

# LA ARTS RECOVERY FUND

[CalFund.org/LAartsfund](https://CalFund.org/LAartsfund)

## FUND OVERVIEW

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### WHAT IS THE INTENT OF THE LA ARTS RECOVERY FUND?

The LA Arts Recovery Fund (“LA Arts Fund”) is a coordinated philanthropic response to support arts organizations — from visual arts to theatre, music, dance, literary arts, and arts education — and ensure the health and vitality of the arts and culture ecosystem across LA County during and beyond the pandemic. The purpose of the LA Arts Fund is to provide flexible, core operating support for small to medium-sized nonprofit arts and cultural organizations in LA County as they recover and reimagine a new path forward.

The LA Arts Fund will focus on arts and culture nonprofits that contribute to the vitality of LA County, from long standing organizations that have been part of the region’s cultural fabric for decades, to organizations that have presented daring and innovative work, to those that have served as artistic anchors for diverse communities.

### WHO ARE THE FUNDER PARTNERS?

Major contributors to the fund include J. Paul Getty Trust, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Ford Foundation, Jerry and Terri Kohl, The Ahmanson Foundation, The Perenchio Foundation, The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, California Community Foundation, The Music Man Foundation, Robert Lovelace and Alicia Miñana, Snap Foundation, Sony Pictures Entertainment & Sony Global Relief Fund, Ford Theatre Foundation and the LA County Department of Arts and Culture, and The Weingart Foundation.

Additional funding is provided by Getty Patron Program & Getty Fund, The California Wellness Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, Rita Wilson and Tom Hanks, Netflix, and Vladimir and Araxia Buckhantz Foundation.

## **WHAT IS THE FORD FOUNDATION'S AMERICA'S CULTURAL TREASURES INITIATIVE?**

The Fund includes a challenge grant from the Ford Foundation's "America's Cultural Treasures" regional initiative, designed to support Black, Latinx, Asian, and Indigenous arts organizations in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and to acknowledge and honor the diversity of artistic expression in America. Local funders will match the Ford Foundation contribution and provide critical funding to organizations with exceptional regional or local significance that have been historically under-represented and underfunded in the narrative of America's culture.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

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### **WHO WAS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR FUNDING?**

Nonprofit arts and culture organizations that have been affected by COVID-19 were eligible to apply if they met the following eligibility requirements at the time of application:

- Be a 501(c)(3) and/or fiscally sponsored organization.
- Be located in and serving Los Angeles County. Projects performed or exhibited outside of Los Angeles County are not eligible for funding.
- Have principal offices in Los Angeles County.
- Have a primary mission to provide arts and culture programming. Not to include living collections, such as botanical gardens, zoos and art service organizations.
- Have staffing to support the management and execution of the funds.
- Have a history of at least three (3) full and consecutive years of arts programming in LA County.
- Have an annual operating budget of \$10 million and under prior to March 1, 2020.
- Have a Board of Directors and/or Advisory Council.

### **WHO WAS NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?**

- Organizations whose primary mission is to raise funds.
- Educational institutions that lead to a degree or diploma, including but not limited to private or public schools or scholarship programs, colleges, and universities. This includes departments and programs therein, except for arts organizations that possess independent 501(c)(3) status.
- Municipal or County government agencies and departments.
- Organizations whose primary mission is not arts related (e.g., social service, religious, education, botanical gardens, zoos or health organizations), as demonstrated by more than 75% of the applicant organization's budget not devoted to arts programming.
- Individual artists.
- Arts service organizations.

## **WHAT SELECTION CRITERIA WERE USED TO MAKE FUNDING DECISIONS?**

Applications were assessed based on the following competitive criteria:

### **I. ARTISTIC IMPACT**, including but not limited to:

- Plays a vital role in communities served through arts and culture programming.
- Engages and supports authentic creative voices in programming, such as employing local artists, and/or engaging with individuals/groups significant to the art form or cultural expression.
- Represents a valuable and integral dimension (e.g. cultural, economic, educational, historic and/or social) of the LA arts ecosystem.

### **II. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**, including but not limited to:

- Demonstrates that the organization is rooted in, reflective of and/or responsive to the identified community or communities benefiting from its work.

### **III. DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSION**, including but not limited to:

- Has significantly contributed to the cultural life in LA County.
- Stewards and sustains a cultural tradition rooted in a community of color.
- Reflects the cultural heritage and creativity of communities that have been historically underfunded.

### **IV. ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP & VISION**, including but not limited to:

- Demonstrates responsiveness to current challenges (e.g. managing, adapting and/or creating new operations and programming to keep the organization stable.)
- Describes a vision of how the organization could adapt and thrive in the future.
- Demonstrates a solid commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) practices.

### **V. FINANCIAL CONDITIONS**, including but not limited to:

- Demonstrates financial impact on programming and services.

## **DOES THIS PROGRAM BASE FUNDING DECISIONS ON THE LEVEL OF LOSSES EXPERIENCED BY THE APPLICANT?**

No, this is a highly-competitive program. The following criteria were used as the framework for choosing awardees:

- ARTISTIC IMPACT
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSION
- ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP & VISION
- FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

## **WHAT ARE CATEGORIES FOR FUNDING?**

While grants will be for flexible core operating support, we would like to understand how applicants will use funds if awarded. Categories for funding may include:

- Programming/production/exhibition planning costs in 2021 and beyond
- Emergency cleaning supplies and services
- Equipment/supplies to comply with public health measures
- Hiring temporary staff
- Insurance (non-personnel related)
- Non-recoverable expenses related to canceled exhibitions, programming, or other events
- Payroll and benefits

- Rent or mortgage
- Technology and training to support remote engagement with audiences/communities (external)
- Technology to support work from home (internal)

## **WHAT ARE EXAMPLES OF GRANT RESTRICTIONS?**

The following is a nonexclusive list of examples of costs that would not be eligible expenditures of payments from the Fund:

- Regranting.
- Damages covered by insurance.
- Expenses that have been or will be reimbursed under any federal program.
- Reimbursement to donors for donated items or services.
- Workforce bonuses other than hazard pay or overtime.
- Severance pay.
- Legal settlements.

## **WHERE CAN WE ACCESS THE ONLINE APPLICATION?**

Applicants were required to submit applications, artistic documentation, and support materials online via <https://www.calfund.org/nonprofits/open-grants/laartsfund-rfp/>

## **WHEN DID THE APPLICATION OPEN AND CLOSE?**

The application opened on **Tuesday, February 9, 2021**, and closed on **Tuesday, March 2, 2021, at 5:00 PM PST**.

## **WHEN CAN WE EXPECT TO RECEIVE GRANT FUNDS?**

We expect payments to be disbursed in June 2021, upon receipt of signed grant contracts.

## **WHAT ATTACHMENTS WERE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT WITH THE APPLICATION?**

All applicants were required to submit the following three attachments with their application for it to be complete and be deemed eligible:

1. A copy of the Federal Form 990 Prior Year Tax Return (2018 or 2019), 990-EZ or 990-N for the organization's most recently completed fiscal year. Applicants with budgets less than \$25,000 should submit a copy of their most recently completed 990-N or 990-EZ.
2. Most recent Statement of Information.
3. A 501(c)(3) determination letter with Federal Employee Identification Number (EIN)

## **GRANT AWARDS**

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## **WHO PARTICIPATED IN FUNDING DECISIONS?**

An independent and diverse peer review panel advised the contributors to the LA Arts Fund. The panel was made up of 53 multi-disciplinary leaders with:

- In-depth knowledge of the LA nonprofit arts and culture sector,
- Understanding of the purpose of the Fund, and
- Experience reviewing grant applications.

The scores and comments from the Community Review Panels were aggregated and shared anonymously with a subcommittee of the contributing funders. This subcommittee used those scores and comments to inform grant recommendations, paired with a financial analysis by the California Community Foundation of finalist organizations' pre-COVID operating expenses.

When surveyed\*, panelists identify as both mid-career and senior in their careers; 45% identify as arts administrators, 25% as artists, 12% as educators, and 18% as other (curator, writer, advocate, producer, consultant, etc.) Panelists identify as 59% female, 39% male, and 2% non-binary; 2% identify with the disability community; 51% identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color, 35% as White, 10% as mixed ethnicity, and 4% declined to state or reported "other".

\*Survey results represent 49 respondents out of 53 total panelists

## **WHO RECEIVED FUNDING?**

Grant awards were highly competitive and determined upon an organization's alignment to the criteria of the fund and the strength of their application. A full list of grantees can be found at <https://www.calfund.org/laarf>. The Fund awarded a total of \$36.1M to 90 organizations. Grant awards range from \$5,000 to \$2M, over two or three years.

## **HOW MANY ORGANIZATIONS OF COLOR WERE FUNDED?**

Of the 90 organizations awarded grants, 48% self-identified as organizations of color, and 71% are founded by, led by, and/or have a board-majority of Black, Latinx, Asian or Indigenous leaders.

## **HOW MANY ORGANIZATIONS WERE DESIGNATED 'AMERICA'S CULTURAL TREASURES'?**

Of the 90 grantees awarded, a total of 17 organizations are part of the America's Cultural Treasures initiative. Of those, 15 of the organizations will receive three-year grants from the LA Arts Recovery Fund as part of the regional component of the America's Cultural Treasures initiative. All are long standing organizations that have operated for 20 years or more in the Los Angeles region and self-identified as Black, Latinx, Asian, and Indigenous arts and cultural organizations. Grant sizes in this category range from \$64,000 to \$2 million. The remaining 75 LA Arts Recovery Fund grantees will receive funds over two years, ranging from \$5,000 to \$1.5 Million. East West Players and the Japanese American National Museum were awarded multi-year grants in 2020 as part of the America's Cultural Treasures national initiative. Both organizations will receive two-year grants from the LA Arts Recovery Fund.

**ARE THERE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS?**

Yes, an annual report will be requested from each grantee organization (due March 31, 2022 and March 31, 2023, and for three-year grants a third report will be due March 31, 2024). Details will be provided to grantees in the coming months.

**WILL THERE BE ADDITIONAL FUNDING CYCLES?**

The Fund has made a commitment to support capacity-building and technical assistance. More information will become available and announced at a later time.

**IS THERE A LEARNING/EVALUATION COMPONENT TO THE FUND?**

Yes, learning is a valuable aspect of this fund. There will be a committee of funders seeking to understand the impact of the Fund. This piece is still being developed.