



Press Release

For Immediate Release
February 6, 2025
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Center for Cultural Innovation Announces Inaugural Investing in Artists: Tools & Equipment Grant Recipients

San Francisco Bay Area – The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) today announced the **2024 Investing in Artists: Tools & Equipment** grant recipients. Fifteen grants ranging from \$1,000 - \$5,000 were awarded totaling \$60,000. This is the Fund's pilot round of grantmaking, with funding rounds continuing through to 2026. Support for **Investing in Artists: Tools & Equipment** is provided by the Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation.

A total of 198 eligible applications were received from 17 States and Puerto Rico. Grantees include:

Susan Aparicio – California

\$3,400

Glass

To purchase a kiln and kiln accessories.

susanaparicio.com

Lauren Benetua – California

\$3,000

Fiber

To purchase a weaving bench, floor loom, and construction materials for backstrap looms.

Deborah Brooks – Arizona

\$5,000

Basketry

To purchase wooden basket gauges and molds.

sweetgrassbasketry.org

Alexandra Candia – California

\$3,000

Mixed Media/Traditional Regalia

To purchase a high-capacity serger/overlock machine.

@candiadesigns_

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cciarts.org
ambitio-us.org

Teresita de la Torre – California

\$3,500

Ceramic, paper

To purchase a ceramic kiln and ware carts.

todoslosdias.net

Erin Ggaadimits Ivalu Gingrich – Alaska

\$5,000

Wood, Mixed Media

To purchase an air filtration and dust collection system, storage, and optimized woodworking tools.

ggaadimitsivalu.com

Chelsea Kaiah James – Colorado

\$4,325

Leather, Beadwork, and Porcupine Quilling

To purchase a desktop laser cutter and embroidery frames/stands.

chelseakaiahjames.com

Julie Lake – New Mexico

\$3,000

Metal, Ceramic

To purchase a ceramic kiln, kiln accessories, and an outdoor kiln shed.

lakeobject.com/

Shawn Lovell – California

\$5,000

Metal, Wood

To purchase a hydraulic press.

slmetalworks.com

Andrew Orloski – California

\$5,000

Metal, Glass

To purchase a Covington flat lapidary wheel and accessories, and polishing discs.

andreworloski.com

Kerianne Quick – California

\$3,000

Jewelry

To purchase a more powerful magnification device and work clamp.

kerianne-quick.com

Nicole Rivera – Puerto Rico

\$5,000

Book Arts, Fiber

To purchase a nipping press, percussion press, and guillotine.

@lapaduma

Kaori Takamura – Arizona

\$1,775

Wood, Mixed Media

To support the repair of grantee's glowforge laser cutting machine.

kaoritakamura.com

Joan Takayama-Ogawa – California

\$5,000

Ceramics

To purchase a computerized electric energy efficient test kiln, potter's stool, and potter's wheel.

joantakayamaogawa.com

Mark Tetpon – Alaska

\$5,000

Walrus Ivory, Whale Bone, Whale Baleen, Alaska Yellow Cedar

To purchase a dust collection system and required ducting, 14" bandsaw, lathe, 13" benchtop planer, and 6"x48" belt sander.

facebook.com/AlaskaNativeArtwork

Investing in Artists: Tools & Equipment enables individual craft artists to purchase artistic tools and equipment that support their ability to make object-based work. In discussing the program's rationale, Rebekah Frank, Program Officer at the Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation, shared "The nature of hands-on making requires access to tools, both equipment and practical, to gain expertise and proficiency. Lack of access becomes a barrier to an individual's ability to learn and build a sustainable foundation for their practice. In response, the Foundation partners with CCI to provide small grants directly to artists and craftspeople to support the structural needs of their individual practice."

CCI Deputy Director Laura Poppiti shared, "The Investing in Artists: Tools & Equipment grants are intended to assist artists and craftspeople in the material needs of their practice—from the physical costs of equipment, tools, and materials for their studios—to professional skill development support to establish themselves in their career. Through these opportunities, diverse craft communities build and participate in a culture of engagement, rooted in curiosity and a desire to understand the material and physical world."

Three, four-member grant review panels were invited by CCI to review and score the Tools & Equipment applications. Panels included **Donna Davies**, Executive Director of Pilchuck Glass School with locations in Stanwood, Washington, and Seattle, Washington; **Jacqueline Fernandez-Hamberg**, Curator of the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka, Alaska; **Pablo Guardiola**, visual artist and co-director of Beta-Local, an arts non-profit dedicated to support and promote contemporary art practices in Puerto Rico; **PJ Gubatina Policarpio**, a Bay Area-based curator, educator, programmer and community organizer; **Kainoa Gruspe**, artist, educator, and program manager at Kīpuka, a community workshop that aims to promote and provide space for various crafts and traditions related to native and local practices in Hawai'i; **Allyson Hoffelmeyer**, Colorado artist and Programs, Fellowships, & Awards Manager at the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA); **Laura Mays**, woodworker, educator, and the director and a full-time faculty member of The Krenov School, Mendocino College; **Jabari Owens-Bailey**, arts administrator, educator, artist, and Curatorial Education Program Manager for Museum of Glass in Tacoma, Washington; **Brienne Rosner**, Poconos-based artist and Executive Director of the Society of North American Goldsmiths (SNAG); **Annie Saldaña**, artist, educator, and Manager of the

Creative Community Development Center (CEDE) at Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico; **Stephanie Seguin**, Montana-based artist, educator, and Education Manager for The Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts; and **Leeann Wallett**, Delaware-based artist and Program Officer of CCI's *AmbitioUS* initiative.

About the Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation

The Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation seeks ways to support individuals who explore and ask through fieldwork in natural sciences, create and captivate as they promote mastery in craft, teach and try as they support students in public education, and conserve and connect as they encourage care for our food systems and natural world. Learn more about the Foundation's partners and work at www.Maxwell-Hanrahan.org

About the Center for Cultural Innovation

The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) was founded in 2001 as a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Our mission is to support individuals in the arts—artists, culture bearers, and creative entrepreneurs—to realize greater self-determination so as to unfetter their productivity, free expression, and social impact, which contributes to shaping our collective national identity in ways that reflect the diversity of society. For more information about CCI, please visit www.cciarts.org

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