



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1. I'm receiving support from FEMA and/or other relief funds. Can I apply?

As long as you meet the eligibility criteria, then yes you may apply. Given the extreme levels of loss and displacement people are facing, we understand that you may be seeking support from other relief funds or another type of relief assistance such as crowdfunding campaigns, mutual aid funds, grant programs, or government programs (e.g., FEMA). The money distributed through this program is unrestricted and can be used in any way, except lobbying, to supplement any other support that you may receive. Similarly, receiving funding through another CCI grant program—including past COVID-19 Relief Funds—does not impact your eligibility for this opportunity. We only ask that IF you have been successful in securing enough support to get you through the next several months, please self-assess if you need to apply to this program. We appreciate people leaving room for others in more dire situations. But, if you really do need help, even if you've raised other funds, please apply.

2. How will the larger LA Arts Community Fire Relief Fund be distributed if funds remain beyond this emergency relief program?

The outpouring of support has been tremendous, and we are all incredibly moved and grateful that so much has been raised from caring arts supporters locally and many outside this region. We know that this moment calls for distributing relief dollars quickly to meet urgent needs. This initial round was designed for what we know right now. This first and immediate round of support will enable CCI to share with funders what we're seeing and learning, so that further distribution will continue to provide the most effective and meaningful relief to evolving needs.

3. Are people affected by other fires—such as Sunset and Hurst—eligible to apply?

No. We recognize that experiencing fire-related loss is traumatizing, and we wish we could support everyone. But this program is responding to the community-level scale of devastation brought about by the Palisades and Eaton fires. The level of damage and the number of people adversely impacted was significant enough to prompt a Presidential disaster declaration, which this relief funding is responding to.

4. Is this funding taxable?

CCI acts in good faith that this support may not be taxable as it is intended to ameliorate personal financial hardship brought on by the Palisades and Eaton fires that began on



January 7, 2025, and have been declared a “qualified disaster” under 26 US Code Section 139. We are, however, not able to offer legal or tax advice, so please seek appropriate expertise if you have any questions.

5. I am a Spanish speaker and need help completing my application in English. What should I do?

Applications will be accepted in English only. For Spanish interpretation and translation assistance with your application, contact Eriksen Translations at [phone number to be provided on or by January 27] during their office hours—Monday through Friday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. PST between Monday, January 27, and Monday, February 17, 2025. Eriksen Translations is an independent contractor that CCI is using for this service, and they can assist you with submitting your application.

CCI has enabled the submitter collaboration tool, which allows applicants to work on their application with others (e.g., a family member, CCI technical assistance staff member, Spanish interpreter). For information about how to utilize this tool, visit Submittable's knowledge base [here](#).

6. Who qualifies as an artist or arts worker?

We use a broad definition of “**Artist**,” and no specific credentials are required. Eligible artists include those who have received training in an artistic discipline, such as those offered in art schools and fine arts degree programs; apprenticeship in traditional arts; as well as those who have craft, folk, traditional, or contemporary creative practices that perpetuate or express cultural identities. In addition, applicants must have a public-benefiting practice, which should be evidenced by the application’s required documentation (i.e., a URL or other ephemera that prominently features the applicant’s artistic, cultural, or creative practice).

We welcome an expansive set of craft, visual, literary, and performing arts practices, as well as traditional and cultural practices, including, but not limited to, book arts, ceramics, conceptual art, dance, design, DJ-ing, fiber and textile work, fiction/non-fiction writing, film/video, folk and traditional arts, glasswork, hip hop, media arts and digital/XR media, multimedia and multi-disciplinary practices, metalwork, mural making, music, musical theatre, opera, painting, performance art, photography, paper and printmaking, poetry, public art, quilting, regalia making, sculpture, spoken word, social/community-engaged practices, storytelling, theatre, and woodworking. Regarding traditional and cultural practices, if you are a bearer of a traditional form of expression or one that holds meaning for your cultural community, you are eligible to apply. Such



practices may include, but are not limited to, artists working with hair, food, in nature, and tattoo arts. If you have questions about eligibility, contact CCI at relief@cciarts.org or by phone at 415.288.0530 and 213.687.8577. Headquartered in Los Angeles, our local and Bay Area staff want to be as responsive as we can.

We provide examples of our definition of “artist” to demonstrate a broad reach, but keep in mind that this list is not comprehensive. In other words, we know we may have left out disciplines, mediums, or practices. We also acknowledge excluding those whose professions may be creative but do not conventionally fall into the “arts and culture” category. This consideration was made to ensure we can serve the intended population as much as possible.

Arts workers are adults (18 years or older) who work part-time, full-time, or through an active contract serving any LA County arts organization, including for-profits, nonprofits, collectives, cooperatives, or volunteer-run organizations of all visual, literary, and performing arts disciplines as well as arts-related archives, heritage sites, and libraries/library collections. (People who are employed by an individual artist, for example as a studio assistant, accountant, or personal assistance service aide for artists with disabilities, are also eligible.) Workers can perform any role (e.g., administration, curatorial, conservation, designers [graphic, set, costume, etc.], installation, and education). We strongly encourage those in positions that are considered “blue-collar” to apply, such as security officers, food service staff, front of house, janitorial staff, groundskeepers, facilities and logistics, maintenance workers, and staff in retail, visitor services, and membership.

7. What are qualifying arts organizations?

Qualifying arts organizations include commercial, nonprofit, collective, cooperative, ensemble, or volunteer-run organizations of all artistic and cultural disciplines as well as arts-related archives, heritage sites, and libraries/library collections. Arts workers employed by individual artists, such as a studio assistant, accountant, or personal assistance service aide for artists with disabilities, are also eligible.

8. I work at an arts organization that contributed to the LA Arts Community Fire Relief Fund, am I eligible to apply?

Yes. Only CCI staff or CCI-contracted expert consultants will know the identities of the applicants and recipients, and the selection process will be based on meeting priority considerations primarily designed to reflect need (and randomized if necessary due to



demand). Eligible affected artists and arts workers of all area arts institutions are eligible to apply.

9. I’m an artist AND an arts worker, how should I identify/how do I apply?

We know creatives play multiple roles in the arts and culture sector. Choose whichever role can be most clearly demonstrated by the required documentation. Note that both roles—artists and arts workers—will be equally weighted. In other words, one role does not have any advantage over the other.

10. I’m a security guard currently contracted by “ABC Security Company” to provide services to a large performing arts organization. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes, as long as you meet the other eligibility criteria, you can apply. You will need to provide the name of your employer, the arts institution you serve, and a contact number to verify employment if we find it helpful to do so.

11. My partner and I meet the eligibility criteria. Can we both apply?

Yes, members, 18 years or older, of the same household, including roommates, partners, spouses, and family members, can apply if they are individually eligible; however, they must submit separate applications through a unique (i.e., not shared) Submittable account.

12. Can organizations, companies, or collectives apply?

Only individual artists and arts workers are eligible to apply for relief funding. Applications from organizations, companies, artist collectives, or any other organization-type applicant will not be accepted.

13. What do you mean by “artmaking studio?”

We define an artmaking studio as a space—commercial or residential—that is dedicated to the applicant’s artistic practice and may enable an income-generating livelihood, even if the income generated is small.

14. I can’t access my proof of residency, what should I do?

If you are having difficulty completing the application, accessing documentation, or don’t have access to a computer, contact CCI! We will offer support as best as we can. Reach us at relief@cciarts.org or by phone at 415.288.0530 and 213.687.8577. Headquartered in Los Angeles, our local and Bay Area staff want to be as responsive as we can. Our office hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PST. And



please don't wait until the last minute! Give us and yourself plenty of time to receive help.

15. With the toll that the fires have taken, I'm struggling to complete this application on my own. What should I do?

If you are having difficulty completing the application or don't have access to a computer, contact CCI staff! We will offer support as best as we can. Reach us at relief@cciarts.org or by phone at 415.288.0530 and 213.687.8577. Headquartered in Los Angeles, our local and Bay Area staff want to be as responsive as we can. Our office hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PST. And please don't wait until the last minute! Give us, Eriksen Translations, and yourself plenty of time to receive help well in advance of the deadline.

16. The application asks for my legal name, but I go by another name. What should I do?

Please provide your legal name as this information will be needed to establish your account on Tipalti.com—CCI's secure, direct deposit payment processing platform—if you are selected to receive funding. The application also provides an optional field for you to enter additional names such as your stage, artist, preferred, or chosen name.

17. Will other people see my application besides CCI?

Only CCI staff and its contracted experts and administrators will know the identity of applicants and recipients. This information will not be shared with the contributors to the Fund. An example of a contracted expert is Eriksen Translations, which will provide interpretation and translation services. They and CCI will know the identities of applicants who seek their support.

18. If I receive funding support, how can I use it?

Funding will be unrestricted and can be used toward any expenses that alleviate financial pressures due to this federally recognized qualified disaster. The only restriction is that funds cannot be used for lobbying.

19. When will I be notified about the status of my application?

We anticipate notifying applicants about the status of their application on Monday, February 24, 2025, by 12:00 p.m. PST. CCI is committed to meeting this deadline, but we also ask for patience given the uncertainty of responding to overwhelming demand and trying to fund as many requests as possible within this round. Check your spam folder if you haven't heard from CCI by the promised notification date and time. You can also view your application status by logging into your Submittable account.



To ensure the timely delivery of all communications, please safelist notifications@email.submittable.com. See [here](#) for safelist instructions by email service provider.

NOTE: If we do not hear from a recipient after notifications have been sent, we will make multiple attempts to reach them by phone, email, and social media.

20. Will you announce the names of program recipients?

No, we will not announce the names of program recipients. We consider applications for financial need to be sensitive and personal information, and therefore, the names of applicants and those who receive support will be kept confidential to CCI. Even Fund contributors and donors will not know who applied or who received financial support. However, we will share data about the number of eligible applications we received, the number of funded applications, and other information that can be aggregated and anonymized.

21. I want to call for help but I am Deaf or hard of hearing.

Deaf applicants and those with hearing loss can contact CCI using the [California Relay Service](#). Our staff is trained in making and receiving these calls. Our office hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PST.

22. I lost my Submittable password.

You can reset a lost password by clicking on the “Forgot” button in the password field. If you continue to experience difficulty accessing your account, contact Submittable by filling out the help form at the bottom of [this page](#) (<https://www.submittable.com/help/submitter/>). Submittable’s business hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. MT. They aim to respond within 24 business hours.

23. I’m having trouble using the Submittable platform.

If you need technical assistance—such as troubleshooting a file upload or resetting your password—contact Submittable by filling out the Help form at the bottom of [this page](#) (<https://www.submittable.com/help/submitter/>). Submittable’s business hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. MT. They aim to respond within 24 business hours.

24. Where can I find additional relief fund resources or other opportunities?

Many of our partners in the field are compiling lists of available resources. We will regularly add these to the CCI Relief Fund [web page](#) and encourage you to reference it for resources.



25. We want to follow CCI's work. How can we stay connected?

Thank you! This relief program is not the only service we provide to individuals in the arts. We have a long history of serving artists in California and are now known for providing grants, research, and advocacy on behalf of all types of artists, arts workers, cultural leaders, and creatives nationally. We encourage you to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter or follow us on social media [@cciarts](https://twitter.com/cciarts), as we regularly share opportunities and resources. You can sign up for our e-newsletter at <https://bit.ly/3qPL23V>.