



CALI CATALYST

2025 GRANTEES

www.cciarts.org

ABOUT CCI

The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) was founded in 2001 as a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation to strengthen the economic and social infrastructure for creatives, culture bearers, and creative entrepreneurs. Headquartered in Los Angeles, CCI serves creative communities across the United States, supporting those whose work drives cultural and social innovation.

In addition, through research, advocacy, incubation, and investments, CCI continues to advance a more just and vibrant future for the arts and for those whose creativity drives it.

For more information about CCI, visit cciarts.org.

ABOUT CALI CATALYST

The California Art Leadership Investments (CALI) Catalyst program provides unrestricted grants of up to \$7,500 to California changemakers who are creating tangible impact within the arts and culture sector by shifting power and influence to underrepresented voices.

CALI Catalyst launched in 2021 to provide financial support and validation to individuals whose frontline work to upend the status quo in the arts and culture sector is creating tangible change and moving the needle towards greater equity and inclusion. To help ensure that the momentum for field-wide change continues undeterred, CALI Catalyst supports artists and arts workers who are on the frontlines of making the field more accessible, welcoming, and representative of the communities they serve.

Since 2021, CCI has had the honor to support 82 individuals and teams whose bold and inspiring actions are creating tangible change in the arts and culture sector we want and need.

The CALI Catalyst grant program is made possible with support from:

**THE WILLIAM AND FLORA
HEWLETT FOUNDATION**

CALI CATALYST GRANTEES

CCI is excited to announce the 2025 CALI Catalyst grant recipients.

Seventeen (17) grants of \$7,500 were awarded to the following California changemakers who are creating tangible impact within the arts and culture sector by shifting power and influence to underrepresented voices.

INDIVIDUAL GRANTEES

Andrew Reid (Los Angeles County)

In recognition of Andrew Reid's changemaking work in developing untold stories and narrative documentaries centering disabled individuals.

Casper Cendre (Alameda County)

In recognition of Casper Cendre's changemaking work in founding A.B.O. Comix/Teleway 411 and leading efforts that center the creative agency of LGBTQ+ people in prison through mutual aid, free publication of creative work, and broader audience access.

Cecilia Doan (Alameda County)

In recognition of Cecilia Doan's changemaking launch of Two Two—a living concept space reimagining access and community within the creative economy for intersectional and underrepresented artists, designers, and craftspeople.

Hannah Gladstone (Mendocino County)

In recognition of Hannah Gladstone's changemaking work in founding the Black Banjo Reclamation Project and leading efforts to expand knowledge of and creative access to the banjo across the African diaspora through gatherings, educational classes, workshops, and growing a distributed network of practitioners.

INDIVIDUAL GRANTEES

Jack Falls-Rock (Siskiyou County)

In recognition of Jack Falls-Rock's changemaking efforts in founding People of the Earth Foundation and leading powwows, gatherings, and land-based practices that empower Native youth to reclaim identity and carry ancestral knowledge forward.

Nyingv Jae Saechao (Sacramento County)

In recognition of Nyingv Jae Saechao's changemaking efforts to form The Cold Rice Creative Cohort, a community art and storytelling project amplifying the stories of gender-expansive, Lu Mien, Hmong, and Khmu peoples from Laos.

Jay Carlon (Los Angeles County)

In recognition of Jay Carlon's changemaking effort to organize dancers performing Joan Jonas' Mirror Piece I & II at the Getty in 2024, addressing wage inequities and labor justice within the dance community, transforming a performance into a platform for institutional accountability and systemic change.

Kristine Schomaker (Los Angeles County)

In recognition of Kristine Schomaker's changemaking work in founding Shoebox Arts and stewarding programs like Call and Response, a free global artist collaboration program that democratizes artistic exchange, increases visibility, and strengthens professional networks previously inaccessible through conventional art world structures.

INDIVIDUAL GRANTEES

Patricia Zamora (Merced County)

In recognition of Patricia Zamora's changemaking work in founding 7GEN ArtHouse (7GEN), a community space that expands access to arts and cultural programming for individuals impacted by systemic and generational trauma in the Central Valley.

Sabra Williams (Los Angeles County)

In recognition of Sabra Williams's changemaking work using transformative and ground-breaking ways in the prison system and the social justice movement to reimagine the arts beyond entertainment or solely for artists, but rather as a resource for justice-impacted people in radically reimagining their lives.

Thanh Tran (Alameda County)

In recognition of Thanh Tran's changemaking efforts to build an artist-led platform that disrupts extractive music and film industries by empowering formerly incarcerated and historically underrepresented creators to own their stories, generate income, and shift cultural narratives.

Xelestiál Moreno-Luz (San Diego County)

In recognition of Xelestiál Moreno-Luz's changemaking work in leveraging visual media and mutual aid to create supportive alternatives through their organization, Saturn's Wish.

TEAM GRANTEES

March April Studio (Los Angeles County)

Team Members: Somi Jun, Bhavani Srinivas, and Maj Roshandel

In recognition of the team's changemaking efforts in founding and directing March April Studio, a worker cooperative and art space focused on strengthening locally rooted and artist-led mutual aid and coalition-building efforts.

PLACE Long Beach (Los Angeles County)

Team Members: Sarah Bennett and Ashley Aguirre

In recognition of the team's changemaking efforts in co-founding and directing PLACE Long Beach, a donation-based, all-volunteer community print studio operating with a distributed leadership model.

Practical Social Practice (Orange County)

Team Members: Victor Payan and Pocha Peña

In recognition of the team's changemaking work through Practical Social Practice, leveraging performance, advocacy, and technology to create civic infrastructure and advance policy change for under-resourced artists in Santa Ana and Orange County.

TEAM GRANTEES

Teatro Almas Libres (Sonoma County)

Team Members: Jaclyn Katz, Gabriella Hernandez, Eloisa Hernandez, Soccoro Diaz, Anastacia Cruz, Maria Medosa, Alma Arroyo, Sandra, Ana Salgado, and Anel Aparicio

In recognition of the team's changemaking original theatre work with Teatro Almas Libres, a Sonoma County performance collective comprising domestic workers and farmworker activists.

Total Accord Agency (San Francisco County)

Team Members: Tyla Jones, Alexi Belchere, Callea Wilson, Molly Felton, Alyssa Raygoza, Jackie Gabovich, Kayla Krueger, Sydney Sharp, Byron Mayhew, Chelsea Walsh, and Darya Abtahi

In recognition of the team's changemaking work in founding and co-leading Total Accord Agency, an artist-led cooperative and creative agency expanding pathways for diverse Bay Area artists to reach wider audiences without compromising their identities, values, or creative autonomy.



For any inquiries, email grants@cciarts.org