



# STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL NETWORKS

## 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](http://www.arts.ca.gov)

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# STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL NETWORKS

**DEADLINE:** June 6, 2024, 11:59 PM

Grant Request Amount: Up to \$50,000

Grant Activity Period: November 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

Apply at: [calartscouncil.smartsimple.com](https://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

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

## Eligibility Requirements

Requirement	Yes/No	Eligible?
<b>CA Based?</b> Organization must have a principal place of business in CA and a CA address.	Yes	✓
	No	
<b>Minimum two-year history of consistent arts programming and/or services?</b> Prior to application deadline.	Yes	✓
	No	
<b>A) 501(c)(3) organization?</b> 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	

<p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>B) Applying with a 501(c)(3) Fiscal sponsor?</b> An applicant organization <b>without</b> 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 <a href="#">Grants Manual</a>.</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>C) Municipal, County or Tribal Governmental Entity?</b> Units of municipal, county, or tribal governments are eligible to apply.</p>	Yes	✓
	No	
	Yes	✓
	No	
<p><b>Certificate of good standing with California Secretary of State (SOS)?</b> 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 <a href="#">Business Search</a> tool.</p>	Yes	✓
	No	
<p><b>Current State-Local Partners (with one exception, below), Cultural Pathways, and Arts and Cultural Organizations General Operating Support applicants</b></p>	No	
<p><b>State-Local Partners serving as fiscal sponsors for distinct networks that are not supported through the State-Local Partners program</b></p>	Yes	✓
<p><b>Social services or non-arts/cultural services nonprofits</b></p>	No	

***Eligible Request Amounts, Funding Restrictions, Matching Funds***

<b>Eligible Request Amount</b>	Up to \$50,000	11-month grant activity period
<b>Funding Restrictions</b>	Organizations with total revenue below \$250,000	No funding restrictions
	Organizations with total revenue <b>above</b> \$250,000	Sum of requests during the same year of funding cannot exceed <b>50%</b> of the total revenue from the most recently completed fiscal year

	Organizations with total revenue <b>at or above \$5 million</b>	Are not eligible to apply to this program
<b>Matching Funds</b>	No matching fund requirement	
	1:1 match requirement	✓

## Background & Purpose

The California Arts Council’s policies and practices prioritize racial equity and have a broad geographic reach into communities of all sizes and needs, and this includes a commitment to support networks of arts service organizations that provide practical resources for the communities they serve. Statewide and Regional Networks grantees continue to provide timely and adaptive services which respond to the needs of culturally specific and geographically diverse communities.

The **Statewide and Regional Networks (SRN)** program contributes to the health and vitality of the creative workforce in California by creating a resilient network of arts service organizations and artists. Applicants must be arts services organizations with statewide or regional reach.

An **arts service organization** is defined as a nonprofit or fiscally sponsored organization that furthers the interests of artists, creators, and culture bearers. They also provide programs and services that are substantially focused on enhancing the capacity of individual artists and/or arts and culture organizations. They have as a core purpose the provision of services that assist or promote arts and culture. Together these organizations form unified networks at state and regional levels, working to ensure that the arts and culture sector across California continues to thrive. **An arts service organization shall operate a network.**

**Networks** are associations or groups of individuals or organizations with common interests, visions or organizational missions that work together to strengthen the collective group. Arts Networks develop professional services for the broad array of individuals and organizations engaged in diverse fields of art (paraphrased from [Americans for the Arts](#) Public Art Network definition).

- For the SRN program, networks must extend beyond solely the employees or constituents of the applicant organization and be composed of a collective or collaboration of peers and/or multiple organizations with similar missions. Grantees will provide field-building, capacity building, and technical assistance support to the entire network and not simply their own organizations.
- **Regional** reach refers to programs and/or services having significant constituent representation in at least three counties, OR a county with a total population of over 3

million in multiple municipalities for example San Diego, Los Angeles, or Orange County.

- **Statewide** reach refers to programs and/or services having significant constituent representation throughout California, including Northern, Central, and Southern, coastal, and inland regions.

Statewide and Regional Networks grantees will be expected to:

- Attend CAC convening(s) (if applicable).
- Host virtual and/or in-person meetings for the CAC as needed when sufficient notice has been given.
- Participate, where feasible, in cooperative information gathering and programming when deemed to be mutually beneficial by both the CAC and the grantee.
- Collect data on communities served and constituent needs, values, and opportunities to support CAC evaluation and development of new grant programs and initiatives in alignment with the Council's 2025 strategic priorities (inclusive but not exclusive of new initiatives for disabled artists, Native American artists, Touring and Presenting programming, and Multicultural Anchor Institutions Grant Program).
- Promote CAC grant opportunities, workshops, and other resources and information to constituents in all counties and/or municipalities identified in the network.
- Participate in program evaluation (if applicable).

***First-time applicants to this program are highly encouraged to consult with the managing Arts Program Specialist prior to application submission.***

## **Program Goals**

This grant supports the well-being of California's cultural vitality by creating resilient and diverse networks of arts service organizations and artists. Grantees will be required to accomplish the following within the grant activity period:

- Arts service organizations must provide practical services for artists, creators, culture bearers, and/or arts and cultural organizations.
- Constituent representation must be active, ongoing, effective, and relevant statewide or regional reach.
- Programs and/or services must provide engagement and access throughout all counties and/or municipalities identified within the statewide or regional network.

## **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](https://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 can 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***

Demonstrates ability to fulfill programs and services identified in proposal in a sustainable manner. Organization provides evidence of strategies to strengthen organizational capacity, ensure appropriate leadership and compensation for staff, employ effective governance policies, and maintain a structure that is representative of the network. Organization provides evidence of strong fiscal and managerial health, including diversity of revenue sources. When applicable, fiscal sponsor demonstrates effective fiscal management and sound relationship with the applicant organization.

### **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) Upload a matching funds table. Indicate the source type, identify the source, enter the amount, and indicate the status (Committed, Pending, or Projected).
- 3) Provide evidence of the following: strategies to strengthen organizational capacity, ensure appropriate leadership and compensation for staff, employ effective governance policies, and maintain a structure that is representative of the network.
- 4) 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 timeline for developing a strategic plan.
- 5) 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.
- 6) Provide a current list of Board of Directors, Commissioners, Committee, or other appropriate members of your governing body.
- 7) Letters of Support or Testimonial: Please provide up to two (2) signed letters from key stakeholders, partners, or collaborators. Letters should substantiate the quality of the organization, its programs and services, and tell the story of the organization's impact on its constituents.



## ***Statewide or Regional Services***

Contributes to the health and vitality of an identified network of artists, creators, culture bearers, and/or arts and cultural organizations. Programs and/or services provide engagement and access throughout all counties and/or municipalities within the statewide or regional network.

### **Application Questions and Required Documents**

- 1) Are you focused on statewide or regional networks?
  
- 2) Explain how you meet the criteria for either a statewide or regional network. For a regional network, describe the exact regions served, including whether you serve rural and/or Tribal and/or metropolitan communities.
  
- 3) Select all activities and services that your organization provides to the identified network.
  - Art skills
  - Arts advocacy
  - Career services
  - Communications
  - Financial support (other than re-granting, including scholarships or other)
  - Fiscal sponsorship
  - Information and research
  - Intermediary/administrative services such as grants administration support
  - Marketing, promotion, audience development services
  - Mentorships
  - Convening and networking opportunities
  - Professional development opportunities
  - Regional or Statewide cultural exchanges
  - Re-granting
  - Technical Assistance, education, and training
  - Other (describe)
  
- 4) Please Identify the artistic forms your work supports (check all that apply).
  - Dance
  - Folk and Traditional Arts
  - Literary Arts
  - Media Arts
  - Music
  - Interdisciplinary Arts

- Performing Arts
  - Theater
  - Visual Arts
  - Other (specify):
- 5) Clearly identify the specific network of artists, creators, culture bearers, and/or arts and cultural organizations directly served through practical services. Do you serve specific ethnic or cultural communities? Does your work uplift historically underrepresented and/or rural communities? Describe.
  - 6) Describe how your organization contributes to the health and vitality of the identified network through the selected activities and services. Provide details of the activities and services selected above, as well as any other programming not listed.
  - 7) How are your programs and/or services accessible throughout the entire network served? Does each region have access to a physical location, hub, or event site – or how are opportunities equitably distributed across geographies? Include in this description how constituents access the network’s services and activities. Include outreach methods, criteria for joining (if applicable), and any cost associated with participation.
  - 8) Provide at least one (1) but no more than three (3) samples that best portray your network/ region/organization and its work. These may include artistic work, press materials, flyers, brochures, programs, newsletters, and other marketing pieces. Samples should have been created within the past three years and 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:

### Carlos Casillas

he/him

Arts Program Specialist

California Arts Council

[statewidenetworksgrant@arts.ca.gov](mailto:statewidenetworksgrant@arts.ca.gov)