

Creative Impact Fund FAQ

1. Who can apply for a Creative Impact Fund grant?

Artists living in Cuyahoga County and working in the disciplines of craft, dance, design, film, interdisciplinary work, media, music, theatre & performance, traditional/folk arts, visual art and writing/literary art are eligible to apply. Artists must be 18 years of age or older and have been actively creating for at least the last three years.

2. Do I need to have lived in Cuyahoga County for the last 3 years to apply?

No. Artists must be current residents of Cuyahoga County at the time of application with plans to remain in the county for the duration of the grant year. However, artists will need to provide evidence that they have been *actively creating work for at least the last three years* through submission of their work samples.

3. How does Assembly define ‘Artist?’

For the CIF program, Assembly defines artists as independent professionals who derive income from creating, performing, teaching or supporting the development of work in the creative disciplines listed in Question 1.

4. I was awarded the Creative Impact Fund in 2023. Am I eligible to apply for CIF this year?

Unfortunately, no. 2023 CIF grantees aren’t eligible to apply this year so we can extend the opportunity to other artists.

5. Can I apply for and be awarded more than one CAC-funded artist grant in 2024? Yes! In

addition to the CIF, artists are encouraged to apply for CAC-funded grants through Cleveland Public Theatre, Julia de Burgos, Karamu House and SPACES. However, artists can only be awarded one (1) unrestricted grant in the same year. Artists can be awarded more than one project grant in the same year if the grants are for different projects.

6. What is the difference between an unrestricted grant and a project grant?

Unrestricted grants (sometimes called flexible funds) are not tied to a specific project and are meant to provide you with the flexibility and financial means to engage in whatever artistic endeavors you wish to pursue. Unrestricted funds are an investment to support your creative vision and advance your career. Project grants support the development, production, creation completion, or presentation of a specific project, work, or a series of works. Funders typically request a budget and documentation of expenses for final reporting, including receipts. The Creative Impact Fund is an unrestricted grant.

- **Project Grants include:**

- Unidos Por El Arte (Julia de Burgos Cultural Arts Center)
- Urgent Art Fund (SPACES)
- Premiere Fellowship (Cleveland Public Theatre)

- **Unrestricted Grants include:**

- Individual Artist Fund (Cleveland Public Theatre)
- Room in the House Fellowship (Karamu House)
- Creative Impact Fund (Assembly for the Arts)

7. Do I have to submit a project proposal with my application or complete a specific project in my grant year?

No. No project is required to be proposed or completed for the CIF grant. However, these funds are meant to support and enhance your arts practice, so evidence of the creative work you have done over the grant year will be requested in your final report.

8. Can my nonprofit organization or creative business apply for the CIF?

No. But if you are an artist with an active creative practice, working at a nonprofit or for a creative business, you are eligible to apply and receive funds as an individual.

9. Can I apply for the CIF as a curator?

No, the CIF is for artists who actively make their own art. You may apply as an individual artist to support your creative practice.

10. What can CIF funds be spent on?

The goal of CIF is to help you be a more active creator. This unrestricted grant can be used to support the cost of operating your creative practice, as well as daily living expenses you incur throughout the year. This includes Costs like supplies and materials, studio rent, artist fees, performance or exhibition costs, mortgage, rent, and travel are all eligible expenses. Please visit the [Guidelines](#) for a full list of eligible and ineligible uses of these funds.

11. Are CIF funds taxable?

Yes. Please consult with an accounting or tax professional to determine and reserve funds to cover taxes. Grantees will be required to submit a W-9 to receive their award and will be issued a 1099 at the end of the year.

12. Who will decide which artists receive funding?

A jury panel comprised of 3-5 arts professionals and experts from outside of Cleveland will review and score all applications to select the 17 CIF awardees.

13. How will the jury rate and score submissions?

The jury will score all CIF applications using the following selection criteria:

- The artist shows evidence they have been actively creating for at least the last three years.
- The artist demonstrates innovation, risk-taking and experimentation in their work.
- The artist is working to creatively impact their environment and addresses universal and personal ideas in new ways.
- The work is thoughtful, well-executed and thought provoking and engages viewers and audiences in inventive ways.
- The artist's submission is high-quality and complete.