



asian cultural council

Japan Virtual Exchange Program

< Application Guideline >

In 2020 and 2021, in response to the widespread human crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the uncertainty of international travel until the pandemic is resolved, the Asian Cultural Council is calling for proposals from individuals and organizations in Japan and the U.S. with projects intended to strengthen and enhance impactful international connectivity and engagement between Japan and countries/regions of Asia, and Japan and the U.S., through activities and projects that can be enacted without international travel.

This program will support creative, innovative responses to international engagement during this period of limited travel. In response to the economic impact of the pandemic, grant funds may be used to support artist honoraria and organizational costs of managing virtual programs.

Applicant Eligibility

- Individuals and organizations in Japan conducting virtual cultural exchange programs with the U.S. and the countries of Asia (eligible countries / regions*)
- Individuals and organizations in the U.S. conducting virtual exchange projects with artists, scholars, and arts professionals in Japan
- Applicants must be practicing artists, scholars of the arts, or arts professionals in an eligible field*, or nonprofit/NPO organizations administering programs for participants who fit this criteria
- Individual applicants can apply with up to one collaborator. Programs involving more than two participants must apply through an NGO or NPO organization in Japan or the U.S.
- Organizations must be a registered nonprofit or NGO, or have fiscal sponsorship from a nonprofit or NGO

***Eligible Countries / Regions**

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, East Timor, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Macau SAR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, United States

***Eligible Fields**

Archaeology, Architecture (for design, aesthetic theory, and/or aesthetic history only), Art History, Arts Administration, Arts Criticism, Conservation, Crafts, Curation, Dance, Ethnomusicology, Film/Video/Photography, Literature, Museum Studies, Music, Theater, Visual Art

Eligible Projects

- Programs must be able to be carried out without international travel. Examples may include, but are not limited to, peer discussions, interviews, online training, symposia, conferences, workshops, etc.
- Process-driven activities (such as research, training, study, or exploration) that enable cultural immersion, relationship-building, collaboration, or the exchange of knowledge among peers; public-facing events are permissible, but should not be the primary focus of the program
- The project activity must take place during the period of **December 2020 to December 2021**

Eligible Use of Funds

The following examples of allowable expenses are not a complete list and are given as a general guideline only:

Individuals

- Honoraria for exchange program participants
- Technical support for programs moving online
- Hosting or residency fees paid to partner organizations

Organizations

- Program management costs (up to 20% of itemized program costs) or fiscal sponsor fee (up to 10 % of the program budget)
- Honoraria for program participants (artists must be compensated for their participation in the proposed program)
- Space rental
- Investment in the equipment/technology needed to make virtual engagement possible
- Translation
- Documentation (including website, leaflet, video documentation, and modest publication expenses)

Ineligible Use of Funds

- International travel and accommodation
- Commercial activity
- Exhibitions without accompanying exchange/engagement programs
- Shipping work for exhibitions, in-person public performances, film production, and similar production-related expenses
- Arts in education
- Projects taking place outside the funding period (December 2020 - December 2021)
- Regranting programs

Budget Guidelines

From 7,000 USD up to 35,000 USD

*Strong applications will include a reasonable budget for the expenses required to carry out the project. Requesting a smaller amount is not an advantage.

Application priorities

- Proposals suggesting innovative, creative responses to international engagement, developing new ways of working that suggest new paradigms for enacting international cultural exchange during a period where travel is impossible
- Programs focused on the role of art in and for local communities
- Programs that actively address issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Programs focused on international engagement with a specific community or individuals outside of the home country of the individual or organizational applicant
- For grants to organizations, priority will be given to smaller arts organizations with strong ties to their local communities
- For grants to individuals, programs that benefit both sides of the cultural exchange and/or programs with strong community engagement, rather than solo projects

How to Apply

<Application Schedule>

- Applications accepted from **Friday, September 18th through Thursday, October 15th, 2020 JST (October 14 EDT)**
- Applications will be considered on a rolling basis starting in early October
- Award decisions finalized and applicants notified of results: end of November 2020

<Application Form>

Please download the application form (Word) from ACC's website.

> URL for "Japan Virtual Exchange Program" page:

<https://www.asianculturalcouncil.org/our-work/programs/fellowships-and-grants/japan-virtual-exchange-program>

Applications must be completed in English. Bilingual applications written in Japanese and English are preferable, but writing Japanese is not mandatory.

<Application submission>

- One application form with all necessary accompanying documents should be attached in a single email to application@accjpn.org. **Emails must not exceed 20 MB.**
- A confirmation email will be sent within one week of submission. If you do not receive a confirmation after one week, please contact application@accjpn.org.

*Private information submitted in the application form should be used only for the application selection process of ACC. It will not be disclosed for the third party or used any other purposes.

<Application Inquiries>

For application questions, please email application@accjpn.org. Please note that it may take us a few days to respond.