



# Statewide Networks

## 2014-2015 Grant Guidelines

*Deadline: March 6, 2015, 11:59PM – (online submission)*



The Mission of the California Arts Council, a state agency, is to advance California through the arts and creativity.

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**STATEWIDE NETWORKS**  
**2014-2015 GRANT GUIDELINES**  
**DEADLINE: March 6, 2015, 11:59PM**



**Background**

The Statewide Networks program is rooted in the California Arts Council's (CAC) vision to nurture collaborative service organizations that provide practical services to working artists and constituent organizations. Collectively, these networks will help to activate CAC constituents, the arts community, stakeholders, and the public.

**Purpose**

The Statewide Networks (SN) program supports culturally specific, multicultural, and discipline-based statewide and regional arts networks and service organizations. Its goal is to strengthen an organization's capacity and delivery of services to its constituents through communications, professional development opportunities, networking and arts advocacy.

**Eligible Request Amount**

The Council has allocated \$375,000 to the SN program. Grant requests cannot exceed an organization's total income based on its last completed budget.

- Statewide Organizations may request up to \$20,000
- Regional Organizations may request up to \$10,000

**Applicant Eligibility**

Statewide and regional culturally-specific, multicultural, and discipline-based arts networks and service organizations are eligible to apply.

- The arts organization must be a nonprofit arts organization, and 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.
- Applicant organization must have at least a two-year track record of developing its field and providing services to its constituent base (individual artists and/or arts organizations).
- *Statewide* is defined as an organizational network serving a statewide constituency.
- *Regional* is defined as an organizational network serving constituencies in at least three non-contiguous counties.
- "*Culturally-specific*" and "*multicultural*" refer to organizational networks which are rooted in and reflective of underserved ethnic and cultural communities.
- If an applicant is awarded SN and Local Impact (LI) grants, it may only receive one grant in a given year.

- All applicants must complete a California Cultural Data Project Funder Report at the time of application.

**Application Cycle:**

- Deadline: March 6, 2015, 11:59PM (online submission)
- Grant Dates: Late June 2015 – May 31, 2016

**Review Criteria**

A peer review panel will evaluate applications based on the following criteria:

- *Quality of Programs & Services:* Based on programs and services that are closely aligned with organization’s mission and intended constituency.
- *Quality of Plan:* Based on strategies to strengthen organizational capacity and constituent base; and to work with the CAC in advancing a statewide arts agenda.
- *Impact on Constituency:* Based on proposed plan to advance organization’s constituent base and field.
- *Managerial & Fiscal Competence:* Evidence of qualified administrative personnel and overall fiscal health.

**Peer Panel Evaluation and Ranking Process**

A peer panel will review all applications and work samples in a multi-step process that involves assigning numerical ranks to an application. A 10-point ranking system will be implemented. Panelists’ ranks are averaged to obtain the final score.

**10-Point Numerical Ranking System**

<b>10</b>	<b>Model</b>	Meets all of the review criteria to the highest degree possible.
<b>8-9</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	Designates an applicant as a high priority for funding.
<b>5-6-7</b>	<b>Good</b>	Strongly meets the review criteria; however, some improvement or development is needed.
<b>2-3-4</b>	<b>Developing</b>	Has some merit, but does not meet the criteria in a strong or solid way.
<b>1</b>	<b>Ineligible</b>	Inappropriate for CAC support.

**California Arts Council Decision-making**

The final authority for grant decisions is the appointed Council. Subsequent to receiving and reviewing the peer panel’s recommendations, the Council will take into consideration the panel’s recommendations and make final funding decisions at a public meeting.

### **Grant Amounts**

Grant requests cannot exceed an organization's total income based on its last completed budget.

- Statewide Organizations may request up to \$20,000
- Regional Organizations may request up to \$10,000

If approved by the Council for support, grant amounts may differ from the request amount due to the level of funding available to the program, demand for that funding, and/or the rank a proposal receives from the peer review panel.

Should a grant award be made for an amount less than the request amount, the applicant will be required to confirm that the goals of the original request can be met or modified with a lesser grant award.

### **Matching Funds**

All grant recipients must provide a dollar-for-dollar (1:1) match. The cash match may be from corporate, private contributions, local government, or earned income. Other State funds cannot be used as a match. A combination of in-kind contributions may be used to match the CAC request with the approval of the SN Arts Program Specialist (see Staff Assistance).

### **What the CAC Does Not Fund**

- Former grantee organizations not in compliance with CAC grant requirements (as stipulated in grant agreement)
- Non-arts organizations not involved in arts activities (as applicants)
- For-profit organizations (as applicants)
- Projects with fundraising purposes, including grant writing
- Other state or federal agencies
- Programs not accessible to the public
- Projects with religious or sectarian purposes
- Organizations or activities that are part of the curricula base of schools, colleges, or universities
- Indirect costs of schools, colleges, or universities
- Trust or endowment funds
- Purchase of equipment, land, buildings, or construction (capital outlay or expenditures)
- Out-of-state travel activities
- Hospitality or food costs
- Expenses incurred before the start or after the ending date of the grant

### **Timeline**

February 6, 2015	Application available
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<b>March 6, 2015, 11:59PM</b>	<b>Application deadline (online)</b>
Late June	Funding decisions
Late June	Funding notifications
Late June 2015 – May 31, 2016	Funded activity period

### **Grantee Requirements**

- To better inform our elected representatives as to the value of the arts and the use of state funds, you will be expected to include--with your approved grant--copies of signed letters sent to the Governor and your State Senate, Assembly, and U.S. Congressional representatives thanking them for your SN grant.
- Use CAC and National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) logos on all printed, electronic materials, and websites (programs, catalogs, postcards, posters, newsletters, leaflets, publications, etc.) that specifically reference this grant.
- Credit the CAC and the NEA on all printed and electronic materials: *“This activity is funded in part by the California Arts Council, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.”*
- When discussing programs supported by this grant, verbal credit must be given.
- Submit an Interim Report by December 1, 2015, culminating with a Final Report summarizing SN accomplishment with related materials at the end of the grant period.
- Attend CAC conferences and convenings (to be announced).

### **Staff Assistance**

CAC staff is available on a limited basis to offer guidance and clarification in preparing your proposal. Be sure to contact staff far enough ahead of the deadline to ensure that you can be accommodated. **Contact John Seto, SN Arts Program Specialist at [john.seto@arts.ca.gov](mailto:john.seto@arts.ca.gov) or (916) 322-6395.**

**The SN Program is designed to support advocacy efforts on behalf of the arts, as opposed to organizational or individual lobbying efforts.**

**Advocacy** is the pursuit of efforts to influence outcomes (including public policy and resource allocation decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions) that directly affect people’s lives. **Lobbying** consists of communications intended to influence specific legislation or ballot initiatives.

In 1976 Congress ruled that public charities have the right to lobby and may do so legally; however, lobbying is limited by the IRS and by the state’s Fair Political Practices Act. Nonprofits can choose one of two standards by which their lobbying is measured by the IRS. The oldest and best known requires that “no substantial part of a charity’s activities can be used to attempt to influence legislation. The “no substantial part” is not a strict percentage test. The IRS does not set a percentage as a guideline. **In practice, nonprofits often err on the side of limiting their lobbying to 2-3 percent of their time, when in fact they do not need to do so.**