



California Arts Council's Individual Artist Fellowships: Los Angeles County

GUIDELINES

In partnership with California Arts Council (CAC), Los Angeles Performance Practice (LAPP) is thrilled to serve as the Administering Organization for the Individual Artist Fellowships in Los Angeles County.

ABOUT LOS ANGELES PERFORMANCE PRACTICE

Los Angeles Performance Practice is a non-profit organization devoted to the production and presentation of contemporary performance by artists whose work advances and challenges multi-disciplinary artistic practices.

Our mission is to support a unique and diverse constellation of artists and audiences through the active creation and presentation of groundbreaking experiences that use innovative approaches to collaboration, technology and social engagement. Anchored in Los Angeles, our artists and projects have national and global reach.

Across a range of platforms and partnerships, we build an active network of contemporary practitioners—curators and producers, artists and designers, audiences and patrons—all leveraged in service to the ideas and issues of our time.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

- Application Opens: April 20, 2026
- Application Deadline: June 6, 2026 at 11:59pm pacific time
- Panel Review: June-July 2026
- Applicant Notifications: August 2026
- Fellowship Period: 12 months, September 1st, 2026 to August 31st, 2027

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Individual Artist Fellowships (IAF) program uplifts and celebrates California artists across all disciplines and traditions, highlights their excellence and acknowledges their leadership in shaping traditional and contemporary cultures.

For CAC Fellowship awards, excellence is defined by:

- A unique artistic vision
- A sustained commitment to creative practice
- Engagement with and impact on the cultural ecosystem

By providing unrestricted funding, the fellowship empowers artists at pivotal moments in their careers, enhancing their ability to contribute meaningfully to California's diverse communities. Investing in individual artists and culture bearers through this program strengthens artistic expression, creative practice, and community collaboration statewide.

The Individual Artist Fellowships program is a statewide initiative.

If you do not reside in Los Angeles County, but are a resident of California, please apply through the appropriate regional Administering Organization below:

Region 1: Upstate

[Nevada Arts Council](#), serving Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, and Yuba Counties

Region 2: Capital

[Teatro Nagual](#), serving Alpine, El Dorado, Sacramento, Solano, and Yolo Counties

Region 3: Bay Area

[Kala Art Institute](#), serving Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Sonoma Counties

Region 4: Central Valley & Eastern Sierra

[Kern Dance Alliance](#) serving Amador, Calaveras, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare, and Tuolumne Counties

Region 5: Central Coast

[Arts Council Santa Cruz](#), serving: Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, and Ventura Counties

Region 6: Los Angeles County

[Los Angeles Performance Practice](#)

Region 7: Inland Empire & South Coast

[Arts Orange County](#), serving Riverside, San Bernardino, and Orange Counties

Region 8: Far South

[City of San Diego](#), serving: Imperial and San Diego Counties

FELLOWSHIP AWARDS & TIERS

The fellowship awards will provide unrestricted funding in support of the fellows' artistic practice. Los Angeles Performance Practice will act as the Administering Organization for the California Arts Council by issuing \$800,000 in awards in Los Angeles County, distributed across three CAC-determined tiers of funding. There will be a minimum of three fellows awarded in each fellowship tier. The number of awards in each fellowship tier will range per tier based on the number of applications received and review scores from the panel (in alignment with the Review Criteria). Awards will be funded at the full dollar amount for each tier. Partial awards will not be made.

The following three tiers of CAC Individual Artist Fellowships will be available:

Emerging Artist Fellows - \$5,000

Artists in the Emerging tier are those in the beginning stages of making their work public and engaging the larger community in their practice. Individuals at this career stage may have had a few public showings of their work, but do not yet have ongoing resources or support.

Established Artist Fellows - \$10,000

Artists in the Established tier regularly make their work public and engage the larger community in their practice. Individuals at this career stage can give multiple examples of artistic and/or cultural works that have made significant community impact.

Legacy Artist Fellows - \$50,000

Artists in the Legacy tier can point to a significant body of work, produced over a substantial period of time, that has engaged their communities and made significant community impact. Artists in this tier may be able to point to emerging and established artists that they have mentored or otherwise positively influenced.

ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for an Individual Artist Fellowship, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Must be 18 years of age or older at the time of application
- Be a California resident for a minimum of two years
- Primarily reside and work in Los Angeles County, defined as:
 - Living in the county for most of the year,
 - Maintaining a professional and community-based artistic practice within the county, and
 - Demonstrate impact within the local or regional cultural ecosystem
- Previously awarded Legacy Artists (throughout the state of California) are not eligible to apply
- Previously awarded Emerging or Established Artists (throughout the state of California) may apply for the next tier up in the program (Emerging → Established, Established → Legacy)
- Fiscal sponsors are not permitted. Artists must directly receive funding.
- Applicants must use their own personal tax identification number to receive funding (SSN or ITIN)
- Proof of current Los Angeles County residence will be required prior to payment.

We recognize that artists' residence may shift over time and that some artists may be affected by forced migration, especially in the wake of the 2025 Los Angeles fires. "Engagement with and impact on the cultural ecosystem" will be evaluated holistically, in alignment with the review criteria.

APPLICATION

Before applying, please consider which award tier you feel best represents your artistic practice at this stage: Emerging, Established, or Legacy. You will only be able to submit and be reviewed for one tier.

Applications will be made available through [Submittable](#), an online application platform. You will need to create a free Submittable account or sign in with Google or Facebook credentials in order to submit. While Submittable can be accessed on mobile devices, we strongly recommend completing and submitting your application on a laptop or desktop computer, particularly when uploading work samples or longer responses. The platform works best on the following browsers: Google Chrome, Firefox, and Safari. Internet Explorer is not supported.

The application includes the following elements:

Narrative Questions

All applicants will respond to the General Questions below.

Applicants applying in the Established or Legacy tiers will respond to additional, tier-specific questions.

Applicants may choose one format for all narrative responses:

- Written responses, or
- Audio recordings

You must use the same format consistently throughout the application.

Written Responses: For written responses, word counts are listed as a *suggested maximum* of 250 words per question. Firm word count limitations have been removed to give you flexibility, and to allow you focus on the quality of responses instead of spending additional time editing. We highly encourage you to keep your answers simple, concise and direct. There is no expectation or weight given to lengthy responses.

Audio Recording: For audio recordings, each response is suggested to be no more than 2 minutes per question. Please do not submit video recordings. Only sound files with voice recordings will be accepted. We highly encourage answers to be simple, concise and direct. There is no expectation or weight given to lengthy responses.

General Questions (All Applicants):

- **Artist Statement**
Your Artist Statement should reflect your mission as an artist. Please share a statement that includes a brief description of your work and artistic discipline, why you make the work you make, and the community you are creating for and/or with.
- **About Your Artistic Practice**
Please provide a brief history of your artistic career beyond what can be learned from your resume. Who are your influences, how have they affected you, and how have they contributed to the development of your own artistic voice? What is your style, and how does it shape your artistic work and the way you explore creative practice? Please be as descriptive as possible, using at least one recent concrete example of your own work.
- **Artistic Ambitions**
Please share your longer-term artistic ambitions with us. What goals have you set out for yourself when thinking about your work? What kind of public impact do you want your work to have on the community you serve?

Additional Questions by Tier:

Additional Question for Established & Legacy Artist Applicants:

Please share three examples of your artistic and/or cultural work that has made a positive impact in your community. Tell us what you set out to do, what happened, and what you learned from the experience. For each example, include the title of the project, medium, date, and who your work was intended for.

Additional Questions for Legacy Artist Applicants:

How do you incorporate mentorship into your practice? For example, in what ways does your work influence or inform the next generation of artists in your discipline?

Letter of Support - Legacy Artist Applicants Only

All Legacy applicants must submit a one-page written letter of support from a colleague. The letter should speak to the breadth of the applicant's work, its impact within their community, and the ways in which the applicant incorporates mentorship into their practice.

Artist Resume/CV

All applicants must provide their artistic resume/CV which details their body of work. Please do not include student work in your resume/CV.

Work Samples

All applicants can submit up to two work samples that best support your application, demonstrating your artistic practice in action. Please do not submit promotional videos or demo reels. Panelists will be best positioned to review your work if you directly upload media files within the application platform. Alternatively, you may provide a link in the box titled "URL, Instructions, Plug-Ins, or Passwords." Do not submit links to content that needs to be downloaded. All media samples combined must not exceed five minutes in total.

Applicants may submit work samples in different formats. Each sample must meet the requirements for its specific category:

- Writing sample or musical score: Maximum of 10 pages
- Images: Maximum of 10 images
- Video/Audio: Up to a maximum of 5 minutes in length. If you are submitting two clips, we recommend individual videos be at least 1 minute in duration.

Submitting Work Samples: Please use a laptop or desktop computer to submit, as file uploads may not work on some mobile devices. If you continue to be unable to upload the files, please try a different browser. Submittable works well with Firefox, Chrome and Safari browsers.

- [You can download Firefox by following the instructions linked here.](#)
- [You can download Chrome by following the instructions linked here.](#)

- Please note that [Submittable does not support the Internet Explorer browser](#), or older versions of Edge.

REVIEW PROCESS

All applications will be reviewed by a panel of artists, arts leaders, culture bearers and community members with arts and culture knowledge. Panelists will include both Los Angeles County residents and culture workers from across the country.

Review Panel Criteria:

- Creative Vision: Artist effectively communicates their personal story, artistic medium or practice, and long-term aspirations for their work.
- Aesthetic Excellence: Artistic work and/or examples of cultural practice demonstrate strong alignment with the components of the [Attributes of Excellence in Arts for Change](#), including commitment, communal meaning, disruption, cultural integrity, risk taking, sensory experience, emotional experience, openness, coherence, resourcefulness, and stickiness.
- Community Engagement and Social Impact: Artist effectively communicates their engagement with their community(ies) and the positive social impact their work has had locally, regionally, and/or statewide, addressing themes including but not limited to race, diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

Panelists will also aim to ensure that recommended awardees represent the County's diverse arts and culture ecosystem. In doing so, the panel will consider final fellowship awards with respect to:

- Communities served;
- Geography;
- Discipline; and
- Cultural form and/or tradition represented.

FELLOWSHIP PERIOD & REPORTING

Fellows will embark on a twelve-month fellowship from September 1st, 2026, through August 31st, 2027. Los Angeles Performance Practice will host an in-person convening for fellows as well as online networking events and co-learning opportunities throughout the fellowship period. Participation in these events is optional.

This program requires minimal grant reporting. Reporting will include an initial information survey from each fellow and a final debrief survey which can be taken via an online form or by attending a wrap-up session with Los Angeles Performance Practice. Each fellow will also be featured in a variety of platforms including Los Angeles Performance Practice's website, social media and a digital publication.

Application and participation survey data will only be presented in aggregate and will always be anonymized. Data will be used for program administration, evaluation, and reporting to the California Arts Council.

QUESTIONS & SUPPORT

Los Angeles Performance Practice is committed to supporting artists through accessibility and equitable access. There will be in-person information sessions across each of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Districts at the following dates and times:

- Tuesday, April 21, 2026 | 3:30–5:00 PM (In-Person) District 5 – Antaeus Theatre, Glendale [Address / Directions](#)
- Friday, April 24, 2026 | 1:00–2:30 PM (In-Person) District 4 – Compton Library, Compton [Address / Directions](#)
- Friday, May 1, 2026 | 3:30–5:00 PM (In-Person) District 3 – Pacoima Library, Pacoima [Address / Directions](#)
- Thursday, May 12, 2026 | 3:30–5:00 PM (In-Person) District 1 – Malabar Branch Library, Los Angeles [Address / Directions](#)
- Tuesday, May 17, 2026 | 3:30–5:00 PM (In-Person) District 2 – Hyde Park Library, Los Angeles [Address / Directions](#)

In-person information sessions are free and open to the public. RSVPs are encouraged but not required. [RSVP Here](#).

If you need help locating which district you reside in, please visit the [Los Angeles Almanac page](#) for more information. Please see the [website](#) for information session location addresses as they are confirmed and please email Fellowships@PerformancePractice.org if you have any access needs to attend the in-person information sessions.

We will also be hosting two virtual information sessions at the following dates and times on Zoom. Recordings of the virtual sessions will be made available for future viewing. Register to attend below:

- Tuesday, April 28, 2026 | 4:00–5:30 PM. ASL Interpretation & Live Captioning Available.
[Zoom link](#)
[Registration Link](#)
- Tuesday, May 5, 2026 | 4:00–5:30 PM. In Spanish / En Español.
[Zoom link](#)
[Registration Link](#)

Open office hours on Zoom will also be available to provide technical assistance on a few key areas of the application. Please see below to register to attend:

- Wednesday, April 29, 2026 | 4:00–5:30 PM. CAC IAF | Discussing Artist Statements.
[Zoom link](#)
[Registration Link](#)
- Wednesday, May 6, 2026 | 4:00–5:30 PM. CAC IAF | Discussing Work Samples.
[Zoom link](#)
[Registration Link](#)
- Wednesday, May 13, 2026 | 4:00–5:30 PM. CAC IAF | Learning from a CAC Individual Artist Fellowship Awardee: Process, Practice, and Impact.
[Zoom link](#)
[Registration Link](#)

Please note that dates and locations are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information and to review frequently asked questions, please visit performancepractice.la/cac-iaf. If you have any questions, reach out to us at Fellowships@PerformancePractice.org.

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