

THE SUPPORTING ACT FOUNDATION

Impact Grant 2023: Open Call Guide

Updated on 14 September 2023

PLEASE READ THE [ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA](#) CAREFULLY BEFORE WORKING ON YOUR APPLICATION. SUBMISSION DEADLINE: **SEPTEMBER 25, 2023 (11.59 AM CET)**

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Impact Grant

The Impact Grant is a program created by The Supporting Act Foundation to help underfunded grassroots arts organizations that have a community-driven approach in topics that relate to the use of arts for social change, and are offering any kind of support to emerging artists from underrecognized or marginalized groups.

This grant program is built on extensive research into the challenges that emerging artists are facing in Europe, and into alternative philanthropic approaches. We learned that reducing financial uncertainty for artist-led organizations is a key factor in achieving long-term and systemic change in the arts. It is also a way of creating conditions for a political, cultural, and economic power shift, helping build stronger communities and achieve positive impacts across the creative ecosystem.

What are we offering?

We are offering 6 unrestricted grants of €25,000- per year, to be awarded over a two-year period (commencing December 2023), adding up to a total of €50,000- per organization. These grants are intended to help cover operating expenses or any other costs you consider critical to successfully developing your organization's work.

We are also offering non-financial support in the form of access to a network of peers and mentors, and promotion on our social channels, and on the social channels and the

advertising/editorial platforms of our funding partner WeTransfer, helping to connect your organization with others working on similar issues or with similar communities in other countries.

Who can apply?

Eligibility criteria

Before preparing your application, please take care to check that your organization meets the following criteria. If selected for a grant, we will request documents to validate that the organization you represent is:

- ❖ Registered as a non-profit in—or running as a non-profit with a fiscal sponsor registered in—the Netherlands, Germany, France, United Kingdom, Spain, or Italy between 2018 and 2022
- ❖ Able to provide a bank account number in the name of the organization or of a fiscal sponsor in one of the countries listed above.
- ❖ Running with annual operating costs not greater than €125,000 / £110,000 in the current financial year (2023)
- ❖ Underfunded, which we define as the organization's annual income in 2022 being less than the annual costs of its operations, which were therefore too reliant on unpaid/underpaid work, and/or on voluntary/in-kind services
- ❖ Led by people who self-identify as artist/artists, or who use the arts in their approach
- ❖ Able to provide publicly available evidence of running at least one project during 2022 with a community-driven approach to topics related to the use of arts for social change

This open call is not for individuals, commercial organizations, ongoing projects or project proposals, or current grantees of The Supporting Act Foundation.

How to apply?

Once you have read this guide and checked whether you are eligible, please follow these steps:

- Step 1: Step 1: Go to the [Impact Grant program page](#) and hit the Apply button. You will then be directed to our online application hub Submittable. Then log in or create an account.
- Step 2: Fill out the eligibility questionnaire (you can see all the questions below). Only eligible applicants will then be able to continue with the application form.
- Step 3: Complete the application form (you can find the full form below). You will be able to save your work at any time by clicking “Save Draft” at the bottom of the page.
- Step 4: Once your application is complete, hit the Submit button and you will receive an automatic confirmation email and further notifications from notifications@email.submittable.com. Please make sure to add this email address to your contact list to avoid these emails going to your spam folder. Once it has been submitted, you won't be able to make any further changes.

address to your organization's contact list to avoid these emails going to your spam folder.

Deadline

The deadline to submit applications is **September 25, 2023** (11.59 AM CET).

Selection process

The selection process for the Impact Grant 2023 has three rounds:

Round 1: Filtering applications

While we will accept as many applications as possible during the open-call period, we only have capacity to properly assess up to 60 applications. If we receive more than 60 eligible applications, once the open call ends we will rank them according to their level of underfunding, and move the top 60 to the next round.

Round 2: Scoring by Impact Grant Jury

An independent jury consisting of 6 organizers, artists, and specialists with lived experience in arts for social change, including 2 grantees from the 2022 program, will review and score up to 60 applications. Each application will be scored by two jury members to create a new ranking based on the review criteria listed below. The top 15 applications will then pass to the final round.

Round 3: Recommendations by Impact Grant Jury

The top 15 applications will first be evaluated by all 6 members of the jury, who will then meet to reach a consensus on the 6 applications that they wish to recommend for grants.

The 6 recommended applicants will be notified and requested to submit their proofs of identity and eligibility. Once these are validated, an agreement form will be provided for signature. After this has been signed, the transfer of the first annual installment of €25,000- will be scheduled.

Impact Grant Jury

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| ❖ Richard Akingbehin | ❖ Amahra Spence |
| ❖ Daniele Carlini | ❖ Abi Tariq |
| ❖ Hannah Robathan | ❖ Nandita Vasanta |

Timeline of selection process

1. Call for submissions opens: August 29, 2023
2. Submission deadline: September 25, 2023 (at 11.59 AM CET)
3. Applications review: September 19—October 31, 2023
4. Notifications to grantees and applicants: November 2023
5. Transfer of first annual installment: December 2023

Notifications to applicants

We will contact you through our online application hub with a decision or a request for further information. Unfortunately, due to limited capacity, we will not be able to provide individual feedback.

Review criteria

All eligible applications will be reviewed and evaluated using the following criteria:

- ❖ The level of **alignment** with The Supporting Act Foundation’s mission¹
- ❖ The level of **annual underfunding** of the organization in 2022 and 2023
- ❖ The level of **coherence** between the proposed activities and budget plans for coming two years
- ❖ The level of **community engagement** of the organization and its projects
- ❖ The **potential community and social impact** of the organization’s work

Eligibility questionnaire and application form

All the questions you will encounter in the eligibility questionnaire and the application form on Submittable are provided below. We can only accept applications in English and all applications will be read with a default understanding that English might not be the first language of the applicant.

Eligibility questionnaire

Before submitting your application, please answer the following questions to validate if the organization you represent is eligible for this grant. Please keep in mind that, if your application is pre-selected for a grant, you will need to submit documents to confirm your answers.

- ❖ Is the organization registered as a non-profit in one of the following countries—the Netherlands, Germany, France, United Kingdom, Spain, Italy—or applying through a fiscal sponsor registered in these countries?
- ❖ Was the organization registered between 2018–2022?
- ❖ Is the organization led by one or more artists, or actively using arts in its approach?
- ❖ According to the financial results for 2022, were the operating costs of the organization lower than its annual income?
- ❖ Is the organization using a community-driven approach in topics related to arts for social change?
- ❖ Is the organization offering any kind of direct support to emerging artists from underrecognized or marginalized groups?

¹ It’s the Supporting Act Foundation’s mission is to enable inspiring artist-led initiatives and emerging artists to fulfill their creative potential. We aim to create opportunities for underrepresented people in the arts, and support communities and organizations in seeking intersectional justice for people and the planet. For more info see [our website](#).

Application form

SECTION 1: ORGANIZATION DETAILS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

1. Name of the organization
(as registered in legal documents, if applicable)
2. Public name of the organization
(if different from registered organization name)
3. Are you applying through a fiscal sponsor?
(if yes, fill questions 5a-5e)
 - a. Yes
 - b. No.
4. Proof of registration/fiscal sponsorship letter
 - A. If you are applying as a registered non-profit, please upload “proof of registration” document (a readable digital file issued by a trusted third party that clearly states the legal form of your organization)²
 - B. If you are applying through a fiscal sponsor, please upload a letter issued by them that clearly states the relationship
5. Fiscal sponsor information
(if applicable)
 - a. Name of the fiscal sponsor
 - b. Country (dropdown list)
 - c. Contact person
 - d. Email address
6. Where is your organization registered?
7. Website of the organization
8. Name of Contact person
 - a. First name + Last name
 - b. Role
 - c. Email address
9. How did you find out about this open call?
 - a. WeTransfer’s Instagram
 - b. WeTransfer wallpaper
 - c. Supporting Act’s mailing list
 - d. Supporting Act’s Instagram
 - e. Supporting Act’s LinkedIn
 - f. Supporting Act’s Twitter
 - g. Search engine
 - h. Through a friend
 - i. Other _____

SECTION 2: LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

10. Please share short bios of the people leading your organization. If these bios are publicly available, please also provide the relevant URLs.
 - a. Profile 1
 - i. Name

² This document does not need to be translated to English.

- ii. Role
 - iii. Link to bio
 - b. Profile 2
 - i. Name
 - ii. Role
 - iii. Link to bio
 - c. etc.
- 11. Does your organization have a Board of Advisors or Directors?
 - a. Yes
 - i. Please add link(s) to the list of the Board, if available
 - b. No
- 12. Explain briefly how governance and decision-making works in your organization (max 200 words)

SECTION 3: WORK AND IMPACT

- 13. In which year was your organization registered as a non-profit, or in case you are applying through a fiscal sponsor, in which year did you start your activities?
 - a. 2018
 - b. 2019
 - c. 2020
 - d. 2021
 - e. 2022
- 14. Based on this [chart](#), in which phase of the non-profit lifecycle is your organization?
 - a. Idea
 - b. Start-up
 - c. Growth
 - d. Maturity
 - e. Decline
 - f. Crisis
- 15. What is your organization's mission statement? (max. 150 words)
 - a. If possible, please provide a link to the webpage where the mission statement is publicly available
- 16. What is the geographical scope of your operations?
Select one option:
 - a. Local (operating in a neighborhood or district)
 - b. Citywide (operating in a specific city)
 - c. Regional (operating in a specific region)
 - d. National (operating in one country)
 - e. International (operating in multiple countries)
 - f. Online networks (not having a place-based approach)
 - g. Other
 - i. Please explain briefly the geographical scope of your operations (max 50 words)
- 17. Please explain briefly where your organization's work has its primary impact. (max. 150 words)
- 18. How many people benefit directly from your organization's work?
 - a. 1–50
 - b. 51–100
 - c. 101–500
 - d. 501–1000
 - e. More than 1000
- 19. Please explain briefly how you estimated your answer in the previous question. (max. 100 words)

20. Please describe the primary community that you are supporting and/or working with (max. 200 words)
21. Please describe the primary social, intersectional, or environmental injustices that your organization is aiming to confront (max. 200 words)
22. Please describe a recent or ongoing project and/or activities that exemplify your organization's approach (max. 200 words)
 - a. If available, please include a link to a webpage
23. Please share with us the names of 3 to 5 organizations/initiatives with whom you have collaborated on specific projects (max. 200 words)
24. Please describe the impact that your organization would like to have in the next 5 years (max. 200 words)
25. Is there anything else you would like to share with us about your work? (optional, max. 200 words—please do not share links)

SECTION 4: FINANCIAL SITUATION

26. What is your estimated annual budget in Euros for 2024? If applicable, please use a conversion rate of 1 GBP to 1.16 EUR.
27. What % of the annual budget for 2024 is already secured? (as of date of submission of this application)
28. Please fill the open fields in the table below regarding your 2024-2025 annual budget.

		2024	2025
	Funding Organizations / Grant name		
1. INCOME SOURCES			
1.A INCOME FROM GRANTS			
Potential Funder 1	Supporting Act Foundation - Impact grant	€25,000.00	€25,000.00
Potential Funder 2			
Potential Funder 3			
Other Potential Funders			
Confirmed Funder 1			
Confirmed Funder 2			
Other Confirmed Funders			
Desired Funder 1			
Desired Funder 2			
Other Desired Funders			
1.B. OTHER INCOME SOURCES			
Income source A			
Income source B			
Income source C			
Other income sources			
TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME		€25,000.00	€25,000.00
2. EXPENSES			
Salaries and benefits of staff			
Project and/or program-related costs			
Software services and IT			
Fundraising costs			
Marketing and comms			
Other operational costs	Examples: Rent, utilities, internet & phone, office supplies, legal services		
TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENSES		€0.00	€0.00
ANNUAL RESULTS		€25,000.00	€25,000.00

INSTRUCTIONS

This guide will help you fill the 2024 - 2025 Annual Budget table, part of the application form hosted in Submittable. Please keep in mind that the financial information needs to be added directly on the table in the Submittable form.

General guidelines

- ❖ Values must be in EUR. If applicable, please use a conversion rate of 1 GBP to 1.16 EUR.
- ❖ Values must be inserted without letters or symbols and using commas (,) to separate groups of thousands. i.e. 10,000

1. Income

1.A Income from grants

If you have or plan to have funders, please add the name of the funding organization and grant name (if applicable) in column B and the value of the grant in column C according to the following categories:

- ❖ Potential funder: If your organization already applied to a grant
- ❖ Confirmed funder: If your organization already secured the grant
- ❖ Desired funder: If your organization plans to apply to the grant

Please list up to two per category (if applicable) and sum the remaining ones as 'Other' in each category

1.B Other income sources

If you have or plan to have one or more income from other sources, please add up to three types of income source in column B (rows 16-18) and the corresponding values for each year in columns C and D

If you have or plan to have more than 4 different income sources, please add the 3 income sources providing a higher amount in rows 10-12 and add the remaining income amount from other sources in row 13.

Before submitting the application form make sure that the total annual income in the table, which is calculated automatically, matches your annual budget

2. Expenses

Please add the estimated value for each expense category in column C (rows 17-21). If a category does not apply add a 0 or leave blank

Note: If your annual result is not equal to 0, please make sure to explain the reasons on question 33.

29. How are you currently funding your operations? (max 200 words)
30. How much does your organization rely on unpaid work? (max. 100 words)
31. How much does your organization rely on in-kind donations or contributions? (max. 100 words)
32. What percentage of your organization's annual costs for 2022 were covered with received income?
 - a. Less than 25% of the annual costs
 - b. Between 26–50% of the annual costs
 - c. Between 51-75% of the annual costs
 - d. Between 76-99% of the annual costs
 - e. All of our annual costs for 2022 were covered
33. What percentage of your organization's annual costs for 2023 have been already covered with confirmed income?
 - a. Less than 25% of the annual costs
 - b. Between 26–50% of the annual costs
 - c. Between 51-75% of the annual costs
 - d. Between 76-99% of the annual costs
 - e. All of our annual costs for 2023 are covered
34. If you are successful in your application, how do you plan to primarily use the grant money? *Select one option:*
 - a. Staff salaries
 - b. Hire more people
 - c. Cover costs of ongoing projects
 - d. Expand impact of ongoing projects
 - e. Run a new project
 - f. Improve website/comms
 - g. Pay debts from previous years
 - h. Other
 - i. Please specify
35. Has your organization received any support from WeTransfer or WePresent in the past?
 - a. Yes

- i. Please describe what kind of support your organization received
 - b. No
 - c. Not sure
 - 36. Is there any additional information about the financial situation of your organization that you feel is relevant? (optional, max. 200 words)
-

More questions?

If you don't find answers in the [FAQ](#) on our website, you can email us with specific questions or feedback at hello@thesupportingact.org.

About The Supporting Act Foundation

The Supporting Act Foundation is an independent non-profit organization, founded and funded by WeTransfer. Our mission is simple yet powerful—to help emerging artists and grassroots arts organizations fulfill their potential, leaving no person or community behind. To this end, our grants and bursaries focus on artists and groups from marginalized communities who are seeking social, intersectional, and environmental justice. By creating opportunities and offering assistance to those underrecognized in the arts, we aspire to challenge its many barriers, shape a creative ecosystem open to everyone, and support meaningful change in the arts and society.

For more information visit our website www.thesupportingact.org.