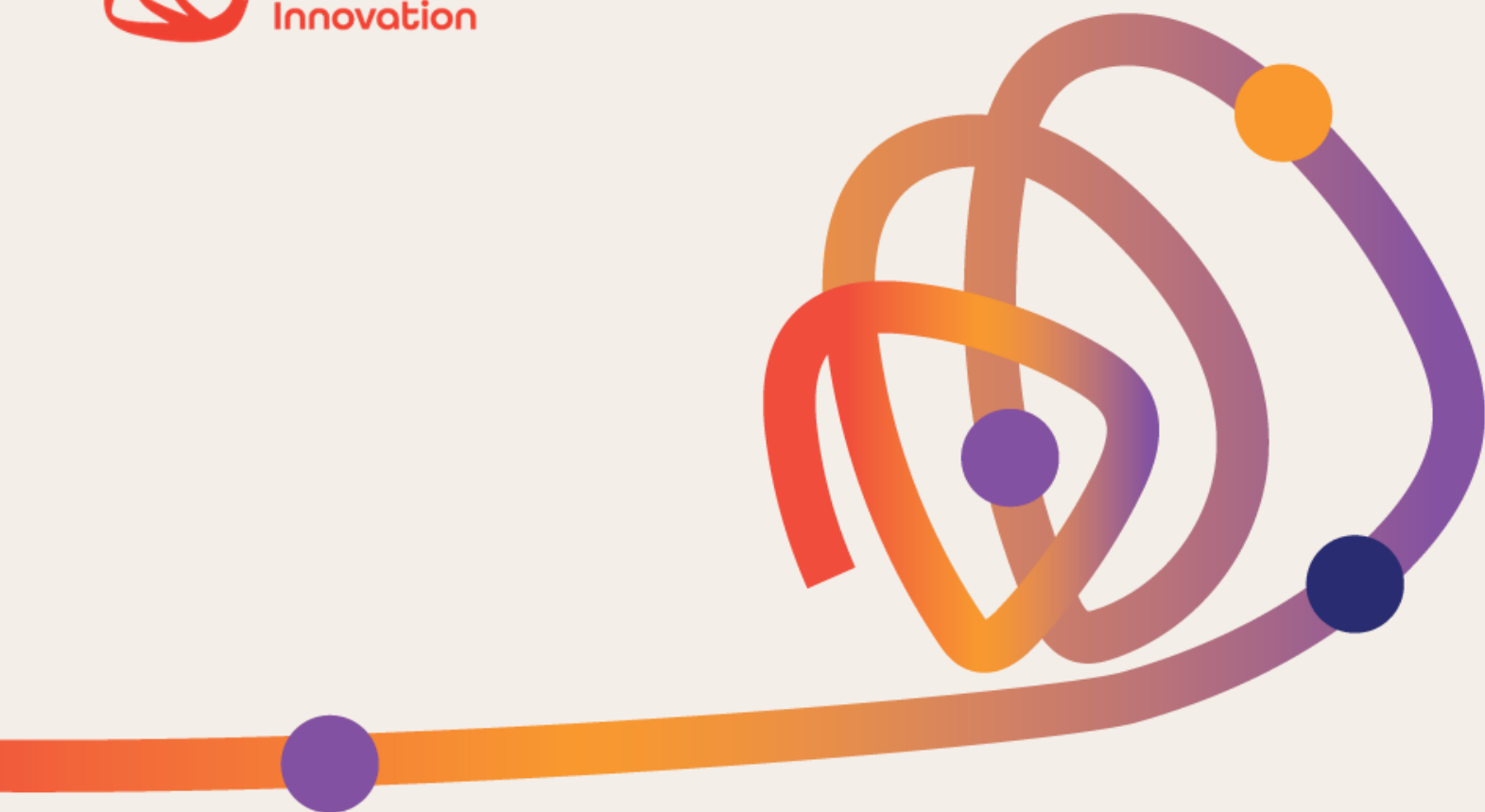




CALI FUTURES

2026 Guidelines & FAQ

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INTRODUCTION

CALI Futures supports artists and cultural workers who are contributing to alternative efforts that hold promise for greater sustainability, sense of belonging, and self-determination than current conventional systems offer.

Launched in 2026, CALI Futures (the “Fund”) supports artists and cultural workers across California—individually and in teams—who are meaningfully contributing to alternative efforts outside of conventional nonprofit and for-profit arts and culture systems that have not worked for everyone. This Fund encourages those working in alternative efforts focused on income, ownership, and care, and uplifts the role of artists and cultural workers in shaping and sustaining these efforts. By supporting alternative efforts operating at systemic levels to provide greater financial stability, strengthen creative ownership, and deepen connections to each other, CALI Futures supports the work that makes thriving conditions more possible for the broader arts ecosystem.

Project-restricted grants of \$5,000 will be awarded through a competitive grant application process. Competitive applicants will present (a) a clear project request; (b) proof of an active, current artistic or cultural practice (c) a description of the applicant’s contribution to furthering an alternative effort that improves financial sustainability, creative ownership, or mutual support, and addresses challenges not sufficiently solved by conventional nonprofit or for-profit sectors; and (d) framing that ambitiously describes the larger implications that this alternative work can have on transforming artists’ lives and the artistic and cultural possibilities of the future.

A total of \$100,000 in funding will be available each year across the 2026–2028 funding cycle.

The Fund is administered by the Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI), an intermediary focused on strengthening the economic and social infrastructure for creatives, culture bearers, and creative entrepreneurs, with funding from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

GUIDELINES

Context

For-profit systems that maximize profitability have pitted artists against each other, rewarding too few relative to the many. Nonprofit systems have also fallen short, failing to adequately support artists and cultural workers, under-resourcing the true costs of artistic endeavors and stretching the capacity of artists and cultural workers to focus on their creative practices. Too often, those with financial means end up as winners in competition-based systems, thereby conferring more privilege to those already ahead. As a result, too many artists are unable to reach their artistic potential or express the influences that could shape their cultural expressions. These challenges facing the arts and culture sectors are not in isolation. This is a time of widespread acknowledgment that systems are failing. COVID-19 revealed the inadequacy of health and education systems and the unevenness of our economy—and there is growing distrust in the ability of institutions, including those of the charitable sector, to keep up with the times. Artists have always been at the forefront of change, and there are growing numbers actively participating in alternative efforts. Artists and cultural workers are seeking alternative methods to pursue their artistic and cultural practices where they have financial sustainability, authority over their intellectual property without worrying about technology platforms blurring lines of ownership or threats of censorship, and belonging in communities that offer an array of mutualistic support. For this program, “alternative” describes efforts that specifically push back against systems that put profit over people, are driven by individuals who understand the root causes of these problems, and create thoughtful approaches that avoid accidentally replicating the same harms.

Competitive applicants for CALI Futures will need to describe their role as important to these alternative efforts, as well as describe the ways in which their efforts transform possibilities for everyone, rather than operate as one-offs benefiting only a few participants. Alternative efforts could include organizing barter exchanges of artwork for housing or healthcare; being a community connector in localized economies; participating in time-banking artistic or

cultural services; leading a collectivized effort to purchase and permanently secure artist housing and working spaces; providing computer coding expertise to build a technology product for artists' cooperative arrangements; participating in a group that pools intellectual properties in ways that income can be shared; offering artist services to support public options (from educating the public on community banking to researching publicly governed utilities); hosting teach-ins on community-based economies; as but a few examples. What these examples have in common is that they can change our future trajectories: by relying on the power of mutualism, collectivity, and community, these efforts incubate the potential to work outside of inherited systems of winners taking all or over-dependence on unreliable systems of patronage support.

The interest in alternative paradigms and models is growing, and this is the time for experimentation. The size of the CALI Futures grant reflects the lower cost of research, trial-and-error efforts, and affording participants' time and expertise. The grant is not calibrated to help efforts, especially those already well underway, get to scale.

History

The CALI Futures program was newly launched in June 2026. Although this "Futures" aspect is new, this program is part of a longer effort, called CALI, which emerged as a program focused on supporting leadership within the arts and culture sector in fresh ways that continue to keep up with changing demands and the times.

Launched in 2011, CALI was first called the NextGen program, which invested in emerging arts and culture nonprofit leaders in navigating and shaping the sector. In its first years, NextGen was a professional development pipeline for emerging leaders in the arts and culture field, focused on building leadership capacity and strengthening infrastructure across the arts and culture ecosystem. Then, when it was renamed CALI (California Arts Leadership Investments), it emphasized externally facing opportunities that prepared emerging arts professionals for managerial-level roles (i.e., workplace-specific skills and knowledge attainment) and their growing influence.

CALI Accelerator, offered from October 2018–January 2021, prioritized activities aimed at helping grantees develop their leadership vision and voice while also developing the knowledge and skills to be influential in their organization, discipline, or the broader arts and culture field. In continuing to respond to the changing dynamics of the field, CALI Catalyst emerged in 2021 to support the changemakers who were explicit about changing the arts and culture sector in ways that were needed by those whose voices had not been adequately heard.

This current moment shows that both profit-driven for-profit and under-resourced nonprofit sectors are failing more and more artists, reinforcing inequality and limiting who gets to create and thrive, a reality made more visible by the COVID-19 pandemic and growing distrust in institutions to keep up with the times. In response, artists are increasingly seeking alternative efforts, both within and outside the arts sector, that offer financial sustainability, ownership over their work, and stronger community support. The evolution of CALI to focus on “Futures” builds on its long legacy by continuing to support the kind of leadership the field needs now—imaginative, problem-solving, and solution-oriented. Characteristics that artists and cultural leaders have in abundance.

Eligibility

CALI Futures applicants can be individuals or teams of individuals.¹ For those applying as a team, all team members must also meet the following criteria; this is to ensure that funding supports the intended population. To be **eligible** for funding consideration:

- Applicants must be **individual artists or cultural workers** (e.g., cultural producers, culture bearers, creatives, cultural practitioners);
 - Artists (a person who practices any of the various creative arts, such as visual artists, craft, poets, musicians, dancers, media artists, sculptors, filmmakers, etc.); or
 - Cultural Workers (a person who is continuing to keep a cultural identity and/or tradition alive and thriving).

¹ Only one application will be accepted per team (i.e., individual team members cannot submit separate applications that describe the same project). Teams will therefore need to select a single team member to apply, and if funding is approved, this individual will be responsible for fulfilling the grant requirements. Review the Frequently Asked Questions for more details.

- Applicants (including all team members) must **reside full-time in California**;
- Applicants must be **contributing to an alternative effort** that improves the financial sustainability, creative ownership, fosters mutualistic social support, or other beneficial outcomes within the arts and culture sector; and
- Applicants' contribution to an alternative effort must have occurred or begun (i.e., the involvement is still in progress) on or after January 1, 2020.

The following applicants/requests are **ineligible** for funding consideration:

- Individuals who do not have an active, current creative, arts, and/or cultural practice.
- Organizations (e.g., nonprofits, for-profits, fiscally sponsored organizations) requesting funding to support their operations or programming;²
- Arts administrators (e.g., staff at arts and culture organizations);
- Individuals living and working outside the state of California;
- Past CALI Catalyst grantees describing the same project or action previously awarded funding from 2021–2025;
- Incomplete applications or applications with inaccessible (e.g., password-protected, broken links) attachments; and
- Individuals or teams of individuals who have a conflict of interest (family or financial relationship) with the board, staff, or directors of the Center for Cultural Innovation or Hewlett Foundation.

Award Details & Requirements

- Project-restricted grants of \$5,000.
- In 2026, CALI Futures will provide \$100,000 in funding, supporting approximately 20 grantees.
- Grantees will be invited to one or more virtual gatherings in January/February 2027 to connect with other CALI Futures award recipients and CCI staff. These gatherings support building connections among changemakers across the state who are working on alternatives to financial stability, creative ownership, and mutual support.

² CALI Futures supports individuals who are driving catalytic change. Organizations, including staff at arts and culture institutions, are not eligible to apply for funding that supports organizational operations, overhead, or programming.

Review Process & Criteria

Applications will first be reviewed internally by a diverse team of CCI staff with nearly 10 years of varied cross-sector expertise in alternative efforts to financial stability, creative ownership, and mutual support. In particularly competitive rounds, applications will also be reviewed by solidarity, regenerative-economy, and living-systems practitioners.

Additionally, CCI will contact the references of top funding candidates and call on individuals in the field of a competitive applicant's work to verify the applicant's engagement with, contribution to, and impact on the success of an alternative effort to financial stability, creative ownership, and mutual support. We know people may define "alternative" in different ways. For this program, though, we're using a definition grounded in a deep understanding of the root causes of harmful systems, and when a proposal falls into a gray area, we'll look to trusted practitioners with strong experience building solutions outside the status quo. This peer-informed approach ensures the review process is guided by those with direct knowledge of the applicant's work and with a perspective from the communities meant to benefit from the alternative effort. Final determinations are made by CCI based on both peer input and application materials.

Applications will be evaluated based on their ability to establish the following:

- **Contribution.**
 - Is the applicant's contribution to the alternative effort clearly defined?
 - Is the applicant's contribution clearly distinguishable from the work of others involved?
 - Is the applicant's contribution the result of sustained effort, rather than a one-time or symbolic act?
- **Intentions.**
 - What motivated the applicant to contribute to this alternative effort?
 - Is the applicant's contribution clearly motivated by a desire to build financial sustainability, creative ownership, mutualistic social support, and/or another systems-level benefit?
- **Artistic or Cultural Relevance.**
 - In what ways does the applicant's artistic or cultural practice positively impact the viability, relevance, design, engagement, or sustainability of the alternative effort?

- **Impact.**

- In what ways is the proposed work an “alternative” solution? What problems will the work try to solve? In what ways does the work exist outside conventional nonprofit and for-profit sectors?
- In what ways will or has the applicant’s contribution to the alternative effort helped artists and cultural workers broadly? Including within the applicant's neighborhood, region, across the state, or nationally.
- In what ways will this alternative effort shift the experience of artists and cultural workers away from current demoralizing, isolating, and burnout-driven systems toward conditions that expand what is possible and foster greater freedom, agency, dignity, and joy?

Application

In addition to answering the application’s narrative and optional demographic questions and providing support materials, applicants must also provide the following:

- **Résumé, CV, or bio**
- **Project Budget & Budget Notes** (one-page excel, pdf, or word doc). A sample project budget is available [here](#).
- **List of Recommendations.** Applicants must provide the names and contact information of two references who can speak to the impact of their meaningful contribution to an alternative effort and the review criteria.
 - References should be individuals who have direct knowledge of your work and can speak to your contributions to, and impact within, an alternative effort. They should also be able to describe the importance of the proposed effort.
 - Applicants are encouraged to include individuals who can offer varied perspectives on their work, such as beneficiaries of experimental alternative efforts, mentors, or supporters.

CCI will only contact the references of top candidates for funding.³ In addition, CCI may call on individuals in the field of a competitive applicant’s work. For more information, review the Frequently Asked Questions.

³ Please note that reference calls do not guarantee funding approval.

Timeline

Application Opens	June 9, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. PT
Application Deadline	August 28, 2026, at 11:59 a.m. (morning) PT
Review	September - November 2026
Notifications	November 17, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. PT
Grant Support Period	December 2026–December 2027

How to Apply

Access the CALI Futures online application at:
<https://centerforculturalinnovation.submittable.com/>

[Preview Application here.](#)

Applications will be accepted online from **June 9, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. PT through August 28, 2026, at 11:59 a.m. (morning) PT**. All applicants will be notified about their funding status on November 3, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. PT. Complete applications must be submitted by the deadline—no exceptions will be made. In addition, applications with missing or inaccessible content (e.g., corrupted or password-protected files) will not be reviewed.

Applications will be accepted online **ONLY** through CCI's Submittable platform. Applicants **MUST** create an account in Submittable before they can access the grant application. Learn more about using Submittable [here](#).

Businesses with more than one owner, principal, et al., will select a single representative (i.e., a lead applicant) to create a Submittable account and apply. If funding is approved, this individual will be responsible for fulfilling the grant requirements.

If you need technical assistance (e.g., password or upload issues), request support at: <https://www.submittable.com/help/submitter/>. Submittable's business hours are 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. MT. They aim to respond within 24 business hours.

Grant Requirements & Opportunities

Grantees must complete a brief final report describing the impact and use of funding (i.e., line-item expenses—no receipts required). Reports will be due within 12 months of signing the grant agreement. Additional details are available in the Frequently Asked Questions.

CCI will also host one or more virtual gatherings in January/February 2027 for the 2026 CALI Futures grantees. These gatherings build connections among changemakers across the state who are working on alternatives to financial stability, creative ownership, and mutual support. The CALI Futures grant agreement will provide more details.

Questions & Support

CCI staff are here to help and listen. For assistance, please email us at grants@cciarts.org (include CALI FUTURES in the subject line) or call 415.288.0530. You may also schedule a time to speak [here](#). For Deaf applicants and those with hearing loss, contact CCI using the [California Relay Service](#)—our staff is trained in making and receiving these calls.

If you need technical assistance (e.g., password or upload issues), request support at <https://www.submittable.com/help/submitter/>. Submittable's business hours are 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. MT, and they aim to respond within 24 business hours.

Acknowledgement

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



Budget Template

Download a customizable version [here](#).

Applicants must upload a budget; however, they are not required to use this budget template. Please create a project budget using your preferred format.

Please note: Project Budgets are limited to one page. If this template is used, make sure the orientation is set to "Portrait" and view the "Page Break Preview" to ensure that the page limit is adhered to.

CALI FUTURES - PROJECT BUDGET TEMPLATE

INCOME

ITEM	AMOUNT	STATUS (E.G., PROSPECTIVE, PENDING, CONFIRMED)
Request from CALI Futures	\$5,000.00	Pending
Income Total	\$5,000.00	

EXPENSE

ITEM	AMOUNT	
	\$5,000.00	
Income Total	\$5,000.00	

FAQs

General

1. WHAT IS CALI FUTURES?

The CALI Futures grant program supports artists and cultural workers across California—individually and in teams—whose contributions to alternative efforts to ownership, income, and care meaningfully improve the long-term success of models that benefit both them and their artistic and cultural peers in ways that have broader implications for solving problems that exist within the conventional nonprofit and for-profit arts and culture sectors and across disciplines.

2. WHAT HAPPENED TO CALI CATALYST GRANTS?

CALI Catalyst was a grant program offered within the CALI portfolio from 2021–2025 that supported changemakers who were explicit about changing the conventional arts and culture sector in ways that were needed by those whose voices had not been adequately heard. In 2026, CALI Futures builds on the long legacy of the evolving-with-the-times CALI program by continuing to support the kind of leadership the field needs now—imaginative, outside-the-box, problem-solving, and solution-oriented.

3. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "ALTERNATIVE EFFORTS"?

Alternative efforts are different ways of organizing systems so they don't rely on for-profit systems that maximize profitability and nonprofit systems that have not been adequately resourced to support artists and cultural workers. Alternative efforts rely on the power of mutualism, collectivity, and community rather than on maximizing profit for profit's sake or depending on outsider capital as the sole indicator of success.

4. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "CONTRIBUTION" TO ALTERNATIVE EFFORTS?

Contribution means the role an individual plays or the value they add to an alternative efforts, typically in an active (not passive) way, towards its long-term success. An individual's contribution can be varied, such as:

- Organizing barter exchanges of artwork for housing or healthcare;
- Being a vocal participant in localized economies;
- Participating in time-banking artistic or cultural services;
- Leading a collectivized effort to purchase and permanently secure artist housing and working spaces;
- Providing computer coding expertise to build a technology product for artists' cooperative arrangements;

FAQs cont'd

- Participating in a group that pools intellectual properties in ways that income can be shared;
- Offering artist services to support public options (from community banking to publicly governed utilities); or
- Hosting teach-ins on community-based economies, as but a few examples.

What these examples have in common is an active engagement by an individual in an alternative effort that ultimately furthers its work. We are particularly seeking those whose artistic or cultural practices benefit the proposed effort.

5. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "ARTS AND CULTURE SECTOR?"

CCI is a 501(c)(3) intermediary focused on strengthening the economic and social infrastructure for creatives, culture bearers, and creative entrepreneurs. In our work, we understand the “arts and culture sector” to encompass a wide spectrum of creative industries, artistic disciplines and practices, cultural expressions, and areas of focus, all at varying scales. However, we’re more interested in knowing how CALI Futures applicants self-define the “arts and culture sector” and, importantly, what aspect(s) of it they are trying to influence.

Eligibility

6. IF I'VE RECEIVED FUNDING THROUGH ANOTHER CCI GRANT PROGRAM, AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR CALI FUTURES SUPPORT?

Yes, you are eligible! Funding through another CCI grant program does not affect your eligibility to apply for or receive funds through CALI Futures.

7. I AM A PAST CALI CATALYST GRANTEE. AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR CALI FUTURES?

Yes, past CALI Catalyst grantees are eligible to apply for CALI Futures. However, you must address a project or work that is different from the change-making action you previously applied for and received funding towards in your CALI Catalyst grant. Please note that all final reports must be submitted and approved by CCI prior to the August 28, 2026, application deadline for CALI Futures.

8. I WORK CLOSELY WITH A TEAM OF COLLABORATORS. CAN WE SUBMIT A JOINT APPLICATION?

If applying as a “team,” only one application will be accepted per team (in other words, individual team members cannot submit separate applications for their contributions to an alternative effort undertaken together as a team). Teams will therefore need to select a single team member to apply, and if funding is approved, this individual will be responsible for fulfilling the grant requirements, such as final reporting and providing a completed W-9.

FAQs cont'd

If the grant recipient wants to share their award with a team of collaborators, they may do so; however, CCI will not assume responsibility for any further due diligence regarding the team's membership. All team members must meet program eligibility requirements. Reference the Guidelines for the complete eligibility list.

That being said, although only one application may be submitted per team, CCI has enabled the submitter collaboration tool, which enables groups of applicants to work together on collective applications. For information about how to utilize this tool, visit Submittable's knowledge base [here](#).

9.1 WORK AT AN ORGANIZATION. CAN I APPLY?

CALI Futures is a grant program for individuals, and funding is meant to support the person(s) who are enacting change in the arts and culture sector. If you are seeking funding to support the operations of an organization, such as a 501(c)3 nonprofit, fiscally sponsored project, cooperative business, or for-profit entity, to name a few, or to fund a future project or program of the organization, then this program is not for you.

It's certainly the case that an individual employed, a member of, or affiliated with an organization may apply. In all cases, the proposal is meant to support individuals' efforts, not those of their employer or membership organizations. Funds cannot be used to support a conventional, non-project-related organization's operations.

10.1 HAVE AN IDEA FOR A PROJECT. CAN I APPLY?

Yes! CALI Futures supports individuals and teams at every stage of their contribution to an alternative effort, from initial ideas and early concepts to research, implementation, experimentation, and reflection. We are eager to read final reports of efforts that are catalyzed with funding support.

11. MY WORK ISN'T FOCUSED ON CREATIVE OWNERSHIP, FINANCIAL STABILITY, OR FOSTERING MUTUALISTIC SOCIAL SUPPORT WITHIN THE ARTS AND CULTURE SECTOR, BUT IT DOES AIM TO HAVE AN IMPACT ON SOCIAL ISSUES. CAN I APPLY?

These categories of intended benefits are ones that specifically address the conditions that people expressing artistically and culturally need. Financial stability covers a whole host of needs—from health, housing, and even educational opportunities. Creative ownership may include everything from the intellectual property rights of artwork to collectivizing ownership by creatives of things, such as bargaining power, intellectual assets, savings clubs, and housing. And, mutualistic support is a fancy, but intentional, term to indicate how important relationships, networks, mutualistic support systems, and communities are to artists' personally and professionally. If there is another category of benefits that cannot be covered by these three, please include it.

FAQs cont'd

12. I AM WORKING ON ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS THAT WILL BENEFIT EVERYONE IN THE NATION / ON THE PLANET, INCLUDING ARTISTS. BUT I'M NOT AN ARTIST OR CULTURAL WORKER, AND MY EFFORTS AREN'T DIRECTLY IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS FOR THE ARTS AND CULTURE. CAN I APPLY?

We recognize that many artists and cultural workers work at the intersection of arts, culture, and activism to address and bring visibility to issues such as racial justice, climate justice, gender equity, economic security, labor protections, and more. We see you, and we acknowledge the value of your work. However, CALI Futures focuses on effecting tangible changes in the arts and culture sector so that entrenched inequities and disempowering, extractive systems within the sector itself are upended. For this reason, applications that describe contributions that further alternative efforts in sectors other than arts and culture will be considered outside of the program's current scope and will not be competitive.

13. I KNOW AN INDIVIDUAL OR TEAM WHO WOULD BE A GREAT CANDIDATE FOR FUNDING. HOW CAN I HELP THIS POTENTIAL APPLICANT?

The best way to help potential applicants is to share this opportunity with them and, if needed, support their application preparation. This may mean helping the applicant compose narrative responses, select support materials, or identify references. You might also support the applicant by reviewing their application for clarity and completeness or reaching out to CCI staff on their behalf with questions, with their permission.

Evaluation

14. WHAT MAKES FOR A STRONG APPLICATION?

In general, the most competitive applications are the ones that are clearly written, brief, and to the point, and demonstrate a strong alignment with each criterion. In the case of CALI Futures, competitive applicants will present (a) a clear project request; (b) proof of an active, current artistic or cultural practice; (c) a description of the applicant's contribution to furthering an alternative effort that improves financial sustainability, creative ownership, or mutual support, and addresses challenges not sufficiently solved by conventional nonprofit or for-profit sectors; and (d) framing that ambitiously describes the larger implications that this alternative work can have on transforming artists' lives and the artistic and cultural possibilities of the future.

FAQs cont'd

Notifications

15. THE NOTIFICATION DATE HAS PASSED, AND I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM CCI. DOES THIS MEAN I DIDN'T RECEIVE A GRANT?

All applicants will be notified regarding their application status via Submittable. If you haven't heard from CCI by the promised notification date and time, check your spam folder. 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 instructions by email service provider.

16. DO YOU OFFER FEEDBACK?

We are unable to provide feedback on individual CALI Futures applications. However, staff are available to schedule a 15-minute phone call with declined or prospective applicants to review grant guidelines and review criteria. Please contact us at grants@cciarts.org (include CALI Futures in the subject line) to coordinate.

Grantees

17. IF I AM AWARDED A GRANT, HOW WILL I RECEIVE THE FUNDS?

If awarded a grant, the payment will be processed via ACH (i.e., direct deposit) through Tipalti.com—CCI's secure, third-party accounting software platform. CCI will issue the award in two payments: The first installment will be 90% of the grant funds, which will be paid once the grant agreement is signed and returned. The remaining 10% will be paid once all grant requirements have been met and a final report has been submitted and approved by CCI. Processing times will depend on the grantee's return of an electronically signed grant agreement and any other requested documents, such as the W-9 Form.

Grantees do not need a fiscal sponsor or other 501(c)3 nonprofit intermediary to receive funding. However, they do have the option to use their fiscal sponsor or an incorporated 501(c)(3) nonprofit to contract with CCI and receive the awarded funds. For teams, the lead team member will be responsible for completing all grant and payment processing requirements. If the grant recipient decides to share their award with a team of collaborators, they may do so; however, CCI is not responsible for any due diligence or disbursement of funds to different team members.

We understand that fund disbursement may impact disability-related community support or other social benefits; therefore, we will structure options that work for each person's unique financial situation. Please contact CCI at 415.288.0530 or grants@cciarts.org (include CALI Futures in the subject line) to determine a plan that works best for you.

FAQs cont'd

18. IF I AM AWARDED A GRANT, IS IT CONSIDERED TAXABLE INCOME?

Please be aware that grant awards may be taxable as ordinary income. As CCI cannot offer legal or tax advice, grantees are advised to consult with an accountant, tax expert, and/or a benefits specialist.

We understand that fund disbursement may impact disability-related community support or other social benefits and are willing to structure options that work for each person's unique financial situation. Please contact CCI at 415.288.0530 or grants@cciarts.org (include CALI Futures in the subject line) to determine a plan that works best for you.

19. IF I AM AWARDED A GRANT, WILL I NEED TO SUBMIT A REPORT? ARE THERE ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS?

If you are awarded a grant, you must complete a brief final report describing the impact and use of funding (i.e., line item expenses). Reports will be due within 12 months of signing the grant agreement. CCI will provide further instructions on how to access the final report form through Submittable in the grant agreement. In addition, grantees must submit a final report that is approved by CCI before they are eligible to reapply for CALI Futures funding.

In addition, CCI will host one or more virtual gatherings in November/December 2026 for the 2026 CALI Futures grantees. These gatherings help support a network of changemakers across the state working on alternatives to financial stability, creative ownership, and mutual support. Gatherings will build and strengthen relationships across the field while surfacing shared pain points in each grantee's work, and will create opportunities to bring in experts who provide targeted technical assistance to help catalyze and sustain their efforts. The CALI Futures grant agreement will provide more details.

20. WILL YOU PUBLICIZE THE NAMES OF GRANTEES?

The names of CALI Futures grantees may be included in CCI's communication channels, including our e-newsletter, social media accounts, website, and press releases, as well as future CALI Futures guidelines.

Support

21. I'M HAVING ISSUES WITH SUBMITTABLE (E.G., LOST PASSWORD, ERROR MESSAGES, TROUBLE UPLOADING) AND NEED HELP. WHO DO I CONTACT?

For technical assistance (e.g., password or upload issues), request support at: <https://www.submittable.com/help/submitter/>. Submittable's business hours are 9 am – 5 pm MT. They aim to respond within 24 business hours.

FAQs cont'd

22.1 STILL HAVE QUESTIONS. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

CCI staff are here to help and listen. For assistance, please email us at grants@cciarts.org (include CALI Futures in the subject line) or call 415.288.0530. You may also schedule a time to speak [here](#). For Deaf applicants and those with hearing loss, contact CCI using the [California Relay Service](#)—our staff is trained in making and receiving these calls.

Submittable Quick Tips

- To submit a CALI Futures application, you must create a free Submittable account or sign in with your Google or Facebook credentials.
- You can save a draft of your work if you would like to finish the application at a later date.
- If you need to make changes to your application after it has been submitted, send a request to CCI to edit the submission. We are generally able to accommodate these requests during the open application period. If, however, the review process has already started, we will be unable to open your submission for editing.
- Submittable works best on Google Chrome, Firefox, and Safari. Internet Explorer is not supported. Please make sure you are using a supported browser.
 - You can download Firefox by following the instructions linked here.
 - You can download Chrome by following the instructions linked here.
- All applicants will be notified by email regarding their application status via Submittable. Please be sure to enable notification emails from Submittable and check the email you used to sign up for your Submittable Account regularly.
- Visit Submittable's Help Center for answers to frequently asked questions.
- If you need technical assistance (e.g. password or upload issues), submit a request for support at: <https://www.submittable.com/help/submitter/> (located at bottom of page). Submittable's business hours are 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. MT. They aim to respond within 24 business hours.

CALI Futures

2026 Guidelines & FAQ

APPLY BY: AUGUST 28

[HTTPS: / / CENTERFORCULTURALINNOVATION.SUBMITTABLE.COM /](https://centerforculturalinnovation.submittable.com/)