



SCHOLARSHIP AND FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION: A.C.T.'S SAN FRANCISCO SEMESTER

This application helps us understand your background and circumstances so we can determine eligibility for scholarships and financial aid for the San Francisco Semester at American Conservatory Theater. Our goal is to support artists who will benefit meaningfully from the San Francisco Semester and to distribute resources in a way that aligns with the program's values.

Review the [Conservatory Scholarship Statement of Purpose and Understanding](#).

Applicants may apply for one, multiple, or all available forms of support. Please complete only the sections that apply to you and the awards you wish to be considered for. If you are applying to the Transformational Access Award, please complete parts I and IV.

Each section is reviewed independently, and applying for one form of support does not affect your eligibility for others. We encourage applicants to thoughtfully consider which awards align with their experiences, circumstances, and goals, and to answer the questions honestly and fully.

Scholarship and financial aid requests are reviewed alongside your San Francisco Semester application. Applications are reviewed holistically; reviewers consider the intent of each award and the individual experiences, circumstances, and goals described by each applicant.

Different awards prioritize different criteria. Reviewers understand that financial need and artistic experience look different for each person. Financial aid and scholarship applications are evaluated in the context of the full program applicant pool and available resources.

If you have questions about the review process, please contact Conservatory Adult Programs Coordinator Kelsey Tremewan at ktremewan@act-sf.org.

This version of the Scholarship and Financial Aid Application was updated on 1/26/2026.



INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS (MANDATORY FOR ALL AWARDS AND FINANCIAL AID)

Name: _____

What award(s) are you applying for?

- Financial Aid Fund ([PART I](#))
- Emerging Artist Award ([PART II](#))
- Local Artist Award ([PART III](#))
- Transformational Access Award ([PART I](#) and [PART IV](#))

By signing here, I agree that I have read the Conservatory Scholarship Statement of Purpose and Understanding, and my application aligns with its intent and purpose.



PART I: FINANCIAL AID FUND

TUITION SUPPORT: AMOUNTS VARYING BETWEEN \$1,000 AND \$6,000

The Financial Aid Fund is need-based, flexible support intended to expand access to training for artists who have historically faced financial barriers to participation. Financial need can take many forms. This may include limited access to resources due to systemic inequities, or significant living expenses related to personal circumstances such as caregiving responsibilities, medical needs, debt, housing instability, or the inability to work while participating in full-time training.

In this section, we ask you to reflect honestly on your financial circumstances, your needs, and your commitment to participating fully in the San Francisco Semester.

1. Please describe your current financial situation and any factors that affect your ability to pay full tuition for the San Francisco Semester. You may wish to address lack of access to resources, significant living or personal expenses, or any other circumstances that impact your finances.

(200-300 words)



2. What amount of financial assistance are you requesting from the Financial Aid Fund? Full tuition is \$15,000; Early-bird tuition is \$12,500. Please consider the minimum support you would need to attend the program. You can select multiple options.

- Up to 10% of Tuition (\$1,500)
- 10%-20% of Tuition (\$1,500-\$3,000)
- 20%-30% of Tuition (\$3,000-\$4,500)
- 30%-40% of Tuition (\$4,500-\$6,000)
- I am applying for the Transformational Access Award.

3. Please describe how this financial support would help you participate fully in the San Francisco Semester.

(150-300 words)

4. Please list any additional sources of funding you anticipate using to support your participation in the program (personal savings, family support, employment, grants, loans, etc.)

(Short Answer)



PART II: EMERGING ARTIST AWARD

TUITION SUPPORT: \$2,500

The Emerging Artist Award supports artists who are early in their artistic careers and who demonstrate curiosity, commitment, and readiness to deepen their training through full-time conservatory study. This award is intended for artists with limited professional credits who are seeking focused time to grow their craft.

1. Please describe where you currently are in your artistic career and why this feels like the right moment for full-time conservatory training.
(200-300 words)



2. What skills, practices, or areas of your artistry are you most interested in developing through the San Francisco Semester?
(150-300 words)

3. The Emerging Artist Award supports artists who are ready to take the next step in their development. Please describe how you approach learning, growth, and feedback in a demanding environment.
(150-300 words)



PART III: LOCAL ARTIST AWARD

TUITION SUPPORT: \$2,500

The Local Artist Award is intended to support artists with strong ties to the Bay Area and to strengthen pathways for local artists to access advanced training. It is available to artists who either grew up in the Bay Area or currently live in the Bay Area.

1. Please describe your connection to the Bay Area.
(150-300 words)

2. Where in the Bay Area do you currently live or where in the Bay Area did you grow up? How long did you spend in the region?
(Short Answer)



3. How has living in the Bay Area influenced your artistic perspective, voice, or goals?
(150-300 words)

4. In what ways do you hope to continue contributing to the Bay Area artistic community through your training and future work?
(150-300 words)



PART IV: TRANSFORMATIONAL ACCESS AWARD

TUITION SUPPORT AND STIPEND: 100% TUITION SUPPORT AND \$7,500 STIPEND

The Transformational Access Award is designed for an artist whose artistic promise and readiness for immersive training are clear, but for whom full-time conservatory study would not be possible without significant financial support.

1. Please fill out PART I: Financial Aid Fund.
2. The Transformational Access Award supports an artist to fully engage in the demands of a 15-week, full-time program when given the necessary resources. How would this award impact your artistic development?
(300-400 words)



3. This award recognizes artistic promise and readiness for transformation. Please describe why you feel you are a strong fit for the Transformational Access Award at this moment in your artistic journey.
(300-400 words)



4. How do you align with the Conservatory Statement of Purpose and/or the Conservatory's values? Both are provided below.
(300-400 words)

A large, empty rectangular box intended for the student's response to the question.



Conservatory Statement of Purpose:

A.C.T. seeks to develop the artist in every actor. We cultivate theater artists with a critical sense who will energize and advance performance in America. Our training prepares actors to succeed in all aspects of the profession, but our primary goal is to prepare artists for a lifelong investment in the theater.

Our curriculum combines rigorous training in the practical disciplines of acting with the study, rehearsal, and performance of classical and contemporary works drawn from the world repertoire. We believe that actors who have an intellectual and visceral grasp of dramatic literature, who recognize a relationship between new and classical work, are uniquely prepared to collaborate in the development of new dramatic forms.

Our association with the A.C.T. mainstage, as well as our location, enriches every aspect of our program, bringing students of many backgrounds into close and regular contact with writers, directors, designers, and actors of many theatrical traditions. It is through this exposure to professionals at work—and to their audience—that our students learn what drama means to the life of a community, and how the life of a community enriches its theater.

Conservatory Values

INCLUSION: We see as essential, and embrace a diversity of voices and perspectives in all that we do. Transparency, collaboration, trust, and respect are core.

TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING: We value continuous evolution of ourselves, our art form, and our community. We are open to change, surprise, risk, and the best ideas.

PARTICIPATION: We are invested in all who engage and collaborate in our work – artists, audiences, staff, students, volunteers, donors, and the community as a whole.

RIGOROUS FUN: We are serious about the impact of our work and simultaneously experience joy in what we do.

Thank you for sharing your time and your story with us. Please attach this form to your San Francisco Semester Application. We appreciate the care it takes to complete this application, and our team will be in touch once reviews are complete.