

CBA Scholarships and Grants

CBA offers a Scholarship program to individuals for tuition assistance. See “CBA Scholarships”. In addition, CBA offers two types of Grants for Individuals: a Research Grant and a Teaching Grant. These programs are explained below, “CBA Grants for Individuals”.

CBA will also consider requests from other organizations under the terms of the inter-organization grant guidelines.

All these programs are funded from a budget established every year. Once the funds allocated for a given year are exhausted, applicants may have to wait until the next fiscal year and an updated application may be required. Scholarship and Grant applications should be directed to grants@calsmith.org.

The practice of offering grants to enhance the educational mission of the CBA by supporting the metalsmithing and design skills of its members has been in place since 1982. The name of the fund has honored several leading members of the CBA over the years. Raffi Bedayn was a founding CBA member, board member, and early newsletter editor. Raffi died in 1982 and his memorial fund became the first CBA scholarship fund. Bob Thompson was a very long-term magazine editor. In his honor, Thompson was added to the name of the fund. Terry Toomey was a CBA board member and a fireman who died in the line of duty. The Toomey family bequeathed a scholarship fund in his honor. Now grants come from the CBA General Fund.

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(These programs were approved by the CBA Board of Directors on December 6, 2023. The governing document is <[link to CBA Grant definition and process](#)>.)

I. **CBA Scholarships**

A scholarship is for improving a member's blacksmithing skills and ideally to bring to the CBA membership skills or techniques from a different perspective. It is limited to supporting a member's blacksmithing education by participating in a course at an approved school or workshop. Eligibility is more relaxed than the CBA Grants. The maximum amount awarded is \$1000 toward the cost of the course plus room and board at the school or workshop facility. Travel costs are not included in a Scholarship. CBA Conferences do not fit the purposes of a Scholarship. Scholarship participants share at least part of what they have learned either as an article in a CBA publication or as a demonstration at a CBA event.

Scholarship Process

1. Before applying for a Scholarship, the applicant must be a CBA member in good standing for at least six months.
2. Complete the CBA Scholarship Application form as thoroughly as possible. Send the completed application form as an email attachment to grants@calsmith.org
3. Once the application is reviewed, the Grants and Scholarships Committee will reply with a request for clarification or will let you know that the application has been submitted to the CBA Board.
4. Scholarships will be considered at the next board meeting. The CBA Board meets about 6 times per year.
5. A minimum of two months lead-time should be expected from initial submission to the time the funds are disbursed; up to 4 months delay can occur depending on the timing of Board meetings.
6. New applicants have priority over repeat applicants. CBA Officers and Board members are not precluded from participation in this program but the conflict-of-interest process must be scrupulously observed.
7. Before disbursing any funding, the applicant and the Grants and Scholarship Committee will create a written agreement detailing the educational contributions you promise to provide with associated timelines. Once this is signed, funds will be released.
8. Scholarship grants are intended to offset the costs of classes. The funds are sent by CBA to the approved school, not to the recipient unless other arrangements are approved by the Board.

<[Link to CBA Scholarship Application Form](#)>

II. CBA Grants for Individuals

Grants for individuals (previously known as general grants) are based on the merit of the proposal.

They have rigid eligibility requirements, a higher funding cap (up to \$2,500 per grant,) and are for purposes that benefit CBA and the craft. Most of these have been either: travel to do research or travel to teach.

1. A research grant can support projects for research purposes, documentation projects, or scholarly pursuits such as interviews, photography, and gathering information to provide a resource on some aspect of blacksmithing not otherwise available. (Use Research Grant Application Form.)
2. A teaching grant can support in-person teaching visits to assist in the preservation and revival of local blacksmithing crafts and art while documenting these activities. The result benefits local economies, living conditions, and culture. (Use Teaching Grant Application Form.)
3. Other proposals can be considered as long as there is a strong educational component and the project benefits CBA and/or the broader blacksmithing community which would not otherwise be possible. (Use Research Grant Application Form.)

CBA Conferences do not fit the purposes of these grants.

Grant Process

Before applying for a Grant, the applicant must be a CBA member in good standing for at least six months and attended at least one CBA function or contributed an article to the magazine. If he/she has not contributed or participated previously, then the membership requirement is one year.

Select the application form to complete depending on the activity you want the CBA to support.

Complete the application form as thoroughly as possible. Send the completed application form as an email attachment to grants@calsmith.org

Once the application is reviewed, the Grants and Scholarships Committee will reply with a request for clarification or will let you know that the application has been submitted to the CBA Board.

Applicants are urged to allow time for several interactions with the Grants Committee and CBA Officers before the board meeting. Grants will be considered by the CBA board at least twice a year, typically at the Board meeting in the Spring and in the Fall.

CBA Officers and Board members are not precluded from participation in this program but the conflict-of-interest process must be scrupulously observed.

Before disbursing any funding, the applicant and the Grants and Scholarship Committee will create a written agreement detailing the educational contributions you promise to provide with associated timelines. When this is signed, funds will be released.

Subject to other arrangements approved by the board, the first half of the grant amount will be disbursed within two weeks of the board meeting that approves the grant with the balance paid upon completion and approval of the payback defined in the application. This practice may vary depending on the type of activity proposed.

<[Link to CBA Research Application Form](#)>

<[Link to CBA Teaching Application Form](#)>

III. Inter-organization Grants

Inter-Organization grants are made to enhance the blacksmithing or allied crafts education programs of other organizations or to expand their capabilities in ways that support the blacksmithing community. An Inter-Organization Grant is typically a grant based on the strength of the proposal presented. The funding cap is generally \$2,500 per grant. The funds available may be limited to the CBA yearly budget for Grants and Scholarships. The CBA Grants and Scholarships Committee and the receiving organization representatives are encouraged to think creatively to meet the needs of all the stakeholders.

1. The receiving organization must be an IRS-recognized 501c3 or an equivalent non-profit.
2. California organizations or those who provide a substantial benefit to CBA membership or the blacksmithing community here are preferred.
3. The educational purpose of the use of funds roughly matches that of CBA and also fits within the declared purpose of the recipient organization.
4. The grant is to be used to enhance the capability of the receiving organization rather than just operating expenses.
5. CBA prefers to provide funds that match the fund-raising efforts of the receiving organization rather than outright grants. In other words, the receiving organization should do other fundraising in addition to CBA help. The receiving organization should be able to provide documentation of their other funds.
6. Prefer organizations that support hands-on blacksmithing or live events that will engage the public. (I have seen several earnest organizations that are just creating a static display of "the historic blacksmith shop". Which is OK but we'd rather support organizations that will potentially result in new CBA members.)

Applications for an Inter-Organization Grant must be in the form of a letter via email and include all of the following:

- a. A description of the requesting organization requesting funds; when founded, number of members, yearly budget, geographic area served, etc.
- b. Identification of the individuals who lead the requesting organization along with the governance structure. Identify any overlap between CBA Officers and Board Members and those of the requesting organization.
- c. A description of the total scope of the project and its current status.
- d. The reason for the project; how this project will enhance the ability of the receiving organization to serve its community and blacksmithing generally.
- e. Describe how the project will be accomplished.
- f. What is the date and time frame for completing the project?
- g. What is the total amount of funding that is needed, the amount requested from CBA and the amount already raised from other sources?
- h. Provide a budget of how funds will be spent.
- i. What type of recognition will be returned to CBA, e.g., magazine article(s), demonstration(s), workshop(s), videos for the CBA YouTube channel, etc.? Identify the individuals responsible for creating this.
- j. What is the commitment date for recognition to CBA to be completed?

Grant applications will be considered by the board at least twice a year, usually in the Spring and the Fall. Applicants are urged to allow time for several interactions with the Grants Committee and CBA Officers before the board meeting. Please allow at least 4 months before the need for funds.

Subject to other arrangements approved by the board, the first half of the grant amount will be disbursed within two weeks of the board meeting with the balance paid based on progress criteria to be arranged.

This grant is limited to one grant per organization per year.

CBA Officers and Board members are not precluded from participation in these programs but the conflict-of-interest process must be scrupulously observed.