

Portland Institute for Contemporary Art

PRECIPICE FUND ROUND 10 (2022)

APPLICATION GUIDELINES, ELIGIBILITY, & SELECTION CRITERIA

OVERVIEW

Administered by [Portland Institute for Contemporary Art \(PICA\)](#) as part of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts' Regional Re-granting Program, the [Precipice Fund](#) awards grants to unincorporated visual art collectives, alternative spaces, and collaborative projects. **For Round 10, the Precipice Fund is accepting applications for projects based in Metro Portland.*** Recognizing the barriers to funding faced by independent art initiatives, the Precipice Fund seeks to support new and existing projects emblematic of our region's independent, on-the-ground art scene.

We acknowledge the effort it takes to craft and submit a proposal, and we thank you in advance for taking the time to apply. Through the application process, we hope to learn more about your current contributions to your local art community, and your ideas for projects that will enhance the vibrancy, advance the rigor, and push the boundaries of visual art practices in our region.

PRECIPICE FUND CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

The Precipice Fund aspires to cultivate a grantmaking culture that emphasizes community over competition and awards collaboration and connection. With these values in mind, please consider how your project intersects with and impacts other local artists, and how your project proposal and budget affect the larger applicant pool. If each budget reflects what is truly needed, we can ensure a broader distribution of funds and resources.

EMPHASIS ON VISUAL ART

Precipice Fund awards grants to visual art projects. Works in performance or other media are only eligible if the project clearly incorporates visual art elements at its core, and/or engages visual art discourse or an expanded definition of visual art practice. Film projects may be eligible in their creation phase (not for post-production or distribution), and if they clearly demonstrate a connection to visual art practices/communities. Similarly, projects in sound art are eligible if a connection to visual art context and practice is made clear. We are open to innovation, experimentation, and risk-taking in the field and support diverse approaches to visual art making. If you have eligibility questions, be sure to attend or access a recording of the March 31st Information Session.

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¹ Our grantmaking in the Astoria and Eugene areas of Oregon is currently on hiatus as we re-establish funding for artistic projects in the Portland region following two years of administering Covid-19 relief aid.

GRANT AMOUNTS

In Round 10, the Precipice Fund will award grants of \$500 to \$5,000 each, for a total of \$60,000 in funding. On occasion, a project may be awarded less than the amount requested. We encourage applicants to carefully budget expenses and ask only for what is needed.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

The Precipice Fund prioritizes projects that:

- are innovative, experimental, and ambitious, as defined and expressed by the artists/applicants
- are artist-run, artist-centric, or artist-driven
- generate opportunities and platforms for other local artists
- challenge or break from traditional or established notions, models, and forms of practice, presentation, and organization
- are accessible to or engage public(s) via process, presentation, production, or publication
- are presented in unconventional or nontraditional sites, spaces, and contexts
- are considering audience diversity and public access
- contribute to the critical and creative depth of art communities in Portland and its surrounding areas
- are led by and/or center underrepresented artists or communities, including Black, Indigenous, brown, people of color, Disabled, Deaf, neurodivergent, queer, trans, non-binary, immigrant, refugee, and others historically marginalized by dominant cultures and mainstream art worlds

PICA

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Projects must be rooted in visual art (*see above*).
- Projects must be produced by independent, unincorporated entities. Proposals from or in partnership with a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or commercial for-profit enterprise are NOT eligible* (*see below*).
- Projects must be **collaborative** (a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of six (6) applicants, with one person serving as the Primary Contact).
- The Primary Contact must reside in the Portland, Oregon area. *See below for more about Primary Contact geographic eligibility.*
- Grant cycles are for one year. Funded projects must be completed, and final reports submitted by June 30, 2023.

**Exceptions: State-level (Oregon) registered nonprofits as well as licensed LLC's established for non-commercial purposes ARE eligible. Proposed projects cannot be part of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit art organization's core program, nor publicized as such. Such a space could serve strictly as a project site/venue, but only with compelling reason.*

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*IN OTHER WORDS, THE PRECIPICE FUND DOES **NOT** SUPPORT*

- Work that is not visual art (*see explanation above*).
- The work of an individual artist.
- Projects proposed, fiscally sponsored, or presented by a **501(c)(3) nonprofit or for-profit LLC**.* (*exceptions noted above*).
- Proposals with a Primary Contact who does not reside in the greater Portland, Oregon area (*see below re: eligibility*).
- Project proposals that lack a public component (*though applicants may define for themselves their project's audience/public*).

**WHY NO NONPROFITS? Precipice Fund intentionally funds projects, programs, and spaces that are ineligible for most other grant/funding opportunities. This is a value of PICA and a mandate of the Warhol Foundation, which established their Regional Regranting initiative to support artists and endeavors not eligible for their own grant programs. If you have questions or concerns about eligibility, please plan to attend/access the virtual Information Session.*

PRIMARY CONTACT & COLLABORATORS

Primary Contact: Definition & Eligibility

- One person on the application must serve as the Primary Contact.
- The Primary Contact functions as lead contact during the application process and grant period.
- To clarify, the Primary Contact is **not** defined as the lead *artist* on the project (there are no lead artists). Rather, they serve strictly as the Precipice Fund's communication point person.
- For Round 10, Primary Contacts must reside in the City of Portland, Oregon or its immediate surrounding area (*Washington State residents are **not** eligible for the Precipice Fund*).

Collaborators: Definition & Eligibility

- You may list up to six (6) total collaborators, including the Primary Contact (i.e., Primary Contact + 5 other collaborators).
- Collaborators are defined as those who share *organizing* responsibility for the project. In contrast, artists who are supported by your project but who do not have coordinating responsibility (e.g., artists whose work is strictly being exhibited or published) are not considered collaborators.
- Unlike Primary Contacts, collaborators do not need to reside in the Portland area (in fact, they can be based anywhere).
- In Round 10, you may only submit *one* application as a Primary Contact, but you may be listed as a Collaborator on multiple applications (unlimited).*

**Note that the selection panel will be conscious of equitable distribution of funds. It is unlikely for them to fund more than one or two proposals with the same applicant. Please consider this when determining how many project proposals to be part of in Round 10, so as to avoid "competing with yourself".*

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ROUND 10 (2022) IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

- **Tuesday, March 15:** Applications Open online via [Submittable](#)
- **Friday, April 29:** Applications Due (*closes 11:59pm PDT*)
- **Late June:** Applicants notified of decisions
- **July-August 2022:** Grant Recipients Publicly Announced
- **June 30, 2023:** Round 10 funded projects must be completed/reported on

REVIEW PROCESS AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be reviewed by an external panel of local and national artists and art workers. PICA staff do not serve as panelists or make award decisions. Projects must be submitted on time and meet the minimum qualifications outlined above to be considered for funding. Selection criteria includes but is not limited to:

- Artistic strength
 - Degree to which projects articulate and exemplify innovative, experimental practices
 - Potential to generate support and opportunity for other local artists
 - Broader vision of the applicants
- Feasibility
 - Capacity to carry out and complete the project
 - Ability to realize project within the grant period and with available resources
- Public Engagement
 - Public accessibility of the project's final output
 - Commitment to serving local artists and communities
 - Potential for impact on broader Portland arts ecologies

The logo for PICA (Portland Independent Community Artists) features the word "PICA" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters are positioned above a thick, horizontal yellow bar that spans the width of the text.

GRANT RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

If awarded funding, grant recipients are responsible for:

- Prompt completion of forms and other required materials to facilitate accurate, timely processing of payment and recognition
- Responsive communication with staff regarding project progress, completion, documentation, reporting, accommodations, extensions.
- Financial accountability and integrity (*spending of funds as intended and reflected in project proposal and budget*)
- Submission of brief, final project narrative upon completion of project, and no later than end of grant period
- Periodic contribution of project updates/images for public use on the PICA and Precipice Fund websites, social media accounts, and other communications channels, upon request
- Participation in one (1) presentation and discussion event with other grantees in winter/spring 2023 (exact time TBD)

Grant recipients are legally responsible for all events, materials, and outcomes associated with their funded projects.

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HOW TO APPLY / APPLICATION DEADLINE

The Precipice Fund application process is entirely web-based. Applications open via [Submittable](#) on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 and close on Friday, April 29, 2022 at 11:59pm PDT. **Late submissions will not be considered.** Once it goes live, a link to the Submittable application form will be posted to the [Precipice Fund website](#) and social media channels and emailed to PICA and Precipice Fund email lists.

NOTIFICATION

Applicants will be notified by June 30, 2022. *Please do not contact PICA/Precipice Fund staff about award decisions prior to this time.*

CONTACT

A number of PICA staff help to administer the Precipice Fund program. To reach us, please contact precipice@pica.org. We would be happy to schedule a phone call if preferable to an email exchange. However, please email first to arrange this.

precipice@pica.org // www.precipicefund.org // [@PICApx](#) [@PrecipiceFund](#)

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