IMPACT PROJECTS

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

IMPACT PROJECTS

DEADLINE: June 6, 2024, 11:59 PM
Grant Request Amount: Up to $25,000
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?
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](#). **OR**	Yes	✔
	No	
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	

Eligible Request Amounts, Funding Restrictions, Matching Funds

Eligible Request Amount	Up to $25,000	Over the 1 year 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.
	Organizations with total revenue **at or above** $3 million	Are not eligible to apply to this program.
	Organizations applying for other project-based programs	Organizations cannot apply to more than one CAC grant program to support the same project.

Matching Funds	No matching fund requirement	✔
	1:1 match requirement	

Background & Purpose

The **Impact Projects** grant program purpose is to support collaborative projects that center artists and artistic practice in responding to issues experienced by historically and systemically under-resourced communities in California at this time, including, but not limited to, social, political, and economic inequalities. This program prioritizes local artists and forms of arts and cultural expression that are unique to, and/or historically rooted in, the specific communities to be served.

Impact Projects grants support arts organizations for collaborations between local artist(s) and community members to develop and express their own creative and artistic goals and address a community-defined need. Collaborative projects will utilize various creative practices to impact social issues affecting their communities, including but not limited to systemic marginalization, incarceration/justice systems, arts learning, poverty/economic disparity, health disparities, accessibility for people with disabilities, housing insecurity, violence, food insecurity, cultural/social justice, intergenerational/multigenerational learning, veterans' issues, and environmental sustainability. Previous applicants to project-based programs such as Reentry Through the Arts and Veterans in the Arts, etc. are encouraged to apply through this program. Please note that applicants focused on arts education for youth are encouraged to apply for Creative Youth Development, Arts Education Exposure, or Arts Integration Training.

Program Goals

- To strengthen the creative expression of artists, artistic practice, and community collaboration.
- To heal, stabilize, uplift, and transform communities.
- To fund artistic projects that foster creative social change in the areas of equity and access.
- To provide crucial opportunities for sustaining strong, healthy, vibrant, safe, and resilient communities in a region.

Project Requirements

- Applicant organization must develop and complete a project addressing the goals of the program to be completed within the project timeline. The project description must include an anticipated timeline for completion within the Grant Activity Period.
  - Projects must be collaboratively developed between local artist(s) and community members to develop and express creative and artistic goals and address a community-defined need. Projects must utilize creative practices to impact social issues affecting a community.

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- Lead artist(s) must be local- defined as residing in state of California
- Project planning, implementation, and evaluation must reflect a commitment to include and represent the communities to be served.
- All aspects of the project should be free to community participants and free and/or affordable and accessible to audiences. This detail should be clearly noted in the project description.
- Rates of compensation for individual artists and/or arts workers to be supported by this grant must be appropriate to experience and comparable to fees for other local skilled workers.
- Individuals to be compensated by this grant may not be full-time students in a degree program directly related to any type of compensation/credit for this project.
- All CAC-funded programs, services, information, and facilities where funded activities take place, including online spaces, must be accessible for individuals with disabilities, including but not limited to individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind, have difficulty speaking, have a physical disability, visual disability, developmental disability, learning disability, mental illness, or chronic illness.

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.

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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 and Implementation

Indicates clear objectives that address a community identified need or opportunity and includes a realistic timeline of activities that support the realization of those objectives. The project budget is detailed, includes all expenses relevant to the stated project activities, and includes rates of pay that appropriately compensate the labor of all individuals working on the project.

Application Questions and Required Documents

1. Provide a detailed description of your project's objectives, outlining how you will address a community-identified need or opportunity. Include a timeline of activities that support the realization of project objectives. Describe how your project is free to participants or free and/or affordable to audiences.
2. Select the topics your project addresses:

   - Cultural & Social Justice
   - Education
   - Health & Wellness
   - Intergenerational Learning
   - Equity
   - Accessibility
   - Sustainability & Environment
   - Other:

3. 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.
4. 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. Please consult the What We Do Not Fund document and make sure your project budget does not include items listed in the document.

Community Engagement and Social Impact

Demonstrates the ways in which the project will result in the healing, stabilizing, uplifting, and transforming of an identified community and their needs. The proposal centers community members' voices throughout the entirety of the project, including project development, implementation, and evaluation. The community actively participates in shaping the project outcomes, documentation strategies, and measures of success.

Application Questions and Required Documents

1. Describe up to four historically and systemically under-resourced communities that will be most deeply impacted by this project.

2. Describe how your project will address the healing, stabilizing, uplifting, and transforming of an identified community and their needs.

3. Describe how you plan to center community members' voices throughout the entirety of the project, including project development, implementation, and evaluation, and how the community participates in shaping project outcomes, documentation strategies, and measures of success.

Local Artist Support

Demonstrates the capacity to support deep collaboration between local artists and the community for the duration of the project. The artist(s) leading the project identify as members of the community that will be engaged and have expertise in the forms of arts and cultural expression that are unique to, and/or historically rooted in, that community.

Application Questions and Required Documents

1. Provide a written statement from the lead artist(s) describing their vision for the project and their connection to the community to be engaged. Statement should include how the artist(s) leading the project identify as members of the community that will be engaged and have expertise in the forms of arts and cultural expression that are unique to, and/or historically rooted in, that community.
2. Describe how local artists (California-based) will collaborate with the community for the duration of the project.
3. Provide brief biographies of all project artists, culture bearers, administrators, and other individuals to be compensated through this CAC grant award.
4. Select the artistic discipline(s) your project uses:

   - Folk and Traditional Arts
   - Literary Arts
   - Media Arts
   - Interdisciplinary Arts
   - Performing Arts
   - Visual Arts
   - Other:

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5. 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 should 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:

Natalie Peeples
she/her
Arts Program Specialist
California Arts Council
impactgrant@arts.ca.gov