



VIA ART FUND AND WAGNER FOUNDATION AWARD \$200,000 IN INCUBATOR GRANTS IN 2020

Two years of general operating support awarded to five small-scale visual arts nonprofit organizations across the United States.

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE) – VIA Art Fund and Wagner Foundation have awarded grants totaling \$200,000 to five U.S.-based visual arts organizations. The recipients of the 2020 VIA | Wagner Incubator Grant Fund grant are: **Artspace** (New Haven, CT), **Disjecta Contemporary Art Center** (Portland, OR), **The Lab** (San Francisco, CA), **Locust Projects** (Miami, FL), and **The Luminary** (St. Louis, MO).

Katherine Rochester, Associate Director of Curatorial Research at VIA Art Fund, commented: “The 2020 VIA | Wagner Incubator grantees model a mission-driven commitment to uplift their communities by supporting contemporary artists. Distinguished by the quality of their artistic offerings and united through visionary leadership, each organization is dedicated to creating innovative programming that resonates at home while steering discourse further afield. Our 2020 grantees join a growing cohort of exceptional art spaces that enrich our national arts ecosystem by incubating experimental work across multiple platforms and geographies.”

Building upon their respective philanthropic missions and achievements, VIA Art Fund and Wagner Foundation partnered in 2019 to establish a \$1 million Incubator Grant Fund. The fund aims to build a robust and inclusive national arts ecosystem by awarding unrestricted funding to small nonprofit visual arts organizations throughout the United States, with a particular focus on regional diversity. Each organization will receive \$40,000 for general operating support to be dispersed in \$20,000 installments over two years.

Wagner Foundation Program Director Caroline Hart added: “The power of arts and culture to bring people together, create space for critical discourse, and offer new and innovative perspectives, is especially significant in this moment. We are honored to support the organizations selected from across the country for the 2020 VIA | Wagner Incubator Grant Fund cohort and believe their proven leadership, community-driven approach and resounding resilience will continue to guide us all.”

2020 Incubator Grantees

Artspace (New Haven, CT) – centers community-building and education while providing a platform to present the work of visual artists in the city of New Haven. Artspace’s exhibition and commissioning programs encourage experimentation, discovery, and lively civic discourse while fostering appreciation for the vital role artists play in improving our community.

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Disjecta Contemporary Art Center (Portland, OR) – presents an experimental program distinguished by ambitious solo and group shows in a sizable warehouse space. Fueled by its highly regarded curatorial fellowship, Disjecta creates ambitious offerings, including the Portland Biennial, that provide a platform for forward-thinking work by visual and performing artists.

The Lab (San Francisco, CA) – a catalyst for artistic experimentation, nurturing radical music, performance, and visual art from its home in San Francisco's Mission District. With a focus on traditionally underrepresented artists, The Lab's robust commissioning program gives artists significant funding, time, space, and the license to change any aspect of the organization's operating model.

Locust Projects (Miami, FL) – an alternative art space that nurtures ambitious new work and the exchange of ideas. Projects emphasize boundary-pushing creative endeavors, risk-taking, and experimentation by new, non-specialist voices selected through an open call process designed to reach underrepresented communities.

The Luminary (St. Louis, MO) – home to exceptional art that engages the issues of the present. Through an active roster of programs, the organization acts as a point of convergence for diverse local, national, and international publics. Host of the acclaimed Counterpublic Triennial, The Luminary cultivates thoughtful platforms for exchange, supports forward-moving art, and attempts to model a more equitable and interconnected art world.

ABOUT US

VIA Art Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charity 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 grant – 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.

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