

Opening Music: [Alwa Gordon feat. Alexandra the Author - Home](#)
[Gabi Bravo x Flaco el Jandro - Acaríciame](#)

2026-27 INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS FELLOWSHIP

Welcome Central Coast Creatives!

Arts Council Santa Cruz County is excited to administer the California Arts Council's Individual Artists Fellowship (IAF) for the Central Coast, in collaboration with our regional partners.



Land Acknowledgement

Arts Council Santa Cruz County is located on the unceded territory of the Awaswas-speaking Uypi Tribe. The [Amah Mutsun Tribal Band](#), comprised of the descendants of indigenous people taken to missions Santa Cruz and San Juan Bautista during Spanish colonization of the Central Coast, is today working hard to restore traditional stewardship practices on these lands and heal from historical trauma.

Interactive Map: [Native-Land.ca](#)

Today we will cover:

AugieWK

1. IAF Program Background
2. Eligibility: Who Can Apply?
3. Key Dates
4. Application Process
5. Review & Award Process
6. Application Support
7. Q&A



Individual Artists Fellowship (IAF) Program Background

Central Coast Partners



**ARTS
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CRUZ
COUNTY**



Program Goals

Kalpulli Ehecacoatl

- Support artists and culture bearers **across all disciplines and traditions** in the six Central Coast counties.
- Ensure **equitable access** to resources.
- Through **unrestricted funding**, empower artists at pivotal moments in their careers.



Eligibility: Who Can Apply?

To be eligible, you must:

1. Be an **individual artist or culture bearer**;
2. Be a **current resident** of Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, or Ventura County;
3. Be **at least 18 years old** when you apply;
4. Have primarily resided in California **for at least two consecutive years**;
5. Have a valid **Tax ID number**.

Cynthia Dear and Winston Wang in the Actors' Theatre 2024 production of *White Sky, Falling Dragon* by Steve "Spike" Wong



Ineligibility & Restrictions

- Past Legacy Fellows cannot re-apply. Past Emerging & Established Fellows can **apply for the next level**.
- Applicants **may not apply** under a fiscal sponsor, as an artist group or collective.
- Students enrolled in a K-12 school are **not eligible** to apply.
- Individuals may submit **one application** for only **one funding level**.

Key Dates



Key Dates

Samba Ngo and Mandjou Koné, “Legends Among Us” performance

- **April 15:** Application Opens
- **April 15 & 23:** Application Orientations
- **April-May:** Regional Zoom Office Hours
- **June 1 at 5pm:** Application Deadline
- **June-July:** Panel Review Period
- **August 3-7:** Interviews of Legacy Finalists
- **August 31:** Award Notification
- **September 2026-August 2027:** Fellowship Term



Application Process

Funding Levels

- Emerging Artist Fellows - \$5,000
- Established Artist Fellows - \$10,000
- Legacy Artist Fellows - \$50,000

Damara Ganley & Mo Katzman, "Ground Pressure" site-specific dance theater performance, photo by Rose Calucchia



Online Application

Ercilia Medeiros, photo by Michael Baba

The online application includes:

- **narrative questions**
- **work samples**
- **an artist resume/CV**
- **one letter of support**



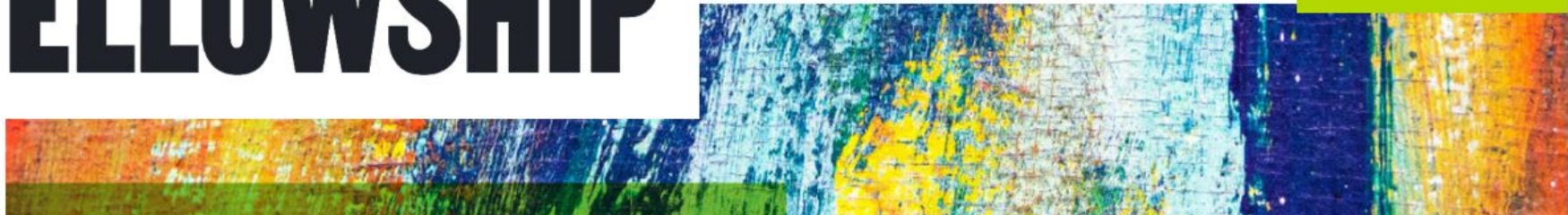
Home > Opportunities & Resources > Apply for a Grant > **Individual Artists Fellowship (IAF)**

INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS FELLOWSHIP

Apply Online



GRANTS PORTAL



Grants Portal



ARTS
COUNCIL
SANTA
CRUZ
COUNTY

Logon

Email Address*



Password*



Log On

Create New Account

[Forgot your Password?](#)

(Información en español a continuación)

Welcome to Arts Council Santa Cruz County's online grants portal! You must have an account in this online grants portal in order to submit an application for an Arts Council grant.

Visit artscouncilsc.org/grants to learn more about grant opportunities and to sign up for our Grants Newsletter (scroll to the bottom of the page to sign up).

Before Creating a New Account:

- **Individuals:** If you think you created an account already, do not create a new account. Please contact our team at grantsprogram@artscouncilsc.org. We can double-check for you, and help you update contact information.
- **Organizations/Schools:** If someone else at your organization or school has an account, do not create a new account. Please contact our team at grantsprogram@artscouncilsc.org and we can add you as a new user to the existing organization's account.

Existing Users: Log in to start the application process or to complete a final report. If you forgot your password, please use the "Forgot your Password" link to the left to reset.

Public Records & Nondiscrimination

Public Records

Arts Council Santa Cruz County keeps information submitted as part of a grant application confidential unless disclosure is required by law.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Arts Council Santa Cruz County is committed to providing services and making resources available without regard to ethnicity, color, creed, religion, age, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, military status, marital status, political opinion, national origin, familial status, mental and physical disability, or source of income.

Review & Award Process

Review Criteria

Applications will be evaluated on three main areas:

- **Creative Vision**
- **Aesthetic Excellence**
 - [Attributes of Excellence in Arts for Change:](#)
 - See page 10 for brief descriptions, pages 15-35 for prompt questions, and pages 36-55 for examples.
- **Community Engagement and Social Impact**
 - including diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

Review & Award Process

- Diverse panels review and score applications.
- The panels will convene to discuss the rankings.
- Legacy finalists will be invited to interviews.
- Partial awards will not be made; feedback will not be available.

Aideed Medina and Adela Najarro at the Círculo de Poetas y Writers annual conference



Fellowship Requirements

Samantha Bounkeua, photo by Ruth Christophersen

- Submit a W-9 form for payment.
- Participate in a brief Zoom welcome meeting.
- No reporting required.
- Optional: promotion & interviews, convenings for networking, program evaluation.



Application Support



Grant Writing Tips

- Start now! Log into the grants portal.
- Read the guidelines on the IAF webpage, especially the review criteria.
- Collect the letter of support, your work samples, and other support materials.
- Work on your written responses:
 - Respond directly to the application questions.
 - Aim to be concise - not repetitive.
 - Use simple, clear language (no jargon or fluff)
- Ask for feedback.

Central Coast Zoom Office Hours

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Arts Council Santa Cruz County:

(includes online grants portal support)

Mondays from 4-5pm (April 20-June 1)

[Click here to join the Zoom Meeting](#)

Other Counties:

See the [Key Dates section](#) of the IAF webpage.



Questions?

★ [IAF Application Toolkit](#): an easy, accessible reference guide that you can use and share!

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2026-27
INDIVIDUAL
ARTISTS
FELLOWSHIP



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SLO COUNTY
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San Benito County
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ARTS COUNCIL
For Monterey County



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Kern County
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50
YEARS
OF CREATIVE IMPACT
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