



GENERAL ACTIVATE FAQ

Who is eligible to apply ACTIVATE Innovators + ACTIVATE Delegates?

ACTIVATE is open to artists, arts professionals, cultural workers, educators, and community advocates interested in making change across LA's creative sectors. Additionally:

- Participants must live or work in LA County.
- Participants must be able to commit to all sessions.
- Participants will be selected to represent the broad geography and demographics of Los Angeles County. Programming will be fully remote in accordance with LA County Public Health guidelines.
- Participants must be 18 years or older to apply.

How much does it cost?

Nothing. Arts for LA fully supports the cost of running ACTIVATE. If you would like to support our work, please [consider joining Arts for LA as a member.](#)

Should I apply to ACTIVATE Delegates or ACTIVATE Innovators?

ACTIVATE Delegates focuses on the intersection of community organizing and the arts, giving participants the skills they need to mobilize their community, build power, and impact local decision makers and elected officials.

While the skills taught are widely applicable, ACTIVATE Delegates emphasizes the importance of the civic sphere and making change through local governments. No prior knowledge of advocacy/community organizing is necessary.

We welcome applications from anyone interested in exploring the question: "What can I, as an individual, do to build the power of our creative communities across the LA region?"

ACTIVATE Innovators, on the other hand, focuses on the skills and knowledge necessary to drive change through an organization or institution (i.e. a nonprofit, arts + culture business, firm, agency, etc).

By the end of the ACTIVATE Innovators program, participants will produce proposals ready for their Sponsoring Organization to continue developing, scale, or implement. Therefore, applicants to this program **must** have a relationship with a Sponsoring Organization that is supportive of their application.

This year's cohort will explore the following question:



*In LA County, only 26% of the population identifies as white yet this demographic accounts for 59% of the arts workforce. Additionally, it is estimated that about 284,000 creative sector jobs have been lost across California since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. **What role do you think your organization can play in creation of living wage jobs that address the underrepresentation of BIPOC communities in the arts + culture workforce?***

See below for more information about the ACTIVATE Innovators program.

Do I have to attend all the sessions?

Yes. Exceptions will only be made in advance of any conflicts. Dates for both programs can be found on the Arts for LA website [here](#).

ACTIVATE used to require an action project? Do I still need one to apply?

ACTIVATE Delegates are not expected to complete a project as part of the curriculum, but you may be asked to work through hypothetical projects. ACTIVATE Innovators is project-based, though the curriculum focuses on the design stage rather than the action/implementation stage of a project. See the section below for more details about the Innovators program.

I am an ACTIVATE alumnus -- can I apply for these new programs?

Although we love that you want to come back, we are not currently accepting applications from alumni in the program. Email Cordelia Istel, our Director of Organizing, for more ways to get involved: cistel@artsforla.org.

Can I still participate in Arts Day if I'm not an Arts Delegate fellow?

Of course! We encourage our entire community to join us for Arts Day at Los Angeles City Hall in March 2021!

What happened to Arts Education and Cultural Policy Tracks?

The curriculum for Arts Education and Cultural Policy has been largely combined into the Arts Delegates program. Applicants interested in these topics should definitely apply - we will be discussing both topics!

ACTIVATE Innovators FAQ: Applicant

Is a Sponsoring Organization mandatory?

Yes. Because the ACTIVATE Innovators program focuses on driving change through organizations and institutions, applicants must be affiliated with an organization at which they envision implementing their project or proposal.

Do I have to be an employee of the Sponsoring Organization?

No. Innovators do not need to be full-time, permanent employees of the Sponsoring



Organization. They do need to have an established relationship with the organization - as a volunteer, independent contractor, board member, etc.

Can I self-nominate?

Absolutely. We welcome self-nominations so long as the Sponsoring Organization is aware and enthusiastic about the application.

I work for a small organization and lead program work. Do I still need an Organizational Point Person (OPP)?

If you are in a leadership position at an organization and have the ability to make programmatic decisions, you do not necessarily need an organizational point person. Just be sure to make this clear in your application and designate yourself as the OPP.

What is the program's time commitment?

ACTIVATE Innovators should expect to commit 5-7 hours/month for Skills Workshops, mentor meetings, and readings/assignments.

Is the program in-person or remote?

The program will be entirely remote in accordance with LA County Public Health guidelines. Should the recommendations change, selected events may occur in-person to provide Innovators more opportunities to network. These changes will be made in communication with the selected cohort and only if in-person gatherings can be held in accordance with LA County public health guidelines.

ACTIVATE Innovators FAQ: Sponsoring Organizations

Would the Sponsoring Organization be required to implement the Innovator's project or proposal?

No, implementation of the Innovator's proposal or project is not a requirement for participation. This program is intended to provide the Sponsoring Organization a highly supportive, exploratory space for new program design led by a trusted team member (the ACTIVATE Innovator). The program is designed to support participants in creating a project that is "shovel-ready," while also serving as valuable professional development for arts professionals seeking to sharpen their program design and fundraising skills.

Does this program offer funding for the Innovator's project or proposal?

Arts for LA cannot offer seed funding at this time, though the program will offer opportunities for participants to network with potential partners and develop fundraising materials.

ACTIVATE Innovators FAQ: Organizational Point Person (OPP)

How much time should I expect to commit as an Organizational Point Person?

No more than 1-2 hours/month. Arts for LA will ask ACTIVATE Innovators to schedule time to check-in with their OPP to ensure that proposals and potential projects remain aligned with organizational mission/goals and are feasible.



Am I the “mentor” mentioned in the program description and Key Dates?

No. In order to support the Innovators as much as possible through this process, we will be pairing Innovators with additional mentors to help them shape their proposals. With the exception of the Innovators Orientation on March 25, 2021, the Organizational Point Person will not be expected to attend the sessions listed below.

Who can I contact with questions?

Email us at Activate@ArtsForLA.org for more information. Our office will be closed from December 24, 2020 - January 4, 2021, but we will get back to you when we return.