



CREATIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

2024 Grant Guidelines

Deadline: June 6, 2024

The mission of the California Arts Council, a state agency, is to strengthen arts, culture, and creative expression as the tools to cultivate a better California for all.

Learn more at www.arts.ca.gov

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CREATIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

DEADLINE: June 6, 2024, 11:59 PM

Grant Request Amount: Up to \$25,000

Grant Activity Period: January 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025

Apply at: calartscouncil.smartsimple.com

Please refer to the [California Arts Council Grants Manual](#) for all policies, procedures, and resources for applicants and grantees.

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Program Timeline

Application Opens	March 28, 2024
Application Deadline	June 6, 2024
Panel Review	Approx. July - August, 2024
Funding Decision	Approx. September 2024
Funding Notification	Approx. September 2024
Grant Activity Start	January 1, 2025
Estimated Arrival of Funds	Approx. January 2025 - March 2025
Grant Activity End	September 30, 2025
Final Report Deadline	October 30, 2025

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must comply with the requirements below to be considered for funding.

Requirement	Yes/No	Eligible?
CA Based? Organization must have a principal place of business in CA and a CA address.	Yes	✔
	No	

Minimum two-year history of consistent arts programming and/or services? Prior to application deadline.	Yes	✓
	No	
A) 501(c)(3) organization? Organizations must demonstrate proof of nonprofit status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or section 23701d of the California Revenue and Taxation Code. OR B) Applying with a 501(c)(3) Fiscal sponsor? An applicant organization without nonprofit status must use a California-based fiscal sponsor with a federal 501(c)(3) designation to apply for funding. See additional information on the use of CAC fiscal sponsors in the Fiscal Sponsorship section of the Grants Manual . OR C) Municipal, County or Tribal Governmental Entity? Units of municipal, county, or tribal governments are eligible to apply.	Yes	✓
	No	
	Yes	✓
	No	
	Yes	✓
	No	
Certificate of good standing with California Secretary of State (SOS)? Organizations and fiscal sponsors must have “active status” with the California Secretary of State (SOS) showing evidence of “good standing” at the time of application. You can verify your organization’s status by conducting a search using the SOS online Business Search tool.	Yes	✓
	No	

Eligible Request Amounts, Funding Restrictions, Matching Funds

Eligible Request Amount	Up to \$25,000	9-month Grant Activity Period
Funding Restrictions	Organizations with total revenue below \$250,000	No funding restrictions

	Organizations with total revenue above \$250,000	Sum of requests during the same year of funding cannot exceed 50% of the total revenue from the most recently completed fiscal year.
Application Restrictions	Organizations may only apply for one (1) Arts & Youth Grant Program	These programs in the 2024 funding cycle include Creative Youth Development, Arts Education Exposure, and Arts Integration Training
Matching Funds	No matching fund requirement	✓
	1:1 match requirement	

Background & Purpose

The **Creative Youth Development program** is rooted in the CAC’s belief that arts learning is an essential tool for healthy human development and that it should be available to all young people throughout California, including but not limited to those whose lives have been impacted or interrupted by the justice system. The CAC envisions that all of California’s young people are provided with meaningful, culturally responsive arts-learning experiences so that they can reach their full potential. All projects may occur during or outside of traditional school hours and should take place at arts and culture venues, community centers, court/school sites, juvenile halls and camps, county operated correctional facilities, social services agencies, and other youth-oriented settings.

Creative Youth Development¹ is a commitment to supporting young people’s stories, ideas, and dreams through creative expression and honoring their lived experience. In order to create environments that promote Creative Youth Development, these three concepts must be present:

- Racial Equity and Social Justice
- Youth Voices
- Collective Action

Beneficiaries of Creative Youth Development projects include youth from infancy to 25 years of age. Support for system-engaged, system-impacted, and/or at-promise youth are an additional priority with successful projects being tailored specifically to respond to their needs. These may

¹ Creative Youth Development National Partnership. (Access date: January 22, 2024). *What is CYD?* <https://www.creativeyouthdevelopment.org/what-is-cyd/>

be youth and young people who were dismissed from middle, high and/or continuation schools; have been subjected to racial profiling; have been arrested or are on probation; are currently incarcerated at a juvenile justice facility or attending a court-appointed educational institution; are undocumented; are unhoused and/or migratory; are refugees; have incarcerated parent(s) or guardian(s); and/or are pregnant or young parents themselves. Examples of applicable projects include but are not limited to:

- arts projects in early learning, daycare, or foster-care environments.
- projects that support the transmission of traditional arts and cultural practices.
- youth leadership, apprenticeship and mentorship opportunities in arts, social service, or youth correctional settings.
- arts programming that supports social/emotional learning, workforce development or entrepreneurial skills.

Program Goals

Projects should address one or more of the following Creative Youth Development program goals:

- Provide social-emotional creative experiences in safe, healthy and appropriate learning environments.
- Foster creative abilities of youth through culturally and linguistically responsive arts learning.
- Support arts programs that seek to activate youth voices, narratives, and perspectives.
- Utilize cultural assets of the local community to support positive self-identification and respect for diverse cultures.
- Empower youth through the preservation, revitalization, and/or reclamation of cultural practices.
- Cultivate the development of transferable life skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, leadership, and collaboration.

Project Requirements

- The applicant must develop and complete a project addressing the program's purpose.
- All activities to be funded by the CAC must occur within the Grant Activity Period.
- The project design must provide for safe, healthy, and appropriate learning environments for youth.
- The project design must include hands-on learning in specific art forms to develop creativity, skills, and knowledge in at least one artistic and/or cultural discipline, including but not limited to:
 - Dance - contemporary, hip-hop, ballet, jazz, tap, house, movement traditions and forms of all cultures
 - Literary Arts - poetry, zine-making, spoken word
 - Media Arts - animation, video, digital photography, film, podcasts, other forms of new media
 - Music - traditional/culturally specific, folk, jazz, hip-hop, punk, classical

- Theater – devised pieces, original works, playwriting, interdisciplinary productions
- Traditional and Folk Arts - basketry, embroidery, weaving, woodcarving
- Visual Arts - murals, exhibitions, 3D, photography, sculpture, clay works, curatorial training
- If projects are tuition-based, the applicant must include a robust equity and accessibility plan that includes full scholarships and reduced fees.
- The project must include sustained activities over a period determined by the needs of the artists, youth, and the parameters of the project. This could mean intensive daily interaction over the course of one to two weeks or weekly interaction over a number of months.
- Artists(s) to be compensated and supported by this grant must show relevant experience of at least two years, be based in California, and may not be engaged in the project as full-time students in a degree program.
- Rates of compensation for individual artists and/or arts workers to be supported by this grant must be appropriate to experience and include benefits if required by contract. For more information on teaching artist rates of pay, please visit: <https://teachingartists.com/pay-rate-calculator>.
- If proposing therapeutic outcomes, applicants must establish the qualifications of service providers, how strategies are appropriate to the clinical and/or community arts setting, and how support is culturally responsive to participants.
- Project design and implementation must reflect a commitment to include and represent the communities to be served.

Grant Application Questions & Review Criteria

Application questions and required documents pertaining to each review criterion are included below. Detailed instructions are available at calartscouncil.smartsimple.com.

Centering Equity and Accessibility for an Inclusive Arts Landscape

The application must demonstrate your organization's experience, capacity, and ongoing commitment to engaging and uplifting historically and systemically under-resourced, excluded, and erased artists, communities, and cultural practices. This experience, capacity, and ongoing commitment should be reflected throughout the proposal.

The application must also demonstrate that the outreach, programs, services, information, and facilities where funded activities are to take place, including communication and online spaces, will be accessible for individuals with disabilities.

Application Questions and Required Documents

1. What strategies is your organization currently implementing to further your equity goals?
2. Outline ongoing partnerships with systemically under-resourced, excluded, and erased artists/cultural practitioners in your community and describe the actions you have taken to build trust, maintain and/or strengthen those partnerships.

3. What strategies has your organization utilized to engage and uplift historically underserved communities, such as those that fall within the lower quartiles of the California Healthy Places Index (HPI) in your region?
4. Address how your organization plans to identify and evaluate the impact this grant has in advancing equity for the communities served.
5. Describe your organization’s approach to ensuring the accessibility of programs and services and inclusion of people with disabilities. Consider organizational personnel and any partnering organizations, as well as the participants and beneficiaries of arts programming and services, including creatives with disabilities and potential audience members, in your response.
 - a. Describe both physical and communication accessibility, including in-person and online activities, and how people with disabilities are able to request accommodations to access programs and services.
 - b. Describe allocation of financial resources to support accessibility and accommodations.
6. Identify the primary individual who will be responsible for managing accessibility for your organization. This may be a program manager, accessibility coordinator, or other staff member of the applicant organization. Include their name, title, phone number, and email address in the fields provided.

Program Design & Implementation

Indicates clear objectives that address the Creative Youth Development program goals and include a realistic timeline and appropriate budget.

Application Questions and Required Documents

1. Select the artistic discipline(s) your project teaches:
 - Dance - contemporary, hip-hop, ballet, jazz, tap, house, movement traditions and forms of all cultures
 - Literary Arts - poetry, zine-making, spoken word
 - Media Arts - animation, video, digital photography, film, podcasts, other forms of new media
 - Music - traditional/culturally specific, folk, jazz, hip-hop, punk, classical
 - Theatre – devised pieces, original works, playwriting, interdisciplinary productions
 - Traditional and Folk Arts - basketry, embroidery, weaving, woodcarving
 - Visual Arts - murals, exhibitions, 3D, photography, sculpture, clay works, curatorial training
 - Other
2. Provide a detailed description of your proposed project, including the hands-on learning to occur and the specific activities youth will engage in. Identify the activity locations, providing the name of the artistic venues, community settings, and/or school sites involved. Include the number of sites to be served, estimated number of individuals participating, and the duration and frequency of program sessions (e.g. one hour twice a week for 12 weeks). Be sure to include how your project will accomplish one or more of the program goals:

- Provide social-emotional creative experiences in safe, healthy, and appropriate learning environments.
- Foster creative abilities of youth through culturally and linguistically responsive arts learning.
- Support arts programs that seek to activate youth voices, narratives, and perspectives.
- Utilize cultural assets of the local community to support positive self-identification and respect for diverse cultures.
- Empower youth through the preservation, revitalization, and/or reclamation of cultural practices.
- Cultivate the development of transferable life skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, leadership, and collaboration.

3. Provide a detailed timeline of all key arts programming and/or services that will occur within the Grant Activity Period.

4. Is your project tuition-based? If indicating “yes,” the applicant must describe a robust equity and accessibility plan that includes scholarships and reduced fees.

5. Are therapeutic outcomes proposed for this project? Confirm the qualifications and experience of any individuals supporting therapeutic outcomes who are involved in your project design and describe their approach as it relates to your project. Provide degrees, certifications, and/or evidence of cultural competency for the participants being served.

7. Complete a two-year budget snapshot table. Provide revenue and expense amounts. Address any significant changes in line items from one year to the next and explain anticipated surpluses or deficits.

8. Complete a detailed project budget, including all expenses relevant to the stated project activities, and include rates of pay that appropriately compensate the labor of all individuals working on the project. Provide details for each line item to be funded by this grant.

Artistic Merit

California artists are involved at every stage of the project design and execution and demonstrate skills, expertise, and experiences that are central to the goals of the project.

Application Questions and Required Documents

1. Provide a brief biography for each key individual (artistic, technical, or administrative) involved in this project. Include name, title, whether to be supported by CAC funds, relevant experience as it relates to this project, and role within the proposed activities.
2. Describe how California artists are involved at every stage of the project design and execution.
3. Describe how the artist(s) involved demonstrate skills, expertise, and experiences that are central to the goals of the project.
4. Provide no more than three (3) samples that best portray your organization and its work. These may include artistic work, press materials, flyers, brochures, programs, newsletters,

audio, video, and other marketing pieces. Samples should be within the past two years and relevant to this grant opportunity.

Community Engagement & Social Impact

Project demonstrates reach and/or depth of engagement in an identified community. Project includes methods to evaluate and measure success, collect and analyze data, and document activities. Project execution and evaluation involve significant community participation in accordance with the identified project outcomes.

Application Questions and Required Documents

1. Describe the community of youth who will participate in the project, including ages or age ranges served.
2. Describe how the project design provides for safe, healthy, and appropriate learning environments for the youth participants.
3. Describe how the artistic and/or cultural providers will measure the artistic and developmental outcomes of the youth participants. If you have completed a similar project in the past, please share the evaluation results.
4. Describe how your project design and implementation reflects a commitment to include and represent the communities to be served.
5. Letter of Support or Testimonial: Please provide a statement from a key stakeholder, partner, or community member. The statement should tell the story of how your organization positively impacted a student or a student community collectively.

Staff Assistance

Before contacting staff, check [FAQs](#) to see if application questions can be answered. If staff assistance is still required for guidance or clarification, email is the best way to contact Arts Program Specialists. **We recommend that you contact staff well in advance of the deadline to ensure you can be accommodated.** People who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind, or have difficulty speaking may dial 711 to reach the California Relay Service (CRS). Large print is available upon request. Translation services may also be available upon request.

Organizations seeking technical assistance should contact:

Gabrielle Rosado

she/her

Arts Program Specialist

California Arts Council

creativeyouthgrant@arts.ca.gov