



Reentry through the Arts

2016-2017 Grant Guidelines

Deadline: May 3, 2017, 5:00 PM – (online submission)



The Mission of the California Arts Council, a state agency, is to advance California through the arts and creativity.

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California Arts Council



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Programs Officer
Shelly Gilbride, PhD

Address
1300 I Street, Suite 930
Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 322-6555
Toll Free (800) 201-6201
FAX: (916) 322-6575

Website: www.arts.ca.gov

Office Hours
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

Purpose: The California Arts Council (CAC), a state agency, was established in January 1976 to encourage artistic awareness, participation, and expression; to help independent local groups develop their own arts programs; to promote employment of artists and those skilled in crafts in the public and private sector; and to enlist the aid of all state agencies in the task of ensuring the fullest expression of our artistic potential.

The Council: The appointed Council of the CAC consists of 11 members who serve staggered terms. The Governor appoints nine members, the assembly Speaker appoints one member, and the Senate President pro Tempore appoints one member. Council members serve without salary, elect their own officers, and meet throughout the state to encourage public attendance. This body sets policy and has final approval of CAC grants.

Mission: To advance California through the arts and creativity.

Funding: The CAC is a state agency, funded from the state’s annual budget process and proceeds from the California Arts License Plate and the Keep Arts in Schools tax return voluntary contribution fund, supplemented by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts. Its grants are usually matched by foundations, individuals, earned income, government agencies, or other organizations.

Information Access: Due to the Public Records and Open Meeting Acts, applications and their attachments are not confidential and may be requested by the media and/or public. Observers may attend but may not participate in, or in any way interfere with, Council meetings. Meeting dates and locations are posted at www.arts.ca.gov. Each meeting provides a designated time for public comment, although comments may be time-limited.

Grants Panels: Applications are evaluated by panels of experts, recognized in their respective fields, who rank applications according to program criteria. The CAC staff provides information but not recommendations to the panel. The Council reviews panel recommendations before making final funding decisions.

Appeal Process: Appeals to CAC funding decisions must be submitted on an official Appeal Form, available from the CAC, and postmarked within 45 days of the decision. Appeals are granted only on the following grounds:

1. Panel’s assessment was based on a misstatement of factual information as contained in the application such that it negatively influenced the panel’s recommendation; and/or
2. Incorrect processing of the required application material such that it negatively influenced the panel’s assessment of the applicant’s request for funding.

Note: Dissatisfaction with award denial or with award amount is not grounds for appeal.

Requirements: The CAC is mandated both by federal and state regulations to fund only organizations that have proof of nonprofit status under sec. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (Fiscal Receivers are eligible in some programs), or under sec. 23701d of the California Revenue and Taxations Code, or entities that are a unit of government; and that comply with the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, as amended; sec. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988; California Government Code secs. 11135-11139.5 (barring discrimination); the Fair Labor Standards Act, as defined by the Secretary of Labor in part 505 of title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulation; the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”); the Fair Employment and Housing Act; and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

Ownership, Copyrights, Royalties, Credit: The CAC does not claim ownership, copyrights, royalties, or other claim to artworks produced as a result of a CAC grant. However, the CAC reserves the right to reproduce and use such materials for official, noncommercial purposes, including but not limited to use on the CAC website, social media and print materials. In addition, the CAC requires documentation of grants activity, and appropriate credit for CAC partial support.

REENTRY THROUGH THE ARTS

2016-2017 GRANT GUIDELINES
DEADLINE: MAY 3, 2017 5:00 PM
Apply at cac.culturegrants.org



Background

Reentry Through the Arts (RTA) is a two-year pilot grant program rooted in the California Arts Council's (CAC) belief that the arts are a powerful vehicle for positive change in people, communities and society. RTA was initiated in response to the Senate Budget Act of 2016 that states "The Arts Council shall develop a reentry or bridging program to facilitate and expand arts programs designed to help inmates transition from incarceration back into their communities and prevent those on probation, parole, or post-release community supervision from being incarcerated."

Arts participation can be an effective vehicle for rehabilitation, healing and skill building for formerly incarcerated people of all ages. Expanding on the tenants of restorative justice, this grant opportunity supports projects that utilize the arts in a holistic approach to re-integrating formerly incarcerated people into society and supporting their journey to become contributing members of their communities.

Through this pilot program, the California Art Council is exploring the power of the arts to achieve the following outcomes:

- Bridge the community-prison division by providing opportunities for structured artistic interactions between community members and formerly incarcerated individuals.
- Utilizing artistic and cultural experiences to positively impact the lives of formerly incarcerated people, their families and their communities
- Demonstrate the impact of restorative justice strategies and trauma-informed care in collaboration with the arts for formerly incarcerated individuals and communities
- Develop an understanding of best practices for community engaged, creative strategies to support positive reentry for formerly incarcerated people

Purpose

For this pilot program, RTA supports high quality arts programs for people who have been convicted of a criminal offense and have served time in correctional institutions. The proposed program must include the arts as a central component of a holistic and integrated approach to reentry that also includes other community-based support services including but not limited to mental health and/or drug treatment, job skills training, job placement, and/or case management. The proposed project must be designed and developed in partnership between an arts entity/provider and a social service or community-based facility/agency that serves formerly incarcerated people. The project should demonstrate significant planning, and should reflect a collaborative relationship between the partnering organizations.

The proposed project must:

- Provide opportunities for arts engagement to formerly incarcerated people. Arts engagement includes active participation or learning activities over a period of time. Projects can include arts exposure or appreciation components, but those must be in addition to hands-on activities
- Develop or strengthen partnerships between social service providers for the target population and arts organizations/artists serving the same target population
- Identify potential criteria for measuring long-term success of arts programs serving formerly incarcerated people and addressing reentry goals and objectives
- Identify reentry goals and set measurable objectives for activities taking place as part of the grant project
- Demonstrate the value of arts engagement for formerly incarcerated people
- Include culturally-competent and equity-based approaches that foster the principles of restorative justice

Funded programs of this two-year pilot program will help to guide the potential development of an ongoing RTA grant program. Successful applicants may also be required to participate in technical assistance and training opportunities. Technical assistance may take the form of convenings, webinars, learning communities, workshops, and more.

Eligible Funding and Expenditures

The Council has allocated \$650,000 to this pilot program. Requests for support may be made for up to \$100,000 for programs occurring between June 30, 2017 and June 30, 2019. The project budget cannot exceed 50% of the applicant organization's total income from its most recently completed fiscal year. Grant funding may be used to supplement existing funds dedicated to this project, but may not replace or supplant funds that have been appropriated for the same purpose.

Matching

There is no matching requirement for this pilot program.

Applicant Eligibility

- The applicant must be a California-based nonprofit organization, unit of government, education or social service agency.
- If a nonprofit organization, education or social service agency, the applicant must demonstrate proof of nonprofit status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or section 23701d of the California Revenue and Taxation Code
- Applicant organization must have three years of experience working with incarcerated and/or formerly incarcerated people.
- The applicant may be either the arts partner or social service or community-based facility/agency, except for the following scenarios:
 - The applicant must be the arts partner if the partnership is composed of one arts nonprofit and multiple facilities/agencies.
 - The applicant must be the social service partner if the partnership is composed of one social service facility/agency and multiple artists or arts nonprofits.

- The applicant must be the social service partner if the partnership is composed of one facility/agency and an individual artist or artists.

This program is not designed to accept applications with partnerships between multiple social service facilities/agencies and multiple arts organizations/multiple groups of teaching artists.

- The applicant organization will assume fiscal/contractual responsibilities, if awarded a grant.
- Use of Fiscal Sponsors is not allowed.
- Artists working with the applicant organization must show professional experience of at least three years in the artistic discipline they will teach; must be residents of California; must demonstrate experience working with incarcerated and/or formerly incarcerated people; and may not be engaged in this project as a part of curriculum in a degree program. An artist can only be a part of one RTA application in any grant cycle.
- Applicants may submit only one application per funding cycle.
- Applicants to this program are not restricted from applying to and receiving funding from other competitive CAC grant programs for which they may be eligible, as long as those funds support distinctly separate projects or activities.
- All applicants, including non-arts nonprofit organizations, must complete and submit a DataArts Funder Profile specific to this CAC grant program at the time of application <http://www.culturaldata.org>.
- Applicants that are social service or community based facilities/agencies must submit an arts programming budget.

Project Requirements

- The project must provide arts engagement opportunities to formerly incarcerated people, utilizing California-based teaching artists or artists-in-residence.
- Project must include an evaluation plan to collect data, measure outcomes, and publish and share information. The project must attend specifically to the needs of the target community, utilizing ongoing assessment metrics to evaluate both artistic and reentry related outcomes.
- The project must be designed and developed in partnership between applicant and one or more partner organizations, including at least one arts partner with a history of serving the target population and at least one community or social services partner serving the same. Partner commitment letters are required at time of the application.

Arts Partner Definition:

- Arts and arts education nonprofits with a history of serving the target population OR
- Individual or groups of artists/teaching artists not associated with an arts nonprofit, but with a history of serving the target population. **In this case, the applicant must be the social service partner.**

Social Service Partner Definition:

- A non-profit or government entity targeting and serving formerly incarcerated people.

If unclear about appropriate partner(s), contact Programs Officer (see Staff Assistance).

- The project should demonstrate significant planning and should reflect a collaborative relationship between the arts organization and the facility/agency. Both the applicant and the partner organization should have clearly defined project and decision-making responsibilities.
- Project must address how arts engagement is integrated with other services such as job skills training, job placement, mental health and drug treatment, case management, and/or housing services.
- Successful applicants may be expected to:
 - Participate in technical assistance and training activities.
 - Participate in and cooperate with program evaluation implemented by the CAC.

What the CAC Does Not Fund

- Hospitality or food costs
- Former grantee organizations not in compliance with CAC grant requirements (as stipulated in grant agreement)
- Non-arts organizations not involved in arts activities (as applicants)
- For-profit organizations (as applicants)
- Fundraising activities or services such as annual campaigns, fundraising events, or grant writing
- Programs of other state or federal agencies
- Programs or services intended for private use, or for use by restricted membership
- Projects with religious purposes
- Any activities that are part of the curricular base of schools, colleges or universities
- Trusts, endowment funds or investments
- Capital outlay, including construction; purchase of land, buildings, or equipment other than consumable production materials; or for the elimination of accumulated deficit
- Out-of-state travel activities
- Expenses incurred before the start or after the ending date of the grant period

Application Process

CAC Culture Grants is our online portal for the grant application and review process. CAC does not accept applications through any other means for this program. To apply, new applicants must sign up for a user account to access the CAC Culture Grants system, while returning applicants will log in with an existing user account. Detailed instructions and support can be found at www.arts.ca.gov/ and via the portal at <https://cac.culturegrants.org>.

Review Criteria

A peer review panel will evaluate applications based on the following criteria:

- **Project Design and Implementation:** Project design indicates realistic timeline, appropriate budget, clear artistic and community-based objectives and achievable outcomes. Design articulates methods to evaluate and measure success, collect and analyze data, and document activities. Design demonstrates depth of participant involvement over time.

- **Artistic Merit:** Artists involved in the project demonstrate skills, expertise, and experiences that are central to the outcomes of the project design. Artists demonstrate experience working with target community. Artistic processes and outcomes are appropriate to target community.
- **Community Impact:** Project demonstrates reach and/or depth of engagement for target community. Project responds to a need or set of priorities identified with the target community to be served. Project implementation and evaluation involve significant participation by the target population in accordance with the identified project outcomes.
- **Management and Leadership:** Ability of applicant organization to implement proposed project is clearly demonstrated by qualifications of project’s team, viability of project budget, and overall fiscal and managerial health of applicant and partnering organizations.

Peer Panel Evaluation and Ranking Process

The panel's review of applications and work samples is a multi-step process and involves assigning numerical ranks to an application. A 6-point ranking system will be implemented. Panelists’ ranks are averaged to obtain the final score.

For each of the rankings listed below, the description refers to the content of the application, where the application is defined as the entire grant proposal that articulates the content of programs and services to be rendered by the applicant.

6	Exemplary	Meets all of the review criteria to the highest degree possible
5	Strong	Meets all of the review criteria in a significant manner
4	Good	Meets all of the review criteria to some extent; however, areas of the application need improvement, development or clarification
3	Marginal	Does not meet the majority of the review criteria in a significant manner
2	Weak	Significant inadequacies in addressing review criteria
1	Ineligible	Inappropriate for CAC support: incomplete applications, applications with significant ineligible expenses, and proposals that do not meet program requirements

Depending on the amount of funds available and the number of applicants, a cutoff point will be made based on the ranking. Funding recommendations will be decided through this process.

California Arts Council Decision-making

The final authority for grant decisions is the appointed Council. Subsequent to receiving and reviewing the panel’s evaluation, the Council will make final funding decisions at a public meeting.

If approved by the Council for support, grant amounts may differ from the request amount due to the level of funding available to the program, demand for that funding, and/or the rank a proposal receives from the review panel.

Should a grant award be made for an amount less than the request amount, the applicant will be required to confirm that the goals of the original request can be met or modified with a lesser grant award.

Timeline

April 2017	Application available
May 3, 2017, 5:00 PM	Application deadline (online)
June 2017	Funding notifications
June 30, 2017 – June 30, 2019	Funded activity period

Grantee Requirements

- To better inform our elected representatives as to the value of the arts and the use of state funds, you will be expected to include—with your approved grant agreement—photocopies of signed letters that you have sent to the Governor and your State Senate and Assembly representatives thanking them for your grant.
- Use CAC logo on all printed, electronic materials, and websites (programs, catalogs, postcards, posters, newsletters, leaflets, publications, etc.) that specifically reference this grant.
- Credit the CAC on all printed and electronic materials: *“This activity is funded in part by the California Arts Council, a state agency.”*
- When discussing the project and activities supported by this grant, verbal credit must be given to the CAC.
- A Final Report summarizing grant-funded activities and accomplishments will be required at the end of the grant period.

Staff Assistance

CAC staff is available on a limited basis to offer guidance and clarification in preparing your proposal. We recommend that you contact staff well in advance of the deadline to ensure you can be accommodated. **Contact: Shelly Gilbride, Programs Officer at shelly.gilbride@arts.ca.gov or (916) 324-0075.**