# An Introduction to The Common Application for Arts Bay Area

September 18, 2024

#### The Common Application for Arts – Bay Area

Origin Story

#### How it works

- Common Questions
- Budget Templates

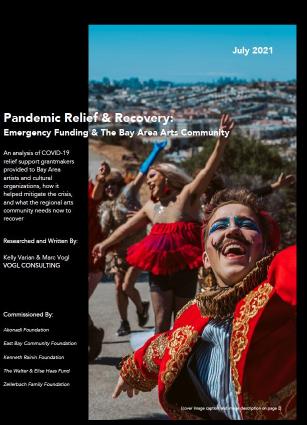
#### Who uses it?

- Participating Funders
- Community Grantseekers

## Origin Story

A desire for greater collaboration among arts funders Arts Loan Fund, BACFE and Pandemic Relief & Recovery recommendations

Increase Access to Funding Opportunities
Better User Experience
Eliminate Urgency
Streamline Back End
Coordinated Outreach Efforts
Simplified Process



#### What is The Common App?

- THE COMMON APP is a tool for artists, arts and culture organizations, and fiscally sponsored projects seeking funding from several Bay Area arts funders
- It is designed to make applying to multiple funders simpler and faster
- THE COMMON APP includes only the essential questions that the collaborating funders
  determined were necessary for them to make a grantmaking decision, and for artists and arts
  organizations to describe themselves and their project authentically
- More than that, THE COMMON APP standardizes these questions so that all of these funders ask for the same information in the same way
- Responses you provide to the questions asked in THE COMMON APP will match between
   90-100% of the questions you will find if you apply to any or all of the participating funders

#### What it's not...

- THE COMMON APP does not combine grant programs
- THE COMMON APP does not pool funds
- Each funder will ask a subset of questions from THE COMMON APP that are relevant to its own funding opportunities
- Each funder maintains its own
  - Guidelines and Eligibility
  - Deadlines
  - Priorities
  - Reporting

#### How it works...

- Common Questions
  - Sourced from dozens of Bay Area arts grant applications
  - Distilled to an essential list covering:
    - Organization Info
    - Project Info
    - General Support Info
  - Same questions, same word count

#### Additionally

- Optional Budget Templates
  - Project and Organization
- Work Sample Instructions
- Accessible Website
- Downloadable .doc and .pdf files
- Coordinated Outreach/Info Sessions
- Grantseeking tips and tools

# THE

FLEISHHACKER FOUNDATION



## COMMON

APP









Since THE COMMON APP was introduced in 2023, funders report between 25-40% of applicants are engaging with the tool as part of their grantseeking process.

### Why collaborate?

- Better experience for grantseekers
- Asking only what is truly needed
- Limited funds for the arts
- Coordinated data and demographics
- Opportunity to go further
  - One form submission?
  - Aligned deadlines?
  - Shared reporting?

https://commonappartsbayarea.org/