

THE SUPPORTING
ACT FOUNDATION

Impact Grant

2024

Open Call Guide

Impact Grant 2024: Open Call Guide

Updated on April 16, 2024

PLEASE READ THE [ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA](#) CAREFULLY BEFORE WORKING ON YOUR APPLICATION. SUBMISSION DEADLINE: **MAY 27, 2024 (11.00 AM CET)**

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About the Impact Grant

The Impact Grant is a program created by The Supporting Act Foundation to support underfunded grassroots arts organizations that have a community-driven approach in topics that relate to the use of arts for social change, and are working with 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 key 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.

About The Supporting Act Foundation

The Supporting Act Foundation is an independent non-profit organization, founded and funded by WeTransfer. Our 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 information visit our website www.thesupportingact.org

What are we offering?

We are offering 12 unrestricted grants of €25,000- per year, to be awarded over a two-year period (commencing September 2024), adding up to a total of €50,000- per organization. There is no restriction on how you choose to spend your grant. They are intended to help cover core costs, including salaries, but can also be used for any other costs you consider critical to successfully developing your organization's work.

We are also offering non-financial support in the form of networking opportunities and social media promotion. This includes access to a network of peers and promotion on 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:

- ❖ Led by people who self-identify as artists
- ❖ Clearly using arts for social change
- ❖ Registered as a non-profit organization in the Netherlands, Germany, France, United Kingdom, Spain, or Italy, between 2019 and 2023.
 - Note: Organizations registered as a non-profit entity in other countries can also submit an application if they can provide a letter of intent from a fiscal sponsor registered as a non-profit in one of the above-mentioned countries
- ❖ 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 a total annual budget not greater than €125,000 (or equivalent in local currency) in the current year (2024)
- ❖ In a clear situation of underfunding, which refers to a gap between its operating costs vs. its confirmed income of at least 20% of its annual budget
- ❖ Able to provide publicly available evidence of at least one project with a clear approach to community engagement in topics related to the use of arts for social change during 2023

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

Note for applicants to past open calls: If you have applied in the past but were unsuccessful, you may apply again this year as long as your organization meets all the eligibility criteria.

How to apply?

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

- 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 your application has been submitted, you won't be able to make any further changes.

Deadline

The deadline to submit applications is **May 27, 2024** (11.00 AM CET).

Selection process

The selection process for the Impact Grant 2024 has three rounds:

Round 1: Filtering applications

While we will accept as many applications as possible during the open-call period, the Impact Grant Jury will only have capacity to review and score up to 100 applications. If we receive more than 100 eligible applications, once the open call ends we will rank them according to the applicants' levels of underfunding, and move the top 100 to the next round.

Round 2: Scoring by Impact Grant Jury

An independent jury consisting of 5 organizers, artists, and specialists with lived experience in arts for social change, including 1 grantee from the 2023 program, will review and score up to 100 applications. Each application will be scored by two jury members to create a shortlist. The top 36 applications will then pass to the final round.

Round 3: Recommendations by Impact Grant Jury

The 36 shortlisted applications will first be scored by all 5 members of the jury, who will then meet to reach consensus on the 12 grant recipients.

The selected applicants will be notified and requested to submit their proof 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

- ❖ Charlotte Hochman
- ❖ Lara Parmiani
- ❖ Lina Ruiz
- ❖ Maya Richman
- ❖ Severin Mutasek

Timeline of selection process

1. Call for submissions opens: April 30, 2024
2. Submission deadline: May 27, 2024 (at 11.00 AM CET)
3. Applications review: May 28—July 26, 2024
4. Notifications to applicants: August 2024
5. Transfer of first annual installment: September 2024

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

Applications that pass the first filter will be reviewed and scored by at least two jurors using the following criteria:

- ❖ The level of **alignment between the organization's mission** and The Supporting Act Foundation's mission.
- ❖ The level of **community engagement** of the organization and its projects.
- ❖ The level to which the organization's projects correspond to the **social issues it aims to tackle**.
- ❖ The level of significance that **artistic practices for social change** play in the work of the organization.
- ❖ The level of certainty that the organization's **future plans are sustainable** given its financial situation as detailed in the application.

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

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

1. Is the organization led by artists?
2. Is the organization using arts for social change?
3. 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?
4. Did the organization register as a non-profit between 2019–2023?
5. Does the organization or its fiscal sponsor have a bank account under its name in one of the above-mentioned countries?
6. Is the organization running with a total annual budget not greater than €125,000 (or equivalent in local currency) in the current year (2024)?
7. Is the organization currently underfunded (i.e. is the organization's confirmed funding for 2024 currently not adequate for its operating costs)?
8. Did the organization run at least one project with clear community engagement during 2023?

Application form

Here you can find the fields and questions that you will need to fill in the application hub of the Supporting Act Foundation powered by Submittable.

Instructions

Please provide the information requested in all five sections below. The first two request basic information about your organization, and further detail around its team, story, governance, and more. The next two take a closer look at your organization's mission, impact, and projects, then at the details of its financial situation and plans. Finally, there is a survey to gather feedback on your experience of this application process.

All the information you provide will only be used for the purposes of the application process. It will be shared with our independent jury, but will not be made public.

You can save your application form at any time by clicking 'Save Draft'. You can always return to a saved draft, read more [here](#) on how to do that. 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.
Important: Please make sure to add this email address to your contact list to avoid these emails going to your spam folder.

Once your application has been submitted, you won't be able to make any further changes. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of the application process in August 2024.

Please note that all questions are mandatory to answer unless they are marked as [Optional]

SECTION 1: BASIC INFORMATION

- 1.1. Legal name of the organization
(as it appears in the certificate of registration or incorporation)
- 1.2. Public name of the organization
(If different from legal name of the organization)
- 1.3. Country of registration of the organization
- 1.4. Website of the organization
- 1.5. Contact person name
 - 1.5.1. Contact person role
 - 1.5.2. Contact person email
- 1.6. Is the organization applying with a fiscal sponsor?
If your answer is Yes, please make sure to fill questions 1.6.1-1.6.5
 - 1.6.1. Legal name of the fiscal sponsor
 - 1.6.2. Country of registration of the fiscal sponsor
 - 1.6.3. Contact person name
 - 1.6.4. Contact person email
 - 1.6.5. Letter of intent from fiscal sponsor
If you are applying through a fiscal sponsor, please upload a letter of intent issued by them (Acceptable file types: .pdf, .jpg, .jpeg, .png)
- 1.7. Proof of registration as non-profit¹
Upload a readable digital file issued by a trusted third party that clearly states the non-profit legal form of your organization (Acceptable file types: .pdf, .jpg, .jpeg, .png)

2. SECTION 2: ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

- 2.1. Short bios of the organization leaders
Add short bios of the people leading your organization. If these bios are publicly available, please also provide the relevant URLs (max 300 words)

¹ This document does not need to be translated to English.

- 2.2. Core team description
Describe briefly the composition of the core team running your organization (max 300 words)
 - 2.3. Main artistic field or discipline
Select the artistic field or discipline that best matches the organization's main area of activity: Architecture, Dance, Design, Digital Arts, Film and video, Literature, Music, Multidisciplinary, Painting, Performing, Sculpture, Other
 - 2.4. Brief story of the organization
Explain briefly when and how your organization started (max. 200 words)
 - 2.5. Non-profit lifecycle phase
Based on this [chart](#), please select the phase of the non-profit lifecycle that best matches the current situation of the organization: Idea, Start-up, Growth, Maturity, Decline, Crisis
 - 2.6. Geographical scope
Select one option: Local (operating in a neighborhood or district), Citywide (operating in a specific city), Regional (operating in a specific region), National (operating in one country), International (operating in multiple countries), Global (not having a place-based approach), Other [Please explain briefly the geographical scope of your operations (max. 50 words)]
 - 2.7. Where is the organization's work having its primary impact? (max. 100 words)
 - 2.8. How many people benefit directly from your organization's work?
1–50, 51–100, 101–500, 501–1000, More than 1000
 - 2.9. How are you calculating the previous estimate?
Explain briefly how you determined the answer to the previous question (max. 100 words)
 - 2.10. Describe the 3 main challenges currently facing your organization (max. 200 words)
 - 2.11. Explain briefly how governance and decision-making works in the organization (max. 200 words)
3. SECTION 3: WORK AND IMPACT
- 3.1. Mission statement of the organization
Copy the organization's mission statement (max. 100 words) and if available, please provide a link to the webpage where the mission statement is publicly accessible
 - 3.2. What are the main social issues that the organization is addressing with its work?
Describe the primary social, intersectional, or environmental injustices that your organization is aiming to confront (max. 200 words)
 - 3.3. Who is the organization supporting?
Describe the primary community that the organization is supporting and/or working with (max. 200 words)
 - 3.4. How does the organization work with communities? (max. 200 words)
 - 3.5. How is the organization using arts for social change? (max. 200 words)
 - 3.6. Describe a recent or ongoing project and/or activity that exemplifies the approach described in the previous questions
If available, please include a link to a project webpage (max. 200 words)

- 3.7. Describe the main activities or projects the organization is undertaking in 2024 (max. 300 words)
 - 3.8. List up to 3 organizations/initiatives with whom the organization has collaborated on specific projects (max. 100 words)
 - 3.9. Describe the impact that your organization would like to have in the next 3 years (max. 200 words)
 - 3.10. [Optional] Add anything else that you would like to share with the jury about the organization's work. Please do not add links to external files (max. 200 words)
4. SECTION 4: FINANCIAL SITUATION AND PLANNING
- 4.1. What is the annual budget of the organization for 2024? (in Euros)
If applicable, please use a conversion rate of 1 GBP to 1.16 EUR
Below 25.000 EUR, Between 25.000 and 50.000 EUR, Between 50.000 and 75.000 EUR, Between 75.000 and 100.000 EUR, Between 100.000 and 125.000 EUR, Above 125.000 EUR
 - 4.2. What percentage of the annual budget for 2024 is already secured?
0–20%, 21–40%, 41–60%, 61–80%, 81–100%
 - 4.3. What percentage of your organization's expenses for 2023 were covered by its income?
0–20%, 21–40%, 41–60%, 61–80%, 81–100%
 - 4.4. How much income has the organization been able to secure for 2025? (in Euros)
Below 25.000 EUR, Between 25.000 and 50.000 EUR, Between 50.000 and 75.000 EUR, Between 75.000 and 100.000 EUR, Between 100.000 and 125.000 EUR, Above 125.000 EUR
 - 4.5. How is the organization currently funding its operations? (max 200 words)
 - 4.6. Please describe how much your organization relies on underpaid work (max 200 words)
 - 4.7. Please describe how much your organization relies on volunteers, in-kind donations or contributions (max 200 words)
 - 4.8. Annual budget estimates for 2024 and 2025
[\[See table on page 10\]](#)
 - 4.9. [Optional] Additional information on the financial situation
Add any additional information about the financial situation of the organization that you consider relevant. (max. 200 words)
5. SECTION 5: SURVEY
- The answers you give to this section won't be taken into account when selecting the recipients of grants, but will help us improve the application process in future years.
- 5.1. How did you find out about this open call?
Supporting Act's mailing list, Supporting Act's Instagram, Supporting Act's LinkedIn, WeTransfer's Instagram, WeTransfer.com, Through TikTok, Search engine, Through a friend, Other (Please specify)
 - 5.2. How much time did you spend working on this application?
Less than 10 hours, 11 to 15 hours, 16 to 20 hours, 21 to 25 hours, more than 25 hours
 - 5.3. If the organization is selected for this grant, what would be the primary use of the funds?
Pay core team salaries, Hire more people, Cover costs of ongoing

projects, Expand ongoing projects, Run a new project, Improve website/comms, Pay debts from previous years, Other (Please specify)

Please give your responses to the following questions and statements using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is the lowest score and 5 the highest.

- 5.4. When deciding whether to apply for a grant, did you find the information available on our website clear and sufficient for you and/or your organization to take that decision?
 - 5.5. Did the application process strengthen your understanding of the purpose of the Impact Grant program?
 - 5.6. Do you feel that the grant amount is appropriate to the time and effort that you and/or your organization spent on the application process?
 - 5.7. Do you feel that the Foundation is clear and transparent about the selection process and its timelines?
 - 5.8. Do you feel that the Foundation is clear and transparent about the criteria used to select grantees?
 - 5.9. Does the composition of the jury and its independence from the Foundation give you confidence in the results of the selection process?
 - 5.10. [Optional] Additional feedback on the application form and process (max. 200 words)
6. TERMS
- 6.1. Has the organization received any support from WeTransfer or WePresent in the past?
Yes (Please describe what kind of support your organization received),
No, Not sure
 - 6.2. I agree with the Terms of Service
Please read our [Terms of Service](#) before checking the above box
 - 6.3. I understand and agree that the Supporting Act Foundation will not be able to provide individual feedback on my application
Unfortunately, due to limited capacity, we will not be able to provide individual feedback to applicants who are not selected for a grant.

Annual budget estimates for 2024 and 2025 table

Please follow the instructions described below the table to fill the table, which is 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.

COLUMN A	COLUMN B	COLUMN C	COLUMN D	COLUMN E	COLUMN F
		2024	2024	2025	2025
		CONFIRMED	POTENTIAL	CONFIRMED	POTENTIAL
1. INCOME SOURCES	FUNDER/GRANT NAME				
1A. INCOME FROM GRANTS					
Funder 1	SAF - Impact Grant	0	25000	0	25000
Funder 2					
Funder 3					
Other funders					
1B. OTHER INCOME SOURCES					
Income source 1					
Income source 2					
Income source 3					
Other income sources					
TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME		0	25000	0	25000
2. EXPENSES		PAID	PENDING	PAID	PENDING
Salaries and benefits of staff					
Project related costs					
Communications and fundraising					
Other operational costs					
Debt payments					
Other expenses					
TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENSES		0	0	0	0
-	-	-	-	-	-
			2024		2025
TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET [paid + pending annual expenses]		-	0	-	0
ESTIMATED ANNUAL RESULTS [(confirmed + potential annual income) - total annual budget]		-	25000	-	25000
IMPACT GRANT % [percentage of the Impact Grant of the Total Annual Budget]			%		%

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

- ❖ Please fill in all fields marked in this guide in white. Fill with a 0 if the category is empty.

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,E for 2024 or D,F for 2025 according to the following categories:

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

Please list up to two grants per category (if applicable) and sum the remaining ones as "Other funders".

1.B Other income sources

If you have or plan to have one or more incomes from other sources, please add a short description in column B and a corresponding value in column C,E for 2024 or D,F for 2025 according to the following categories:

- ❖ Confirmed income source: If your organization already secured the grant
- ❖ Potential income source: If your organization already applied to a grant

Please list up to three income sources categories (if applicable) and sum the remaining ones as "Other income source"

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,E for 2024 or F for 2025 according to the following categories:

- ❖ Paid expenses: If your organization already paid the expenses
- ❖ Pending expenses: If your organization has not paid the expenses

If your organization has any other expense that does not match the mentioned categories, please add the values and input them in the 'Other expenses' row.

Note: If your annual result for either year is positive or not equal to 0, please make sure to explain the reasons in question 4.9.