

Civic Arts Grants

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | CIVIC ARTS

MARCH 21, 2023



Civic Arts Program Overview



Wildflowers, Bloom!, Public Art at San Pablo Park by Michael Arcega

The Civic Arts Program supports a culturally vibrant and diverse arts ecosystem within the City of Berkeley by:

- Funding grants to artists, arts organizations, and festivals.
- Providing opportunities for artists to create and display work in the public realm.
- Ensuring equitable access to high quality arts and culture for residents and visitors alike.

History of Civic Arts Grants Program

- 1991: Council adopted Resolution 55,832-N.S.
- Created grant guidelines
- Open Application workshops
- Designated application review panel
- Public hearing on funding awards



Chingchi Yu, Choreography and Performance, FY21 individual Artist Project Grantee

Grants Program Development



Craig Nagasawa, Visual Artist, FY22 Individual Artist Project Grantee

2016 Program Evaluation

- Implemented program improvements to ensure that the City was serving the needs of the arts community

2019 Program Evaluation

- Scanned grantmaking field for best practices nationally
- Consulted with Civic Arts Commission & Berkeley Cultural Trust on improving program efficiency, equity, and transparency
- Added Festival Grants category

Commitment to Cultural Equity



Annual Berkeley Indigenous Peoples Day Powwow & Indian Market,
FY22 Festival Grantee

Cultural Equity Statement: The City of Berkeley Civic Arts program commits to equity within the arts and culture sector by consistently evaluating its programs and practices. The City recognizes the multiple benefits the arts provide, regardless of race, color, religion, age, disability, national origin, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity/expression.

Beyond ensuring access to the arts, the City of Berkeley commits to supporting artists and arts organizations that represent diverse cultures, life experiences, and socio-economic backgrounds. The City supports the empowerment of perspectives and identities that have been historically and systemically underrepresented.

Civic Arts Grants Allocations

Fiscal Year	Total Amount Awarded	Number of Grants	Avg. Grant Award
FY16	\$229,100	53	\$4,323
FY17	\$378,848	56	\$6,765
FY18	\$497,510	61	\$8,156
FY19	\$500,000	63	\$7,937
FY20	\$650,199	90	\$7,224
FY21	\$579,493	94	\$6,165
FY22	\$714,470	104	\$6,870
FY23	\$696,996	114	\$6,114

Civic Arts Grants – Current Programs



Ann Holsberry, Visual Arts, FY22 individual Artist Project Grantee

Three program Categories:

- Individual Artist Projects
- Community Festivals
- General Operating Support

Individual Artist Projects

Funding for Berkeley-based artists in creating new work.

Award amount: **\$4,000**

Eligibility

- Berkeley resident (at least 18 years old)
- Individual artists (not a team, partnership, or business)
- Any artistic discipline



Sudhu Tewari, Multidisciplinary Arts, FY22 Individual Artist Project Grantee

Community Festivals



Queering Dance Festival, FY22 Festival Grantee

Funding for festivals and special events.

Maximum request amount: **\$7,000**

Eligibility

- **Festival** is defined as a public event that celebrates a community, neighborhood, historically significant day, or shared cultural interest. These may include arts fairs, celebrations of cultural heritage, and other events.
- Must be a 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), or 501(c)(6) organization or use a **501(c)(3) Fiscal Sponsor**
- Event takes place in Berkeley

General Operating Support

Formerly known as “**Arts Organization**” grants

General operations funding for the growth and stability of Berkeley-based nonprofit arts organizations

Maximum request amount: **\$10,000**

Eligibility

- **Arts Organization** is defined as an entity whose primary purpose is providing arts, creative, or cultural programming/services.
- Must be a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization or use a 501(c)(3) Fiscal Sponsor



California Jazz Conservatory, FY22 Arts Organization Grantee

Recent Updates to the Grantmaking Process



Bay Area Children's Theatre, FY22 Arts Organization Grantee

Accessibility

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Welcome back!
Sign in to your Submittable account.

Email

Password [Forgot?](#)

Sign In

Sign in with Facebook

 Sign in with Google

- Online Grants Management System designed for user-friendliness
- Plain language used in all program materials
- Program guidelines reviewed by City's Disability Services consultants
- Accommodations for applicants with disabilities
- Translation services available

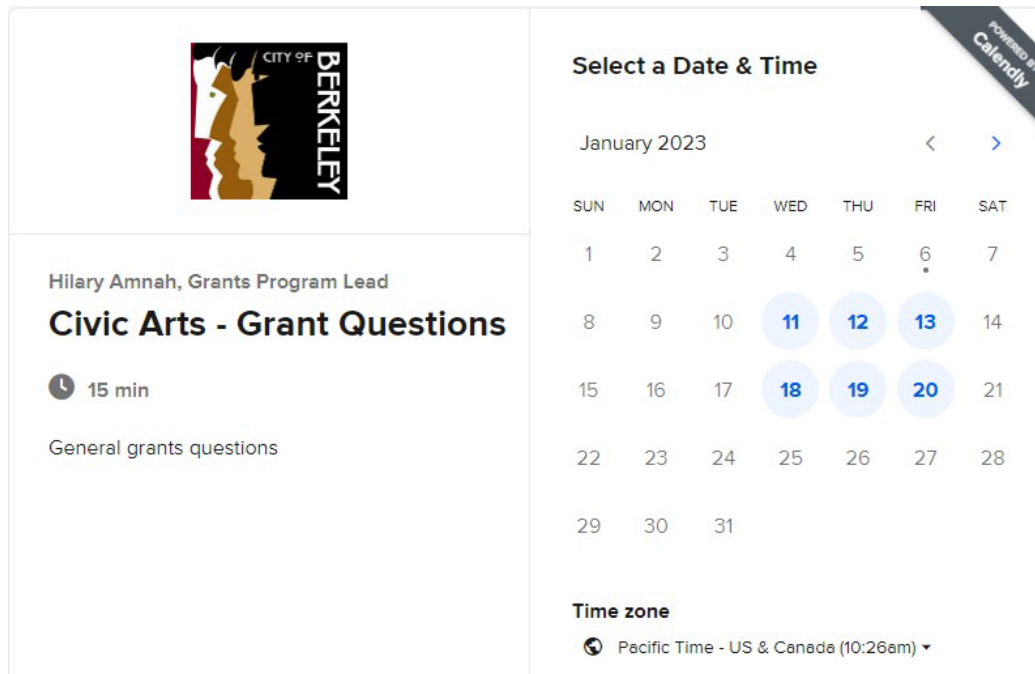
Values-Driven Grant Review Criteria

- Program values are evident through weighted application review criteria
- Cultural Equity criterion appears program-wide in all grant categories
 - Individual Arts Projects: 30%
 - Community Festivals: 25%
 - General Operating Support: 25%



SF Bay Brazilian Day & Lavagem Festival, FY21 Festival Grantee

Technical Assistance and Capacity Building



The screenshot shows a Calendly booking interface. On the left, the host's name is Hilary Amnah, Grants Program Lead, and the event title is 'Civic Arts - Grant Questions' with a 15-minute duration. The event category is 'General grants questions'. On the right, a calendar for January 2023 is displayed, with dates 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, and 20 highlighted in blue. A 'powered by Calendly' logo is in the top right corner of the calendar area. Below the calendar, the time zone is set to 'Pacific Time - US & Canada (10:26am)'.

- Civic Arts staff available to answer questions related to grant applications, payment procedures, and reporting
- Every grant cycle, grant application workshops for each category (live and recorded)
- Transparent panel process (Applicants invited to application review panel)
- Panelist comments consultation with Civic Arts staff

Grant Review Panelists

- Open call for grant review panelists
- Individuals in the greater Bay Area with diverse backgrounds in the cultural sector
- FY24 panelist pool more than doubled to 42 individuals after successful recruitment
- Prioritization of individuals who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)
- Panelists are paid \$25 per application reviewed



Shotgun Players, FY22 Arts Organization Grantee

Internal Program Evaluation



Left Margin LIT, FY22 Arts Organization Grantee

- Continual evaluation of grants programs and processes
- Applicant experience survey
- Panelist survey and debriefing
- Applicant data tracked yearly and analyzed
- Improvements for next grants cycle

Future Grant Programs



Christine Wong Yap, Visual Arts, Municipal Artist in Residence:
City of Berkeley's Mental Wellness and Recovery Program

- Seeking funding from the National Endowment for the Arts for an **Arts Program Grant**
 - Funding for arts programming in non-arts nonprofits
 - Funding for regional arts organizations to do arts programming in Berkeley

Capital Grant Referral Response

- For Berkeley-based nonprofit arts organizations to help them stay in Berkeley
- FY24 Budget request: \$300,000

Capital Project Definition:

A project that helps maintain, improve, or adds to the organization's infrastructure. It results in an acquisition of a new asset or new construction, improvements, expansion, renovation, rehabilitation, repairs, or replacement of an existing facility and other infrastructure assets in the City of Berkeley.



Luna Dance Center, new building supported in part by City of Berkeley

Office of Economic Development

Civic Arts

Jennifer Lovvorn (she/her)
Chief Cultural Affairs Officer

Hilary Amnah (she/they)
Grants Program Lead

www.berkeleyca.gov/civic-arts

Questions