



## Press Release

For Immediate Release  
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### Center for Cultural Innovation Grant and Loan Fund for Early-Stage Arts, Creative, and Cultural Cooperatives

**Los Angeles** – The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) today announced six new recipients of the *Grant and Loan Fund for Early-Stage Arts, Creative, and Cultural Cooperatives* program. Awards of \$25,000 each were granted to creative-industry cooperative enterprises in the pre-startup or early-growth stage in the US and its territories. For recipients who applied for a combination of the grant and loan product, they will enter an individual due diligence process with our program collaborator, Seed Commons, to determine the structure of loan support. Five recipients will also receive technical assistance from the program’s collaborator Uptima Entrepreneur Cooperative (f.k.a. Uptima Business Bootcamp) throughout the grant period. The program is made possible with support from the *AmbitioUS* pooled funders.

Out of 107 applicants, the six *Grant and Loan Fund for Early-Stage Arts, Creative, and Cultural Cooperatives* recipients are:

**Ampled** (New York, NY – Grant)

**Artist Resource Community Chicago** (Chicago, IL – Grant, Loan, and Technical Assistance)

**BlacSpace Cooperative** (Oakland, CA – Grant and Technical Assistance)

**Ether Collective** (Nashville, TN – Grant and Technical Assistance)

**Fashion That Works Production** (New York, NY – Grant and Technical Assistance)

**SaboryArte** (Santa Ana, CA – Grant and Technical Assistance)

“This is the first time *AmbitioUS* offered this open application funding program for cooperatives. Since CCI launched *AmbitioUS* in January 2019, *AmbitioUS* staff have learned that more and more artists and cultural communities are experimenting with shared ownership models to support the communities they serve. Due to the extractive practices of our current economic system, a lot of these enterprises—majority of which are led by Black, Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC)—are not receiving the same sources and degree of capital to help their businesses grow to the next stage. So, the *Grant & Loan Fund Program for Early-Stage Arts, Creative, and Cultural Cooperatives* was designed to help us conduct a landscape study of the kinds of efforts that are out there and need this infusion of capital as well as to help *AmbitioUS* directly support cooperatives,” says Abdiel J. López, CCI’s Program Officer. “We received over 100 applicants and we are happy to support the six recipients.”

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**About the Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI)**

The Center for Cultural Innovation was founded in 2001 as a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Its mission is to promote knowledge sharing, networking, and financial independence for individuals in the arts by providing business training, grants, and incubating innovative projects that create new program knowledge, tools and practices for artists in the field, and conditions that contribute to realizing financial self-determination. For more information, please visit [www.cciarts.org](http://www.cciarts.org).

**About AmbitioUS**

AmbitioUS is a national pooled fund of various private foundation participants that launched in the beginning of 2019. It is a time-limited (7–10 years), national program that supports the development of alternative economic projects and paradigms that work for and are rooted by culturally connected communities. Supporting foundations include: Barr Foundation, Doris Duke Foundation, The Field Foundation of Illinois, Henry Luce Foundation, Kenneth Rainin Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, McKnight Foundation, Surdna Foundation, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. For more information, please visit [www.ambitio-us.org](http://www.ambitio-us.org).

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