



Grit Fund Application Guidelines

The Contemporary // contemporary.org // 410-756-0397 // PO Box 1572, Baltimore, MD 21203

Overview

The *Grit Fund* supports unincorporated and collaborative artist-organized activity that contributes significantly to Baltimore's arts landscape but seldom qualifies for traditional funding. Established with generous support from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the *Grit Fund* expands Warhol's Regional Regranting Program to the Mid-Atlantic, encouraging projects that generate opportunities and create platforms for artists to engage with each other and with the public. Funded activities could include but are not limited to: exhibitions, publications, public events, public art, film screenings, the ongoing work of an existing arts venue or collective, and the founding of a new arts venue or collective.

The *Grit Fund*, administered by The Contemporary, provides 8-12 grants in amounts between \$1,000–\$6,000, totaling \$50,000 annually. The *Grit Fund* will accept proposals from non-incorporated, artist-organized initiatives that work collaboratively and reside in Baltimore City or Baltimore County. Projects must take place in either Baltimore City or Baltimore County and be accessible to the general public. The Contemporary's mission is inspired by three guiding principles: artists matter, collaboration is key, and audience is everywhere. In keeping with this mission, the *Grit Fund* values risk-taking, encourages collaboration, and seeks to expand points of access to contemporary art.

Grant Amounts

The *Grit Fund* will award 8 - 12 grants between \$1,000 and \$6,000.

Eligibility

- Lead organizer must be a resident of Baltimore City or Baltimore County. The lead organizer is the primary contact during the application and granting process.
- The majority of collaborators must be residents of Baltimore City or Baltimore County.
- Lead organizer cannot be a student during time of application. Students may be listed as collaborators on projects provided they will graduate by the time projects commence.
- Applicants may be a lead organizer on only one application but may be listed as a collaborator on multiple applications.
- Resulting project activities must be accessible to Baltimore's public and be presented in Baltimore City or Baltimore County.
- Applications from 501c3 non-profit organizations will NOT be considered.
- LLC's are eligible if their primary purpose is not commercial and they are not a for-profit enterprise.

Funding Priorities

- The *Grit Fund* strongly prioritizes projects that present the work of multiple artists.
- Preference is given to projects that are unlikely to be funded through traditional frameworks of support.
- Only proposals submitted by non-incorporated, artist-organized entities will be considered.
- Projects must be accessible to or engage the public via process, presentation, production, or publication.



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Review Process and Selection Criteria

The Contemporary's review process will take approximately 8 weeks. To be considered for funding, completed applications must be submitted on time and meet all eligibility requirements. All proposals are evaluated based on criteria including:

Artistic Strength

- overall vision
- innovative, creative, and conceptual strength of project

Feasibility

- capacity to carry out and complete the project
- feasibility of the project being realized within the allotted time and resources

Public interface

- accessibility to the public
- commitment to serving a local constituency

Proposals will be reviewed by a five person panel comprised of local and national artists and arts professionals currently working in the field of visual arts. The Contemporary staff members do not serve on the jury.

Responsibilities

Grant recipients are expected to maintain communication with The Contemporary. Awardees are asked to complete a short report after completion of the project in addition to checking in periodically with The Contemporary throughout the grant period.

Timeline

Jan. 12 2015: *Submissions open via Submittable*
Jan. 13 2015: *Information Session #1*
Jan. 28 2015: *Information Session #2*
Feb. 04 2015: *Information Session #3*
Feb. 10 2015: *Information Session #4*
Feb. 20 2015: *Submissions close online at 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time.*
Apr. 22 2015: *Grant Recipients announced*
Apr. 2015: *Funds distributed*
May 2015: *Grant Recipient reception*
Apr. 30 2016: *All projects must be complete*

How to apply:

Applications must be completed online. Paper applications will not be accepted. Access the online application at thecontemporary.submittable.com

Submissions open: *January 12, 2015*

Submissions close: *February 20, 2015 at 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time*

The online application will prompt you to provide the following:

Basic Contact Information

Name, address, and email of lead applicant and names of up to five additional collaborators.

Project Summary (100 words max.)

Brief summary of your proposed project.

Full Project Description (700 words max.)

Detailed description of your project that addresses: the form the project will take, where the project will take place (location/venue), what motivates the project, and any opportunities the project offers for local artist support. Describe your anticipated audience or participants. Describe the public component of your project and how your project will be made accessible to Baltimore audiences.

Biography of Group/Key Collaborators (200 words max.)

Narrative biography for the lead organizer or group and key collaborators.

Project Timeline

Project timeline including: project phases and key dates during project implementation (May 2015 through April 2016).

Project Budget

Download and complete the budget form (available from www.gritfund.org starting on January 12, 2015). Upload the completed form to your online application as a PDF.

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Visual Support Material

Provide documentation of past work and/or sketches for your proposed project. If your group is newly formed and unable to provide examples of existing collaborations, choose support materials that will give the jury a sense of collaborators' individual practices or past work. You will be prompted to upload up to 2 forms of the following support materials:

- Up to 5 digital images formatted as either JPG, GIF, or PNG. Images should not exceed 800 x 600 pixels, 180 dpi.
- Up to 2 URLs to videos. Submit links to videos that you have already uploaded to an online platform such as YouTube or Vimeo. You cannot submit the videos directly. If there is a password to view the video, include it in the Support Materials Description List. Up to 5 minutes total of video may be submitted for review.
- Up to 2 URLs to web-based projects. Please enter the specific URL to be viewed, the jury will not spend time browsing a website in its entirety.

Support Materials Description List

Annotated List that corresponds with each image provided in your Visual Support Materials. Include: lead organizer / group's name, title, year, medium, and brief description.

Information Sessions

The Contemporary will lead four free information sessions to provide more details on the application process, guidelines, eligibility, funding priorities, and more. While attending an info session is encouraged, attendance is not required to apply for funding. No RSVP necessary.

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

6:00 - 7:00 PM
Maryland Art Place
218 W Saratoga Street

Wednesday, January 28, 2015

12:00 - 1:00 PM
Station North Chicken Box
1 W North Avenue

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

6:00 - 7:00 PM
Creative Alliance
3134 Eastern Avenue

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Evening Session, exact time TBD
Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center
847 N Howard Street

Inquiries

For more information please attend an info session. If you are unable to attend any of the sessions or if you have any additional questions, please email Lu Zhang at gritfund@contemporary.org.

FAQ's can be found at:
www.contemporary.org/gritfund/faqs/