

IAF Fast Facts and FAQs

- **Who does the IAF serve?**

The Individual Artists Fellowship (IAF) program uplifts and celebrates California artists across all disciplines and traditions, highlights their excellence and acknowledges their leadership in shaping traditional and contemporary cultures.

The grant has three categories:

- Emerging Fellows \$5,000
 - Early in public practice
 - A few showings or engagements
 - No ongoing support yet
- Established Fellows \$10,000
 - Regular public engagement
 - Multiple examples of impact
 - Developed artistic voice
- Legacy Fellows \$50,000
 - Longstanding body of work
 - Significant community impact
 - History of mentorship/influence

- **Eligibility Requirements**

The fellowship is available to Individual artists (not organizations or groups) who are at least 18 years old, a current resident of San Diego or Imperial County, and a California resident for two consecutive years.

Required Documentation to prove eligibility

- Proof of Region 8 residency (current)
- Proof of CA residency (2 years)
- Age verification

Applicants will also need to provide the following:

- Annotated sample list
- Work samples (5–10)
- Resume/CV

- **What the Fellowship Offers**

- Selected participants receive:
 - Unrestricted funding
 - Professional development
 - Networking & peer community
 - Storytelling & public programming
 - Artist-centered support across 21 months

- **What is required for the proof of residency?**

To qualify for the fellowship administered by the City of San Diego, applicants must show two years of California residency and current residency in San Diego or Imperial County.

- Accepted documents include:
 - Current utility or similar bills in your name (water, electricity, gas)
 - Signed copy of a current lease/rental agreement
 - Scanned copy of a state-issued ID showing your current address
 - Current telephone account bill for a physical landline

- **How many awards will be granted?**

The number of awards granted will be based on applications submitted. We have not pre-determined how the funds will be allocated; some of those decisions will be based on how many applications are submitted in each category.

- **The application asks the applicant to select a category of art, can you select more than one?**

- You may select all artistic categories that genuinely reflect your multidisciplinary or mixed-media practice, but you must provide strong work samples that support each choice.
- Focus on showcasing your strongest, most representative work—selecting more categories won't improve your chances if you can't substantiate them.

- **For the Legacy tier is there a timeframe for how long you have been an artist?**

- No minimum number of years as an artist is required. If you select this tier, your application should highlight the depth of your work, what you've created, and how it connects to or impacts your community.

- **What is the best way to submit work samples?**

- There is space for 5-10 work sample uploads, there are several different formats that you can upload.
 - 5–10 images/docs/videos

- Videos: max 3 minutes
 - Images .jpg/.png (3MB max)
 - PDFs max 3 pages
 - No external links
- A short text box is available to annotate each of the uploaded samples
- Ensure what is uploaded represents the selected art category(ies)
- Ensure your responses clearly convey who you are as an artist and directly address each question. The panel will only review the materials you submit, so make sure every component of your application supports your answers and represents your work effectively.
- **Tips for a Strong Application**
 - Start early
 - Be clear about your artistic practice
 - Show how your work connects with Region 8 communities
 - Answer questions directly and thoughtfully
 - Be specific
 - Choose the right tier
 - Select work samples that showcase who you are as an artist
 - Use your authentic voice
 - Be honest