

CIAG APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Full eligibility and programmatic requirements are discussed in detail in the [Guidelines](#), available for download under the Resources section of the CIAG Apply page on our website. The Guidelines should be used to assist you in determining whether your organization currently meets requirements for CIAG funding. These Application Instructions, together with the Guidelines, are intended to support your completion of a competitive CIAG application. They provide helpful tips, links and reference the review criteria used to evaluate your responses to the application questions. They also contain detailed technical and content-related instructions, including images from the online form. A [sample application](#) is also available to show each field of the application.

[SURVEYMONKEY APPLY](#)

Arts and Culture uses the [SurveyMonkey Apply](#) online grants management system for all applications, forms, and grant reports. New applicants must register a user account, linking it with an organization in order to access the CIAG application.

[VIRTUAL WEBINAR + WORKSHOPS](#)

We strongly encourage all applicants to attend a CIAG Application Webinar or access the recording of the presentation on your own. The Application Webinar will provide an overview of the application, guidelines, eligibility requirements, and tips for a strong proposal. Visit the Department of Arts and Culture website for the full [Workshop Schedule](#) and to reserve a spot.

REQUIRED MATERIALS CHECKLIST

Below is a list of supplemental materials that must be submitted in the online portal for your application to be considered complete.

- ☐ ONE or TWO artistic samples submitted via file upload or hyperlinks. Highly recommend submitting two recent samples and providing a detailed description of the sample's context.
- ☐ Federal Form 990, 990-EZ or 990-N for a tax year ending on or after December 31, 2023.
- ☐ Verifiable proof of "active" or "good standing" status with the California Secretary of State

Verifiable proof of "active" or "good standing" status with the California Secretary of State

For organizations and fiscal sponsors with operating budgets of \$2,000,000 or more:

- ☐ Financial audit for the most recently completed fiscal year ending on or after December 31, 2023.

For fiscally sponsored organizations:

- ☐ Revenue and Expense or Profit and Loss statement for the annual operating budget of the fiscally sponsored organization (NOT the fiscal sponsor) for the most recently completed fiscal year.

For municipalities and tribal governments:

- ☐ Adopted annual department budget for the most recently completed fiscal year.

STRONGLY ENCOURAGED for organizations that request support for an arts education-related project:

- ☐ Project/Program curriculum sample (e.g. curriculum overviews, lesson plans, teacher guides and/or student study guides).

Optional supplemental items:

- ☐ Maximum TWO letters of recommendation (on letterhead) OR reviews written within the past 12 months that speak to the value of your arts programming are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED.

☐ Promotional material i.e. season brochure, flyer, postcard, review, etc. (upload or hyperlink).

ACCESSING THE ONLINE GRANT APPLICATION

The CIAG Application can only be accessed online at [SurveyMonkey Apply](#). All organizations seeking CIAG support must submit an online CIAG Application and all required supplemental materials in the online grant portal.

REMINDERS:

- The Department of Arts and Culture strongly recommends submitting the application **at least 5 days prior** to the deadline to allow ample time to troubleshoot and resolve any technical or system errors.
- Note: in *SurveyMonkey Apply* the term for a form or section of an application is “task.”

LOGGING IN – NEW APPLICANTS REGISTRATION STEPS:

1. [Register](#) for a **new** user account. After registering, log in to [SurveyMonkey Apply](#)

TIP: Only one email/user profile may be used per individual account. Make sure to record the username and password for future use (i.e. – grant reporting, if awarded).

2. Complete the Name, Email and Password fields, then click Create Account.

First name

Last name


Email

Password

Confirm password

By registering for an account, you agree to our [terms of service](#) and [privacy policy](#).

☐ I'm not a robot


reCAPTCHA
[Privacy](#) - [Terms](#)

CREATE ACCOUNT

3. You will receive an email from noreply@mail.smapply.net asking you to verify your email address. If you need another verification email, you can request another by clicking “Send verification link” on the applicant portal.

⚠ Your email address has not been verified!

You will not be able to submit applications or complete certain tasks until you have verified your email address

Send verification link

4. When you log in, you will see a prompt stating “View Programs”. Clicking here will take you to a page where you will be prompted to “Fill out Eligibility Profile”. You will not be able to see any of our program applications until you fill out this eligibility profile.

USER SETUP/ELIGIBILITY PROFILE – NEW APPLICANTS ONLY

1. The first task once you have created your account as an individual, is to complete the user setup.

NOTE: While your account is an individual account, you must apply as an “Organization” in the User Set Up in order to view and apply to CIAG. Please select “Organization” and select which type of organization you are from the list. **NOTE:** You must be one of the following to meet CIAG eligibility requirements:

- 501c3 Nonprofit Organization
- Model A Fiscally Sponsored Organization
- Municipality or Tribal Government

2. Enter your FEIN number. Once submitted, you will be directed to a page with your organization FEIN, name, city, state, and country. Verify that the information is correct.

3. New applicants will not have data filled in the County Vendor fields. Should you receive the award, you will be required to create an account with [LA County Vendor Services](#). That information will be used to populate these fields at a later date.

4. To save and submit your information at a different time, click “Save my profile”. This will save your progress, and if there are any errors or information missing, you will see an error message with instructions. You may leave the task by clicking “Back”, and you may edit or update information by clicking “Fill out eligibility profile” at the top of this task.

5. After completing the eligibility profile, click “Save my profile” and you will be directed to the “Programs” list.

NOTE: Information entered into your USER SETUP/ELIGIBILITY PROFILE is auto-populated into fields of the CIAG application. To edit the information in your application, you will need to update your USER SETUP/ELIGIBILITY PROFILE.

LOGGING IN – RETURNING APPLICANTS

1. Enter the username and password

NOTE: Passwords can be reset by entering your email address, clicking *Next*, and then the *Forgot your password?* button. Contact grants staff if you have trouble or need to update the account and associate it with someone else.

EDITING USER SETUP/ELIGIBILITY PROFILE – RETURNING APPLICANTS



Information entered into **USER SETUP** is auto-populated into fields of the CIAG application. To edit the auto-populated information in your application, you will need to update your USER SETUP/ELIGIBILITY PROFILE.

TIP: Update the information in your **USER SETUP** in the **ELIGIBILITY PROFILE** *before* beginning your CIAG application.

EDITING STEPS:

1. Find your name in the bar at the top right of your dashboard. Click on your name and from the drop down click “my account” to be taken to “account settings.”
2. Click “Eligibility” and then “Fill out eligibility profile” to update the profile.
3. Review all fields and make any updates to your user setup. Make sure you select “Save my profile” to save all changes.

ACCESSING THE APPLICATION – ALL USERS (NEW and RETURNING APPLICANTS)

1. To open a new application, select “Programs” in the upper toolbar.
2. Click the  button to the right of Community Impact Arts Grant; click  to begin the application. This will take you to the application’s list of tasks. You may complete the tasks in any order, **but we recommend completing the task in the order they appear. Some of the application autofills when you have completed earlier sections of the application.**

- Once an application has been started, it will appear under the **“My Applications”** tab. To open an application, click the Continue button. You will now be able to view and edit the application tasks:

The screenshot shows a web application interface. At the top, there's a header with the text '2026-27 Community Impact Arts...' and a 'Preview' button. Below this is a large text field containing 'CIAG26-27-0000000007'. Underneath the text field are two tabs: 'APPLICATION' (which is selected and underlined) and 'ACTIVITY'. Below the tabs is a section titled 'Your tasks' with an 'Instructions' link. A list of tasks follows, each with a circular icon, a task name, and a right-pointing arrow. The tasks are: '501c3 Verification', 'CIAG Eligibility', 'CIAG Main Page', 'CIAG Project Request & Organizational Budget Size', 'CIAG Narrative Part 1 - Organizational Information', 'CIAG Project Budget', and 'CIAG Narrative Part 2 - Proposed Arts and Culture Project'.

GUIDE TO TASKS, BUTTONS & PROMPTS

- To start a task, click the task name.
 - You may toggle between tasks using the list on the left of your screen. PLEASE NOTE: *Changes will not be saved, unless the **SAVE & CONTINUE EDITING** button has been clicked.*
 - To submit a task, click the **MARK AS COMPLETE** button.
 - To save your progress on a task, click the **SAVE & CONTINUE EDITING** button. This will save your progress. Note: This button will redirect you back to the same form and show errors where information is invalid or incomplete. To leave a form incomplete, you must click **Back to application** which will take you back to the application task list page. The status on that task will show as incomplete.
 - To view a task that has been submitted, click the task name.
 - To edit a form that has been submitted, click the task name, then click **...** in the top right corner. Select Edit from the dropdown list.
 - To download a task, click the task name, then click **...** in the top right corner. Select Download from the dropdown list.
 - To download the entire application, go to the application task list. Click **...** in the top right corner. Select Download from the dropdown list.
 - To withdraw a submitted application, go to the application task list. Below the progress bar, click **Withdraw Application**. Submitted applications cannot be edited. Un-submitting will allow you to make edits, however this is only possible prior to the application deadline.
 - To submit a document when prompted click **Upload a file**, select your file and upload it.
- NOTE: The item is uploaded when you hit “SAVE & CONTINUE EDITING”.**
If you would like to submit or change your file or item, click into the task, click the three dots to the right of your original file. Select Delete from the dropdown list. Once the file has been deleted, repeat the steps to submit a new file or

document.

1. CIAG ELIGIBILITY

- Please select the type of organization you are, hit next, and then answer the questions to determine if you meet the eligibility requirements to successfully complete an application.

IMPORTANT: *You must complete this form to access the full application. Once you “Mark as Complete,” other information in the application will be auto-filled.*

2. CIAG MAIN PAGE

- In this task, please fill out the appropriate information. You will notice that some fields have been prepopulated based on your **User Setup** details.
- Please make sure phone numbers are typed in 10-digits with dashes and no parentheses. If there are extensions, put a dash in front of the extension as the prompt requests.

NOTE: For fiscally sponsored groups, *your Model A fiscal sponsor is the main applicant*. However, all contact information should correspond to the fiscally sponsored project managers who will oversee the project proposed in this application.

3. CIAG PROJECT REQUEST & ORGANIZATIONAL BUDGET SIZE

1. Organizational Budget Size.

- a. Type in your budget size.
 - i. This number must be the same or close to the organization’s budget size in the **most recently submitted Federal Form 990 (total revenue, line 12)** for a tax year ending on or after **December 31, 2023**.
 - ii. Organizations with budgets over \$2M should reference the **most recently completed audit** for a tax year ending on or after **December 31, 2023**.
 - iii. See [CIAG Guidelines](#) for more information.
- b. For fiscally sponsored organizations, provide the organizational budget of the fiscal sponsor, as you will be attaching their 990 and audit (if applicable.) Provide the annual operating budget of the fiscally sponsored organization in the space provided.
 - i. Annual operating budget should match the Revenue and Expense or Profit and Loss statement that you will be uploading in the supplemental materials task.

2. Arts Programming Budget Size.

- a. Provide the dollar amount of the arts programming budget for the most recently complete fiscal year. For fiscally sponsored groups, provide the arts programming budget of the fiscally sponsored organization.

3. Arts and Culture Programming Experience.

- a. Years of arts and culture programming experience.

4. Total Grant Amount Requested.

- a. Enter the request amount as it pertains to your grant project.
 - i. Total grant amount request can range from \$5,000 - \$20,000.

5. Primary Discipline.

- a. Check all that apply.

6. Arts and Culture Project/Program Reach.

- a. Check all that apply.

7. Brief Project Description.

- a. Give a brief project description. Complete the sentence, “The applicant requests funding from the

Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture to support...” ensuring that the description **clearly** and **concisely** summarizes the specific purpose of the project. *Character limit 250.*

i. Examples of this statement are:

1. ... to support music workshops for immigrant communities in South LA.
2. ... to support teaching artist fees and rental costs for an afterschool program.
3. ... to support arts programs for the veteran community.

IMPORTANT: You must complete this form to access the full application. Once you “Mark as Complete,” other information in the application will be auto-filled.

4. CIAG NARRATIVE PART 1 - ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

- In this task, you will be asked to describe your organization’s mission or fiscally sponsored project, as applicable. This includes your overall history and core programming, arts history and programming, community/core audience and approach to cultural equity and inclusion.

A. MISSION/PURPOSE OF APPLICANT: [CRITERIA 2, 5] *Character limit 500.*

B. ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY/CORE PROGRAMMING: [CRITERIA 2, 5] *Character limit 2000.*

C. How many arts-related classes/workshops/events did your organization produce in the last two years? Reference the [CIAG Guidelines](#) for full definition.


D. ARTS HISTORY/PROGRAMMING: [CRITERIA 1, 5] *Character limit 1500.*

E. COMMUNITY/CORE CONSTITUENCY: [CRITERION 5] *Character limit 1500.*

F. CULTURAL EQUITY AND INCLUSION: [CRITERION 5] *Character limit 2000.*

5. PROJECT BUDGET

Grant Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

- In this task, there are two sections, CIAG Project Budget Expense Detail and CIAG Project Budget Income Detail. If no number is appearing in “CIAG Request” box, go back to the PROJECT REQUEST & ORGANIZATIONAL BUDGET SIZE task and make sure it is marked as complete. Once your request amount is appearing in the PROJECT BUDGET task, click .

FORMATTING: Do not use dollar signs (\$), decimals (.) or commas (,) in the budget tables.

CIAG Project Budget Expense Detail

	CIAG Fund Request	CIAG Required Match
Request/Match Amount		

How do you plan to use CIAG grant funds? Check all that apply.

Payroll costs for employees	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fringe benefits for employees	<input type="checkbox"/>
Artist fees - non salary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fees paid to partner organization	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consulting fees	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advertising, marketing, PR	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rent and facility fees	<input type="checkbox"/>
Insurance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Honoraria	<input type="checkbox"/>
Printing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Production and exhibition costs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Project materials	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Budget Expense Explanations - REQUIRED

Use this space to explain the budget expenses.

Amounts listed in the table at the top of the page are automatically populated using the grant request amount entered in the Project Request task. This table lists the minimum CIAG required match amount.

CIAG Project Budget Expense Detail

The total CIAG required match expenses must be equal (1:1) or more than the CIAG fund request.

NOTE: CIAG funds cannot be used for expenses related to catering, hospitality, lodging, meals or long-distance travel outside of LA County.

Use the **Budget Expense Explanations** section to explain/clarify/detail the type, frequency and breakdown of relevant expenses, as applicable. This includes details regarding multiple program/non-artistic salary positions.

TIP: Panelists rely heavily on the budget notes to understand how applicant organizations implement a project. The absence of any notes is often negatively noted in panel reviews. Use the budget notes to fully explain how project funds will be used. Reference the item name in the explanation and if “Other” is selected, provide an explanation. Expenses can be explained in a narrative format.

Partner Expenses - Optional

If a partner is independently paying for a portion of the project, please describe. If not applicable, enter N/A.

CIAG Project Budget Income Detail

Provide a list of cash match sources specific to the project by entering both anticipated and confirmed sources of funding. The total match amount must at least equal (1:1) the CIAG request.

Use the **Budget Income Explanations** section to further explain the income budget as necessary. Provide a detailed list of “Other” income sources. If there are multiple sources of income in the Government (City, County, State, Federal), Foundation or Corporate categories, provide a detailed list naming the sources along with the amount of each contribution.

CIAG Project Budget Income Detail

Identify income sources of Matching Funds. Matching Funds total must be equal to or exceed the total amount of CIAG Fund Request.

LACDAC Grant Request Amount:

Government (Federal, State, City)	\$	<input type="text"/>
Foundation Contributions	\$	<input type="text"/>
Corporate Contributions	\$	<input type="text"/>
Trustee/Board Contributions	\$	<input type="text"/>
Other Individual Contributions	\$	<input type="text"/>
Earned Income	\$	<input type="text"/>
Other**	\$	<input type="text"/>

Total Project Match

The grand total will automatically calculate. If it meets the requirements, the table should look like this:

Verification of Budget

Do not edit this section. This field is auto-calculated to ensure that your budget meets CIAG minimum requirements. If this reads "False" your match amount is wrong or you have added formatting that prevents validation.

Meets or Exceeds Matching Fund Requirements:

6. CIAG NARRATIVE PART 2 - PROPOSED ARTS PROJECT

- In this task, you will be asked to describe the project in depth and in detail.

TIP: Responses should provide *Who, What, Where, Why, When* and *How* details. If your request is salary support for a current position, the project period will coincide with the grant period of **July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027**.

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW: [CRITERIA 1, 3] *Character limit 1500.*

B. PROJECT TIMELINES AND PARTICIPANTS: [CRITERIA 3, 5] *Character limit 750.*

C. PROJECT ACTIVITIES: [CRITERIA 1, 3] *Character limit 1500.*

D. If applicable, briefly describe the approach to developing curriculum and content for the arts program/project, particularly if serving youth. Consider providing 1-2 concrete examples.

[CRITERIA 1, 3] *Character limit 1500*

NOTE: We STRONGLY ENCOURAGE you to attach a sample lesson plan/curriculum/agenda in the Support Materials section if applying to support a workshop/class-based program.

E. PROJECT PARTNERS/ARTISTS/STAFF/VOLUNTEERS: [CRITERIA 1, 3, 5] *Character limit 1500.*

F. PROJECT FEES: [CRITERIA 3, 5]

G. PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: [CRITERIA 3, 4] *Character limit 1000.*

H. PROJECT EVALUATION: [CRITERION 4] *Character limit 750.*

I. PROJECT OUTREACH: [CRITERION 5] *Character limit 1000.*

TIP: Be sure to include benchmarks or concrete outcomes to help measure the expansion of a program (i.e. attendance/registration that collect zip codes, demographics, feedback on the quality of the programs, suggestions for future programming, frequency of visitation, etc.).

7. CIAG –PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

- In this task, you are provided the space to describe your arts partners, whether organizations or individual artists. You will have the option to include a primary and secondary partner.
- If this is not applicable to you, select NO to move onto the next section.
- Provide short biographies of key organization staff and/or artists. Begin with the organization's leadership (e.g. Executive Director, Programming Director), outlining details of their involvement with the project, if applicable.

TIP: For key project staff and/or artists, emphasize their experience in areas of direct relevance to the proposed project e.g. professional, educational or community-based experience in arts and culture. Include years of experience. All volunteer organizations should provide the biographies of volunteers who are accomplishing work on the proposed project. An attachment may be uploaded listing additional staff to support/carry out the proposed project and highlight organizational capacity.

8. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- In this task, provide a list of the applicant organization's board of directors beginning with board officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) listed in the first four rows. You may upload an additional attachment to accommodate more board members.

TIP: Complete ALL columns for each board member. Leaving sections blank reflects negatively on the application and organizational management of the organization. If necessary, you may upload an additional attachment to accommodate additional board members.

- Please describe the ways your board members provide leadership and support to the organization in ways other than monetarily.

9. ARTISTIC DOCUMENTATION & FINANCIAL SUPPORT MATERIALS

- In this task, you will upload required and optional materials as required for your organizational type, e.g. 501c3 nonprofit, fiscally sponsored organization, municipality, or tribal government.

NOTE: CIAG applicants are required to submit artistic documentation and support materials. Failure to provide required documentation will result in an incomplete and/or disqualified application. Allow ample time to upload all required materials.

REMINDER: All uploaded materials must remain active and viewable through July 2026. If applicable, include the passwords for artistic documentation in the Artistic Description text section for the

corresponding sample.

For specific information about required artistic documentation and supplemental materials, please review the [CIAG Guidelines](#).

NAMING CONVENTIONS

REQUIRED UPLOADED FILES should be named accordingly:	Organization Name-Video Organization Name-PPT Organization Name-990 OR Revenue & Expense Statement Organization Name-Letter of Recommendation Organization Name-Review Organization Name-Financial Audit (\$2M budget or more)
---	--

TIP: Please be sure the organization's name is clearly visible on documents included as artistic documentation/supplemental material both in the file name and in the header or footer.

UPLOADING ARTISTIC DOCUMENTATION

Artistic and/or service documentation samples can be uploaded as an attachment or hyperlink. A minimum of one and maximum of two artistic and/or service samples must be uploaded. Two samples are recommended as visual documentation is crucial for evaluating the overall quality of the application and proposed project.

In the text box below each submission, briefly describe the artistic sample and explain the relationship of the artistic sample to the application. Descriptions of the materials should include type of file, title of piece, artist(s) name(s), date the work was completed and running time (for audio and video).

NOTE: Panelists generally spend no more than three to five minutes viewing the sample(s) for each application. Applicants applying for video/media arts-based projects are required to submit at least one video sample.

STANDARDS FOR ARTISTIC DOCUMENTATION

FILE TYPES - The system accepts the following file extensions:	jpg, jpeg, gif, bmp, png, tif, mov, mp4, wmv, doc, docx, txt, xls, xlsx, pps, ppt, pptx, pdf, aac, mp3, wav, wma. NOTE: Each item should be less than 256MB.
VIDEO SAMPLES	No longer than 5 minutes long May provide YouTube or Vimeo links
IMAGE SAMPLES - Only submitted as a slideshow in a PowerPoint (PPT) or PDF file.	No more than 10 images in a sample No more than one image per slide Include a title, artist(s) name and date in the description

STRONGLY ENCOURAGED/OPTIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

- Project/Program Curriculum Sample (e.g. curriculum overviews, lesson plans, teacher guides and/or student study guides.)
- No more than two (2) letters of recommendation or reviews written in the last 12 months that speak to your arts programming.
- No more than one (1) piece of promotional material may be submitted.

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTATION

NOTE: if you are not seeing a place to upload your financial documentation, go back to the ELIGIBILITY task as well as the CIAG PROJECT REQUEST & BUDGET SIZE tasks and make sure they are marked as complete.

11. LEVINE ACT COMPLIANCE (CIAG)

- In this task, you will be required to complete a Contribution and Agent Declaration Form to comply with state law SB1439, also known as the Levine Act. Additional information and resources can be found at [Levine Act \(SB1439\) Compliance for Applicants to Grant Programs | LA County Department of Arts and Culture](#).

12. FINALIZING AND SUBMITTING

- In this task, finalize and certify your application, then check the “I Certify” box to certify.

IMPORTANT:

Once You Have Completed all Tasks in the application and they are all marked with a full green circle, **you must click “Submit” on the left of your screen**. You will receive a confirmation email from SMapply. **YOUR APPLICATION IS NOT SUBMITTED UNTIL THIS IS COMPLETE AND YOU HAVE RECEIVED AN EMAIL CONFIRMATION.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: ciag@arts.lacounty.gov
Phone: (213) 202-5858
Website: <https://www.lacountyarts.org/funding>
Grant Portal: <https://apply-lacdac.smapply.io/>

NOTE: If there is a change in organizational leadership or changes to the proposed project after the application deadline, submit a one-page update on organizational letterhead signed by an authorized individual and submit via e-mail for panel review.