



SCI ARTIST- INNOVATOR FUND

INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR

April 12, 2023

WHAT IS THE SCI ARTIST-INNOVATOR FUND?

The SCI Artist-Innovator Fund is a CCI grant program that will award ten grants of up to \$8,500, for a total of \$85,000, to individual artist-entrepreneurs with spinal cord injuries who are inspired to innovate by the possibilities and benefits that are offered through the experience of pursuing a creative practice and living with spinal cord injury.



WHAT DOES THE SCI ARTIST-INNOVATOR FUND SUPPORT?

The SCI Artist-Innovator Fund supports applicants whose projects:

- are a product, service, or innovation inspired by your SCI experience;
- can be in the “idea phase” ready to come to life, or a work-in-progress needing funding to move forward;
- have the potential to develop into self-sustaining revenue-generating activities;
- enable the applicant to deepen an artistic, creative, artisanal, or cultural practice; and
- have a positive social impact upon a specified place-based and/or identity-based community or population.



2023 TIMELINE & ELIGIBILITY

Quemel Arroyo wearing his two-piece solution for rain protection. Open Style Lab NYC. 2019.



TIMELINE

Application Opens	April 4, 2023 at 9 a.m. PT
Application Deadline	June 6, 2023 at 12 p.m. PT (Noon)
Funding Notifications	August 1, 2023 by 5 p.m. PT
Grant Period of Support	August 1, 2023 - July 30, 2024
Grantee Virtual Gathering	Early September 2023

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must:

- be an individual living with spinal cord injury (*We use criteria set by the Craig H. Nielsen Foundation, which considers those with SCI to be individuals with neurological and functional impairment due to traumatic SCI, degenerative disease primary to the spinal cord [transverse myelitis], or damage to the spinal cord due to tumors and surgery. Individuals with spinal dysfunction, paralysis, or pain syndromes caused by other disorders are not eligible [e.g., multiple sclerosis, ALS, Chiari malformation and other developmental disorders, primary orthopedic disorders, and peripheral nerve injury.]);*
- live and work in the United States or its territories; and
- self-define as an artist, maker, creative, or culture bearer, *or* whose project demonstrates deep and sustained refining that reflects a craft, cultural, or artistic practice.

Additionally, SCI applicants may be part of a team, but only if the applicant is the primary owner and lead.



INELIGIBLE

The following are ineligible for consideration:

- Organizations, including nonprofits.
- Enterprise development or businesses without a social impact purpose.
- Anyone living and working outside the United States and its territories.
- Applicants who have a conflict of interest (family or financial relationship) with the board, staff, or directors of the Center for Cultural Innovation.

Additionally, incomplete applications and applications with inaccessible attachments (e.g., password-protected, broken links) will not be reviewed.



REVIEW CRITERIA

Emily Barker. Screenshot taken from “Art in the Name of Accessibility,” Artbound Shorts. KCET. 2022.



REVIEW CRITERIA

- Is the project innovative?
- Does the project reflect or further the applicant's artistic, creative, craft, or cultural practice?
- Does the project have a feasible business plan?
- Does the project have the potential to develop into self-sustaining revenue?
- Will the project have a positive social impact?



APPLICATION



Andre Johnson pitching at 1871 LatinX Demo Day, December 2019.

APPLICATION - NARRATIVE

1. **HOW WILL YOU USE THE FUNDS?** Describe what you seek to do with funding and how funding will advance your goals for your innovation (i.e., get you to the next level). Be specific about what you intend to accomplish with CCI support during the funding period. (Note: funding must be used within CCI's grant period of August 1, 2023 - July 30, 2024.)
2. **YOUR PRACTICE.** First, describe if and how you self-define as an artist. If you do not self-define as an artist, you may instead describe how your proposed innovation reflects an artistic or creative practice. Next, explain your process for making the product/service, with an emphasis on describing the aspects of creativity, problem-solving, and the process of refinement that make your proposed innovation a unique artistic, cultural, or creative expression.
3. **SOCIAL IMPACT.** Describe what social impact you will achieve through your innovation, including its impact on your community(ies). Include in your response who this innovation is meant to help or serve and how you will know if your innovation has a positive social impact.
4. **FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE.** Describe how this project will realize revenues and how this project will develop into a self-sustaining source of income.
5. **FRIENDS AND NETWORKS.** Describe the types of people you have that will support your vision and help you reach your goals. (You can include names or identify types of people anonymously.) Share enough to give us an understanding of your personal, professional, and social networks that may help realize your innovation.
6. **BIOGRAPHIES.** Provide a brief narrative bio that includes your qualifications for this project. If you are part of a larger team, describe their roles and capabilities for this project.



APPLICATION – UPLOADED MATERIALS

Budget (required)

- Limited to one (1) page
- A sample project budget template is available [here](#)

Video (required)

- Limited to 90 seconds - See the [application preview](#) for specific prompts to address
- See [Video Tips](#) for helpful hints

Business Matrix (required)

- Limited to one (1) page
- Use the [provided template](#)

Letters of Support (optional)

- No more than two (2) letters

Supplemental Materials (optional)

- Maximum of four (4) pages total



AWARD INFORMATION



Ryan Gebauer. 2021.

AWARD INFORMATION

Funding Distribution

CCI typically distributes awards as follows: 90% upon execution of the grant agreement and the remaining 10% upon satisfactory submission of final deliverables. But, we understand that fund disbursement may impact disability-related supports. Therefore, we can work with grantees individually to determine a payment plan that works for them.

Minneapolis College of Art & Design (MCAD)

CCI has partnered with MCAD's Entrepreneurial Studies program to provide SCI Artist-Innovator Fund grantees with opportunities to test their ideas, build their networks, and seek guidance from practitioners and peers. Grantees may participate in individual and group online coaching sessions with MCAD faculty to address specific business needs and questions around their developing project. Grantees may also present their projects and solicit feedback/ideas from MCAD faculty and students from Entrepreneurial Studies (and potentially other programs). Participation in MCAD activities is optional.

Gathering

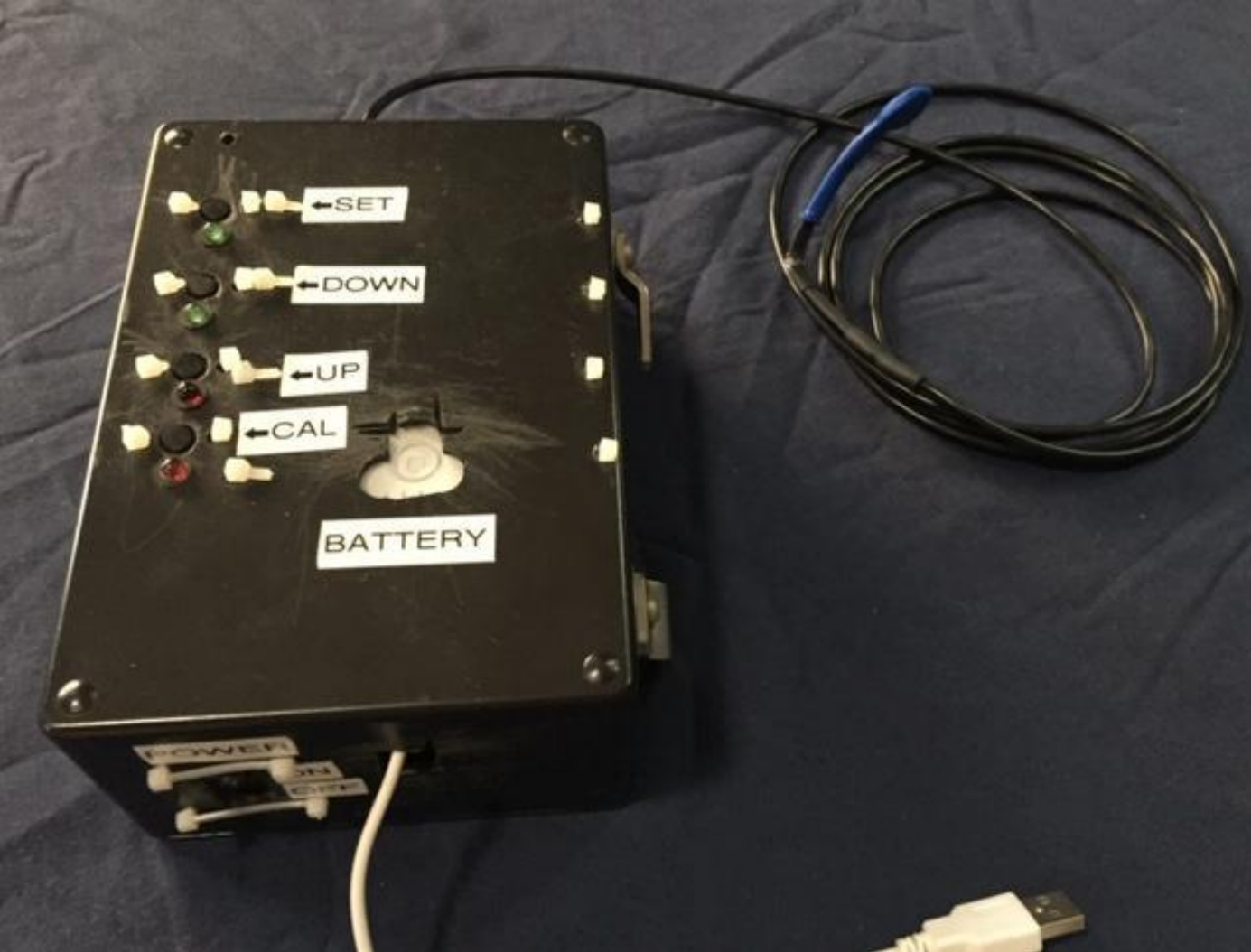
Grantees are required to attend a virtual gathering in early September 2023. The gathering will be an opportunity to meet other grantees, share information about each other's projects, and build a national network of fellow artist-innovators with SCI. In addition, MCAD representatives will be in attendance to share more details about possible programming.

Final Report

Grantees are required to prepare and submit a final report detailing the use and impact of the funds. Reports will be due July 30, 2024, through the Submittable platform. More details will be shared in the grant agreement.



APPLICATION TIPS



Kevin Bailey. New Prototype of Mouthpiece. 2019.

APPLICATION TIPS

- Review all ephemera
 - Guidelines
 - Application Preview
 - Video Tips
 - Business Matrix
 - Profiles of Competitive Applicants
 - Frequently Asked Questions
 - ...this webinar!
- Be clear and to the point—avoid responses that are overly technical or dense/abstract.
- Have a friend, etc. look over your application to see if any important details were left out or whether anything is unclear.
- Reach out to CCI staff! We encourage you to reach out with any questions by phone at 415.288.0530 or by email at grants@cciarts.org. Our hours are 9 to 5:30 pm Pacific time, Monday - Friday.



