ANNOUNCING 2022 INCUBATOR GRANTS
by VIA ART FUND AND WAGNER FOUNDATION

Five small visual arts non-profit organizations across the United States are awarded a total of $200,000 in general operating support.

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE) – VIA Art Fund and Wagner Foundation have awarded grants to five U.S.-based visual arts organizations totaling $200,000. The recipients of the 2022 VIA | Wagner Incubator Grant Fund are: Boston Art Review (Boston, MA), Granary Arts (Ephraim, UT), Project for Empty Space (Newark, NJ), Racing Magpie (Rapid City, SD), and Utah Museum of Contemporary Art (Salt Lake City, UT).

The 2022 Incubator Grantees join a growing network of small contemporary arts organizations throughout the United States, now twenty members strong. The 2022 cohort demonstrate a commitment to support their respective communities through fostering experimental practices and advancing critical discourse in contemporary art on a national level.

Brooke Davis Anderson, Executive Director of VIA Art Fund stated: “For four years VIA Art Fund has partnered with Wagner Foundation to maximize opportunities for small art organizations around the nation. We work together to provide the armature – through general operating support – so that these vital cultural sites can engage deeply with their communities, think collaboratively with artists, and develop creative solutions to their most front-of-mind challenges and opportunities.”

Charlotte Wagner, Wagner Foundation Founder & President commented: “We are now 4 years in to a 5-year commitment. Together, we continue to expand our geographic reach and provide funding into the arts ecosystem across the county. All 5 new cohort members are deeply engaged in their local community and strive to elevate the arts to bring people together. Their work spans across social and artistic discourse to alternative arts spaces but what they all have in common is a genuine community-centered approach.”

In 2019, the Incubator Grant Fund was established by VIA Art Fund and Wagner Foundation with the intention of cultivating an inclusive and dynamic arts ecosystem by awarding $1 million to be dispersed among small, nonprofit visual arts organizations across the nation. Each organization will receive $40,000 for general operating support to be dispersed in $20,000 installments over two years.

2022 Incubator Grantees:

**Boston Art Review (Boston, MA)** offers an expanding array of digitally native content and in-person public programs aimed at supporting the art scene in the greater Boston area. As a regional hub for arts discourse, BAR is committed to being an accessible resource for engaging with Boston’s art ecosystem and amplifying the historically excluded voices of the region’s artists, writers, scholars, and community leaders. Editor in Chief Jameson Johnson commented: “On behalf of our board of directors, editorial team, and all of the incredible volunteers who support this work, we are deeply honored to be included in such an impressive cohort of
organizations who are building community, fostering scholarship, and facilitating powerful connections through art across the United States. As more periodicals and publications close their doors for good, supporting independent arts publishing grows increasingly crucial not only for our city, but for contemporary artists everywhere. Each story we publish is part of our mission to both serve our community today and create a timeless resource for practitioners and historians of the future. We are so grateful for support from VIA and the Wagner Foundation as we pursue this mission.”

Granary Arts (Ephraim, UT) is an alternative art space that supports diverse, emerging, and established artists from its outpost in rural Utah. Its dynamic and responsive projects increasingly explore the impact of art criticism in rural communities through the sharing of ideas and conversations around critical and timely issues. Executive Director & Chief Curator Amy Jorgensen commented: “We are absolutely honored to be selected for the Via Art Fund | Wagner Foundation Incubator Grant. As Granary Arts celebrates its tenth year, this grant is instrumental in supporting creative projects rooted in place, community, and innovation. We look forward to cultivating the shared vision of our organizations and continuing to support excellent work in the arts community.”

Project for Empty Space (Newark, NJ) is a woman-run, femme-powered, People of the Global Majority/BIPOC, Queer, and unapologetically radical ecosystem for creatives. Through its programming, PES cultivates conversations around important social issues through the lens of contemporary art and critical intersectional frameworks. Its diverse array of exhibitions and programs aim to inspire its members and wider audience to further invest in and support Newark’s creative community. Founder and Co-Director Jasmine Wahi commented: “We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a unique incubator program where we can be in conversation with other like-minded arts organizations. We look forward to the experience of being such a critical learning environment.”

Racing Magpie (Rapid City, SD) seeks innovative and collaborative approaches rooted in Lakota thought and action for amplifying the creative community work of Native artists. They are committed to creating spaces for Native artists, makers, and creatives in western South Dakota and beyond. Director Peter Strong commented: “At Racing Magpie, we believe that the past, present, and future of Native communities are held and led by artists, makers, and culture bearers. We strive to support them and their processes and practices with every opportunity we get for an even brighter future. To receive this support through the VIA/Wagner Foundation Incubator program and expand our community of practice is an unbelievable honor for our whole team, and we hope to emerge from the program stronger and better positioned to amplify the brilliance of our community’s creatives.”

Utah Museum of Contemporary Art (Salt Lake City, UT) proposes art as an agent of change in the face of economic, gender, and racial inequality that exist in its community and beyond. The museum is deeply invested in bridging multiple communities in Utah through programming that navigates critical issues raised by contemporary art. Executive Director Laura Allred Hurtado commented: “The Utah Museum of Contemporary Art is honored to be awarded the VIA Art Fund/Wagner Foundation Incubator Grant and to be a part of the fourth cohort, joining a prestigious group of select arts organizations whose work and thought leadership, around the nation, seek to share contemporary art with a wide-range of audiences and geographies through artist-centered exhibitions. UMOCA believes in the power of the art of our time—what it says and what it does, it’s trapping, its complications, its
resolutions, its curiosities and its questions—has the ability to build a more empathetic world. Throughout our 90-year history, we have sought to support the vision of artists by allowing them space to see their work and their ideas through. Thank you so much for this impactful investment in the work we do.”

To learn more about the Incubator grant program, please visit our website.

ABOUT US

Since its founding in 2013, VIA Art Fund has built a national coalition of dedicated individual philanthropists and family foundations who have awarded more than $6 million in grants and gifted or partially gifted over 40 works of art to US museums. VIA Art Fund supports contemporary visual art through a series of philanthropic partnerships that exemplify our grantmaking core values of Artistic Production, Thought Leadership, and Public Engagement. Partnering directly with artists, curators, and cultural institutions around the world, VIA Art Fund awards grants to innovative artistic organizations and endeavors in various forms, from the production, exhibition, and institutional acquisition of works of art, to symposia, educational programs, and publications. VIA Art Fund stands apart in the landscape of contemporary arts funding as a collective, democratic initiative that connects art patrons with today’s most visionary cultural producers.

Wagner Foundation’s vision is a just and robust community where everyone is valued equally and has the ability to imagine, shape, pursue, and sustain the lives they wish to lead. In pursuit of this vision, the foundation’s mission is to confront the social and historical disparities that perpetuate injustice. The foundation does this by accompanying organizations aligned with this goal, serving as advocates for change and convening thought leaders. Its focus on health equity and shared prosperity is balanced by a holistic approach which aims to develop and strengthen equitable systems throughout the world. In these efforts, the foundation welcomes creative solutions bringing communities together. It is committed to encouraging visionary individuals, as well as arts organizations 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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