



# 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 \$1000 and \$6000.

## Eligibility

- The lead organizer is the primary contact during the application and granting process. Lead organizers must be a resident of Baltimore City or Baltimore County.
- 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.

## Timeline

**January 12 2015:** *Submissions open via Submittable*

January 13 2015: *Information Session #1*

January 28 2015: *Information Session #2*

February 4 2015: *Information Session #3*

February 10 2015: *Information Session #4*

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

April 22 2015: *Grant Recipients announced*

End of April 2015: *Funds distributed*

May 2015: *Grant Recipient reception*

April 30 2016: *All projects must be complete*

## Artist Responsibilities

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

## How to apply:

Your application must be completed online via Submittable, The Contemporary's online application and submission platform. Paper applications are not accepted. Access the online application at [thecontemporary.submittable.com](http://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, 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: project format, locations(s), project motivation(s), opportunities for local artist support, intended audience, and project timeline. Describe your anticipated audience or participants. Describe the public component(s) of your project and how it will be made accessible to Baltimore audiences.

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

Narrative biography about the lead organizer or group. You will also be asked for shorter (100 word max.) biographies for additional collaborators.

## Project Timeline

Preliminary timeline of project phases, activities, and implementation from May 2015 - April 2016. While projects do not



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always precisely follow the timeline initially anticipated, drafting a thoughtful timeline will demonstrate the level of planning and forethought you have put into the project.

## Project Budget

Download and complete the budget form as accurately as possible and request the grant amount that would best allow you to achieve your project's stated goals. The budget form can be downloaded from [gritfund.org](http://gritfund.org) beginning on January 12, 2015. After completing the budget form, upload it to your online application.

## Visual Support Material

Support materials help illustrate the applicant's past, present, or proposed artist work. If there are no images directly related to the project for which you are applying, please choose support materials that will give the jury a sense of collaborators' individual practices or past work. You may also submit sketches or images of plans for this project. You will be prompted to upload up to 2 forms of the following support materials:

- Up to 5 digital images. Files must be formatted as either JPG, GIF, or PNG and cannot exceed 800 x 600 pixels, 180 dpi.
- Up to 2 URLs to videos. Submit links to videos that are already online, 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 selection committee will not spend time browsing a whole website.

## Support Materials Description List

Annotated List that corresponds with each item in your Visual Support Materials. Include: artist name or organizer's name, title, year, medium, and brief description of each image (digital image, video, publication, website, etc.). All items should be in one document and numbers should correspond to the number of each work sample, in the order that they are uploaded.

## Information Sessions

The Contemporary will lead four free information sessions to provide more details on the application process, questions of eligibility, appropriate uses of grant funds 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*

6:00 - 7:00 PM

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@gritfund.org](mailto:Lu.Zhang@gritfund.org).

FAQ's can found at:

[www.contemporary.org/gritfund/faqs/](http://www.contemporary.org/gritfund/faqs/)