



Request for Proposals
2025 Spring Grant Program
Theme: Performing Shalom

The Creative Arts Collective for Christian Life and Faith (CAC) grantmaking initiative supports expressions of the Christian story and faith that inspire moments of awe and wonder through art and art experiences. Our grant program seeks to **create, educate, and network** by supporting projects and programs across the nation that create and curate works of art, educate and nurture Christian imagination, and cultivate and sustain a thriving network in Christianity and the arts.

The CAC is pleased to announce its 2025 Spring Grant Program. This competitive initiative is open to applicants who reside or operate in the United States and are individual artists, artist collaboratives, church leaders, scholars/theologians, arts-affiliated organizations, faith-based nonprofit organizations, or institutions. Applicants may submit proposals ranging from **\$50,000 to \$250,000** that may be used **over a one-year period**.

The CAC anticipates awarding approximately **10 grants** to applicants who will be selected based on previous creative work and/or promise of future work, experience, engagement, and the quality, relevance, and explanation of their project or program idea. Grant funding can cover costs such as: artist/creator and design fees, required materials and supplies, production, venue rentals, installation and storage costs, technical support such as audio-visual expertise, honorariums, and travel expenses. Costs related to general operating expenses and capital expenses are not eligible for grant funding. We ask that you read the RFP thoroughly and follow its guidelines to the best of your ability. The CAC anticipates announcing grant awards in **May 2025**.

Objectives & Outcomes

The CAC supports projects or programs meeting **one or more** of the following **objectives**:

- **Create** – Creating and curating works of art
 - **Outcome:** An increased visibility of the arts and appreciation of diverse forms of artistic expression that inspire people to encounter God
 - **Examples:** architecture, dance, filmmaking, music and compositions, visual art, and writing
- **Educate** – Educating and nurturing Christian imagination
 - **Outcome:** A re-enchanted Christian imagination, character, and spiritual formation in people fostered by experiencing the awe and wonder of God through the arts
 - **Examples:** workshops, courses, webinars, expert engagement, and speaker series
- **Network** – Cultivating and sustaining a thriving network in Christianity and the arts
 - **Outcome:** A vibrant nationwide movement that inspires people to discover and live the beauty and wisdom of the Christian story and encounter God through the arts
 - **Examples:** showcases, art exhibits, live performances, speaker series, festivals and celebrations, convenings, and conferences

Theme

Performing Shalom: Shalom is often expressed as “peace,” which is included in the concept, but performing shalom is far richer than the absence of hostility and strife; it includes all the fullness, abundance and delight we see portrayed in the creation account of Genesis, celebrating right relation between God and humanity. So that when *performing shalom*, we are pursuing and shepherding the fullness of relation with God.

“Shalom moments” are reflected throughout Jesus’ ministry, inviting the disquieted into His presence with acceptance and safety; creating moments of healing and restoration; the sharing of food and community. These also are reflected in the teachings of Jesus that provide guidelines for these moments, including the two greatest commandments; the beatitudes; the Lord’s prayer and many more. Additional details and information around the theme of Performing Shalom can be found at creativeartscollective.com. **Applicants are invited to reflect the theme of Performing Shalom in their project or program, but it is not a requirement to apply for a grant.**

Creative Arts Collective for Christian Life and Faith

The CAC’s **aspirational aim** is to inspire people from diverse contexts to discover and live the beauty and wisdom of the Christian story and encounter God through the arts. To advance this aim, the CAC seeks to catalyze an awe- and wonder-filled movement for the arts that will reinvigorate Christian arts traditions across the United States. This vision for a nationwide movement in Christian arts imagines the uniting of community around the creation and promotion of art and the space where art meets the theology and spirituality undergirding the Christian life.

The **Core Values** of the CAC are:

- **Theological Ecumenicity** – conversation and cooperation among diverse Christian groups, celebrating the deep and persistent elements of Christian belief
- **Diversity** – commitment to nurture and showcase the nation’s full range of diversity in the arts and among artists and communities (e.g., ethnic, racial, socio-economic, generational)
- **Collaboration** – a spirit of creative collaboration across business sectors, churches, nonprofits, and diverse academic contexts and platforms
- **Traditioned Innovation** – holding the tension of the rich wisdom found in historic traditions of Christian faith and the arts and the need and space for innovation that allows seeing that wisdom in fresh ways

The CAC asks awarded grantees to **engage** in the following ways:

- **Articulating** how the granted project or program reflects the Christian story
- **Collaborating** with network constituents and other commissioned artists
- **Coordinating** with the CAC storytelling team
- **Participating** in the Creative Summit & Art Festival

Application Process

Step 1: Determine Eligibility

Eligibility and Selection Criteria:

Interested individual artists, artist collaboratives, church leaders, scholars/theologians, arts-affiliated organizations, faith-based nonprofit organizations, or institutions who reside or operate in the United States are eligible to apply. Eligible applicants may submit proposals with requests ranging from **\$50,000 to \$250,000** that may be used **over a one-year period**. The CAC encourages interested applicants to request an amount appropriate to the needs of the proposed project or program.

The CAC intends to award grants to applicants who submit the most compelling proposals and demonstrate they have the capacity to design, implement, and sustain a quality project or program that advances the CAC's aspirational aim. All proposals will first be screened by CAC staff for minimum criteria, and then by an RFP Review Board for consideration and review. Applicants must:

- Provide all required materials and documents by stated deadlines
- Offer work that exemplifies or adheres to the core values of the CAC
- Clearly communicate the connection of the proposed project to the Christian story and faith
- Commit to producing art not only in singular form, but also to become involved in the CAC network
- Demonstrate the ability to manage funds and maintain requirements associated with the grant

Step 2: Submit a Letter of Inquiry

Letter of Inquiry: All interested applicants who meet the eligibility criteria must first complete and submit the online Letter of Inquiry (LOI) form **by December 6, 2024**, through the CAC's website, to be considered to submit a full grant proposal in our competitive process.

Step 3: Submit a Full Grant Proposal

Full Grant Proposals: The CAC will offer the opportunity to submit a full grant proposal for our competitive 2025 Spring Grant Program to **approximately 20** of the strongest applicants who complete the LOI by the deadline. Full grant proposals must be submitted online **by March 15, 2025**, through the CAC's grant portal, which the CAC will provide instructions for to the chosen applicants.

Proposal Guidelines

A complete proposal must include the following information and be submitted through the CAC's online grant portal by March 15, 2025.

Summary Information

Project Title: The project title should communicate the main idea of your project or program and not exceed 150 characters. Please make sure you use the same project title throughout the proposal and on all supporting documents.

Executive Summary: The executive summary should not exceed 3,000 characters and describe the applicant (individual/s, organization, or institution), their mission and constituencies, organizational structure (staff + board members, if applicable), denominational affiliation or theological tradition (if applicable), the purpose of the proposed project or program, and highlights of key activities, outputs, and anticipated outcomes.

Alignment with the CAC: This section should not exceed 6,000 characters and answer the following questions.

1. **Aspirational Aim:** How does the proposed project or program advance the aspirational aim of the CAC?
2. **Core Values:** How does the proposed project or program align with each of the core values of the CAC?
3. **Objectives & Outcomes:** How does the proposed project or program meet one or more of the objectives and fulfill the intended outcomes of the CAC?
4. **Engagement:** How will you and/or your organization or institution engage with the CAC?

Proposal Narrative

Project or Program Overview: This section should not exceed 10,500 characters and answer the following questions.

1. Please provide a detailed description of the project or program proposed and the purpose, inspiration, and motivation behind it. If applicable, how does it reflect the theme of Performing Shalom?
2. Describe in detail the key activities and outputs of the project or program. What will you create, produce, or deliver?
3. What are the desired outcomes of the project or program? How will progress toward the outcomes be measured and evaluated in both quantitative (objective and numeric) and qualitative (subjective and experiential) ways?
4. What change will occur if outcomes are met? How will constituents use the works of art or art experiences being produced? What does it mean for this project or program to be successful?
5. Who are the key leaders and what roles and responsibilities will they have in implementing the project or program?

6. What communication strategies, methods, or platforms will be used to communicate about the project or program?
7. If needed, is there a sustainability plan for the project or program beyond the life of the grant? What other revenue or funding sources does the project or program currently have in place or plans to pursue?

Timeline: Provide a timeline of the proposed project or program, including key activities, outputs, evaluation, communication, and sustainability activities (if needed).

Project Budget: Provide an overview of all expected costs involved with the project or program and a brief narrative description of those planned costs. Please use the budget template provided.

Supporting Documents: Please provide the following documents as applicable.

- Individuals:
 - Completed W-9 form
- Organizations or Institutions:
 - Completed W-9 form
 - Copy of Current Year Operating Budget
 - Copy of Audited Annual Financial Statements (if applicable)
 - Copy of IRS Exempt Status Determination Letter (if applicable)