



VIA Art Fund

General FAQs

General Information FAQs

What grants does VIA offer?

VIA has two grantmaking programs that accept unsolicited Letters of Inquiry (LOIs): **Artistic Production grants** and **Incubator Fund grants**.

Grant Programs:

Within the **Artistic Production grant program**, VIA accepts Letters of Inquiry from U.S.-based and international artists, curators, nonprofit organizations, cultural institutions, art production platforms, biennials and/or festivals. Please note that we do not fund typical museum or gallery exhibitions. Our support is geared towards high-impact projects in non-traditional exhibition venues and those mounted in the public realm. There are **two** Artistic Production grant cycles per year (Fall and Spring). Please scroll down for **Artistic Production Grant FAQs**.

Within the **Incubator Grant Fund**, VIA accepts Letters of Inquiry from U.S.-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit visual arts organizations. Organizations or artists' initiatives that do not have 501(c)(3) status may submit an application through a fiscal sponsor. VIA does not award grants to international entities within the Incubator Grant Fund. There is **one** Incubator grant cycle per year. Please scroll down for **Incubator Grant Fund FAQs**.

What is VIA Art Fund's philanthropic model?

As an international coalition of individuals and private foundations, our approach as a collective initiative stands apart in the landscape of arts philanthropy: we are rigorous in our vetting of grant proposals, democratic in our decision making, and committed to providing meaningful opportunities for partner education. VIA Partners convene in semi-annual grant review meetings to democratically vote on which projects to fund in the coming year.

What is VIA's grant review and selection process?

VIA's grant program is highly competitive and not all applicants will move forward to the final stage of review. Letters of Inquiry are reviewed by staff and successful applicants are invited to submit a full application. Full applications are then assessed in three stages. First, VIA staff conducts a preliminary review and decides which applications will move forward to our Grant Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of our Partners. Following a review session with our Grant Advisory Committee, the remaining group of successful applications moves forward to our final vetting session—our Partners Meeting—held in spring and fall each year. At these meetings, finalists are invited to present their proposals to the full VIA Partnership. Subsequently, VIA Partners vote on which projects to fund.

How are Letters of Inquiry evaluated?

LOIs are evaluated according to overall artistic and curatorial merit, and by how well they fulfill our three core values: Artistic Production, Thought Leadership, and Public Engagement. We also examine the impact these projects and initiatives will have on the broader field of contemporary art and on the public at large. This is a highly competitive process and not all proposals will advance to the final review phases or be awarded funding.

VIA Art Fund

219 West 19th Street
2nd Floor
New York, NY 10011
P: 617-379-3494

info@viaartfund.org
grants@viaartfund.org
viaartfund.org

Does VIA support artists or curators with tuition or living stipends for university or residency programs?

No. Our funding is for the production of new works of art with identified artists and a confirmed exhibition venue.

Does VIA support artists or curators conducting artistic research?

VIA's Artistic Production grants are intended solely for artistic production and public presentation. VIA supports the work of curators through the Curatorial Fellowship.

Does VIA have a mailing list?

VIA does not have a mailing list. To stay up to date on our current grantees, we recommend visiting our Grants in Action page and following us on social media (Instagram: @viaartfund, Facebook, Twitter). Information on our grantmaking cycles is available under "Apply + Contact" on our website.

Does VIA accept applications for the Curatorial Fellowship?

The Curatorial Fellowship is by nomination only, meaning that we accept nominations from our partners, colleagues, and constituents, and invite select curators to submit a proposal.

Does VIA Art Fund support projects by previous grant recipients?

Yes. However, previous recipients of an Artistic Production grant must wait three full years from the date of their last grant award to re-apply for funding. If you are a past grantee and have another project you would like to propose for funding, it is recommended that you consult with VIA staff before submitting an LOI.

If my organization has previously applied for funding and has been rejected, do I need to wait before reapplying?

If you advanced to the stage of submitting a full application, then you must wait at least 2 years from the previous application's deadline to reapply. If you submitted an LOI but were not invited to submit an application, then you may apply again with no wait period. You may not apply with the same project.

What if I would like to apply for a grant that falls outside VIA's semi-annual grant cycles?

VIA does not award funding outside of our semi-annual grant cycles. VIA works in two 6-month grant cycles: Spring and Fall. Please refer to the dates listed at www.viaartfund.org/apply

Artistic Production Grants FAQs

I'm interested in applying for Artistic Production support. Should I submit an LOI for a single artist project or multiple artists' projects?

VIA funds singular artistic commissions. However, if you are submitting an LOI for Artistic Production support in the context of a larger biennial/triennial exhibition, then please include the full list of artists who will be commissioned to create new work and include brief project synopses. If your proposal moves forward, VIA staff will work with you to select a single artist project to apply with for the full application phase.

I would like to apply with a project that features an exhibition within my institution's galleries, as well as a public artistic component. Am I eligible for funding with this hybrid scenario?



If the public component (installation, intervention, performance, socially-engaged programming, etc.) is paramount and central to the proposed artist's project, then you are eligible to apply for Artistic Production support. Within the Artistic Production category, VIA does not accept applications for artist talks or symposia organized as auxiliary events to accompany traditional in-house exhibitions.

Does VIA give grants to individual artists?

Yes. VIA awards artist-direct grants for the production of new work as long as there is a confirmed exhibition venue with a sponsoring entity, or if the artist can demonstrate that they have the production capacity to realize the project.

Can my project travel to multiple venues?

Yes. Whenever possible, we encourage national and international tours of work that we commission.

What are the criteria for international applicants?

If you are an internationally-based artist submitting a proposal, your project must take place in the United States. If you are a nonprofit entity (American or international) applying for support outside the United States, your proposal must feature the work of a U.S.-based artist(s); outside the United States, VIA's support is targeted at significant opportunities that have international impact such as biennials, triennials, and notable exhibitions that take place outside gallery walls. If the project takes place within the United States, the featured artist(s) may be U.S.-based or international.

Does VIA support organizations or artists through their fiscal sponsors?

Yes. In such cases, we request a letter proving fiscal sponsorship and the fiscal sponsor's IRS determination letter of 501(c)3 non-profit status.

Does VIA support collaborative projects?

Yes. Please decide which presenting organization or artist will apply and select one point person for your Letter of Inquiry. In some cases, an artist-direct grant might be more appropriate for multi-site projects, rather than a grant to a presenting organization.

How much funding should my organization request in our LOI?

If you are applying within the Artistic Production category, grants typically range from \$25,000 to \$100,000 (but can be lower than \$25,000), with grants at the upper levels of funding reserved for permanent or long-term installations, or newly commissioned works that may be gifted to a U.S. public collection.

Is there a median project budget size for projects that VIA Art Fund supports?

No, we fund a diverse group of projects, each with varying budgets and project scopes. On average, however, we have tended to support projects at 30-40% of the project budget.

How does VIA's production/acquisition funding work?

VIA has gifted or partially gifted over 50 works of art to public collections throughout the United States. When an opportunity arises, VIA is happy to work with artists/commissioning organizations to gift or partially gift VIA-supported projects to U.S. public collections. These conversations are typically initiated early in the application process and in consultation with the artist, their gallery, the presenting organization, and the possible receiving institution. You may see an inventory of accessioned works on our website under ["Gifted Works."](#)

Does VIA Art Fund support projects by previous grant recipients?



Occasionally, but previous grant recipients must wait three full years from the date of their last grant award to re-apply for funding. If you are a past grantee and have another project you would like to propose for funding, it is recommended that you consult with VIA staff before submitting an LOI.

If my organization has previously applied for funding and has been rejected, do I need to wait before reapplying?

If you advanced to the stage of submitting a full application, then you must wait at least 2 years from the previous application's deadline to reapply. If you submitted an LOI but were not invited to submit an application, then you may apply again with no wait period. You may not apply with the same project.

What if I would like to apply for a grant that falls outside VIA's semi-annual grant cycles?

VIA does not award funding outside of our semi-annual grant cycles. VIA works in two 6-month grant cycles: Spring (LOI deadline in May for projects opening after November) and Fall (LOI deadline in October for projects opening after May of the following year).

Incubator Grants FAQs

What is the Incubator Grant Fund?

Starting in 2019, VIA Art Fund and Wagner Foundation join forces to create a five-year, \$1 million Incubator Grant Fund providing two-year, unrestricted general operating support for small-scaled to mid-sized visual arts organizations across the United States. The fund aims to build a robust and inclusive national arts ecosystem.

What is the maximum operating budget size for organizations applying for Incubator Fund support?

The maximum annual operating budget for eligible applicants to the Incubator Grant Fund is \$2.2 million. Organizations must have an operating budget of under 2.2 million to apply.

Is there a minimum number of years that an organization needs to have been in operation to be eligible for Incubator Fund support?

Not necessarily, but demonstrated success in raising funding from outside sources is recommended, as is a history of programming.

Can university art galleries whose operating budgets are independent from the university apply for an Incubator Grant?

Yes. Should you be invited to progress past the LOI stage, you will need to provide a budget that demonstrates the relative independence of your operating budget from the university's.

How much funding should my organization request in our LOI?

The Incubator Grant Fund awards \$40,000 of unrestricted general operating support, paid out in \$20,000 disbursements over a two-year period. All organizations or initiatives applying to the Incubator Grant will be considered for \$40,000 to be paid out in \$20,000 installments over two years.

Contact

If you have further questions after consulting our grant guidelines and FAQ sheet, you may contact grants@viaartfund.org. Due to our small staff and the high volume of correspondence we receive, we cannot take inquiries by phone.

