



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.

New York Fellowship Guidelines

Description

The New York Fellowship is a 6-month program that provides support to artists, scholars, and arts professionals working across disciplines, empowering them to take risks, develop their artistic practices, and take time to immerse themselves in the rich and varied cultural life of New York City.

The New York Fellowship aims to foster grantees' understanding of New York City's many diverse cultures. We posit that cultural understanding is uniquely imparted through first-hand experience, regardless of form or method, and that the impact of cultural exchange manifests in diverse ways. We encourage applicants to clearly articulate the desired outcome(s) they wish to gain from this Fellowship in their application.

ACC emphasizes that this 6-month grant is not a residency or an individual's personal public relations tour. Rather, the New York Fellowship is a precious pause in everyday activities to take a deep dive into New York City's rich cultural landscape. ACC hopes that Fellows will take the learnings and insights from their Fellowship experience to influence their own practice, and later contribute to the artistic and cultural communities in their home country.

Strong applications will include:

- A clear description of what you plan to research or engage in during your 6 months in NYC.
- A general list 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 New York Fellowship.
- Possible contacts and connections that will help you with your research project.
- Ability to demonstrate a proven history of impact on your artistic field as well as the potential of continued worthwhile contributions to your artistic discipline.

New York Fellowship-Specific Eligibility

- Must be over the age of 21 by the New York Fellowship start date.
- Must have five (5) years of professional experience.
- Applicant cannot be a full-time student.
- Previous ACC New York Fellowship recipients are not eligible to apply to the New York Fellowship
 - If you were a project participant in an organization that received ACC funding, please contact applications@accny.org to confirm if you are eligible for the New York Fellowship.

Travel Eligibility

- The New York Fellowship **only** supports travel from Asia to United States.

Budget for NY Fellowship

- \$35,000 for 6 months
 - New York Fellows are expected to manage their own awarded and personal finances according to their research project and the high cost of living of New York City.

Support for NY Fellowship

The New York Fellowship program is divided into two 6-month cohorts during a calendar year. The first cohort exchanges from January - June and the second cohort exchanges from July - December. Each Fellow will join a cohort consisting of fellow artists, performers, scholars, and arts professionals from Asia. Fellowship cohort members will have the opportunity to interact and learn from one another, participate in ACC's group activities, and connect with creative communities in New York City.

More specifically, ACC provides the following categories of support for New York Fellows:

Programmatic Support

Group Activities

- The New York Fellowship group activities are comprised of a curated series of site visits, immersing Fellows in the vibrant cultural ecosystem of New York City. Tailored to each cohort, group activities are designed to align with the unique interests and research themes of Fellowship participants.

Fellowship Office Hours

- Fellowship office hours are offered twice a week for grantees to brainstorm and receive feedback on their research projects from the ACC New York Program staff. Office hours connect grantees with resources, potential contacts, and information to advance their research projects in a customized and personal way.

Logistical Support

J-1 Visa:

- ACC will administer the J-1 visa sponsorship in advance of a grantee's scheduled travel.
- All ACC New York Fellows are required to receive a J-1 visa.
- All ACC New York Fellows will receive a J-1 Specialist visa.
 - *Please note this is a different category from the J-1 Visiting Scholars Visa.*
- ACC New York will not sponsor any J-1 visas for others, including but not limited to spouses, partners, and/or children.
- The cost of the J-1 visa will be deducted from the awarded grant amount.

Health Insurance:

- ACC will purchase travel health insurance in advance of a grantee's scheduled travel.
- All ACC New York Fellows are required to have health insurance to remain in compliance for the J-1 visa.
- The health insurance purchased for New York Fellows is non-negotiable; however, grantees are welcome to purchase additional health insurance from their home countries.
- The cost of the required travel health insurance will be deducted from the awarded grant amount.

Housing for New York Fellowship

- ACC New York Fellows will have the option of selecting:
 - A studio apartment at International House (ACC New York Offices may assist in obtaining this housing option)
 - Search, secure, and organize their own housing
- If selected for the New York Fellowship, the applicant's Program Officer will review a grantee's choice and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of their options.
 - Please note, if a grantee chooses to find their own housing accommodation in New York City, ACC will not be held responsible and/or liable for the housing search, administration in securing housing, offering suggestions regarding apartments and where to live, apartment maintenance issues, and/or support with cases of housing fraud. Please note that ACC will not be able to serve as the grantees' guarantor or co-sign any leases.
- Grantees are required to inform ACC of their housing decision four months prior to the start date of their Fellowship.
 - Once grantees establish their housing decision, they are fully committed to their chosen option. For grantees electing to stay at International House, reservations must be made four months prior to the New York Fellowship start date, as rooms beyond this date will not be available or guaranteed. Prompt action is crucial to secure preferred accommodations.

Expectations from New York Fellows

- New York Fellowship grantees are expected to choose from one of the following cohort options and are required to commit to the full six (6) month program term:
 - Applicants from Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR, and Mainland China; Japan; the Philippines, and Taiwan
 - January – June 2025
 - July – December 2025
 - Applicants from eligible Asian countries/regions (see list below)
 - January – June 2025
 - July – December 2025
 - January – June 2026
 - July – December 2026
- Afghanistan
 - Bangladesh
 - Bhutan
 - Brunei
 - Cambodia
 - East Timor
 - India
 - Indonesia
 - Korea
 - Laos
 - Malaysia
 - Mongolia

- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Singapore
- Sri Lanka
- Thailand
- Vietnam

If you cannot commit to one of these cohorts in its entirety, please consider applying for an Individual Fellowship, which allows for shorter Fellowship durations. The dates and duration of the New York Fellowship are non-negotiable.

- New York Fellows are expected to minimize outside commitments, including travel to other countries for conferences, during the 6-month program.
- Understand the New York Fellowship is not designed to support the creation of new work or support exhibiting, performing, presenting, or other public activities. ACC will not provide support regarding production-based requests.
- Be self-sufficient, independent, resourceful, curious, and eager to explore outside the boundaries of their artistic training.
- As one of the most culturally and ethnically diverse cities in the world, NYC is home to over 8 million people from diverse backgrounds. Thus, New York Fellows should conduct their grant period in a respectful and open manner regarding the distinct cultures, communities, and histories that make up this vibrant city.
- Speak confident English for participating in conversation and forming relationships, without special language assistance.
 - ACC New York does not provide additional funds for a translator for the New York Fellowship. Costs or expenses incurred for translators or interpreters must be deducted from the grant amount or supported separately by the grantee.
 - While each grantee has a different degree of proficiency for English, we expect New York Fellows to be able to conduct daily tasks, write basic emails, and have the confidence to ask for help.

FAQS for NY Fellowship

- Am I allowed to leave NYC during the New York Fellowship?
 - While New York Fellows will reside in New York City during the program term, Fellows are encouraged to visit other locations within the United States as they see fit to support their proposal/interest.
- Am I allowed to leave the country during the New York Fellowship?
 - Yes, grantees are allowed to leave the country during their New York Fellowship; however, they must reach out to the ACC New York Program Officer to confirm eligibility, details, and complete additional administrative work.
- Can I bring my spouse, partner, and/or children for the duration of the New York Fellowship?
 - Spouses, partners, and/or children are welcome to visit during the duration of the Fellowship; however, we highly discourage the individual(s) from staying for the entire Fellowship.
- 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 apply and bring a collaborator to the New York Fellowship?
 - No, the New York Fellowship does not allow collaborators. Please apply for the Individual Fellowship.
- How do the New York Fellowship and Individual Fellowship differ?
 - It may seem that the New York Fellowship and Individual Fellowship are the same; however, there are several distinct differences. Please read the following to determine which Fellowship 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

- I want to apply to the New York Fellowship, but I can only commit for four out of the six months (ex. I am available from January – April 2025), can I still apply?
 - No, please apply for the Individual Fellowship.
- I want to apply to the New York Fellowship, but I cannot start in January 2025, July 2025, January 2026, or July 2026. Can I still apply?
 - No, the start and finish dates for the New York Fellowship are non-negotiable. Please apply for the Individual Fellowship.

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?

- o 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?
 - o 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?
 - o Please email application@accny.org.
- Can I submit an application for a virtual experience?
 - o 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.