

# RELIEF FUND *for* L.A. COUNTY VISUAL ARTISTS

## OVERVIEW

**California Community Foundation (CCF)** together with the **J. Paul Getty Trust**, the **Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts**, the **Sam Francis Foundation**, and the **Shepard and Amanda Fairey Foundation**, have launched the **Relief Fund for L.A. County Visual Artists**, a collaborative effort to support the region's visual artists who are struggling due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) is administering this Fund. The Relief Fund for L.A. County Visual Artists is distributing \$655,000 to help the region's visual artists who represent the various and diverse communities of Los Angeles County.

Given how long the financial consequences of the coronavirus pandemic will last, the Fund welcomes additional contributions. Please contact Stephania Ramirez (California Community Foundation) at [sramirez@calfund.org](mailto:sramirez@calfund.org) if you would like to learn more about supporting this Fund.

## BACKGROUND

COVID-19 has created a critical time to support artists, many of whom are independent workers who have lost the opportunities to earn income, do not qualify for unemployment benefits, and have been severely impacted by the current crisis. The Relief Fund for L.A. County Visual Artists to support visual artists' financial needs during the economic crisis that has resulted from the coronavirus pandemic. The Fund was created by the California Community Foundation's endowment funds and by repurposing the biennial Fellowship for Visual Artists program, which began in 1988 with an initial investment from the J. Paul Getty Trust. Additional Fund supporters include the Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts, the Sam Francis Foundation, and the Shepard and Amanda Fairey Foundation. The Fund will be administered by the Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI), a nonprofit intermediary focused on the financial well-being of those in the arts.

## ABOUT THE FUND

The Relief Fund for L.A. County Visual Artists will support visual artists' financial needs during the economic crisis that has resulted from the coronavirus pandemic. The Fund was created by the California Community Foundation's endowment funds and by repurposing the biennial Fellowship for

Visual Artists program, which began in 1988 with an initial investment from the J. Paul Getty Trust. The Fund will be administered by the Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI), a nonprofit intermediary focused on the financial well-being of those in the arts.

The Fund makes available \$655,000 in financial support to visual artists who are permanent residents of Los Angeles County, and who are not currently enrolled in school. A broad definition of “visual art” is used and includes painting, printmaking, ceramics, drawing, illustration, sculpture, video, new media, textiles, mural and public art, photography, performance art, social practice, sound art, and installation-based practices. Applicants will be asked to demonstrate their artistic practice by providing a link to a website featuring their work.

Additionally, applicants will be asked to describe their financial needs and are requested to apply only if they are facing immediate needs. This is meant to reserve as much of the Fund as possible for those facing significant financial threats.

Grants will be distributed with priority consideration to reflect the cultural and geographic diversity of L.A. County. Individuals may apply for up to \$2,000.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

The Fund will accept applications beginning May 4, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. (PDT) until May 25, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. (PDT). Applicants will be notified about their award status by June 3, 2020. Please note the amount awarded may be less than the amount requested in order for the Fund to benefit as many individuals as possible. If the Fund receives so many requests that the amount that can be awarded to each person would be substantially reduced, a lottery system that is weighted to prioritize the cultural and geographic diversity (i.e., underserved populations based on location of residency, cultural identity, gender, and disability) of the region will be used to determine awards.

Grants will be unrestricted and can be used toward any expenses that alleviate financial pressures due to the coronavirus as a federally recognized qualified disaster. In lieu of a formal report, individuals who receive grants will be required to complete a survey about the impact and use of the funds. These responses will provide important information about how to help artists.

### **OPERATING PRINCIPLES**

CCI will operate this program on behalf of the California Community Foundation in a way that is meant to perpetuate three ethos:

- *Trust:* We intend to operate the Fund in a way that provides some relief from stress and anxieties that come from financial uncertainty. To that end, we ask for relatively little by way of documentation. We trust that those who apply have met the criteria and that their artistic practice is shared in ways that contribute to your communities.
- *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 artists and those with the most urgent needs.
- *Sensitivity:* We recognize how debilitating it can feel to live with financial precarity. We are committed to making funding decisions and sending payments as quickly as possible.

### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- Must be a **full-time** resident of Los Angeles County for at least 5 years;
- Must not be a currently enrolled student;
- Must not be eligible for or currently receiving unemployment benefits (*applicants can be receiving CARES benefits*); and
- Cannot have a conflict of interest (family or financial relationships) with board, staff, and directors of CCI and Fund funders.

## HOW TO APPLY

The Relief Fund for L.A. County Visual Artists 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.

## REVIEW PROCESS & SELECTION CRITERIA

- Decisions will be made based on financial need and to prioritize the cultural and geographic diversity of Los Angeles County.
- Funding decisions will be made based on eligibility and review criteria, and funding may be less than what was requested in order to distribute funds to as many eligible applicants as possible. A lottery system, weighted to prioritize the cultural, geographic, disability, and gender diversity of the region, will be used if application numbers far exceed available funds.

Funding recommendations will be made by CCI, and approved by California Community Foundation. Notifications will then be sent to all applicants. Grantees will need to complete CCI's grant agreement and the online payment processing form through Tipalti. Payments will be made via direct deposit and may take three—five business days.

- May 4, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. (PDT) – Application Cycle Opens
- May 25, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. (PDT) – Application Cycle Closes
- May 26 through June 2, 2020 – Application Review
- June 3, 2020 – Notifications Made

## QUESTIONS

If you have questions about the application process, contact CCI at [grants@cciarts.org](mailto:grants@cciarts.org) or (415) 288-0530.