

Community Catalyst

Silicon Valley Creates

Application Instructions

Before you get started, please review complete Guidelines and Application Instructions to determine your eligibility for this grant program: [link to Guidelines](#)

We also recommend that you review the entire application before getting started. You may download the application questions by clicking on the "Question List" button at the top of the page.

In your narrative responses, be concise. You may use bullet points.

Character limits are a guide, your answers may be much shorter.

This platform has a collaboration feature. Click on the blue "Collaborate" button to invite others in your organization to view, edit, or submit your application.

You may continue to edit your application until you've clicked "submit." Once you've submitted your application, you will not be able to change it.

NOTE: The Community Catalyst Grant program is on a two-year cycle. 2026 grant recipients will be eligible for grant renewal in 2027, contingent on **SVCREATES'** available funding, grantee's successful delivery of their project/program in year one, and submission of required reports. This shift is intended to support your capacity to deepen relationships with the communities you serve, and learn through project challenges and successes year over year. So while your project scope may change in 2026, you are expected to serve the same community over both years of the grant program. Grant awards will be comparable in year one and year two.

Grant Term

Year 1: January 1, 2027 - December 31, 2027

Year 2: January 1, 2027 - December 31, 2028

Application Deadline: October 9, 2026.

This is a **HARD DEADLINE**. No late applications will be accepted.

If you have questions, please reach out to **SVCREATES** Director of Programs, Sinjin Jones.

Sinjin@svcreates.org

Eligibility Check*

1. Mission Alignment:

Primary mission or primary project focus must be on arts and culture engagement within or led by individuals from under-resourced populations in Santa Clara County

2. Fiscal Status:

- Eligible applicants must operate as:
- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or Fiscally Sponsored project.
- Unincorporated community group with a clear, established history of local arts programming (requires a bank account in the group's name or a dedicated fiscal sponsor).
- Individual artist/collective with a clear community partner (e.g., school, community center, church) willing to accept funds on their behalf.

NOTE:

Institutions of primary and secondary education are not eligible.

Local governments are not eligible.

Universities and colleges are limited to providing fiscal sponsorship for one arts program only.

Grants may not support operating costs for the university or college, but must be applied to program and overhead costs of the applying entity.

Grants may not be applied toward support for political or religious purposes, fundraisers for other organizations or causes, capital improvements, lobbying, or projects already completed.

Location

Project activities must take place in and primarily serve communities within Santa Clara County.

Note on "Under-Resourced Populations": We define this as communities that have historically and systematically faced disinvestment and are often excluded from mainstream cultural funding opportunities. We trust the applicant to define how their specific community meets this criterion.

Choices

I Certify That My Project/Organization meets ALL eligibility requirements.

Section 1: Basics

What is the name of your Project?*

Character Limit: 100

What is your requested grant amount?*

Grants amounts will be between \$5,000 and \$20,000.

Character Limit: 20

What is the mission of your organization?*

Character Limit: 1000

Section 2: Expertise and Capacity

What is your expertise and place within the community?*

Please ensure you answer the following questions as a part of your question:

- Who are you as an artist/organization?
- What is your experience as an artist/arts organization *in Santa Clara County*?
- What is your capacity to carry out this program (ie, what similar projects have you carried out? Or what projects of similar size/scope?)
- What is evidence of your organization's expertise to carry out this project?

Character Limit: 2000

Section 3: Community Focus

Which under-resourced population/geographic area you will engage?*

Please answer the following questions as a part of your response:

- What is the population/geographic area of this project and why are they being engaged?
- Who are the members of the team responsible for executing this project?
- Why are you the right person/team to be taking on this project?

Character Limit: 2000

Section 4: Project Design

What specific challenge or dream within the community does this project address?*

- What are the key project activities?
- Where does this project take place?
- What is the timeline of key activities?
- Who are the key community collaborators of this project?
- How is this project accessible to all?

Character Limit: 2000

Section 5: Budget

Please provide a high-level budget breakdown, showing major expense categories.*

Type/paste in the box below or upload your own.

(e.g., Artist Fees, Materials, Space Rental, Outreach)

Character Limit: 2000 | File Size Limit: 5 MB

Section 6: Supporting Materials

Letter from the Community*

Please provide a single letter or email from a non-applicant community leader or key partner confirming the project's value and readiness to engage.

File Size Limit: 10 MB

Portfolio*

Please provide one link to a website or cloud folder (max 5 items) that best demonstrates the prior work, the work of the lead artist(s), and the artistic merit needed to complete this project.

Please ensure that this link is public and remains available through December.

Character Limit: 2000