

GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION

Moving Walls 24 Exhibition & Grant

Open Society Documentary Photography Project

Deadline: April 14, 2017, 5:00pm EST

The Open Society Documentary Photography Project is soliciting submissions for a new joint exhibition and grant opportunity engaging with ideas of resistance. Selected projects will be exhibited in the Moving Walls 24 exhibition (October 3, 2017 - July 13, 2018) at the Open Society Foundations' headquarters in New York. Selected artists will also receive a grant (\$20,000-\$30,000) to support ongoing or future work on these themes. Up to 8 artists will be selected.

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Call for Work

The Open Society Foundations and our community of partners and grantees are deeply affected and alarmed by the global rise of repression, discrimination, hate, and violence based on identity and legal status, such as race or citizenship. This wave of discriminatory attitudes, behaviors, and policies may seem new, but often are symptoms of injustices deeply embedded in our societies.

At the same time, we are greatly inspired and energized by the ways in which artists and media makers are questioning, confronting, and providing alternatives to such divisive, discriminatory, and harmful narratives.

The [Documentary Photography Project](#) announces an exhibition and grant opportunity that embraces the role and agency of artists themselves in shaping our societies. In particular, we are seeking artists and projects whose goal is to resist, question, and/or affirm, not merely to illustrate or document negative impacts as a neutral observer. We invite artists, photographers, and other image-based practitioners who have made an ongoing commitment to engaging with ideas of resistance, and whose work addresses historical and contemporary threats to open society, to send us their work for consideration.

Selected projects will be exhibited in the next installment of the [Moving Walls](#) exhibition series. Moving Walls 24 will be on view October 3, 2017 - July 13, 2018 at the Open Society Foundations' headquarters in New York.

Selected artists will also receive a grant (\$20,000-\$30,000) to support the continuation of existing work or the creation of new work on these themes. This individual grant is intended to provide financial support to artists who see themselves as catalysts for change. We will consider grant proposals for implementation of any of the following phases of the project: production, exhibition, distribution, and/or audience engagement. Grantees will also be provided with networking opportunities with relevant Open Society staff and grantees.

Applications for this combined exhibition and grant opportunity will be due on April 14, 2017 at 5:00pm EST.

The Open Society Foundations values diversity and encourages applications from all countries. In our selection, we do not discriminate against otherwise qualified applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, ability, sexual orientation, gender expression, or any status that may be protected by applicable law.

What We're Looking For

We are seeking photo-based artists whose work engages with topics of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation/expression, religion, nationality, and immigration status from a variety of perspectives. We encourage applicants to interpret these themes broadly.

We welcome a wide range of photo- and image-based approaches, including documentary photography, conceptual documentary, archival images, curated or aggregated projects, social practice, video art, interactive media and projects that use photography and/or associated metadata as the basis for information art. Projects may be contemporary, or include historical material.

Projects with the following goals will be considered:

The building or fostering of:

- Visual and creative activism/resistance.
- Community participation, engagement, or a call to action around inclusivity, solidarity, and resisting the spread of hate.
- Photography and visual culture that values mutual understanding, honor, and respect.

Resistance to, or exposure of:

- Targeted attacks, profiling, discrimination, and structural inequities that endanger or criminalize individuals or groups on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation/expression, religion, nationality or citizenship status.
- Impacts of increasing racism, xenophobia, white supremacy, fascism, nationalism, populism, and religious or ethnic intolerance.
- Policies or structures with historical roots in racism/intolerance.
- Hate crimes statistics using images or data visualization.
- Stereotypical forms of visual representation that dehumanize, criminalize, and pathologize difference.

Eligibility

- We are seeking photographers and artists who bring expertise and new insight to an issue; who demonstrate a high level of artistic ability or excellence; and who have the skills, track record, and capacity to realize the proposed grant project.
- Applicants must demonstrate an ongoing commitment to visual activism or resistance through their past and ongoing work, and must have worked on at least 2 projects related to these themes.
- Projects that use photography or photo-based practices to reflect on the theme in a unique and compelling way.
- Projects considered for exhibition may be part of a larger, ongoing body of work, but the Moving Walls exhibit will be curated from work that already exists (funds will not be provided to shoot new work specifically for the exhibition).
- Projects considered for the grant may be part of a larger, ongoing body of work, or may be a new body of work related to the broader themes of the exhibit. Grant proposals may be for any of the following phases of the project: production, exhibition, distribution, and audience engagement.
- Projects that include lobbying activities will not be funded. Please carefully review the tax law lobbying rules, which can be found in the Download Files section [here](#).

Selection

- Up to 8 projects will be selected through an open call and targeted solicitation process.
- Documentary Photography Project staff will make selections and be advised by a team of Open Society staff and external colleagues with expertise on issues related to the theme, photography, and/or socially engaged art.
- Selection will be based on strength of the applicant, images, and grant proposal (including adherence of the budget to the scope of the proposed project). We will also consider the proposal's relevance to the theme. We are looking for a diversity of approaches and interpretations of this theme.
- Finalists will be notified by mid-April.

- Finalists must be available for a phone interview with Documentary Photography Project staff in mid to late April.
- Finalists should be available for an additional phone interview with the selection committee on May 2. If finalists are not available on this day, we will make alternate arrangements.

What We Provide

The exhibition:

Open Society Foundations will enter into a contract with selected participants to cover the following:

- **Printing/framing:** We will cover costs (based on a pre-approved budget) to produce and frame/mount exhibition prints.
- **\$3000 royalty fee:** The fee covers the exhibition at Open Society offices in NY and any additional venues, including but not limited to the Open Society office in Washington, D.C.
- **Travel cost reimbursement/coverage:** We will pay for reasonable airfare or ground transportation and cover the cost of reasonable accommodations (based on a pre-approved budget for: 1) travel to New York City during the week of the final curation (May 21-27) and 2) attendance at the opening reception and related events (October 1-7). These dates are tentative and subject to change. Participating photographers are required to attend and are responsible for obtaining the necessary visa to travel to the United States. Visa fees incurred for this purpose will be reimbursed.
- **Return shipment:** Upon completion of exhibition tour, we will pay for artwork to be returned to photographers (standard shipment, uncrated).

The grant:

Open Society Foundations will enter into a grant agreement with selected participants to cover the following:

- **\$20,000-30,000 grant:** Funds may be used to cover project related expenses (including material costs, travel, and stipend) for implementation of any of the following phases of the project: production, exhibition, distribution, and/or audience engagement. The submitted budget should include the full scope of costs for project and indicate the specific portion of the budget to be covered by the grant. The final decision on financial support offered will be made by Open Society based on established internal practices and the value of similar grant awards.

Participation & Requirements

The Moving Walls exhibition is designed as a platform for photographers and artists to engage the public and Open Society staff on the issues depicted. Moving Walls participants are required to adhere to all production deadlines (see timeline section below) and travel to New York to attend the curation (May 21-27) and opening reception, press conference, related programming and events (October 1-7). Travel cost reimbursement/coverage will be provided.

The grant term shall be between 6-12 months, to start no sooner than November 1, 2017 and end by December 31, 2018. Grantees will be required to deliver mid-term and final narrative and financial reports, including documentation of the work produced.

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted through our online application form by Friday, April 14, 2017 at 5:00pm EST: <http://osf.submittable.com/submit>. For a detailed list of questions in the submission form, see pages 8-10.

Deadline

Friday, April 14, 2017, 5:00pm EST (Eastern Standard Time). We experience high traffic and occasional technical difficulties immediately before the deadline. To avoid this, please submit your application early.

Contact Information

If you have questions, please contact the Documentary Photography Project at 212-547-6909, or movingwalls@opensocietyfoundations.org (include the subject line: "Moving Walls 24")

Timeline

April 14, 2017	Submission deadline (5:00pm EST)
Mid-April - May 2017	Phone interviews, selection & notification
Late May 2017	Participants travel to New York to finalize curation (OSF will pay all travel and accommodation costs; if travel is not possible during this time, we will discuss alternative arrangements)
June - August 2017	Production (During this time, participants must be available to work remotely with curators, meet content deadlines, and oversee artwork production)
October 3, 2017	Opening reception at Open Society Foundations-New York
November 1, 2017	Grant term begins
May 1, 2018	Grant mid-term report due
Sept 2018	Beginning of possible exhibition tour (including but not limited to Open Society Foundations-Washington, D.C.)
December 31, 2018	Grant term ends
January 31, 2019	Grant final report due

About the Open Society Foundations and the Documentary Photography Project

The Open Society Foundations work to build vibrant and tolerant democracies whose governments are accountable to their citizens. Working with local communities in more than 100 countries, the Open Society Foundations support justice and human rights, freedom of expression, and access to public health and education.

The Open Society Documentary Photography Project seeks to advance socially engaged photography and its potential to drive change through exhibitions, grants, and public programs. Since 1998, we have featured—primarily through our Moving Walls exhibition series—over 200 photographers in our public gallery space in New York.

Submission Form Questions

All applications must be submitted online at <http://osf.submittable.com/submit>. Applicants may submit at any time until April 14, 2017 at 5:00PM EST. Incomplete applications will not be given full consideration. A complete application consists of the information detailed below.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Contact information (name, address, phone number, email)
- Preferred method of contact
- Would you like to be added to the Open Society Documentary Photography Project mailing list?
- Have you received prior funding from the Open Society Foundations? If yes, from what program?
- How did you hear about this exhibition and grant opportunity?

EXHIBITION PROJECT INFORMATION

- **Project title for the work you intend to exhibit**
- **Project summary for the work you intend to exhibit** (50 words maximum)
- **Artist statement for the project you intend to exhibit** (300 words maximum)
- **Description of process used for creating the work you intend to exhibit** (100 words maximum)
- **Work samples for exhibition consideration** (JPG files only): Please upload 15-20 images of the project that you are proposing to exhibit, including titles/captions and dates. Please feel free to include installation shots or other materials or images that help illustrate the work and how you would like to exhibit it. *NOTE: After your application is submitted, files become organized in alpha-numerical order. If your files are meant to be shown in sequence, you must change the file names accordingly. (For example: "name-exhibit-001," "name-exhibit-002," ... "name-exhibit-009," "name-exhibit-010," etc.) Once your images have been submitted, you cannot rearrange them.*

- **Links to audio or video files (optional):** Please provide links to any audio or video files related to the project you would like to exhibit. Work should be uploaded to YouTube, Vimeo, or SoundCloud, etc. Please include the password, if applicable. Samples should be no longer than 3 minutes. If you link to a longer piece, provide a time stamp indicating where reviewers should begin watching/listening (e.g., "Start at 7:15"). If you don't provide a time stamp, reviewers will be instructed to view only the first 3 minutes. you can apply with one body of work for both the exhibition and grant. However, this program is designed to support artists with long-term commitments to a specific issue, community, or approach. Therefore, the grant application requires you to also submit examples of past work on relevant themes.

GRANT PROJECT INFORMATION

- **Topic & personal connection/commitment (250 words maximum):** Describe the social justice or human rights issue your project addresses. What is your own history with, knowledge of, and experience working on this issue? Include at least 1 other past project, excluding the project(s) proposed in this application, which addresses a related theme.
- **Grant project proposal (500 words maximum):** Please address the following questions:
 - Describe the project you would like to work on, or the work you plan to do.
 - What is your intention with the work? How does it engage with ideas of resistance? Clearly articulate project goals and explicitly describe how you intend to achieve them.
 - What do you see as your project's different phases and where are you within this timeframe?
 - Who do you see as your primary group or community you are trying to reach and activate through your project? Please outline the relationships you've already established with members of that community. How do you plan to engage your audience?
 - Describe any partners in the project and your process for collaborating. If the project proposal is for distribution or exhibition of a project, please provide a detailed description of your plans, including any confirmed distribution or exhibition partners.

- **Grant project budget** (1 page maximum): Please include the overall project budget and an indication of the portion for which you are seeking grant support.
- **Grant project timeline** (1 page maximum): Please include the overall scope of the project, indicating which specific portion you plan to implement using grant support.
- **Past/current work samples** (JPG files only): Please upload 5-15 images from past/current projects that relate to the theme, including titles/captions and dates. Please feel free to include installation shots or other materials or images that help illustrate the work and/or your process for engaging audiences. *NOTE: After your application is submitted, files become organized in alpha-numerical order. If your files are meant to be shown in sequence, you must change the file names accordingly. (For example: "name-grant-001," "name-grant-002," ... "name-grant-009," "name-grant-010," etc.) Once your images have been submitted, you cannot rearrange them.*
- **Links to audio or video files** (optional): Please provide links to any audio or video files related to your past projects. Work should be uploaded to YouTube, Vimeo, or SoundCloud, etc. Please include the password, if applicable. Samples should be no longer than 3 minutes. If you link to a longer piece, provide a time stamp indicating where reviewers should begin watching/listening (e.g., "Start at 7:15"). If you don't provide a time stamp, reviewers will be instructed to view only the first 3 minutes.

APPLICANT BACKGROUND MATERIALS

- **Resume/CV** (2 pages maximum)
- **Short bio** (200 words maximum)
- **References:** Please provide the names of 2 references who can speak about your work, both its artistic merits and its social value.
- **Links to reviews** (optional): Please provide links to any online reviews or critiques of your work.

Frequently Asked Questions

This section will be updated with further information as new questions arise from applicants during the open call period.

What geographic regions are eligible?

Preference will be given to geographical areas where the Open Society Foundations are active. Our activities encompass the United States and more than 100 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Please consult our website at www.opensocietyfoundations.org to familiarize yourself with the regions and countries where we work.

My project is ongoing, and therefore not technically “complete.” May I apply?

Yes. The grant proposal may include support for creating new work. However, the exhibition will be curated from completed projects only.

Can I apply for only the exhibition or the grant opportunity, and not both?

No, your application must include a proposal for both the exhibition and the grant.

Can I apply with one body of work for both the exhibition and grant, or does it have to be two distinct projects?

Yes, you can apply with one body of work for both the exhibition and grant. However, this program is designed to support artists with long-term commitments to a specific issue, community, or approach. Therefore, the grant application requires you to also submit examples of past work on relevant themes.