



SCI ARTIST- INNOVATOR FUND

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Do I have to be a person living with spinal cord injury to apply for this grant?

The SCI-Innovator Fund aims to provide funds for people living with spinal cord injury who are artists and/or innovators. CCI uses the definition used by the program's funder, the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation:

We consider 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).

2. What kinds of projects are eligible to apply?

We are looking for artist-driven social enterprises. Projects must have a positive social impact and the potential to be revenue-generating. To help you understand the scope and variety of eligible projects, please review our [profiles of competitive applicants](#) and the [2021 SCI Artist-Innovator Fund grantee press release](#).

3. Who/what is ineligible for funding?

Funds are not eligible for:

- Organizations or nonprofits.
- Enterprise development or businesses without a social impact purpose.
- Anyone living and working outside the United States and its territories.

4. What kinds of items can I request funding for?

Some possible items in your proposed budget can include salaries, equipment, fees for training on a particular subject, disability-related expenses, hiring a personal assistant, marketing and promotional materials, prototype development, business strategy consultant, patent fees, and the like.

5. Do I have to be an artist to apply for this grant?

You do not have to be an artist to apply for this grant. However, if you do not self-define as an artist, your innovation should reflect sustained refining, much like a craft or artistic practice would, to a degree that it reflects your unique identity and is a form of creative or cultural expression.

6. How many grants will you make?

Ten grants of up to \$8,500 will be awarded to individual artist-entrepreneurs with spinal cord injuries who meet eligibility criteria.

7. The notification date has passed, and I haven't heard from CCI. Does this mean I didn't receive a grant?

All applicants will be notified regarding their application status. If you haven't heard from CCI by the promised notification date and time, check your spam folder. You can also view your application status by logging into your Submittable account.

To ensure the timely delivery of all communications, please safelist notifications@email.submittable.com. See [here](#) for instructions by email service provider.

8. If I receive the funds all at once, will it impact my disability services?

This funding may be taxable. Grantees are advised to consult with an accountant, tax expert, and/or a benefits specialist. We understand that fund disbursement may impact disability-related community supports and can structure options that work for each person's unique financial situation.

9. If I'm awarded a grant, what are the requirements?

SCI Artist-Innovator Fund 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, upon completion of the support period, grantees will 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.

10. I still have questions.

CCI staff are here to help! For questions related to the grant guidelines or application, email us at grants@cciarts.org or give us a call at 415.288.0530 during our office hours on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 am to 2 pm. (Office hour appointments are not required but encouraged! Find a time slot [here](#).)

If you require an alternative format for the application process, please contact us at grants@cciarts.org.

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.