



INNOVATIONS + INTERSECTIONS

2020-2023 Grant Guidelines

Revised LOI Deadline: May 1, 2020 11:59 PM



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

Learn more at www.arts.ca.gov

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California Arts Council



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Purpose: The California Arts Council (CAC), a state agency, was established in January 1976 to encourage artistic awareness, participation, and expression; to help independent local groups develop their own arts programs; to promote employment of artists and those skilled in crafts in the public and private sector; and to enlist the aid of all state agencies in the task of ensuring the fullest expression of our artistic potential.

The Council: The appointed Council of the CAC consists of 11 members who serve staggered terms. The Governor appoints nine members, the assembly Speaker appoints one member, and the Senate President pro Tempore appoints one member. Council members serve without salary, elect their own officers, and meet throughout the state to encourage public attendance. This body sets policy and has final approval of CAC grants.

Mission: Advancing California through the arts and creativity.

Vision: The CAC envisions a California where the lives of all Californians are enriched by access to and participation in a diverse spectrum of arts and cultural experiences and the arts ecosystem reflects contributions from all of California's diverse populations.

Funding: The CAC is a state agency, funded from the state's annual budget process and proceeds from the California Arts License Plate and the Keep Arts in Schools tax return voluntary contribution fund, supplemented by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts. Its grants are usually matched by foundations, individuals, earned income, government agencies, or other organizations.

Information Access: Due to the Public Records and Open Meeting Acts, applications and their attachments are not confidential and may be requested by the media and/or public. Meeting dates and locations are posted at www.arts.ca.gov. Observers may attend but may not participate in, or in any way interfere with, Council meetings. Each meeting provides a designated time for public comment, although comments may be time-limited.

Grant Process: Applications are evaluated by panels of experts, recognized in their respective fields, who rank applications according to program criteria. The CAC staff provides information but not recommendations to the panel. The Council reviews panel recommendations before making final funding decisions. CAC staff is responsible for grant contract administration after Council approval. In dire or unexpected circumstances, CAC reserves the right to make exceptions to any policy or procedure on a case-by-case basis.

Requirements: The CAC is mandated both by federal and state regulations to fund only organizations that have proof of nonprofit status under sec. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (Fiscal Receivers are eligible in some programs), or under sec. 23701d of the California Revenue and Taxations Code, or entities that are a unit of government; and that comply with the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, as amended; sec. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988; California Government Code secs. 11135-11139.5 (barring discrimination); the Fair Labor Standards Act, as defined by the Secretary of Labor in part 505 of title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulation; the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"); the Fair Employment and Housing Act; and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

Ownership, Copyrights, Royalties, Credit: The CAC does not claim ownership, copyrights, royalties, or other claim to artwork produced as a result of a CAC grant. However, the CAC reserves the right to reproduce and use such material for official, noncommercial purpose, including but not limited to use on the CAC website, social media and print materials. In addition, the CAC requires documentation of grants activity, and appropriate credit for CAC partial support.



INNOVATIONS + INTERSECTIONS

2020-23 GRANT GUIDELINES

REVISED LOI DEADLINE: May 1, 2020 11:59 PM

FINALIST APPLICATION DEADLINE: July 22, 2020 11:59 PM

Apply at calartscouncil.smartsimple.com

Up to \$500,000

Grant Activity Period: Nov. 1, 2020 – Oct. 31, 2023

Background and Purpose

The **Innovations + Intersections (I+I)** program is rooted in the California Arts Council's (CAC) understanding that the arts can provide creative strategies to respond to society's most pressing opportunities and concerns. The CAC has created this pilot grant category to support innovative projects that use arts and culture-based approaches to respond to systemic issues that affect Californians.

The I+I program provides funding for large-scale and/or long-term innovative projects working at the intersections of **(1) arts and technology** and **(2) arts and wellness**. The purpose of this program is to support arts organizations that are doing groundbreaking work in response to community needs. We are looking for projects that elevate imagination into spaces that have yet to be created or identified.

This grant program will follow a two-step application process. Applicants will first submit Letters of Intent (LOI) detailing their project designs, partners, and goals. LOIs will be reviewed and then full application submissions will be invited by the CAC.

Projects must address one or both of the following priority areas:

Arts and Technology

Our cultural ecosystem is at a crossroads, as technology rapidly changes the way in which we create art, and the way in which we interact with arts and culture. Technology can either bridge community gaps or widen the distance between our communities. Bearing that in mind, we understand that innovative technological approaches may not solve a societal issue, but they may add to the discourse and create a pathway to progress. For the purpose of this program, the specific expression and use of technology is left to the applicant. However, the use of technology must be employed at an intersection with the arts and/or arts and wellness.

Arts and Wellness

Significant research continues to emerge regarding positive health outcomes for individuals that are engaged in the arts and creative practice. Simultaneously, projects that integrate the arts into public health strategies have become increasingly beneficial

for their communities. In the context of this grant program, the CAC defines wellness on both the individual and community levels.

Program Goals

Projects should address the following I+I program goals:

- Works at the intersection of arts and technology and/or arts and wellness
- Engages cross-sector and cross-disciplinary partnerships
- Utilizes artistic strategies to elevate community assets and to address societal challenges
- Increases capacity in the tech or wellness sectors to support racial and cultural equity by partnering with arts organizations
- Embraces innovative approaches designed to contribute to resiliency and equity
- Engages artists and cultural workers as problem-solvers, community connectors, and leaders
- Develops and executes the project by, for, and with the community to be served

Program Requirements

- Letter of Intent that outlines the following:
 - Overview of project design, including primary goals of planning year
 - Articulation of committed partners, including other funders, as appropriate
 - Ways in which the project will use innovative means to accomplish the program goals
- The applicant must complete one year of planning and two years of implementation of a project aligned with the program's purpose by October 31, 2023.
- All activities to be funded by the CAC must occur within the three-year Grant Activity Period (see [Timeline](#)).
- Proposals must address how the project or program uses arts and culture strategies and cultural workers to address *one or both* of the following:
 - **Technology:**
 - Focus areas may address but are not limited to immersive technologies, creative coding, or cyber art making; arts for the public good, workforce and career development for youth, racial equity in the tech sector, or artist residencies in the tech sector
 - **Wellness:**
 - Focus areas could be but are not limited to individual physical, behavioral, and mental health outcomes, community and public health, homelessness, systemic violence, food security, aging, climate change, and the environment.
- All CAC-funded programs, services, information, and facilities where funded activities take place 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. Please see [Page 3: Requirements](#) for more information.

Eligibility

- Applicants must either be a California-based nonprofit arts organization, arts-based unit of municipal or county government, or tribal government.
- All applicants must have a minimum two-year history of consistent engagement in arts programming and/or services prior to the application deadline.
- All applicant organizations must have a principal place of business in California.
- Applicant 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 must be a unit of government, including California Native American or Indigenous tribal governments.
 - **Fiscal Sponsors:** An applicant without nonprofit status may use a California-based Fiscal Sponsor with a federal 501(c)(3) designation to conduct work on a not-for-profit project. The Fiscal Sponsor will provide the fiscal and administrative services needed to complete the grant. **If a grant is awarded, the Fiscal Sponsor becomes the legal contractor.** The Fiscal Sponsor must also demonstrate consistent arts services or programming in California for a minimum of two years prior to the application deadline. See additional information on the use of [CAC Fiscal Sponsors](#).
 - Applicants using Fiscal Sponsors must submit all required materials for the Fiscal Sponsor at the time of application.
- All applicants must submit all required application materials and information at the time of submission. Incomplete applications are ineligible and will not be reviewed by the panel. Please see below for all required materials and information.
 - This program requires the submission of an SMU DataArts Funder Report generated specifically for this CAC grant program. Applicants must provide a minimum of two and up to three years of data in the Funder Profile and submit a Funder Report meeting these requirements at the time of application.

California Secretary of State Certificate of Status

Nonprofit organizations 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. An indication of “active” (versus “suspended,” “dissolved,” “cancelled,” etc.) confirms that your nonprofit corporation exists, is authorized to conduct business in the State of California, has met all licensing and corporation requirements, and has not received a suspension from the Franchise Tax Board.

Eligible Request Amounts

- Applicant organizations can request up to \$500,000. *Proposals requesting any amount will be equally competitive in this program.*
- The total request for funding in this three-year grant program cannot exceed 150% of an organization’s total operating revenue from the most recently completed fiscal year, as it appears in the SMU DataArts Funder Report.

Funding Restrictions

- Applicants to this program are not restricted from applying for and receiving additional CAC project grants.

What the CAC Does Not Fund

- As applicants:
 - Individuals
 - State agencies
 - Federal agencies
 - Non-arts organizations not involved in arts activities
 - For-profit organizations
- Nonprofit organizations not in “good standing” with California Secretary of State
- Former grantee organizations not in compliance with CAC grant requirements (as stipulated in the grant agreement)
- Expenses incurred before the start date or after the ending date of the Grant Activity Period
- Expenses that would supplant other state funding*
- Operational, administrative or indirect costs of schools, colleges, or universities, or any activities that are part of the curricular base of these institutions
- Fundraising activities or services such as annual campaigns, fundraising events, or grant writing
- Lobbying activities that are intended to influence the actions, policies, or decisions of government officials or specific legislation
- Programs or services intended for private use, or for use by restricted membership
- Projects with religious purposes
- Trusts, endowment funds, or investments
- Capital outlay, including construction projects or purchase of land and buildings
- Equipment
- Debt repayment
- Hospitality, meals, or food
- Out-of-state travel

Application Process

The multistep application process includes the following:

- **Submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI): Due May 1, 2020, 11:59 PM - Revised Deadline**
- Finalists invited to submit a full application: May 27, 2020
- Submission of full application: Due July 22, 2020, 11:59 PM

Application Round 1: Requirements

Grants Managements System Registration

All grant applications must be submitted in the California Arts Council online grants management system, calartscouncil.smartsimple.com. Please refer to CAC Registration Information for additional guidance. Please have the following information and documentation prepared prior to beginning your registration. Once registered, you will

select “Innovations + Intersections” under Funding Opportunities. This following information will populate the Organization Details tab in the I+I application.

- Applicant Organization Federal EIN
- Applicant Organization DUNS Number, obtainable from the Dun and Bradstreet Request Service website
- Applicant Organization contact information, including business address, mailing address (if different), county name, phone and fax number (if available), and website
- Organizational mission statement and purpose
- Brief summary of Applicant Organization’s core programs and services

Applicant Information

- Total Operating Revenue from last completed fiscal year
- Provide a brief summary of your proposal indicating how CAC grant funds would be used. This description will be used to introduce your proposal to the review panel. If funded, this description may be used as the Scope of Work in your grant contract and will be binding. It may also be edited by CAC and used to summarize your proposal in public documents.
- National Endowment for the Arts Accessibility Check List review

Proposal Upload

Please upload the following documents as individual PDFs in the Proposal Upload Tab. You can drag and drop files by clicking the orange upload icon. Each file must be named with the following structure: “Upload 1_applicant org name”

- **Upload #1: Letter of Intent**

Please upload a letter describing your organization’s proposed project and how it aligns with the Innovations + Intersections program goals as described in the program guidelines. We encourage you to limit the length of your letter to fewer than 1,000 words. The letter must include:

- overview of project design, including primary goals of planning year
- articulation of committed partners, including other funders
- ways in which the project will use innovative means to accomplish the program goals

- **Upload #2: Bios of Key Personnel**

Please upload a list of bios of all staff, contractors, and community partners that will be working on the project and include the following information:

- relevant experience and qualifications
- proposed role in the funded activities
- whether they will be compensated with CAC and/or matching funds

- **Upload #3: Project Budget**

Please upload a project budget for up to \$500,000 in expenses. Matching funds are not required in this program. If additional project funds are being sought, please list those expenses separately and identify the other potential funding sources.

- **Upload # 4: DataArts Funder Report**

Please upload an SMU DataArts Funder Report with a minimum of two years of data.

Payee Data Record

In the Payee Data Record Tab, you will follow the instructions to download, complete and upload a Payee Data Record.

Application Round 2: Requirements

Those invited to submit a final Round 2 application will be required to submit additional materials as instructed by CAC staff, including a detailed project design, artistic work samples, and letters of support.

Review Criteria

A review panel will adjudicate applications based on the following criteria:

- **Project Design and Implementation:** Project design indicates realistic timeline, appropriate budget, clear arts and technology and/or arts and wellness objectives and achievable outcomes. Design articulates methods to evaluate and measure success, collect and analyze data, and document activities.
- **Artistic Innovation:** Extent to which the project uses groundbreaking arts and culture-based methods to address an identified community problem or opportunity.
- **Community Impact:** Reach and depth of engagement in the community served is demonstrated. Project responds to community needs, values, and priorities. Development, execution, and evaluation of project involves significant community participation.
- **Management and Leadership:** Ability of applicant organization to implement proposed project is clearly demonstrated by qualifications of project's team, viability of project budget, and overall fiscal and managerial health of applicant and partnering organizations.
- **Equity and Accessibility:** Proposal reflects fair practices to accessing resources and the inclusion of the communities to be served in the representation, participation, and creation of services and programs. Proposal reflects evidence that CAC-funded programs, services, information, and facilities where funded activities are to take place will 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.

Panel Adjudication and Ranking Scale

An application will be deemed ineligible by CAC staff if it is incomplete at the time of submission or does not meet eligibility criteria or project requirements.

Panelists review applications and work samples using the 6-point ranking scale below.

	Rank Title	Rank Description
6	Exemplary	Fully achieves the purpose of the program <i>Meets all of the review criteria and project requirements to the highest degree</i>
5	Strong	Strongly achieves the purpose of the program <i>Meets all of the review criteria and project requirements to a significant degree</i>
4	Good	Sufficiently achieves the purpose of the program <i>Meets all of the review criteria and project requirements to some degree</i>
3	Fair	Moderately achieves the purpose of the program <i>Meets most of the review criteria and project requirements</i>
2	Marginal	Minimally achieves the purpose of the program <i>Meets some of the review criteria and project requirements</i>
1	Weak	Does not achieve the purpose of the program; proposals that are not appropriate for this grant category <i>Inadequately meets the review criteria or project requirements</i>

California Arts Council Decision-making

The final authority for grant awards is the appointed Council. After receiving and reviewing the panel ranks, the Council will vote on final funding awards at a public meeting. Awards may differ from requested amounts based on rank.

Timeline

February 4, 2020	Guidelines and Application Launch
May 1, 2020 11:59 PM - revised	LOI submission deadline (online)
May 18-19,2020	Panel Review - Finalists Selected
May 27, 2020	Application Released to Finalists
July 22, 2020 11:59 PM	Finalist Application Deadline
August 17-18, 2020	Panel Review
September 2020	Funding decisions
September 2020	Funding notifications
Nov. 1, 2020 – Oct. 31, 2023	Grant Activity Period
October 31, 2021	Interim Report 1 deadline
October 31, 2022	Interim Report 2 deadline
October 31, 2023	Final Report deadline

Grantee Requirements

Grantees must comply with all requirements as stipulated in the grant agreement, including but not limited to the following:

- Grantees are required to carry out activities consistent with the original proposal summary statement and the intent of the application as approved for funding, including in instances where the grant award may be less than the original request amount.
- Grantees are required to submit an interim report at the end of each program year, and a final report at the culmination of the project. Grantees will make a presentation on their project at a Council meeting at the culmination of the Grant Activity Period.
- Changes to funded activities must be proposed in advance and would require prior written approval from CAC staff. Requests for changes are considered on a case-by-case basis; approval is not guaranteed.
- To better inform our elected representatives as to the value of the arts and the use of state funds, grantees are required to include—with the approved grant agreement—copies of signed letters sent to the Governor and state Senate and Assembly representatives thanking them for the grant.
- Use the CAC logo on all printed, electronic materials and websites (programs, catalogs, postcards, posters, newsletters, leaflets, publications, etc.) that specifically reference this grant.
- Credit the CAC on all printed and electronic materials: *“This activity is funded by the California Arts Council, a state agency.”*
- Provide a report summarizing grant-funded activities and accomplishments at the end of the Grant Activity Period.

California Model Agreement (AB20) and Indirect Costs

In order to comply with AB20 requirements, University of California and California State University grantees are required to secure an indirect cost waiver from The Regents of the University of California or The Trustees of the California State University.

Appeal Process

Appeals to CAC funding decisions must be submitted on an official Appeal Form, available from the CAC, and postmarked within 45 days of the decision. Appeals are granted only on the following grounds:

1. Panel's assessment was based on a misstatement of factual information as contained in the application such that it negatively influenced the panel's recommendation; and/or
2. Incorrect processing of the required application material such that it negatively influenced the panel's assessment of the applicant's request for funding.

Note: Dissatisfaction with award denial or with award amount is not grounds for appeal.

Staff Assistance

CAC staff is available to offer guidance and clarification in preparing your proposal. 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.

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