



VIA Art Fund

FAQs

What grants does VIA offer?

VIA has one grant program that accepts unsolicited Letters of Inquiry (LOIs), the **Artistic Production Grant Program**. For more information on this grant program please see our [Artistic Production Grant Program Description, Eligibility Requirements, and LOI Guidelines](#).

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 Artistic Production 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 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.

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 to support the production and presentation of new works of contemporary visual art. VIA supports the work of curators through the Curatorial Fellowship.

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.

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I am interested in applying for an Incubator Grant. How do I apply?

VIA Art Fund's Incubator Grant Program has come to a close.

I am interested in applying for an Artistic Production Grant. 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 featuring several newly-commissioned artworks, we encourage you to reach out to VIA staff ahead of the LOI deadline so that we may work with you to advise on which artist and project to bring forward for VIA support in your LOI.

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. 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 support.

What are the criteria for international applicants?

If the project takes place in the US, the featured artist may be based in the US or internationally. If the artist is based internationally, then the project must take place in the US. If the project venue is outside the US, the artist must be based in the US.

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. Federally recognized Tribes and state municipalities are eligible for funding without a fiscal sponsor.

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?

Artistic Production Grants typically range from \$25,000 to \$100,000, with grants at the upper levels of funding reserved for permanent installations or newly commissioned works that may be gifted to a U.S. public collection.



Can any portion of VIA's grant funding be applied to indirect costs?

No, VIA funds can only be applied to budget categories of Production, Programming, and Publication. No amount of VIA's funds may be applied to indirect costs, overhead, or general operating expenses.

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 15-40% of the project budget.

How does VIA's production/acquisition funding work?

VIA has gifted or partially gifted many 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 the [Gifts to Museums](#) page of our website.

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?

Previous grantees must wait three full years from the date of their last grant award to re-apply for funding. Previous applicants who were invited to submit a full application but did not receive support must wait one full year to re-apply. Previous applicants who did not progress past the LOI stage may not submit an LOI for the same project; they may, however, submit an LOI for a different project in the next cycle.

What if I would like to apply for a grant outside VIA's semi-annual grant cycle timeline?

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

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 [Awarded Grants](#) page and following us on social media (Instagram: @viaartfund, Facebook, Twitter). Information on our grantmaking cycles is available on the [Artistic Production Grant Program](#) page of our website.

If I have additional questions, can I schedule a call with VIA staff?

Due to the small staff size of VIA Art Fund, we are not able to take calls or respond to inquiries from prospective applicants. We encourage you to submit an LOI to the best of your ability after referencing the above FAQ and our [Artistic Production Grant Program Description, Eligibility Requirements, and LOI Guidelines](#).

