

Research and development

The next Research and development deadline is January 26, 2027. This category has no fixed grant period and projects beginning at any time are eligible.

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The Research and development grant is now offered every two years.

Grants of up to \$50,000 support the early stages of a project. Every curator begins differently: Some start in archives and collections, others in artists' studios, and some develop ideas alongside programmatic partners. This grant is meant to offer support for these critical exploratory phases of curatorial work, independent of a public-facing component of the future project. We do not require that Research and development grants lead to an exhibition or public-facing project.

Please consult our [past grantee list](#) for examples of the range of initiatives we support.

Eligible Research and development expenses can include costs directly related to travel, archival research, pilot projects, prototyping, and other exploratory activities, including convenings of colleagues, scholars, practitioners, and community members. In addition to funds for their own work, curators may apply for assistance for collaborators such as artists, programmatic partners, or catalogue contributors to create work that further informs the curatorial process. This grant can also cover personnel costs related to research assistance. Finally, it can provide institutional support to cover administrative or other needs while curators take leave to conduct their research. This use can comprise up to 60% of the requested award.

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Here are the five parts of the Research and development application, followed by some questions and answers about this category.

1. Curator's voice

The following questions should be answered by the curator(s) in their own words, with a 350-word limit for each curator's response. The word limit applies to the response as a whole, not to each question individually. For proposals with curatorial teams, each curator must provide their own individual response. It is important that all questions are addressed in the response, as this section helps Teiger Foundation understand the thinking behind the proposed research project.

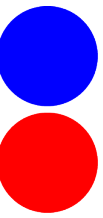
+ What led you to pursue curating, and what have you learned along the way? Please provide concrete examples.

+ Who do you do this work for? Has that changed or evolved?

+ Which curatorial projects have you witnessed or researched that influence your thinking, and/or which pressing dialogues do you wish to engage with?

Optional links

You may provide up to five links with captions up to 100 words per link to provide context for your answer. Because this section is intended to help us understand your curatorial practice and thinking, we encourage links that illustrate your past work, research, influences, or the dialogues referenced in your response. These links can direct us to dedicated project or research websites or related digital content; visual materials such as installation shots, floorplans, digital walkthroughs, or videos; text documentation including publications, brochures, reviews, or interviews; archival resources. Use the caption fields to identify the links and why you included them. If any link requires a password for access, please remember to include it.



2. Proposed project

Description

In 750 words or less, describe your project. Please make sure to address each of the following questions.

- + Tell us about your project. Why have you chosen to spotlight these artist(s)? This specific area of study?
- + How does your project fit within a broader spectrum of issues in the field? Are there other curatorial projects you have witnessed or come across in research that influence your thinking, or pressing dialogues that you want to engage?
- + What are your research methods and what resources will you use? For instance, are you seeking funds for yourself for travel to archives or artists' studios, to convene peers, and/or to take a leave for research? Or, are you seeking support for an artist or collaborator to conduct research or prototype a potential project, such as an artwork, an experimental platform, or a forum? Why is this dedicated funding critical to the formation of your project?
- + What is your projected timeline?
- + If your project is co-organized with partners, or structured around collaborations, why have you chosen to work together? How do your respective capacities and knowledge support the aims of your project?

Images

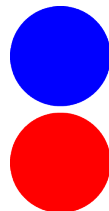
Please provide up to ten images with captions up to 100 words per image to illustrate your proposed project. If the images feature artworks, please include the artist's name, the title of the work, the materials used, and the date of creation. Additional context on the images and why you included them is encouraged. Images should be in JPEG format and no larger than 5 MB each. Please use the largest, highest-quality version available so the work can be viewed clearly on screen.

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3. Project budget

Submit a project budget including pending and confirmed income and expenses. Samples of Research and development budgets are available [here](#).

- + You may request \$25,000 or \$50,000.
- + Budgets should incorporate any expenses related to research materials, travel and accommodation, collaboration, documentation, and dissemination, along with consultancy fees and administrative or personnel costs for curators to take leave while they conduct their research.
- + Costs related to supporting a curator's research leave—including hiring someone to manage administrative responsibilities in their absence—can comprise up to 60% of the requested award.
- + Robust fees for artists, whether producing new work or contributing existing work, are highly recommended. Please refer to W.A.G.E. standards and the [Fee Calculator](#) for guidance. W.A.G.E. Certification is not required. We also encourage robust compensation for outside consultants, partners, advisors, and other collaborators, including writers, designers, photographers, and web developers.
- + In the income section of your budget, please identify all other funding sources related to the project, including the amount requested and whether the support is confirmed or pending.



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4. Organization budget

Submit your organization's operating budgets for the past and current fiscal years. If you have a final future fiscal year, that is optional. If your project involves a partnership, submit the operating budgets for the lead partner's organization only.

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5. Proof of 501(c)(3) status

If this Research and development proposal is a partnership, please submit proof of 501(c)(3) status for the lead partner's organization only.

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Questions you may have

How does the Research and development grant differ from the Single project grant?

The Research and development grant is intended for the early stages of a curatorial project. It allows grantees to explore their initial concepts, conduct research, and develop a robust curatorial vision. This grant can support a range of needs, including travel funding or other financial support for various contributors to your project, such as artists, programmatic partners, catalogue contributors, etc. However, please note that priority will be given to projects with comprehensive research plans that demonstrate a clear inquiry or deeper investigative work. While travel funding is supported, it should be a component of a larger research plan rather than the sole focus of the application. In contrast, the [Single project](#) grant aids curators in the actual manifestation of these plans in a tangible, public-facing exhibition or program. While the Research and development grant provides the resources to lay a strong foundation for a project, the Single project grant is designed to bring the curator's vision to life for a public audience.

Can I use the Research and development grant to take a leave and delegate my administrative tasks?

How would that work?

Yes. Up to 60% of the Research and development grant can be allocated to cover personnel or administrative costs at your organization while you are away. Should you decide to take a leave, the grant can help your organization hire someone to cover your administrative responsibilities in your absence. This grant's structure is designed to support and encourage such opportunities, ensuring both continuity in your regular duties and depth in your research endeavors. We understand that this support extends beyond just funding—it requires planning. If you're granted the award, we're open to discussing how it might best support both your curatorial work and your organization's needs.

Do you fund triennials, biennials, internationals, or other large-scale exhibitions, including their research or presentation?

No. Stay tuned for future opportunities.

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Here are the guidelines above [as a PDF](#).