



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 regrating 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.

Organization Grant Guidelines

Description

The Organization Grant provides support to organizations that

1. Are engaging in projects that will benefit from cultural immersion, research, increased access to artistic communities or cultural resources in a specific country, and/or the exchange of knowledge amongst peers.
2. Intend to build organizational or regional capacities of cultural exchange activities through workshops, specialized training, etc.

The Organization Grant does not fund travel to specific conferences, performances, or gallery showings. Instead, ACC expects a deep cultural exchange experience for the organization and all project participants. In other terms, the organization has thought about the impact of their cultural exchange experience, who their community is, and how this experience can potentially affect their larger community.

Organization Grants have the freedom to determine the following:

- Location of travel: see travel guidelines below.
- Duration of travel: ACC welcomes project activities ranging from 1 to 6 months.
- Timing of travel: ACC understands that all applicants have a variety of commitments, personally and professionally. The Organization Grant allows the freedom to schedule and complete a research project on the Fellow's own schedule and project needs.
- Budget: We welcome applications up to \$50,000. When completing your application, please note that ACC will be reviewing your application regarding the feasibility of completing the project and based on ACC's available funds.
- Additional Funds: Organization Grants allow and encourage organizations to secure additional funding for the proposed grant project.

Strong applications will include:

- A well-defined proposal that expands upon cross-cultural exchange and articulates the impact that the proposed experience will have on their project participants and the larger community.
- A general schedule of activities regarding their research project. While ACC does not expect a day-to-day schedule, we are interested in how project participants will spend their time during the grant period.
- A reasonable budget that captures the plan of activities, travel costs, translation services (if necessary), and the cost of living in the country the applicant is traveling to.
- A list of possible contacts and connections that will help the applicant with their research project.
- An explanation of the feasibility of the 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.

Organization Grant-Specific Eligibility

- Must be a registered nonprofit or NGO
- The organization needs to demonstrate five (5) years of programming in cultural exchange.
- ACC funding cannot be used for artist fees or production expenses.
- Production-driven projects are not eligible, including touring, performances, and exhibitions.
- Applicants that do not name individual project participants, and include their biographies and work samples, will not be considered.
- All project participants must meet eligibility under the Organization Grant criteria, including nationality.

Travel Eligibility

Organization Grants support travel from:

- United States to Asia
- Asia to the United States
- Between Asian countries/regions

Budget

Organization Grant applicants may apply for support up to \$50,000 for their project activities.

When creating the 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 Organization Grants

ACC support services are intended to enhance the proposed plan of activity, increase access to artistic communities and cultural resources in the destination country, and deepen the cultural exchange experience.

Kindly be aware that ACC does not maintain offices in every country where we provide funding and support. As a result, certain assistance, such as making specific connections, may be limited. It is essential to consider ACC's available resources and operational capacity while developing your research project. Proposals should be designed to be achievable independently, with or without additional guidance from ACC.

Examples of support organizations may receive:

- Recommending sites to visit or activities to participate in, especially in Hong Kong, Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan, and the United States.
- Connecting grantees to ACC's broader community of Fellows and alumni.

FAQS for Organization Grants

- In the past, ACC has funded organizations to send Fellows to participate in performances, workshops, festivals, and more. Can I apply to do the same?
 - ACC has shifted away from funding travel-based grants and will no longer support production-driven projects.

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.