



### **Incubator Grant Fund Mission & Beliefs**

Building upon their individual philanthropic missions and common vision for impact in the arts, VIA Art Fund and Wagner Foundation are partnering to establish a \$1 million Incubator Grant Fund. This fund aims to build a robust and inclusive national arts ecosystem by awarding unrestricted funding to small to mid-sized nonprofit visual arts organizations throughout the United States.

We share the belief that –

- Art has the power to engage, challenge, inspire, and transform individuals and communities
- A geographically diverse and programmatically dynamic network of small-scaled arts organizations cultivates innovative and creative artistic voices, and is vital to the overall health of arts in America
- Local arts organizations play a critical role in creating inclusive and supportive communities, and expanding access to creativity and well-being through engagement with the arts
- Small to mid-sized arts organizations face considerable challenges in attracting and sustaining both capital and human resources

### **Incubator Grant Fund Guidelines**

We recognize that cultural production takes many forms. Proposals considered for the Fund include local art spaces focused on production and exhibition; artist residency programs; online or print discursive platforms; and curatorial or artists' initiatives. We seek to support small to mid-size visual arts organizations, whose activities are rooted in programs, platforms and/or initiatives that embrace innovation, progress and risk; who champion new, diverse and/or overlooked artistic voices; who attract and serve expanded audiences; and who cultivate new avenues of thought leadership.

All Incubator Grant proposals are reviewed through an open call letter of inquiry (LOI), followed by an invitation-only application process. Prior to submitting a LOI, interested applicants are strongly encouraged to review the Incubator Grant Fund Values and Assessment Criteria to determine the potential compatibility of their organization's work within the Incubator Grant Fund's parameters and three core grantmaking values.

### **Core Values & Assessment Criteria**

#### **I. Artistic Production**

We champion the production of new work – from creation to exhibition, documentation, and dissemination – that reflects artistic excellence and innovation.

#### **II. Thought Leadership**

We support the work of both established and emerging voices in contemporary art that bring new knowledge and dynamic avenues of understanding to the field. The creative output of these thought leaders generates entry points for dialogue and collaboration and fosters vital intellectual exchange.



### III. Public Engagement

We promote work that penetrates social, cultural, geographic, and economic barriers to inspire and educate diverse and expanded audiences. These initiatives act as platforms for inquiry and investigation, generating meaningful collective experiences for the public.

#### Funding

VIA and Wagner Foundation have created a five-year, \$1 million **Incubator Grant Fund** providing two-year general operating and/or specific initiative support for small to mid-sized visual arts organizations across the United States. Each year, five organizations will receive a grant up to \$40,000, which will be disbursed in equal installments of \$20,000 per year over a two year period.

#### Eligibility Criteria

- Incubator Grants may be awarded to U.S. 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. The fiscal sponsor must submit the grant application on behalf of the applicant, and must assume the role of grantee if the application is successful.
- VIA does not award grants to international entities within the Incubator Grant Fund.
- VIA will consider grant requests for funding from independent entities, start-up organizations or artists' initiatives at a nascent stage. However, the organization must demonstrate clear objectives and robust engagement with diverse constituents.
- Organizations with an annual operating budget of up to \$2.2 million are eligible to apply for a grant from the Incubator Grant Fund.
- Incubator Grant Fund recipients may not apply for renewed funding at the conclusion of their grant period.



### **Submitting a Letter of Inquiry**

Letters of Inquiry (LOI) will be accepted on a rolling basis between January 1 to May 10, 2019.

**Your letter of inquiry should be submitted in a single PDF and include:**

- A brief 3-page description discussing:
  - Organization **history, mission and strategies**
  - Organization **executive and programmatic leadership**
  - Overview of **organization's program and activities**
  - Proposed **use of grant funds** (please reference Core Values & Assessment Criteria)
  - Organization's **current annual operating budget** as well as **most recent financial statements**
- Proof of 501(c)(3) nonprofit status (including Nonprofit Tax ID) or fiscal sponsor's nonprofit status
- A primary contact for the organization (this person will receive VIA's reply via email)

Please submit your LOI in a single PDF file to [grants@viaartfund.org](mailto:grants@viaartfund.org).

**Should your proposal advance, we will contact you with an invitation and further instructions on how to submit a formal Incubator Grant Fund application. If you do not hear from us within 4-6 weeks, your proposal has not advanced to the next round.**

### **Dates & Deadlines 2019**

January 1 – May 10	Open rolling acceptance of LOI's
May 30	Deadline for invited applications
November 15	Grant award notification
November 30	Grant distribution

### **Contact**

To obtain more information about our grant procedures, or if you have further questions, please consult our FAQ sheet under the "Apply + Contact" section of our website. Please direct further question to [grants@viaartfund.org](mailto:grants@viaartfund.org). Due to the high volume of correspondence we receive, we cannot take inquiries by phone.



# VIA Art Fund | Wagner Foundation

## LOI Submission Guidelines



### About Us

**VIA Art Fund** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit philanthropic arts organization founded by an international coalition of individuals and private foundations who believe in the central role art plays in society. VIA's activities support innovative, ambitious and rigorous works of art and endeavors with far-reaching public impact realized in various forms including institutional production and acquisition, exhibitions, public installations, curatorial research, publications and symposia. Funding artists, curators and arts organizations around the world, VIA Art Fund awards grants in three categories – Artistic Production Grants, Incubator Grants and an annual Curatorial Fellowship – that exemplify VIA's core values of *Artistic Production, Thought Leadership, and Public Engagement*.

**Wagner Foundation** is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit private foundation working to build just and robust community where all people have equitable access to opportunity and the ability to live a life of purpose and dignity. Wagner Foundation supports organizations that improve health equity, increase economic mobility, expand institutional fairness, and strive for cultural transformation. In these efforts, we welcome creative solutions bringing communities together. We are committed to encouraging visionary individuals, as well as arts institutions that expand cultural access. The willingness to explore, ask questions, and support one another makes new solutions possible, transforming culture in the process.