In response to the abrupt closure of all arts venues around the country, and the even more precarious position in which this leaves so many emerging artists, on March 18, 2020 the Foundation for Contemporary Arts (FCA) launched the FCA COVID-19 Relief Fund. Administered as a subset of FCA’s respected Emergency Grants program—which offers modest, immediate grants to artists with unexpected opportunities or budget shortfalls associated with presenting work to the public—the new FCA COVID-19 Relief Fund is a resource for artists whose performances or exhibitions are either unexpectedly canceled or indefinitely postponed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The FCA COVID-19 Relief Fund will offer flat, $1,000 grants on a monthly basis, intended to offset unplanned losses incurred by artists who were anticipating income from ticket sales, artist fees, sales of artwork, or other earnings related to a scheduled performance or exhibition that has been canceled or postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak. Applications will be required to meet FCA’s criteria of mission fit (contemporary, experimental work) and artistic excellence.

**Key Points of Difference:**

- In keeping with FCA’s “by artists, for artists” founding spirit, FCA COVID-19 Relief Fund applications will be reviewed and processed by artists on staff, and grants will be determined by an all-artist panel at monthly panel meetings.
- Through its existing Emergency Grants program, FCA has a unique infrastructure already in place to accept, screen, review, select, and process a high volume of applications and grants on an average two-week turnaround, and on a rolling basis.

**Selection process:**

- Peer-determined grants are integral to FCA’s process. After staff screens for mission-fit and artistic excellence, applications will be reviewed at monthly panel meetings with an all-artist panel.
- Panel meetings will be held remotely until they can be safely convened again in person.

**Need:**

- Many artists working in contemporary, experimental practices do not have full-time jobs, paid sick leave, health insurance, or savings, and are particularly at risk of being disproportionately affected by the current pandemic and resulting economic situation.
- FCA anticipates a growing need in the weeks and months to come. During the first six days since launching the FCA COVID-19 Relief Fund application, over 400 applications were received (as of March 24), without yet publicizing the new fund. (By comparison, FCA normally receives between 120-150 Emergency Grants applications per month depending on the time of year.)

**Support:**

- FCA hopes to raise $1 million to support its COVID-19 Relief Fund, which would provide a total of $1,000 grants to 1,000 artists whose projects or performances were unexpectedly canceled or indefinitely postponed.
- FCA will augment its current monthly $26,000 Emergency Grants budget with an additional $10,000/month from April – August from FCA’s own funds to support COVID-19 requests.
- FCA has received over $175,000 in external funding commitments (as of March 24) from foundations and individuals. Support is pending from other artist foundations.

Please contact Stacy Tenenbaum Stark, st@contemporary-arts.org with any questions. Thank you for your consideration.