



# Creating a Strong Individual Artists Fellowship Application

Monday, May 11, 2026 @ 12:00 PM



**KDA** **IAF**  
Individual **IAF**  
ARTISTS FELLOWSHIP



**WELCOME  
+ AGENDA**

SERVING ARTISTS RESIDING IN THE  
**CENTRAL VALLEY**  
AND **EASTERN SIERRA** REGION

- **Welcome**
  - **Andrea Hansen**
  - **David Milazzo**
- **Pep Talk**
- **Get Organized**
- **Access the Application**
- **Write a Compelling Narrative**
- **Supportive Materials**
- **Details, Details, Details**
- **Review**
- **Timeline**
- **Q&A + Next Steps**

KDA

Individual

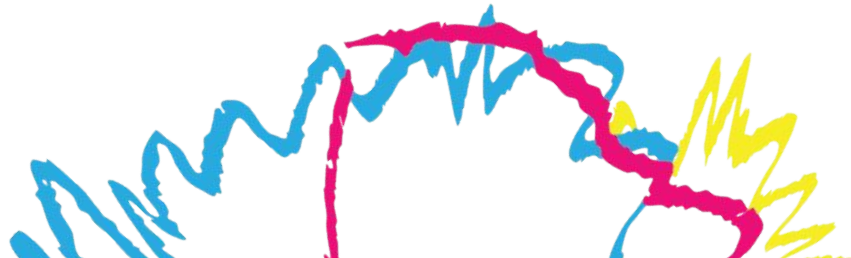
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# PEP TALK



# PEP TALK

- **First time vs. 100th time writing a grant proposal?** It's always nerve wracking - you can handle it!
- **Feeling a bit of imposter syndrome?** It is ok, sometimes we all feel that way! You've done the work - you are deserving!
- **Grant writing is hard!** And it's worth every step of the creative process. Write from your heart - you know you practice best.
- **Don't be hasty!** Take your time and prepare with intention. Once you submit, you won't be able to revise. Applications won't be reviewed until after the deadline on June 12.



KDA

Individual

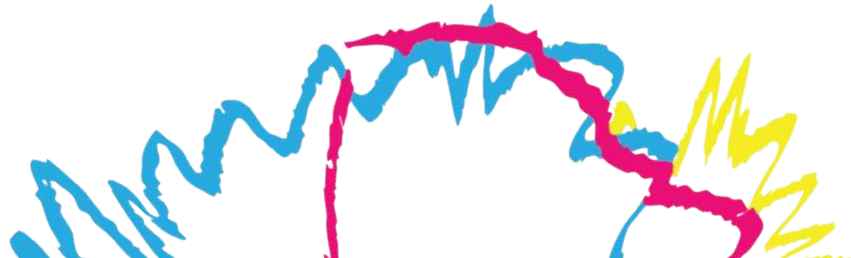
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GET ORGANIZED



# GET ORGANIZED

**Develop a process mindset where you go through the steps to get to the finish line - prepare your tools and get them in order for submission by June 12.**

Step 1 - Read the guidelines and the application questions

Step 2 - Check the eligibility boxes

Step 3 - Ideate

Step 4 - Prepare your word processing software with application questions

Step 5 - Strategize your timeline

Step 6 - Become a project manager





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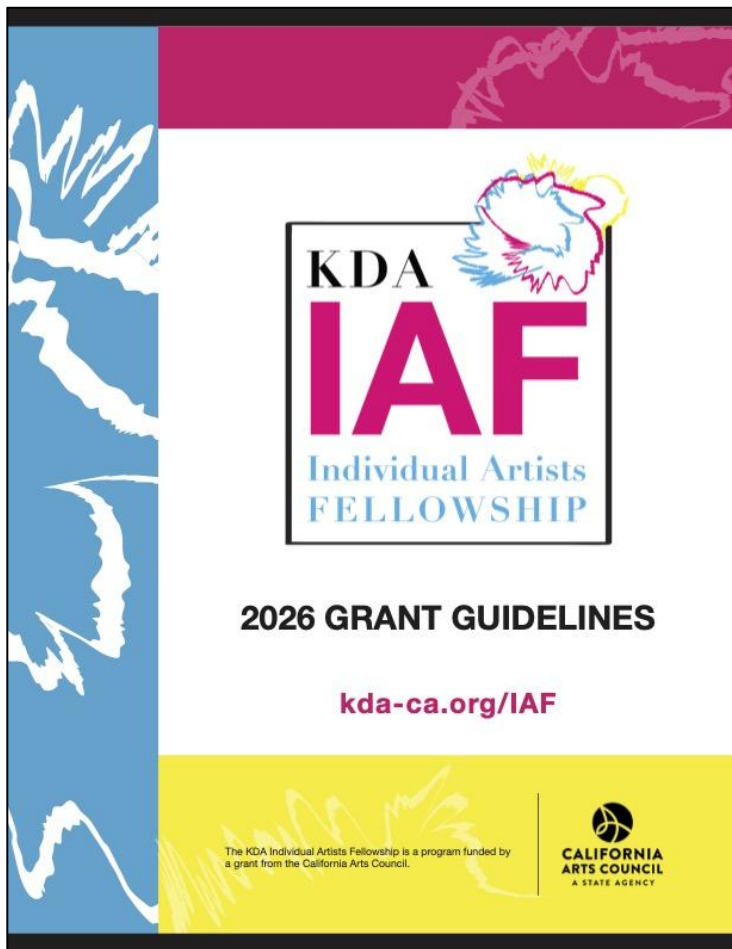


**INTEREST FORM**

SERVING **ARTISTS** RESIDING IN THE  
**CENTRAL VALLEY**  
AND **EASTERN SIERRA** REGION

**NOTE - AS OF MAY 1, THE FULL KDAIAF APPLICATION HAS OPENED. THIS FORM IS NOT MANDATORY TO SUBMIT UNLESS YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN RECEIVING UP TO DATE COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING THIS PROGRAM.**





## KDAIAF Grant Guidelines



**KDA** IAF  
Individual  
ARTISTS FELLOWSHIP

**KDA Individual Artists  
Fellowship Tiers:**

**EMERGING ARTIST FELLOWSHIP**  
**\$5,000**

**ESTABLISHED ARTIST  
FELLOWSHIP**  
**\$10,000**

**LEGACY ARTIST FELLOWSHIP**  
**\$50,000**

[kda-ca.org/IAF](http://kda-ca.org/IAF)



**EMERGING  
ARTISTS  
FELLOWSHIP**

**\$5,000**

**ESTABLISHED  
ARTISTS  
FELLOWSHIP**

**\$10,000**

**LEGACY  
ARTISTS  
FELLOWSHIP**

**\$50,000**



**EMERGING  
ARTISTS  
FELLOWSHIP**

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**\$5,000**

For artists in the earlier stages of their practice who are beginning to present work publicly and establish a presence in their field.

[kda-ca.org/IAF](http://kda-ca.org/IAF)



**LEGACY  
ARTISTS  
FELLOWSHIP**

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**\$50,000**

For artists with a significant body of work that has contributed deeply to their communities over time; Legacy Fellows often serve as mentors or leaders within their artistic networks.

[kda-ca.org/IAF](http://kda-ca.org/IAF)



**ESTABLISHED  
ARTISTS  
FELLOWSHIP**

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**\$10,000**

For artists with a sustained practice who regularly make their work public and have demonstrated meaningful impact through their artistic output

[kda-ca.org/IAF](http://kda-ca.org/IAF)



# GET ORGANIZED

## KDA Individual Artists Fellowship Program Criteria

- Fellows Tier Selection
- Proposal Summary
- Creative Vision
- Aesthetic Excellence
- Community Engagement & Social Impact
- Measuring Success
- Supporting Materials: Proof of Residency, Resume, Letter of Recommendation, 3 Work Samples



KDA

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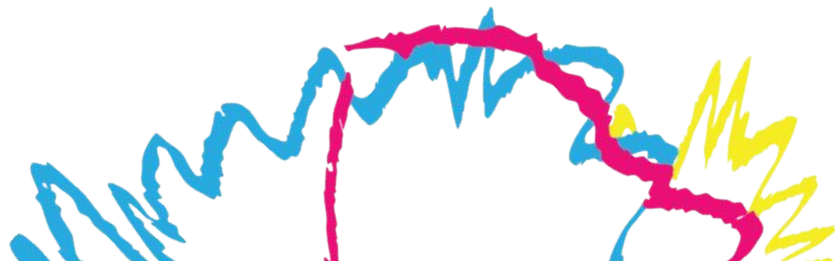
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**ACCESS THE APPLICATION**



# KDAIAF Grant Portal

**kda-ca.org/IAF**

1. Eligibility Pre-Application Form
2. Full Application Form

**KDA IAF**  
Individual Artists Fellowship  
ARTISTS FELLOWSHIP

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**Welcome to the KDA Individual Artists Fellowship (KDAIAF) Grants Management System (GMS) hosted by Submittable - we are so happy you are here!**

- Submittable works best on Google Chrome, Firefox, and Safari. Internet Explorer is not supported. Please make sure you are using a supported browser.
- You will need to create a free Submittable account or sign in with Google or Facebook credentials to submit to this application.
- It is recommended that the email you use to sign up with Submittable is your preferred email that you check regularly. You will use your email to access your Submittable account regularly.
- We will follow-up with you about your submission by email. Please be sure to add hello@kda-ca.org to your email safe list to ensure we don't land in your spam.

**Need help with Submittable?** [Reach out to Submittable Technical Support!](#)

**KDA Individual Artists Fellowship Program** Guidelines ▾

Ends on Fri, Jun 12, 2026 11:59 PM

KDA    

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Individual

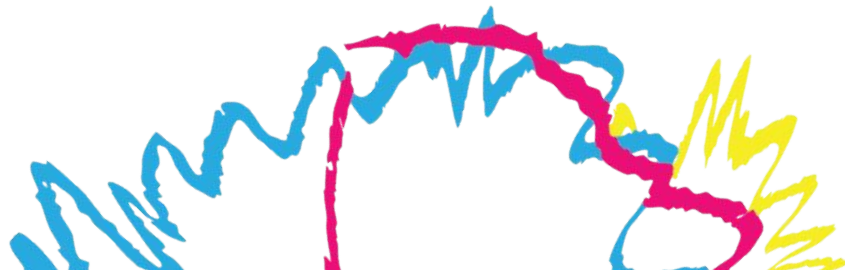
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# WRITE A COMPELLING NARRATIVE



# WRITE A COMPELLING NARRATIVE

**Be Persuasive. Amplify Yourself. Advocate for YOU!**

The first few sentences of your proposal should connect with your reviewer immediately.

**They've got a stack of proposals - make your application stand out!**

- **CONNECT** - You are writing to move your reviewer. Pull at their heartstrings and tell them your story so they can emotionally connect with YOU.
- **AMPLIFY** - You want your application to be memorable. Highlight your accomplishments and explain WHAT you are doing and WHY.
- **CLARIFY** - Be clear on WHY your work matters. Infusing the WHY in your application will make a huge difference in how the reviewer adjudicates.
- **CREDIBILITY** - Explain why YOU are the expert in your field and why YOU deserve to be a fellow. You know your needs and your work best!
- **INSPIRE** - Create a sense of urgency as to how you will make the most impact in your community as a fellow. How are you shaping the future through your work?

# WRITE A COMPELLING NARRATIVE

## Proposal Summary

1. Provide a brief summary of your proposal indicating how KDAIAF grant funds would be used. This description will be used to introduce your proposal to the review panel. If funded, this description may be used as the Scope of Work in your grant contract and will be binding. It may also be edited by KDAIAF and used to summarize your proposal in public documents.

Please begin your statement with *“With support from KDA, “INDIVIDUAL ARTIST” will. . . “* (175 word limit)

***With support from KDA, Sally Jones, an award-winning choreographer with over 30 years of evidence-based community impact will inspire literacy for children, k - 3rd grade, in her community where 1 in 4 third graders are not at reading level. As a resident and a working artist in Modesto, the KDA IAF funding will support the purchase of costumes for her upcoming fall 2026 literacy performances anticipated to collaborate with 10 partners and serve 350 children.***



# WRITE A COMPELLING NARRATIVE

## Creative Vision

1. “Tell us your story. . . ” (300 words)
2. “Why are you applying. . . ” (200 words)
3. “How will you use the funds. . . ” (200 words)



# WRITE A COMPELLING NARRATIVE

## Aesthetic Excellence

1. “Strong alignment with one or more components of the Attributes of Excellence in Arts for Change. . . ” (300 words)

*Refer to page 10 of the Attributes of Excellence in Arts for Change.*

*You may reference themes such as:*

- Commitment
- Communal meaning
- Disruption
- Cultural integrity
- Risk taking
- Sensory experience
- Emotional experience
- Openness
- Coherence
- Resourcefulness
- Stickiness



# The Aesthetic Attributes



**Commitment** - Creative processes and products embody conviction to the cause espoused through the work.



**Communal Meaning** - The creative work facilitates collective meaning that transcends individual perspective and experience.



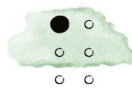
**Disruption** - Art challenges what is by exposing what has been hidden, posing new ways of being, and modeling new forms of action.



**Cultural Integrity** - The creative work demonstrates integrity and ethical use of material with specific cultural origins and context.



**Emotional Experience** - Arts for Change facilitates a productive movement between “heart space”—the emotional experience that art evokes—and the “head space” of civic or social issues.



**Sensory Experience** - Vivid sensations deepen the experience of the creative work and heighten the power of its messages and the potential for change.



**Risk-taking** - The creative work assumes risk by subverting dominant norms, values, narratives, standards, or aesthetics.



**Openness** - The creative work deepens impact by remaining open, fluid, transparent, subject to influence, and able to hold contradiction.




**Resourcefulness** - Imaginative use of available resources drives artistic innovation and demonstrates responsible social and environmental practice.



**Coherence** - Strong ideas expressed with clarity advance both artistic and social purposes.



**Stickiness** - The creative work achieves sustained resonance, impact, or value.

—  —  
These aesthetic attributes are described in detail in the section, Aesthetic Attributes Framework.

# WRITE A COMPELLING NARRATIVE

## Community Engagement & Social Impact

1. “Describe the community, partners, participants, or audiences you engage through your work. . .” (200 words)
  - a. *Who makes up this community?*
  - b. *How does your work impact them locally, regionally, or statewide?*
  - c. *You may reference themes such as equity, inclusion, access, and cultural relevance.*
  
2. “Describe how the KDAIAF program will empower your career and your ability to contribute meaningfully to California’s diverse communities. . . (200 words)
  
3. “Describe how the KDAIAF program will strengthen your artistic expression, creative practice, and community collaboration locally, regionally, and/or statewide. . .” (200 words)



# WRITE A COMPELLING NARRATIVE

## Measuring Success

1. “What are your goals as a KDA Individual Artist Fellow. . .” (200 words)
2. “Describe how you will measure the success of your KDA Individual Artist Fellowship. . . (200 words)

*The KDAIAF will report to the state at the end of the 2027 the data surrounding your fellowships. Ideally, we will have such great success that when the state reports to the Governor’s office on how well we executed the KDAIAF program then they will be incentivized to approve this program again!*



# WRITE A COMPELLING NARRATIVE

## Measuring Success - KDA Example: Books in Motion

**Goals** - What do you intend to do?

IE- Improve literacy through the arts.

**Outcomes** - What do you anticipate are the short term effects of your work?

IE- Inspire children to open books and read.

**Impacts** - What do you anticipate are the long term effects of your work?

IE- Literacy rates for children, K - 3rd grade, increase by 10% over the next decade.

**Qualitative** - Subjective data that measures your project.

IE- Interview participants that attended my programs pre and post event to gauge their literacy comprehension.

**Quantitative** - Objective data that measures your project.

IE- Ask participants to participate in a Likert scale pre and post event to measure their understanding of literacy comprehension.

# WRITE A COMPELLING NARRATIVE

## Measuring Success

The tools you can use to assess the effectiveness of your work and create data include:

- Survey - online, paper, telephone, one on one (can be qualitative or quantitative)
- Numerical rating (quantitative)
- Likert scale - (can be qualitative or quantitative)
- Written or spoken testimonials (qualitative)
- Q and A (qualitative)
- Roundtable discussions (qualitative)
- Journaling (can be qualitative or quantitative)
- Video assessment (can be qualitative or quantitative)
- Recorded interviews and photography (qualitative)

Google Forms, Google Sheets, Survey Monkey, Submittable

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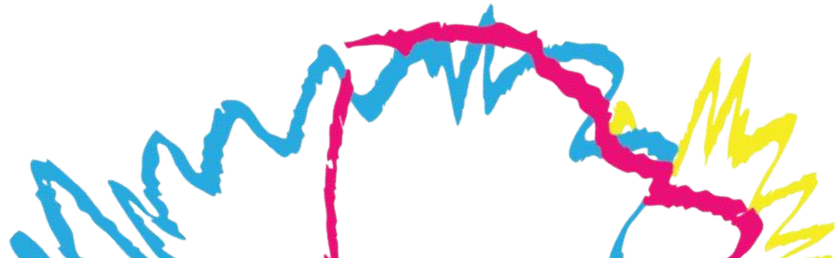
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# SUPPORTING MATERIALS



# Supporting Materials

- Proof of Residency
- Resume
- 1 Letter of Recommendation
- 3 Work Samples



# Supporting Materials

**Proof of Residency** - Upload one document verifying residency within your applying region. Document must be .pdf file format.

Acceptable documentation may include:

- Government-issued ID
- Lease agreement or mortgage bill
- Deed or property title
- Government-issued mail (tax documents, DMV notice, jury summons, etc.)
- Paystub or employment record
- School record
- Medical or insurance document
- Bank or financial document
- USPS change-of-address confirmation



# Supporting Materials

**Resume** - Upload a one-page current résumé highlighting your artistic experience with at least one reference.

Document must be .pdf file format.

- Include the most recent and relevant information pertinent to your application.



# Supporting Materials

**Letter of Recommendation** - Upload one letter that speaks to your artistic practice, impact, or experience. Document can be either a .doc or .PDF).

- Be sure to ask your reference permission before adding them to your resume!
- Give them plenty of time to draft your letter and share your resume with them so they can adequately speak to your strengths!



# Supporting Materials

**Work Samples** - Provide no more than three (3) samples that best portray your work. These may include artistic work, press materials, flyers, brochures, programs, newsletters, audio, video and other marketing pieces. Samples should be within the past two years and relevant to this grant opportunity.

- Documents - .docx and .PDF
- Images - .jpg and .png – resolution: 300 dpi; size: 800X600 pixels
- Videos - .mov, .wmv, .mp4 or links listed on PDF (*Note: file upload size limit per upload is 400mb. Maximum size of complete submission is 800mb.*)
- Audio - .mp3 and/or links listed on PDF



# Supporting Materials

## Work Sample Notes

- Provide notes detailing each of your 3 work samples. Tell the reviewer about what they are analyzing. More details are always better!
- If your work sample is a password protected url, please ensure you provide the password on your uploaded document.



# Supporting Materials

## Helpful Hints

- Use file names that are brief but specific to the provided content and to your work.
  - It is suggested file names list applicant name and type of file. For example "NAME - PRESS RELEASE" or "NAME - AUDIO SAMPLE".
- Images, audio, and video (links) should be recent, relevant, and related to your proposal.
- The provided upload fields are capped at the limits described in the guidelines.
- You will not be able to upload more files or larger files than described in the guidelines.
- Applicants that circumvent this process will be subject to Work Sample rejection or not having their full submission reviewed.



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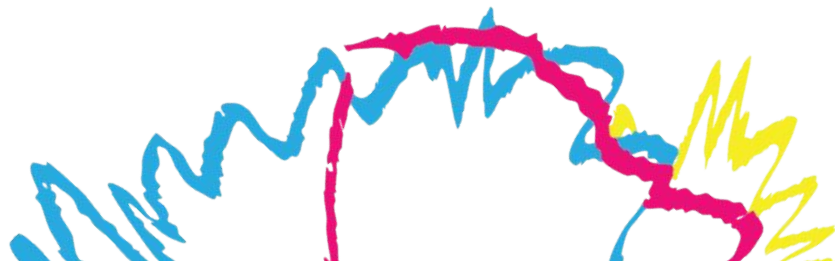
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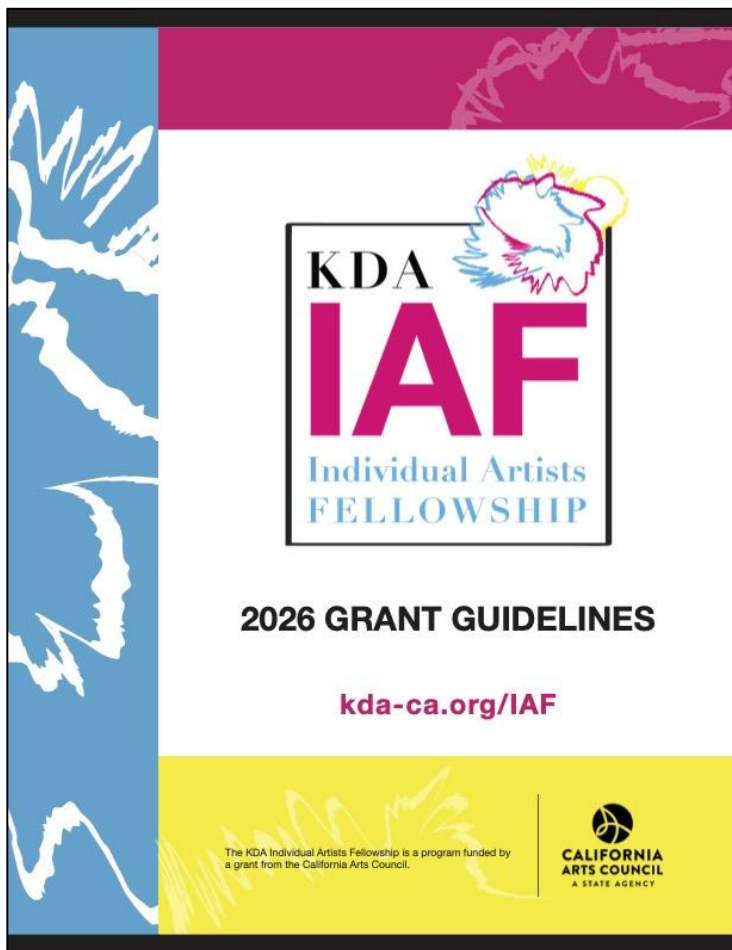
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**DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS**





- **WORD COUNT**
- **FILE NAMES**
- **PROJECT MANAGER CHECKLIST**

**Submit**



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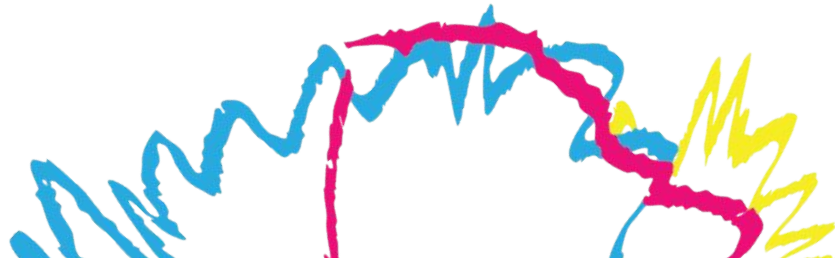
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# REVIEW



# REVIEW

- Independent Reviewer
- Draft and share on a word processor software



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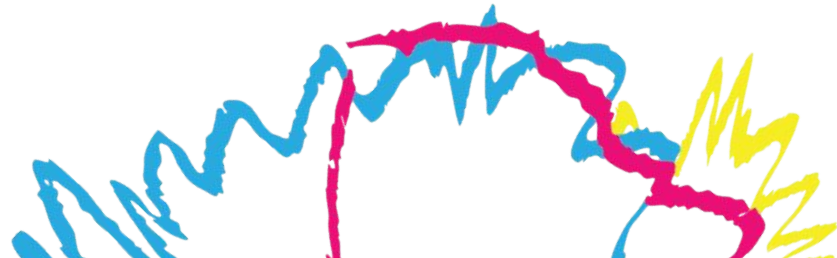
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# KDA IAF TIMELINE



# KDA IAF Timeline

**Application Opens:** May 1, 2026

## **KDA IAF Education Webinars:**

*May 4 @ 12:00 pm – Individual Artists Fellowship Overview / Which Tier Should I Apply For?*

*May 11 @ 12:00 pm – Creating a Strong Individual Artists Fellowship Application*

*May 18 @ 12:00 pm – Individual Artists Fellowship Application Tech Support*

**Application Deadline:** June 12, 2026 (11:59 p.m.)

**Panel Review:** June/July 2026

**Funding Decisions & Notifications:** July 2026

**Fellowship Activity Period:** August 1, 2026- June 30, 2027



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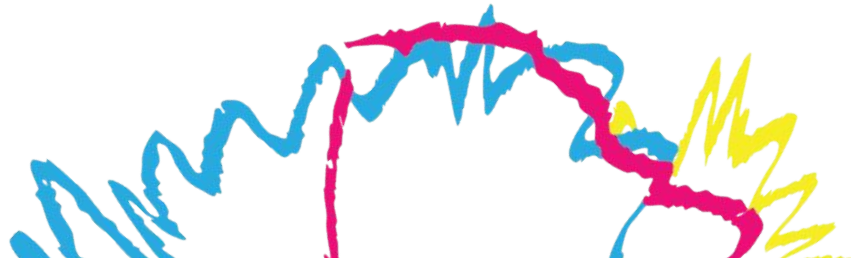
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# Q&A + NEXT STEPS





**IAF**

**KDA INDIVIDUAL  
ARTISTS  
FELLOWSHIP  
PROGRAM**  
**APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN**

Up to **\$50,000** in unrestricted  
funding available for individual artists  
living in California's Central Valley  
and Eastern Sierra counties.

**APPLICATIONS DEADLINE:**  
**JUNE 12, 2026 @ 11:59 PM**

[kda-ca.org/IAF](https://kda-ca.org/IAF)

**KDA** **IAF**  
Individual  
ARTISTS FELLOWSHIP

  
**CALIFORNIA  
ARTS COUNCIL**  
A STATE AGENCY

The KDA Individual Artists Fellowship is a program funded by a grant from the California Arts Council.

KDAIAF Office  
Hours

KDAIAF Grant  
Guidelines

KDAIAF Grant  
Portal

KDAIAF Zoom  
Webinar RSVP



## KDA INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

### EDUCATION WEBINAR

INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS FELLOWSHIP  
OVERVIEW / WHICH TIER SHOULD  
I APPLY FOR?

**Monday, May 4 | 12:00 PM**

ZOOM

[kda-ca.org/IAF](https://kda-ca.org/IAF)



The KDA Individual Artists Fellowship is a program funded by a grant from the California Arts Council.

## KDA INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

### EDUCATION WEBINAR

CREATING A STRONG  
INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS FELLOWSHIP  
APPLICATION

**Monday, May 11 | 12:00 PM**

ZOOM

[kda-ca.org/IAF](https://kda-ca.org/IAF)



The KDA Individual Artists Fellowship is a program funded by a grant from the California Arts Council.

## KDA INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

### EDUCATION WEBINAR

INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS  
FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION  
TECH SUPPORT


**Monday, May 18 | 12:00 PM**

ZOOM

[kda-ca.org/IAF](https://kda-ca.org/IAF)



The KDA Individual Artists Fellowship is a program funded by a grant from the California Arts Council.

**WEBINAR + SLIDES  
NOW AVAILABLE ON  
DEMAND!** 



# CONTACT

General Inquiries | [hello@kda-ca.org](mailto:hello@kda-ca.org)

Andrea Hansen, Program Director | [andrea@kda-ca.org](mailto:andrea@kda-ca.org)

Whitney Pascual, Program Coordinator | [whitney@kda-ca.org](mailto:whitney@kda-ca.org)

David Milazzo, Technical Support | [david@kda-ca.org](mailto:david@kda-ca.org)

[kda-ca.org/IAF](https://kda-ca.org/IAF)

