



GUIDELINES for APPLYING with a FISCAL SPONSOR

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED: January 1, 2026 through March 15, 2027

WHO MAY APPLY: Individuals or Organizations with a Fiscal Sponsor

GRANTS: Award amounts range from \$1,000-15,000

FUNDING FOCUS

The Phillip and Edith Leonian Foundation funds projects and programs related to the education, preservation, and dissemination of photography. These include, but are not limited to: education programs for K-12 students or adults; professional development programs such as workshops, fellowships, internships, mentorships, and artist residencies; archiving and/or cataloging of photographic collections; exhibitions with budgets under \$50,000; community documentary photography projects; and personal photography projects.

The Foundation is unable to fund general operating expenses, salaried employees, administrative costs, video or motion picture projects, capital improvements, projects that support the work of non-U.S. citizens or residents, or grants to individuals without fiscal sponsors. The Foundation will no longer accept proposals for academic lectures, symposia, colloquia, seminars, publications, or exhibitions with budgets over \$50,000.

NOTE: Proposals for projects that begin prior to June 1st of the grant year will not be considered. Proposals for Exhibitions that open before October 1st of the grant year will also not be considered.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Individuals (U.S. citizens/permanent residents) or organizations working with a fiscal sponsor within the United States

PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Foundation evaluates each application individually and takes into consideration the following criteria:

- Soundness of budgets
- Overall feasibility and impact of project or program
- Quality of project or program
- Strength of leadership
- Strength of community engagement and/or public programming

LEONIAN FOUNDATION PRIORITIES

- Education programs of all levels
- Unique, well-conceived projects that raise awareness of and appreciation for photography
- Programs that bring photography into a community
- Programs with a proven track record
- Programs that maintain connections with and utilize alumni are of special interest

HOW TO APPLY

- Create an account on submittable.com
 - Choose a submission form that corresponds to the subject of the project. If unsure of correct form, contact the Foundation
 - Provide all required documents
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REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- 501(c)(3) certification of Fiscal Sponsor
 - Letter of agreement from Sponsor with duties clearly defined
 - Résumé of applicant or project director (*1-2 pages, max*)
 - Artist or Mission Statement
 - One sentence summarizing the project or program
 - Detailed description of project or program
 - Project budget, well-researched and thorough. Must include:
 - Requested Leonian funds, clearly defined
 - List of other committed and potential funders
 - If organization, include
 - Current operating budget
 - Financials from the last fiscal year
 - Photographic images, press articles, or other representative media
 - For education programs:
 - Sample curriculum
 - Short résumé(s) of teaching artist(s)
 - For exhibitions:
 - Checklist of images to be exhibited
 - Résumé of curator (*1-2 pages, max.*)
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