

**Arts Council for Long Beach -
CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL
CREATIVE CORPS
FOR ARTISTS OR ARTIST COHORTS
2023 Grant Guidelines**

Deadline: May 15, 2023

Los Angeles County and Orange County

CALIFORNIA CREATIVE CORPS - ARTIST OR ARTIST COHORTS

2023 GRANT GUIDELINES

DEADLINE: May 15, 2023

Grant Request Amount: \$50,000

Estimated Total Number of Grant Awards: 30

Grant Activity Period: July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Matching Funds: None

Apply at: <https://artslb.org/creative-corps/>

Overview of Grant Program

Grant Award will include:

- \$50,000 for in artist fees and living expenses for one year to develop and present a community-based art project
- The opportunity to work on a year-long art project in partnership with a non-profit organization that represents an issue that is meaningful to you
- Materials, supplies, and venue costs up to \$25,000 in addition to the artist fees, and will be paid by the program
- Marketing and final evaluation facilitated and paid by the program

Who we are looking for:

- About 30 professional artists living in, working in, or serving Los Angeles or Orange Counties
- Artists to partner with non-profit, community organizations for 1 year to produce a collaborative art project
- Artists applying alone or as a group of collaborating artists (cohort)
 - A cohort, in this program, is defined as a group of up to 8 artists, such as performing arts troupes, bands, collectives and collaborations
- Artists practicing in any medium (visual, performing arts, media, etc.)
- Artists interested in representing their communities through their artwork
- Artists with an interest in conceiving, organizing, and presenting artworks in benefit of the community
- Artists with a clear, bold vision of a collaborative project
- Artists must be located in, work with, or serve the areas with the lowest quartile as listed in the [California Healthy Places Index](#) (HPI)

The project should address one or more of the following:

- Public health awareness messages to stop the spread of COVID-19
- Public awareness related to water and energy conservation, climate mitigation, and emergency preparedness, relief, and recovery
- Civic engagement, including election participation
- Social justice and community engagement

What this opportunity could do for you:

- Increase your visibility
- Award you a grant to produce art for one year
- Give you the opportunity to use your artistic practice to improve the lives of people in your community
- Uplift stories of the community you are directly invested in
- Help you develop new skills in working with your community

What you will need to do if awarded:

- Participate in workshops led by Arts Council for Long Beach
- Work closely with your non-profit partner and their constituents to develop your project
- Uplift community stories through your artwork
- Devote approximately 80-100 hours per month to the project
- Present the final project by June 30, 2024.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

The Arts Council for Long Beach will select 30 non-arts, non-profit organizations. Each organization will collaborate with an artist or cohort of artists for 1 year. The placement of each artist or cohort will be determined during the review process. The result will be a work of art that involves the organizations' target communities, and addresses one or more of the following topics:

1. Public health awareness messages to stop the spread of COVID-19
2. Public awareness related to water and energy conservation, climate mitigation, and emergency preparedness, relief, and recovery
3. Civic engagement, including election participation
4. Social justice and community engagement

First Step - If You Are Selected as a California Creative Corps Artist

If you are selected as a California Creative Corps Artist, you will receive \$50,000 to help cover your living expenses during the grant period. You will also receive additional funds to make your project a reality, including space rental, materials, supplies, equipment, etc. The additional funds you receive will depend upon the size and scope of your project.

Second Step - Create and Present the Artwork

Over the course of one year (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024) you will work with your organization partner and the people they serve to ideate, install, and present a work of art in your artistic discipline. The final work will highlight the organization's mission, and will include substantial input from them and their constituents. Arts Council for Long Beach will pay for all approved and budgeted costs to create, install, and present the artwork.

ARTIST COHORTS

An artist cohort, in this program, is defined as a group of up to 8 artists, such as performing arts troupes, bands, collectives and collaborations. **Please note that artist cohorts will need a valid business license.**

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO APPLY

First, conceive an art project in your discipline that addresses one or more of the required topics. The project needs to be completed in 1 year. You may work alone, or with a cohort of other artists. You need to create a budget for the project. Arts Council for Long Beach will hold a series of workshops before the application deadline to assist you with creating a budget and other materials you will need.

Finally, gather all of the required materials that you will need to apply (see below). Submit your application to Arts Council for Long Beach's online grant portal prior to the deadline. Award notifications will be sent in early June 2023.

WHAT THIS OPPORTUNITY COULD DO FOR YOU

Artists are communicators, and as a member of the California Creative Corps, you can use your skills as a communicator to tell the stories that are important to you and your community. Partnering with a non-profit organization will give you the opportunity to more deeply connect with the people and causes that are important to you in a new, expanded and authentic way. We anticipate that California Creative Corps projects will be high profile, and will be an excellent opportunity for you to connect and work with the people of your community on issues that are important to you. As a member of the California Creative Corps, you have the potential to use your skills as an artist to address your community's concerns, and to bring your community closer together.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO DO IF AWARDED

If you are selected to participate in the California Creative Corps, you will be expected to work closely on a regular basis with a non-profit organization and its constituents for one year to create a work of art that will be open to the public. This will entail participating in meetings between you and the organization, and talking directly with the organization's constituents. You will work with your non-profit partner to select an appropriate venue for the final artwork to be presented, and will be encouraged to create avenues for the organization and its constituents to participate directly in the artmaking process.

To assist you in making your project a reality, you will be required to attend workshops and mentoring sessions hosted by Arts Council for Long Beach and the California Arts Council. You will also be expected to participate in your non-profit organization's promotion of the final project.

We understand that this will be a substantial time commitment, which is why you will be granted a \$50,000 award to help cover your living expenses during the 1-year period. As previously noted, the California Arts Council, through Arts Council for Long Beach, will also pay for any budgeted and approved expenses required to realize the project.

After the program has completed, Arts Council for Long Beach will host a series of evaluation sessions with all participating organizations and artists to gauge the success of the project, and to learn how the program can be adjusted and/or improved. Arts Council for Long Beach will also offer guidance in continuing your work with your non-profit partner or other non-profits in your community.

STATEMENT ON ARTS EQUITY AND CULTURAL INCLUSION

The California Arts Council and Arts Council for Long Beach are committed to arts equity and cultural inclusion¹ by working to ensure that every resident has opportunities and access to encounter, appreciate, participate in, learn, and be informed about the arts and culture in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

Definitions

- **Equity:** arts, cultural organizations and artists from all disciplines and cultural traditions shall be valued equally and supported equitably.
- **Diversity:** arts and cultural organizations embrace the diversity of the city and work towards reflecting this diversity in staffing, leadership, programming, including artists and audiences/participants.

¹ L.A. County Arts Commission Report: Arts Equity and Cultural Inclusion, April 2017 (<https://www.lacountyarts.org/ceii-report>)

As California Creative Corps participants, you will act as stewards of our guiding values:

- Every individual participates in creative thinking and expression.
- Every individual has the right to engage in arts and culture that celebrates their highest potential.
- Our community's diversity is an asset to our arts and cultural environment and our economy.
- Including communities through the arts and culture achieves our highest potential by promoting mutual respect and understanding.

A NOTE ABOUT EVALUATION

Evaluation is an important component of this grant opportunity. Arts Council for Long Beach will provide you with evaluation protocols.

A NOTE ABOUT ACCESSIBILITY

The California Arts Council and Arts Council for Long Beach have a strong commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion that extends to people with disabilities. It is important that only venues that are located in accessible, public spaces with wheelchair-accessible ramps, lifts, and designated parking places are selected.

Arts Council for Long Beach will ensure that community meetings are in accessible spaces, and will reserve seating for people who use wheelchairs, or who have other mobility challenges. Final art projects should include the use of sound reinforcement for people who have hearing challenges, and provide captions and translation services. As previously stated, these costs will be paid by the California Arts Council through Arts Council for Long Beach.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- **Los Angeles or Orange County-based** - Documentation showing your residence in Los Angeles or Orange County, and/or your work with Los Angeles or Orange County residents will be required. Please note that the California Creative Corps is a statewide program, and that each California county has one or more administering organizations. If you are not a resident of Los Angeles or Orange County, please check with the California Arts Council to find administering organizations covering your county.
- **Signatures on required attachments** - Letters and other attachments requiring signatures must include completed digital or scanned signatures in order to be considered for funding. **A blank signature field will not be accepted.**

Ineligible Applicants:

- **Employees of Arts Council for Long Beach** - Active employees, board members or

contract employees of Arts Council for Long Beach are ineligible to apply to this opportunity, but can apply to opportunities from other administering organizations serving Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

- **Artists residing outside of Los Angeles or Orange County** - Please see administering organizations serving your county of residence. You can find a full list of administering organizations on the California Arts Council website.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

- No active member of the Arts Council for Long Beach Board of Directors or staff shall sign a grant application.
- Any grant panel member who has a potential conflict of interest must disclose it to Arts Council for Long Beach (and the other review panel members) prior to the panel review by completing a conflict of interest form.

ONLINE APPLICATION PORTAL

Applications will be available online through Arts Council for Long Beach's online grants management system and the link will be available at [Creative Corps | Arts Council for Long Beach](#).

Only applications submitted through the system by the deadline will be accepted. **It is recommended that applicants create an online profile well in advance of the application deadline.** More information can be found on the Arts Council for Long Beach website.

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

HOW PARTICIPATING ARTISTS WILL BE DETERMINED

- Arts Council for Long Beach staff will review all applications for eligibility and completeness. If an application is late, incomplete, mailed, emailed or otherwise deemed ineligible, Arts Council for Long Beach staff will notify the applicant.
- Independent grant review panels will be assembled and facilitated by Arts Council for Long Beach staff. Panels will be comprised of regional arts professionals, community members, and representatives from the Arts Council for Long Beach Board of Directors.
- Review panels will convene to review applications and support materials, and will score and rank applications according to the funding criteria. Scores will be merit-based.

- Recommendations will be forwarded to the Arts Council’s Allocations Committee. The Allocations Committee will review scores and rankings, and will make recommendations to the Arts Council for Long Beach Board of Directors for final approval.
- It is important to note that there is restricted funding available for distribution. Many projects cannot be funded. The receipt of past funding, fiscal need, or the merit of an applicant is not a guarantee of funding.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Each California Creative Corp proposal will be evaluated, scored and ranked based on the following criteria:

- Project as Demonstrated by.....10 points
 - Innovation, creativity, uniqueness of the proposed artistic project
 - Suitability of the proposed project
 - Suitability of the proposed project to the specified topics
 - Feasibility of the proposed project within the submitted budget
 - Benefit of the project to targeted audience and other Los Angeles and/or Orange County communities
 - Identified short- and long-term impact of the project on the identified community/target audience
- Artistic Merit as Demonstrated by.....10 points
 - Artist’s work reflects a high level of artistry or craftsmanship
 - Artist’s statement, résumé, and artistic samples relate to one another
 - Artist’s statement engages the reader, is clear, and explains the goals/motivations of the artist’s work
- Background of the Artist.....10 points
 - Formal artistic training, apprenticeship or practice in the discipline
 - Several years of productivity and achievement in professional venues
 - Contribution to the identified community (i.e., by workshops, exhibiting locally, etc.)

Total points possible.....30 points

APPLICATION QUESTIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

PART I: ARTIST STATEMENT

1. Describe your Artistic Vision and Practice

- Describe your artistic practice, philosophy and creative process and highlight any major lines of artistic inquiry.
- What are your short-term and long-term goals as an artist?
- How will you grow as an artist if you are selected as a California Creative Corps partner?

500 words, max.

1A. Traditional and Folk Artists (optional)

- If you practice traditional or folk art, discuss your traditional practice and the creation of new work in that cultural context. For example, how does your project uphold and/or expand traditional ideas of the limits and/or scope of your art form?

500 words, max.

2. Who is your target HPI Audience and/or Community?

- What is your envisioned impact on your target HPI audience or community?
- Do you have a new or existing relationship with this audience/community?
- Describe the ways in which you plan to reach the audiences and/or communities that are identified in the California Healthy Places Index as 1st quartile.

500 words, max.

3. Please provide a Statement describing how you work toward Arts Equity and Cultural Inclusion in your artistic practice.

The following questions serve as guidelines and do not need to be answered verbatim:

- a. How are you engaging Los Angeles and Orange County residents through both traditional and nontraditional methods, taking into account language barriers, geographical concerns and economic divides that require different forms of outreach?
- b. How do you work to reach new audiences and participants including those in communities of color, low-income communities, LGBTQIA+, disabled communities, and other communities that experience barriers to arts participation?
- c. How are you, as an artist, working toward creative strategies to develop innovative solutions to social challenges? (If applicable)

500 words, max.

PART II: PROPOSED PROJECT

4. What is your proposed project?

- *Tell us about your proposed project. We fully understand that you are in the planning stages right now, and that ideas will change as you work with your partner organization.*
- *How will this project uplift your artistic practice?*
500 words, max

5. Describe the feasibility of successfully completing your project.

- *Tell us what you will need to make this project a reality in terms of:*
 - *Space*
 - *Technology*
 - *Additional artistic personnel (e.g. dancers, actors, composers, set designers, sound designers)*
 - *Logistical personnel (e.g. stage manager, sound engineers, docents, etc.)*
- *If you are proposing a performance-related project, how many performances do you anticipate, and what is your ideal audience size?*

250 words, max.

ATTACHMENTS

Be sure to list your samples. Panelists generally spend no more than ten minutes on the work sample(s) for each application.

Preliminary Budget

- Upload the completed preliminary budget
- Budget form can be found [here](#)
- This is a budget draft, you will have the opportunity to finalize the budget if selected as an artist.

C.V. or Resume

- Major works, exhibitions, projects, commissions and collaborations with corresponding dates
- Education (degrees, apprenticeships and self-taught history) with corresponding dates
- Related employment with corresponding dates
- Fellowships, prizes, grants, honors and residencies with corresponding dates
- **Submit as a PDF file**

Two Letters of Recommendation

- Letters should be from two professionals in your art form. The letter writers should indicate why they support your proposed project, how they have come to know your work, as well as their professional affiliations.
- Letters should be on professional letterhead
- Address letters to “Members of the Panel”
- **Letters should be in PDF format.** Mailed letters will not be accepted.

Artistic Work Samples and Marketing Materials

All artistic documentation and marketing samples must be submitted each as one PDF file, respectively, with embedded hyperlinks to videos and audio files.

Instructions:

In a single PDF for each type of documentation, applicants may submit:

- **Up to two artistic documentation samples in one PDF (e.g. 10 images and one 5-minute video / One 4-minute audio clip and one 5-minute video / 7 images and one 3-minute audio clip, etc.)**
 - Video, audio, and multimedia in the form of hyper links.
 - Upload your samples to YouTube or Vimeo and share a hyperlink without password protection.
 - Samples will not be downloaded for viewing. Must be submitted as links.
 - No more than 5 minutes per sample
 - One of the two samples can be a slide deck of up to 10 images.
 - Panelists will spend no more than 10 minutes reviewing artistic documentation
- **Up to three samples of marketing materials in one PDF**
 - Video, audio, and multimedia in the form of hyper links.
 - Upload your samples to YouTube or Vimeo and share a hyperlink without password protection.
 - Samples will not be downloaded for viewing. Must be submitted as links.
 - No more than 5 minutes per sample
 - One of the three samples can be a slide deck of up to 10 images.
 - Panelists will spend no more than 5 minutes reviewing marketing documentation

[Work Sample\(s\) PDF Link](#)

Marketing Sample(s) PDF

- Refer to work samples PDF above for marketing samples formatting

Work Sample Description

- *An excerpt of the description will be used to introduce your work samples during the panel review. Use the space provided in the Artist Documentation Index to contextualize each work sample by stating discipline-specific and pertinent information.*
- *Describe each sample by:*
 - *Title, date, venue, length of work, dimensions, media*
 - *If the item was done as a work of collaboration, indicate your role.*
 - *Explain the sample’s relevance to your proposed project, especially if: the proposed project is a departure from your traditional work; the sample is a work in progress; or the sample is a collaborative piece of work.*

1,000 words, max.

PROGRAM TIMELINE (Projected)

Application Opens	April 19, 2023
Application Deadline	May 15, 2023
Panel Review*	May 24, 2023
Funding Decision*	June 5, 2023
Funding Notification*	June 9, 2023
Grant Activity Period	July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024
Professional Development, meetings and evaluation sessions	Ongoing
Final Report Deadline*	June 2024

*Dates subject to change.

STAFF ASSISTANCE

Arts Council for Long Beach staff is available to offer guidance and clarification in preparing your proposal. We recommend that you contact staff well in advance of the deadline to ensure that you can be accommodated. People who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind, or have difficulty speaking may dial 711 to reach the California Relay Service (CRS). Large print is available upon request.

Individuals seeking technical assistance should contact:

Lisa DeSmidt
she/her/hers
Director of Programs
Arts Council for Long Beach
grants@artslb.org