



# VIA Art Fund

## Artistic Production Grant Guidelines & LOI Submission

**Artistic Production Grants are awarded twice annually to individual artists, nonprofit organizations, and institutions to support new artistic commissions that take place outside museum or gallery walls, within the public realm, or in non-traditional exhibition environments. Individual artists seeking production funding or the producing organizations must have a confirmed exhibition venue or presenting partner. Artistic Production funding ranges from \$25,000 to \$100,000 (can be lower than \$25,000) per project, with grants at the \$50,000 to \$100,000 level reserved for permanent or long-term installations, or newly commissioned works that may be gifted to a U.S. public collection. Artistic Production Grants are awarded to projects that best exemplify our three core values of Artistic Production, Thought Leadership, and Public Engagement:**

### **I. Artistic Production**

We champion the production of new work – from creation to exhibition, documentation, and dissemination – that reflects artistic excellence and innovation. When possible, VIA Artistic Production grants are made with the intention to gift the work to a US-based cultural organization, ensuring that VIA-funded artworks live on to encounter new audiences under the stewardship of public institutions.

### **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.

### **Eligibility**

- VIA awards grants to artists, nonprofit organizations, cultural institutions, art production platforms, and biennials or festivals working in the field of contemporary art in the United States and internationally.
- VIA may also award artist-direct grants for the production of new work. The project must have a confirmed exhibition venue in the United States.
- If the project takes place in the United States, the featured artist(s) may be American or international. If the artist is international, then the project must take place in the United States. If you are a nonprofit entity (American or international) applying for support for a project outside the United States, your proposal must feature the work of a U.S.-based artist(s) or curator(s).
- Organizations applying must provide proof of nonprofit status.
- Individual artists applying must provide supporting materials of confirmed exhibition/presenting venue.
- VIA does not fund museum or gallery exhibitions. Our support is geared towards high-impact projects in non-traditional exhibition venues and

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- those mounted in the public realm.
- Projects must begin after our grant award notification dates (see deadlines below).
  - Previous grantees must wait three full years from the date of their last grant award to re-apply for funding. Previous applicants who did not receive support must wait one full year to re-apply. It is recommended that all previous applicants and grantees consult with VIA staff prior to submitting an LOI.
  - To learn more about our philanthropic model and grant selection process, please review our FAQ sheet under the “Apply + Contact” section of our website; you may also view a list of previous grantees under “Grants in Action.”

### **Artistic Production Grant Process and Timeline**

The application process for Artistic Production Grants unfolds in four stages:

- 1) If you are eligible for an Artistic Production grant then you may submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) for either our fall or spring deadlines.
- 2) Projects of interest are invited to submit a formal application.  
**Please note:** VIA does not provide formal rejections at the LOI stage. If you are not contacted, then you may assume that your proposal was not advanced.
- 3) Applications from invited artists and organizations will be reviewed during our Partners Meetings.
- 4) Final award notifications will be sent and funds dispersed approximately three months after the initial application deadline. Please see specific dates relating to each grant cycle below:

#### **Fall 2019 Award Cycle**

Letter of inquiry deadline:	May 3, 2019
Letter of inquiry notification:	June 7, 2019
Application deadline (by invitation only):	July 5, 2019
Grant award notification:	October 15, 2019
Projects must start after:	November 2019

#### **Spring 2020 Award Cycle (tentative dates)**

Letter of inquiry deadline:	October 25, 2019
Letter of inquiry notification:	December 6, 2019
Application deadline (by invitation only):	January 3, 2020
Grant award notification:	April 18, 2020
Projects must start after:	May 2020

### **Letters of Inquiry & Application Process**

**Our next Letter of Inquiry (LOI) deadline for Artistic Production Grants is**



**May 3, 2019 at 11:59pm EST.**

**Your Letter of Inquiry should include:**

- A two-page description of the project with details of the exhibition/project venue(s); a brief organizational mission, or artist statement related to the proposed project; the type of support you are applying for and the amount of your request
- A project budget and current annual budget for the organization (if applicable)
- A project timeline
- Proof of nonprofit status, if applicable

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

**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 before contacting us at [grants@viaartfund.org](mailto:grants@viaartfund.org). Due to our small staff and the high volume of correspondence we receive, we cannot take inquiries by phone.

**VIA Art Fund Overview**

**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. Since its founding in 2013, VIA has awarded over \$3 million through 76 grants to artists, curators, cultural institutions, publications, foundations, and biennials in the United States and worldwide, and has gifted 15 works of art to U.S. museums. 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 grant – that exemplify VIA’s core values of *Artistic Production, Thought Leadership, and Public Engagement*.

