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Press Release

For Immediate Release
October 6, 2026
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Center for Cultural Innovation Awards Tool and Equipment Grants to Craft, Folk, and Traditional Artists

San Francisco Bay Area – The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) today announced 16 new grantees of the Investing in Artists: Tools & Equipment program. Awards of up to \$5,000 were made to individual craft artists, folk and traditional artists, and crafts-people to support the purchase and/or repair of tools or equipment that support their ability to make object-based work. This program is made possible with the support of the Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation.

The 2026 cycle awarded a total of \$60,000 to individual craft artists residing full-time in Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Out of 220 eligible applications, the 16 Investing in Artists: Tools and Equipment grantees include:

Aaron Baumgardner – South Carolina

\$4,450

Ceramic, Basketry

To support the purchase of an electric kiln and splint cutter.

awbstudios.art

Adam Chau – Connecticut

\$4,450

Ceramic

To support the purchase of a ceramic decal printer.

adamchau.com

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Alessandra Gutierrez – Virginia

\$1,515

Paper, Fiber

To support the purchase of a larger paper cutting machine.

alessandra.works

Charles Ryland – New Hampshire

\$4,450

Wood, Furniture

To support the purchase of a dust collection system and milling equipment.

charlieryland.com

Charles Thompson – Massachusetts

\$4,445

Wood, Furniture

To support the purchase of tools to construct a discrete machine room.

charlesthompson.net

Colette Fu – Pennsylvania

\$4,450

Book Arts, Mixed Media

To support the purchase of a flatbed cutting plotter.

colettefu.com

Crystal Calabrese – New York

\$4,005

Leather, Wood, Willow Basketry, Furniture

To support the purchase of a long-arm sewing machine.

artifactleather.com

Maite Sosa Methol – Rhode Island

\$3,870

Fiber, Mixed Media

To support the purchase of a Silver Reed SK840 single-bed, ribber attachment, and software.

[instagram.com/temaite](https://www.instagram.com/temaite)

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Melissa Sclafani – Florida

\$4,005

Concrete, Metal

To support the purchase of tools for storing custom concrete recipe ingredients.

melissasclafani.com

Nicholas McDonald – Pennsylvania

\$3,855

Metal, Fiber

To support the purchase of tools for hand woodworking.

Peter Senesac – Florida

\$3,000

Jewelry, Metal

To support the purchase of a new wax injector, kiln, casting torch, and dust collector.

jewelryartstudio.com

Petra Szilagyi – Massachusetts

\$3,555

Wood, Cob (Adobe)

To support the purchase of chisels, gouges, power tools, and other hand tools.

petraszilagyi.com

Rowena Finn – Virginia

\$3,115

Fiber, Mixed Media

To support the purchase of ergonomic tools and replace worn-out equipment.

rowenafinn.com

Sarah Guerin – Massachusetts

\$4,450

Leather, Mixed Media

To support the purchase of a refurbished sanding machine and sole press.

saboteuse.com

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An abstract graphic consisting of several overlapping, hand-drawn loops in shades of orange and red, located in the bottom right corner of the page.

Sarah Lasswell – North Carolina

\$1,935

Basketry, Wood

To support the purchase of a planer, spiral helix cutterhead, and vertical panel clamp system.

mossandthistlefarm.com

Yeonsoo Kim – New Hampshire

\$4,450

Ceramic

To support the purchase of a Shimpo NVA-04S 3-Phase stainless steel de-airing pugmill.

yeonsooceramics.com

Investing in Artists: Tools & Equipment enables individual craft artists to purchase artistic tools and equipment that supports their ability to make object-based work. “Access to tools is fundamental to craft-based practices,” says Rebekah Frank, Program Officer at the Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation. “When artists lack the resources they need, it can stand in the way of learning and building a sustainable practice.” Through its partnership with CCI, the Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation provides grants directly to artists and craftspeople across the country, helping to remove barriers, strengthen craft practices, and give artists the resources they need to keep making.

“The 'Investing in Artists: Tools & Equipment' awards support individual craft artists and craftspeople with the material needs of their practice—from covering the physical costs of new equipment or the repairs of essential tools necessary to ensure the safety and continued ability to practice their craft,” said Stephanie Imah, Director of Artist Possibility Funds at CCI. “Artists need the right tools to do their work. When artists have the equipment they need, they can focus on their craft, take on new opportunities, and build greater economic security.”

Five three- to four-member grant review panels were invited by CCI to review and score the Tools & Equipment applications. Panelists included **Betty Avila**, Program Officer at the Perenchio Foundation, California; **Anna Bryant**, printmaker and co-founder/owner of Print House, North Carolina; **Mallorie Greene**, Senior Manager of Development at the Visual Arts Center of Richmond, Virginia;

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Luke Haynes, textile artist, North Carolina; **Caroline Kipp**, curator, artist, and Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Art History and Archaeology at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland; **Sarah Lewitus**, Program Director of Performing Arts and Accessibility Coordinator at Mid Atlantic Arts, Maryland; **Janet Maylen**, Associate Director of Individual and Tribal Giving at First Peoples Fund, South Dakota; **Deanna Poelsma**, Manager of Artists Grants at the Craft Emergency Relief Fund (CERF+), Indiana; **Shane Prada**, Founding Executive Director of the Baltimore Jewelry Center, Maryland; **Perry Price**, Executive Director at the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Maine; **Rena Rong**, Metals Technician at the Steel Yard, Rhode Island; **Kenny Shiloh Russell**, visual artist and Program Officer at the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA), New York; **Lisa Marie Ryder**, Chief Executive Officer of VisArts, Maryland; **Erica Stankwytych Bailey**, metalsmith, jeweler, and owner of ESB Jewelry, North Carolina; **Jomo Tariku**, furniture designer, Virginia; and **Anna Tragesser**, Director of Community Impact and Strategic Investment at IndyArts Council, Indiana.

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 shift cultural paradigms to catalyze better alternative solutions for creatives, culture bearers, creative entrepreneurs, and their communities. For more information about CCI, please visit www.cciarts.org.

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