ARTS & CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT

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

ARTS & CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT

DEADLINE: June 6, 2024, 11:59 PM
Grant Request Amount: Up to $30,000
Grant Activity Period: October 1, 2024 – 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	October 1, 2024
Estimated Arrival of Funds	Approx. January - 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?
Tier 1- Organizations with Total Revenue (TR) of below $250k	No	
Tier 2- Organizations with Total Revenue (TR) of $250k to below $1m	Yes	✔
Tier 3- Organizations with Total Revenue (TR) of $1m- $1.5m	Yes	✔
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.	Yes	✔
	No	
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](#).	Yes	✔
	No	
OR **C) Municipal, County or Tribal Governmental Entity?** Units of municipal, county, or tribal governments are eligible to apply.	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	
Organizations who have applied for the 2024 cycle of Statewide and Regional Networks, State-Local Partners, and Cultural Pathways?	No	
Organizations awarded Arts & Cultural Organizations General Operating Support for 2023-2025 (GEN-23 grantees)?	No	
Social services or non-arts/cultural nonprofits	No	
Public and private colleges and universities, K-12 school districts, or County Offices of Education	No	

Eligible Request Amounts, Funding Restrictions, Matching Funds

Eligible Request Amount	Up to $30,000	1 year funding cycle
Funding Restrictions	Organizations with total revenue below $250,000	Not eligible for this funding cycle.
	Organizations with total revenue **above** $250,000 and **at or below** $1.5m	Sum of requests during the same year of funding cannot exceed **50%** of the total revenue from the most recently completed fiscal year.
Matching Funds	No matching fund requirement	
	1:1 match requirement	✔

Background & Purpose

The California Arts Council's Strategic Framework prioritizes racial equity and broad geographic reach into communities of all sizes and needs. Recent data and community input demonstrate the need for greater access to general operations funding in support of maintaining California arts and cultural organizations during times of uncertain economic growth.

The Arts & Cultural Organizations General Operating Support grant program provides direct funding to arts and cultural organizations in support of ongoing operations.

Arts Organizations Defined- An arts and cultural organization is defined as an entity with a primary purpose of providing arts, creative, or cultural programming/services. Assessed by CAC staff, this purpose is determined by the organization's mission, purpose statement, and/or by its summary of core organizational programs and services.

Program Goals

This grant supports the well-being of California's cultural vitality by helping sustain a robust and diverse arts workforce and infrastructure. Funds may be used to support any eligible expenses associated with the general operations of an arts or cultural organization, including but not limited to rent, utilities, and staff salaries. Applying for this grant does not restrict an organization from applying for other CAC project-based grants. General Operating grants are intended to support the applicant organization in carrying out its mission. Funding is not intended to support a specific project.

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.

Management and Leadership

Application must demonstrate effective management practices.

Application Questions and Required Documents

1. 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.
2. Provide the executive summary for your organization's current strategic plan. If a current strategic plan is not in place, use up to two (2) pages to describe any existing policies and/or procedures and a timeline for developing a strategic plan.
3. Provide a brief biography for each key individual involved in administrative, artistic, or programmatic leadership positions within your organization. Include name, title, relevant experience, and role.
4. Provide a current list of Board of Directors, Commissioners, Committee, or other appropriate members of your governing body.
5. Upload two (2) signed Letters of Support from key stakeholders, partners, or collaborators. Letters should substantiate the quality of the organization, its programs, and services and affirm your organization's impact on its constituents.

Arts & Cultural Engagement

The application must demonstrate how your organization is responsive to the needs and priorities of the community(ies) it serves through its programming, services, and culturally relevant outreach strategies to engage systemically marginalized communities.

Application Questions and Required Documents

1. Describe the arts and cultural programs and services your organization offers that engage and support the community(ies) it serves.
2. Describe your organization's culturally relevant and responsive outreach strategies for engagement.
3. Describe the arts and cultural priorities of your organization, including
   a. how it collects input from the audiences/community(ies) it serves to identify these priorities
   b. what actions are being taken to address these priorities.
4. Provide at least one (1) but no more than three (3) work 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 must have been created within the past three years and should be relevant to this grant opportunity.

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:

Leslie Giovanini
she/her
Arts Program Specialist
California Arts Council
genopsgrant@arts.ca.gov