



Asian Cultural Council 2024 Grant Overview

The Asian Cultural Council is committed to advancing international dialogue, mutual understanding, and respect through supporting cultural exchange projects by individuals and organizations between Asia and the US and between Asian countries.

ACC grants provide long-term, immersive exploration of other cultures. ACC's individualized programmatic support expands the horizons of grantees by nurturing their perspectives, fostering creative growth, and fostering valuable international connections.

ACC values long-lasting relationships with our grantees. We partner with them and help them form communities to share their transformative experiences and cultivate valuable international connections.

ACC grants go beyond mere travel funding; they offer a unique opportunity for recipients to design an experience individually and fully immerse themselves in a different culture.

ACC takes an unconventional approach by not funding production-based grants, such as the creation of artwork or an exhibition. Instead, our Fellowships and grants seek to provide cultural enrichment opportunities for selected grantees. We have found that through funding a period spent in an unfamiliar environment where grantees can take a break from their day-to-day responsibilities and deadlines, they are more open to expanding their perspectives and integrating learned experiences into their creative practices.

Accordingly, ACC has developed four distinct grant types to support immersive cultural exchange:

- New York Fellowship
- Individual Fellowship
- Graduate Fellowship
- Organization Grant

Please read the guidelines carefully to determine your eligibility and identify which grant can best support your needs. Please note you are only able to apply for **one** type of grant during the 2024 grant cycle.

Asian Cultural Council recognizes that the arts have become increasingly intersectional with the rapid advancement of technological innovations. For the 2024 grant cycle, proposals that focus on the relationship between the arts, technology, and culture are encouraged.

We seek artists and cultural creators who demonstrate a dedication to their ongoing artistic and professional growth. Applicants should articulate their goals, strategies, and plans for advancing their artistic careers, including how a Fellowship will support their development.

The 2024 grant cycle is a global open call. ACC will accept applications from individuals and organizations based in Asia and the United States. Applicants are asked to provide one letter of recommendation, as

well as contact information (name, email, and phone number) for two additional professional references. All applications will be reviewed by selection committees consisting of regional, national, and international field experts. For a detailed list of countries, please click here:

<https://www.asianculturalcouncil.org/apply/faq>

Please note that ACC's next grant cycle will open in the fall of 2025 and will be open to residents of qualified <https://www.asianculturalcouncil.org/apply/faq> Asia grantees only.

General Eligibility

- Must be a scholar, practicing artist, or arts professional in an [eligible field](#).
- Project must fall within one of the 16 eligible disciplines.
- Applicants can only apply for one grant type per cycle.
- Applicants must not have received an ACC grant in the past two (2) calendar years.
- ACC highly recommends all applicants receive vaccination for COVID-19. For US-bound grantees, our partners may require vaccination to host grantees.
- Proposed activities must begin and end within the grant periods defined below:
 - Applicants from Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR, and Mainland China; Japan; the Philippines, and Taiwan: August 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025
 - Applicants from the U.S. and eligible Asian countries/regions (see list below): August 1, 2024, to December 31, 2026
 - Afghanistan
 - Bangladesh
 - Bhutan
 - Brunei
 - Cambodia
 - East Timor
 - India
 - Indonesia
 - Korea
 - Laos
 - Malaysia
 - Mongolia
 - Myanmar
 - Nepal
 - Pakistan
 - Singapore
 - Sri Lanka
 - Thailand
 - Vietnam

ACC Does Not Support

- Activities
 - Projects taking place outside the applicable funding periods (see above)

- Promotional activities and services, including but not limited to travel, public relations, and marketing
- Projects focused on commercial and industrial design or activities incorporating commercial activity or commercial artists of any kind
- Projects exclusively focused on attending workshops, arts and culture festivals, conferences, or participation in residency programs
- Administration
 - ACC does not provide visas and/or funding for spouses, partners, children, and other family members
- Costs/Expenses
 - Production-based costs (ex: need funding to finish Project X by January 1, 2025)
 - Capital and equipment purchases
 - Expenses and/or direct costs to organize or support events, including but not limited to, performances, exhibitions, fundraising, and receptions
 - Expenses to support or fund K-12 arts in education
 - Tuition expenses including Graduate, Undergraduate, and/or secondary school tuition
 - Funding to support regranting programs

2024 Grant Application and Process Timeline

- Applications Accepted: 11/1/2023-11/30/2023
- Application Deadline: 11/30/2023 at 11:59 PM EST.
- Selection (Panel review and interviews): 12/1/2023-04/30/2024
- Board Approval: Mid-May 2024
- Notification to Grantee: Mid-May 2024
- *Please note there may be additional steps for each global ACC office.*

Selection Criteria

Applications are reviewed using the following selection criteria:

- Alignment with ACC's Mission: Cultural Exchange
- Quality of Proposal (Feasibility, Clarity, and Impact)
- Artistic/Professional Merit
- Critical Time in Applicant's Career
- Ability to Communicate in Destination Country/Region

Panelist Information

- ACC invites regional, national, and international experts in a wide range of disciplines to serve in our review process.
- Panelist names are made public at the discretion of each ACC global office.

Individual Fellowship Guidelines

Description

The Individual Fellowship program provides support to artists, scholars, or arts professionals working in ACC's eligible disciplines, empowering them to take risks, develop their artistic practices through research projects, and take time to immerse themselves in a different culture.

ACC emphasizes that the Individual Fellowship is not a residency, a fund to attend a singular conference/travel grant, or an individual's personal public relations tour. Rather, ACC expects Individual Fellows to be self-directed and have a focused research project that enables and promotes cultural immersion, dialogue, relationship-building, collaboration, and/or exchange of knowledge among peers.

Compared to the New York Fellowship, the Individual Fellowship has more flexibility and freedom regarding location and timing of travel, travel length, and budget.

Individual Fellows have the freedom to determine the following:

- Location of travel: Applicants are welcome to travel from their home countries to a different country, whether that is to the United States, to Asia, or within Asia.
- Duration of travel: ACC welcomes project activities ranging from 1 to 6 months. Project activity timelines with longer durations are preferred; however, all proposed projects must be, at minimum, 1-month in duration.
- Timing of travel: ACC understands that all applicants have a variety of commitments, personally and professionally. The Individual Fellowship allows the freedom to schedule and complete a research project on the Fellow's own schedule and project needs.
- Budget: We welcome applications for funding up to \$35,000. When completing your application, please note that ACC will be reviewing your application regarding the feasibility of completing the project, including logistical and budget feasibility.
- Collaborators: ACC understands that many research projects are not solitary endeavors. ACC welcomes up to four (4) collaborators on the project, including the primary applicant. Please be mindful of the number of collaborators when budgeting for housing, transportation, health insurance, and visa costs. ACC will not increase the total grant amount cap due to the number of collaborators

Strong applications will include:

- A general schedule of activities regarding your research project. While ACC does not expect a day-to-day schedule, we are interested in how you intend to spend your time during the Individual Fellowship.
- A personalized definition of cultural exchange, and how your proposed project will address cultural exchange.
- A clear explanation of the feasibility of your proposal, including the consideration of the accessibility of communities or cultural resources of interest, the logistics of transportation (especially to remote areas), accommodations, and language barriers.

- A reasonable budget that is thoughtful and realistic with regard to the plan of activities, travel costs, translation services (if necessary), and the cost of living in the country the applicant is traveling to.
- Possible contacts and connections that will help you with your research project.
- Ability to demonstrate a proven history of your impact on your artistic field as well as the potential of continued worthwhile contributions to your discipline.

Individual Fellowship—Specific Eligibility

- Must be over the age of 21 at the start date of the Individual Fellowship.
- Must have five (5) years of professional experience.
- Applicant cannot be a full-time student.
- Applications cannot include more than four (4) collaborators for a project, including the primary applicant.
- All collaborators must submit a single application to ACC and must plan to travel together; separate trips are not permitted.
- Applicants with collaborators that do not provide names and include the biographies and work samples for all collaborators will not be considered.
- All collaborators must fall under the Individual Fellowship criteria and eligibility, including country/region of citizenship or primary residence.
- An Individual Fellowship applicant has the flexibility to conduct research in multiple countries. However, it is important to consider any logistical challenges or restrictions in traveling to various countries. US-bound travel cannot occur prior to September 1, 2024, due to the time needed to administer J-1 Visas.
- Funding amounts for the Individual Fellowship are subject to adjustment based on the resources and available funding at each office prior to the grant being awarded.

Travel Eligibility

Individual Fellowship supports travel from:

- United States to Asia
- Asia to the United States
- Between approved Asian countries

Budget

Individual Fellows are welcome to apply for up to \$35,000 for their project.

When creating a budget, please include the following information:

- Travel costs, including airfare
- Accommodation
- Daily expenses, including food and local transportation
- Costs and fees relevant to the research project
- Translation services, if necessary

Support for Individual Fellows

ACC support services are intended to enhance a proposed plan of activity, give increased access to artistic communities and cultural resources in the destination country, and deepen one's cultural exchange experience.

Please note that ACC does not have an office and staff in every destination country; therefore, support such as making specific connections may be limited. Please keep this possibly limited programmatic and logistical support in mind while developing your research project. Proposals should be feasible with or without additional guidance from ACC.

Examples of support that Individual Fellows may receive:

- Recommending sites to visit or activities in which to participate, especially in Hong Kong, Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan, and the United States.
- Connecting grantees to ACC's broader community of Fellows and alumni.
- Administering the J-1 Specialist Visa sponsorship and health insurance necessary to travel to the United States.

FAQS for the Individual Fellowship

- How do the NY Fellowship and Individual Fellowship differ?
 - It may seem that the NY Fellowship and Individual Fellowship are the same grant application; however, there are several distinct differences. Please read the following to determine which application is best for your project, personal and professional needs, and your upcoming schedule.

Individual Fellowship	New York Fellowship
Proposals accepted for: US to Asia; Asia to US, and between countries in Asia	Proposals accepted for Asia to US only - Based in New York
Focused on research and specific projects; a solid proposal includes details on process, itinerary, and deliverables.	Focused on cultural and artistic exploration; assesses the impact of opportunity on career and personal growth
1-6 months. Dates are self-determined.	Start in January or July for 6 months. Dates are non-negotiable.
Limited programmatic support	Provides accommodations and more programmatic support
Applicant can include up to 4 collaborator(s)	Collaborators are not allowed

- How much money can I ask for the Individual Fellowship?
 - You may ask for up to \$35,000 for the Individual Fellowship.
- How long can I travel on the Individual Fellowship?

- 1 to 6 months.
- Is open-ended exploration allowed on the Individual Fellowship?
 - ACC encourages focused research projects and/or specific projects for the Individual Fellowship. The application will ask for details on the research, a basic itinerary, and a budget that reflects proposed activities.
- Does my collaborator need to create a separate application for our project?
 - No, please list all collaborators on one application.
- My collaborator does not fall within the eligibility guidelines, can I still apply?
 - All collaborators must fall within the eligibility guidelines. You may still apply for the Individual Fellowship, but please reimagine your application without the collaborator.
- Can I bring my spouse, partner, and/or children for the duration of the Individual Fellowship?
 - Spouses, partners, and/or children are welcome to visit for short-term stays during the Fellowship term; however, guests are discouraged from accompanying Fellows for the entire duration of the Fellowship term. ACC is not responsible for visitors' visas and logistics, and ACC funding cannot be used towards visitor expenses.
- Will ACC provide a visa to my spouse, partner, and/or children?
 - No, ACC does not provide visas to anyone except the grantee.
- Can I travel to the United States on a visitor visa?
 - No, ACC requires all grantees traveling to the United States to be on a J-1 visa, regardless of how long they are in the country.
- Can ACC secure accommodation in the country I am traveling to in my Fellowship?
 - No, ACC does not provide any accommodation for Individual Fellows. For certain countries, ACC may provide resources and guidance on housing; however, this is not guaranteed for every destination country.

General FAQs

- Can I travel to the United States on a traveler's visa?
 - No, all grantees who receive an Individual Fellowship, New York Fellowship, or an Organization Grant must travel on a J-1 Specialist Visa. ACC will sponsor a J-1 Visa except for Graduate Fellows who must obtain a F-1 Visa through their university.
- I have received ACC funding in the past. Am I eligible to reapply?
 - Past grant recipients are eligible to apply again, and ACC is especially interested in helping alumni strengthen and extend their international networks. Alumni may apply in any grant category, with the following exceptions:
 1. Past recipients of an ACC New York Fellowship are not eligible to apply again for a New York Fellowship.
 2. Alumni who have received a 6-month Fellowship or similarly large grant in the past are not likely to be awarded another grant of comparable size.
 3. Alumni must not have received a grant from ACC in the past two (2) calendar years.
- Can I apply for more than one grant program in one cycle?
 - No, please only apply and submit one application for the entire grant cycle.

- My question was not answered here. Can I email an ACC staff to request more information?
 - Please email application@accny.org.
- Can I submit an application for a virtual experience?
 - ACC acknowledges that in the past, we have funded virtual/digital experiences due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related travel restrictions. Moving forward, we will only fund in-person experiences as they best serve our mission of cultural exchange.