant requirements. Similarly, for applicants who propose project activities that support a partnership or collaboration with one or more individuals or organizations, a single representative of the partnership/collaboration will serve as the lead applicant.

OPPORTUNITY

Award Amount: Up to \$30,000

Period of Support: July 2023 – July 2024

Applicants will describe their 1) audience and/or communities of support and their importance to them; 2) contributions to the County’s performing arts ecosystem; 3) proposed project activities to support the creation, documentation, and/or presentation of new or existing artistic work; and 4) proposed project’s support of Arts and Culture’s vision and mission, including the advancement of cultural equity and inclusion in the region, and alignment with the goals of the Initiative. Funding is meant to be flexible and can support any project and/or operating costs toward achieving the artistic work.

Successful applicants will demonstrate:

- A strong background in artistic and/or cultural work in the performing arts;
- A documented existing and supportive audience in the County;
- An active and meaningful role in the region’s performing arts ecosystem;
- Alignment with the mission and vision of Arts and Culture, and the goals of the Initiative;
- The potential for funding to support the creation, documentation, and/or presentation of new or existing artistic work;
- Projects that advance cultural equity and inclusion, including projects that prioritize, support, engage, amplify, and/or are led by artists, organizations, or communities that identify as BIPOC, disabled, female, LGBTQIA, rural, immigrant, or other underrepresented voices in the performing arts; and
- Projects that promote the development of equitable partnerships, including but not limited to payment (at or above a fair living wage) for all artists and collaborators in the project.

Examples of Project Expenses:

- Artist, collaborator, and designer fees at or above a fair living wage
- Rehearsal, studio, and creative space costs
- Partnership and collaborative costs
- Venue production expenses, such as rental fees and labor
- Costumes, props, lighting, sound, equipment rental, and scenic elements
- New media, immersive technologies, or other technological elements of artistic work
- Marketing, public relations, and promotions
- Online production costs such as hosting and digital promotion fees or streaming services
- Documentation costs such as studio/storage space, engineers, videographers, editing, translation services, music recording, photography, print or digital publishing, NFTs, digitization, dance notation, or archiving
- Community engagement before, during, or in the creation or presentation of artistic work
- Accessibility costs associated with artist or audience engagement, such as language translation, subsidies to make tickets free or low-cost, captioning, American Sign Language, and other related disability supports

Examples of Operating Expenses:

- Staff salaries and benefits; for individual applicants, this includes fees, compensation, or other resources necessary for the individual to complete the project
- Overhead (no cap)
- Administrative costs
- Professional services (e.g., support around AB5 compliance, bookkeeping, insurance coverage)

Examples of Ineligible Expenses:

- Scholarly research
- Projects performed or exhibited outside of the County
- Programs not accessible to the public
- Purchase of major equipment, land, buildings or construction, maintenance of existing facilities, or other capital expenditures
- Funds going directly into trusts, endowments, or cash reserves
- Fundraising activities such as costs for galas or other fundraising events
- Projects with religious or evangelical purposes or that otherwise discriminate based on religion

- Projects that support, sponsor, or are related to competitions

REVIEW PROCESS

CCI will invite panelists with various backgrounds and expertise in the performing arts and related fields in the County to review eligible applications and make award recommendations. Prospective panelists will be identified via Arts and Culture’s robust and diverse list of panelists and through input from the Initiative’s applicants, who will be required to nominate at least one and no more than three individuals or organizations that they feel are critical to the County’s performing arts ecosystem and whose judgment they trust in recommending grantees for funding. By drawing panelists from the organizations and individuals nominated by applicants, the community will have more influence in shaping the outcomes of this one-time funding opportunity.

In addition, because this initiative is a one-time opportunity, seeking to reflect the cultural and geographic diversity of LA County, this panel will be larger than usual. Having a larger-than-usual panel will (a) provide as much representational diversity as possible, (b) foster a sense of community and consensus around award recommendations, and (c) act on applicants' recommendations for panelists.

Following the panel review and pending approval of panelists’ recommendations by Arts and Culture, CCI will distribute up to a maximum of \$1.2M by or before July 31, 2023, to eligible and awarded grantees.

REVIEW CRITERIA

Panelists will assess and score applications using the criteria below.

| Review Criteria | Maximum Point Value |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Resonance: Applicant’s work demonstrates a strong background in artistic and/or cultural work in the performing arts. | 25 |
| 2. Relevance: Applicant has an existing and supportive core audience and is an integral part of the County’s performing arts ecosystem. | 25 |
| 3. Reflective: Project aligns with the goals of the LA County Performing Arts Recovery Grant initiative, and will advance cultural equity and inclusion. | 25 |
| 4. Impact: Funding will support the applicant in creating, documenting, and/or presenting new or existing artistic work, and there is the likelihood that funding will realize the project's goals. | 25 |

In keeping with the County’s [Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative](#) and Arts & Culture’s [Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative](#), panelists will also aim to ensure that recommended grantees represent the County’s diverse arts and culture ecosystem. **To that end, the panel will seek to support applicants and proposed projects that center underrepresented artistic voices and communities, and balance the final grantee pool across factors**, which include:

- Communities served;
- Geography;
- Discipline; and
- Cultural form and/or tradition represented.

APPLICATION

To inform panelists' assessment of the review criteria, the following application sections are required:

1. Contact Information
2. Proposal Details
3. Narrative
4. Budget (Sample project budget template [here](#))
5. Professional Experience
6. Work Samples
7. Panelist Nominations
8. Award Administration Information
9. Application Certification

A complete **Application Preview** (available in both .doc and .pdf formats) is available [here](#), and we encourage you to review this in advance to prepare your narrative responses and the requested materials. The application preview also includes important details such as word limits, work sample instructions, and accepted file types.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications will be accepted from April 12, 2023, at 9 a.m. PT until May 10, 2023, at 12 p.m. (Noon) PT. Complete applications must be submitted by the deadline—no exceptions will be made. In addition, applications with missing or inaccessible content (e.g., corrupted or password-protected files) will not be reviewed.

The LA County Performing Arts Recovery Grant online application can be accessed at:

<https://centerforculturalinnovation.submittable.com/submit>

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

If you need technical assistance (e.g., password or upload issues), request support at: <https://www.submittable.com/help/submitter/>. Submittable's business hours are 9 am – 5 pm MT. They aim to respond within 24 business hours.

TIMELINE

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Application Available | April 12 at 9 a.m. |
| Application Workshops | April 18, 12 – 1 p.m. Register Here April 20, 12 – 1 p.m. Register Here <i>Workshops will present the same content. A recording will be available on CCI's website, along with a copy of the PowerPoint presentation.</i> |
| Application Deadline | May 10 at 12 p.m. (Noon) |
| Panel Review | Week of June 19 |
| Award Notifications Sent | June 28 by 5 p.m. |
| Period of Support | July 2023 – July 2024 |

GRANTEE REQUIREMENTS

During the grant period, grantees are encouraged to notify Arts and Culture about upcoming activities, projects, performances, events, and anything else that demonstrates the impact of funding.

Credit and Recognition of Support

Grantees are required to acknowledge Arts and Culture on all materials, websites, publications, flyers, marketing materials, and announcements (printed or digital) for organizations, projects, programs, or materials funded through the LA County Performing Arts Recovery Grant. This is accomplished through

- (1) Placement of the Arts and Culture logo; and
- (2) Use of the following credit line: "This [ARTIST / ORGANIZATION / PROJECT / PROGRAM / PERFORMANCE / EXHIBITION] is supported by the LA County Department of Arts and Culture as part of the LA County Performing Arts Recovery Grant."

The Arts and Culture logos can be downloaded [here](#). In addition to the logo and credit line, any printed list of contributors to an organization or program funded by the Initiative should include the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture.

Grantees are also encouraged to use the Department of Arts and Culture's handles and hashtags when posting on social media: @LACountyArts #LACountyArts

Legal Requirements

Grantees must adhere to all local, state, and federal laws.

Cash Match

No cash match is required.

Final Report

Grantees must complete a brief final report describing the impact and use of funding (i.e., line-item expenses) and provide documentation of the activities supported, such as high-quality images, URLs to relevant press, and video or audio recordings. Reports will be due in early July 2024 through Submittable.

Grantees must maintain records for five (5) years and provide copies of records to County or federal auditors if requested.

QUESTIONS & SUPPORT

Answers to **Frequently Asked Questions** are available [here](#). CCI staff are also here to help! Please email us at grants@cciarts.org or call 415.288.0530 for assistance. For Deaf applicants and those with hearing loss, contact CCI using the [California Relay Service](#)—our staff are trained in making and receiving these calls.

If you need technical assistance (e.g., password or upload issues), request support at: <https://www.submittable.com/help/submitter/>. Submittable's business hours are 9 am – 5 pm MT. They aim to respond within 24 business hours.