

Foundation for Contemporary Arts

FCA Emergency Grants COVID-19 Fund – Fact Sheet

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 EMERGENCY GRANTS COVID-19 FUND. Administered as a subset of FCA's respected EMERGENCY GRANTS program—which offers modest, immediate grants to artists living and working in the U.S. with unexpected opportunities or budget shortfalls associated with presenting work to the public—the new FCA EMERGENCY GRANTS COVID-19 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 EMERGENCY GRANTS COVID-19 FUND will offer one-time \$2,000 grants on a rolling basis, intended to offset unplanned losses incurred by artists for expenses from already-purchased materials or equipment, or anticipated income from ticket sales, artist and commissioning fees, 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.

As of July 20, 2020, the FCA EMERGENCY GRANTS COVID-19 FUND has been generously supported by several artists and individuals, as well as the following foundations:

Helen Frankenthaler Foundation COVID-19 Relief Effort—\$550,000
The Willem de Kooning Foundation—\$550,000
The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts—\$500,000
The Destina Foundation—\$250,000
Barnett and Annalee Newman Foundation—\$250,000
Teiger Foundation—\$250,000
Cy Twombly Foundation—\$250,000
Roy Lichtenstein Foundation—\$175,000
Leon Levy Foundation—\$50,000
Glenstone Museum—\$25,000
Mariposa Foundation—\$25,000
The Richard Pousette-Dart Foundation—\$25,000
The David Rockefeller Fund—\$20,000
Howard Gilman Foundation—\$15,000
Trust for Mutual Understanding—\$15,000

Key Points of Difference:

- In keeping with FCA's "by artists, for artists" founding spirit, FCA EMERGENCY GRANTS COVID-19 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.
- 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.
- Weekly 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.
- In the first three months since launching the FCA GRANTS COVID-19 FUND application, almost 3,700 applications were received. By comparison, FCA normally receives an average of 135 EMERGENCY GRANTS applications per month.

Support:

- FCA has raised over \$3 million to support its EMERGENCY GRANTS COVID-19 FUND, which is providing \$2,000 grants to at least 1,500 artists whose projects or performances were unexpectedly canceled or indefinitely postponed.

Prospective donors can contact Kathleen Flynn at info@contemporary-arts.org with any questions.