



Santa Monica Individual Artist Grants Fellowship & Project Guidelines

2027 PROGRAM TIMELINE

- **Application Opens:** Tuesday, September 1, 2026
- **Application Workshop & Staff Appointments:** September 2026
- **Application Deadline:** Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at 11:59 PM (Pacific Time)
- **Staff & Panel Review:** October 2026
- **Award Notifications:** November 2026
- **Award Contracting:** December 2026
- **Grant Period:** January – December 2027

BACKGROUND & 2027 PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Santa Monica Individual Artist Grants program fosters the creation of new work, recognizes artistic excellence, and celebrates our community's commitment to creativity and innovation. Since its launch 16 years ago, the program has supported nearly 80 individual artists across disciplines, including visual art, writing, choreography, performance, and music.

The program operates in two parts:

- **Artist Fellowships**, competitive awards that honor and support mid-career Santa Monica artists (typically two to four each year, by nomination only).
- **Artist Project Grants**, which provide Santa Monica-based artists—including emerging artists—with funding to strengthen their practice. Project Grant funds may be used for essential expenses such as materials, marketing, professional documentation, studio or rehearsal space, and costs related to shipping, framing, or installing work.

Together, these opportunities ensure that local artists receive the recognition, resources, and support they need to thrive—while strengthening Santa Monica's arts and culture ecosystem and enriching the creative life of residents and visitors alike.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Individual Artist Fellowship (Artist Fellows)

- Must reside in, or maintain a studio in, Santa Monica for at least five consecutive years.
- Must have been nominated to apply in this or a previous cycle. Artists are nominated by invited arts professionals from inside and outside Santa Monica, representing a variety of disciplines. The City will notify nominated artists of their eligibility to apply.

- Artists may receive only one Fellowship during their career.

Individual Artist Project Grant

- Must reside in, or maintain a studio in, Santa Monica for at least one year.
- No nomination required.
- Previous Project Grant recipients may apply again, though priority is given to new applicants.

Additional Notes

- Applicants who have been nominated for a Fellowship may apply for both Fellowship and Project Grant funding in the same cycle, but may receive only one award per cycle.

Not Eligible for Funding

- Artists who do not reside in, or maintain a studio in, the City of Santa Monica.
- Nonprofits, organizations, or other institutional entities.
- Artist Fellowship applicants who have previously received a Fellowship.
- City of Santa Monica employees, commissioners, contractors, elected officials, and their immediate family members.

AWARD DETAILS

Individual Artist Fellowship (Artist Fellows)

Contracted from approximately January–December 2027, **Artist Fellows** receive a **\$10,000+** unrestricted stipend to support their artistic practice. Fellows may use the award at their discretion and will complete a public service project during the grant year—such as a workshop, talk, performance, exhibition, or other activity—determined in consultation with City staff.

Individual Artist Project Grant

Contracted from approximately January–December 2027, **Project Grant** recipients receive **\$1,000–\$5,000** to support a specific project that advances their artistic practice. Funds may be used for project expenses such as materials, marketing, professional documentation, studio or rehearsal space, and costs related to shipping, framing, or installing work.

HOW TO APPLY

- Applications must be submitted online via [Survey Monkey Apply](#) by **September 29, 2026, at 11:59 PM (Pacific Time)**.
- Survey Monkey Apply FAQ's can be found [here](#).
- A sample application can be found here. It is highly recommended you draft your application in a separate document and then copy and paste into the online form.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit the application at least three days before the deadline. Staff can only assist in troubleshooting if an issue is brought to our attention early in the application process.

- Contact artsgrants@santamonica.gov if you have questions about the application or encounter submission issues. Staff will not be available to assist after 4:00pm on the application deadline.

APPLICATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES

- **Application Workshop: Monday September 14, 11am PT** Cultural Affairs staff will host an online session to provide information and answer questions about the application, guidelines, and process.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/27363757853590?p=KrWcQTajU52UYlfedt>

Meeting ID: 273 637 578 535 90

Passcode: j83Kb7kZ

- **Office Hours:** [Book a 20-minute one-on-one online appointment](#) with Cultural Affairs staff to discuss application, guidelines and process.

REVIEW PROCESS & CRITERIA

Grant applications will be:

1. Reviewed for eligibility and completeness by staff
2. Reviewed and scored by an expert panel of arts professionals using the following **Review Criteria:**

Artistic Excellence & Creative Vision – 70 points

- Quality and originality of the artist's work
- Strength, clarity, and distinctiveness of artistic vision
- Evidence of creativity, technical skill, and artistic experience in work samples

Impact, Community Connection & Feasibility – 30 points

- Potential of the Fellowship or grant to advance the artist's practice
- Contribution to Santa Monica's arts and culture ecosystem
- Relevance and benefit to the community (including underserved audiences)
- *For Artist Project Microgrants only:* Feasibility of completing the proposed activities within the grant period

GRANTEE PAYMENT & REPORTING PROCESS & REQUIREMENTS

Upon Award Notification, **Artist Fellows** and **Artist Project Grants** recipients must complete the City's contracting process, which Cultural Affairs staff will guide you through. This includes:

- Submitting required City forms, including a W-9

- Submitting an invoice for 50% of the grant award (instructions and required details will be provided with your award notification)
- Submitting the remaining 50% invoice along with the required final report at the close of the grant period.