

GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION

Open Society Documentary Photography Project

Moving Walls 25 Exhibition & Fellowship

Deadline: Monday, April 23, 2018, 11:59pm EDT

The Open Society Documentary Photography Project is inviting proposals for a new joint exhibition and fellowship opportunity focused on the topic of migration. Selected projects will be exhibited in the Moving Walls 25 exhibition (September 27, 2018 - July 19, 2019) at the Open Society Foundations' headquarters in New York. Artists will also receive a 12-18 month fellowship (\$30,000-\$60,000) to support the creation of an ongoing or new body of work on migration. Up to 7 artists will be selected.

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Call for Work

The Open Society Documentary Photography Project is inviting proposals for an exhibition and fellowship that honors the role and agency of artists and media makers in contributing to how our societies think about and respond to contemporary issues of migration.

During what has been the largest movement of peoples since World War II, artists and media makers are playing an important role in questioning, confronting, and providing alternatives to the division and discrimination that are fostered by growing policies and representations that are harmful to migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

We are seeking artists who see themselves as catalysts for change and whose goal is to resist, question, affirm, and/or activate, not merely to reflect negative impacts as a distanced and neutral observer. We are especially interested in work that comes from the perspective of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers themselves, or is made through sustained and meaningful collaboration with these communities. Projects should honor the humanity, resilience, resourcefulness, and ingenuity of migrants, rather than focusing solely on themes of victimhood. (For more details, please review the “What We’re Looking For” section below.)

Selected projects will be exhibited as part of the [Moving Walls](#) exhibition series. Moving Walls 25 will be on view September 27, 2018 – July 19, 2019 at the Open Society Foundations’ headquarters in New York.

Selected artists will also receive:

- A 12-18 month fellowship (\$30,000-\$60,000) for the continuation of existing work or the creation of new work on the theme of migration. The fellowship may cover any of the following phases of the project: research/project development, production, exhibition, distribution, and/or audience engagement.
- Networking opportunities to meet with each other, as well as Open Society staff and grantees.
- In collaboration with the Open Society Arts Exchange program, fellows will have the opportunity to meet other artists and arts organizations working on migration.

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

The Applicant:

- Artists, photographers, and other image-based practitioners who have made an ongoing commitment to the theme of migration and advancing social justice and human rights
- Individuals who demonstrate through their creative and/or professional practice a commitment to creating work that respects the dignity, agency, and self-determination of the people with whom they are collaborating
- We encourage applications from youth artists telling stories of young migrants and refugees, as stories about accompanied and unaccompanied youth are often told from the perspective of adults

Project Topics:

Applicants may interpret the theme of migration broadly. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- The movement of peoples as fueled by political persecution, protracted conflicts, climate change, economic opportunity, and other contexts
- Migrants' and refugees' transition to new destinations
- Migrants' and refugees' integration within new local communities and societies outside their home country
- Access to education, justice, health (including mental health), and other basic rights in the aforementioned contexts
- Economic drivers and opportunities
- Issues in, or in connection with, emigration and absence from their home countries, including the impact on families and communities who remain
- Themes of identity, belonging, community, and home that arise through the experience of migration
- Migration and public space

Project Format:

We welcome a wide range of photo- and image-based approaches including the following. Projects may address contemporary or historical issues, as long as they have contemporary relevance.

- Documentary photography
- Conceptual documentary
- Video art & video installation
- Social practice
- Archival or aggregated projects
- Interactive/emerging media (including virtual and augmented reality)
- Information art using photography and/or associated data

Project Goals:

The building or fostering of:

- The direct perspectives and self-determination of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers
- Visual and creative activism, such as in the context of migrant-led organizing and advancing pro-immigrant rights narratives
- Community participation, engagement, or a call to action around inclusivity, integration, and solidarity
- Photography and visual culture that values mutual understanding, honor, and respect

Resistance to, or exposure of:

- Targeted attacks, profiling, discrimination, structural inequities, and exploitative labor practices (recruitment/employment) that endanger or criminalize migrants, refugees, or asylum seekers
- Impacts of harsh migration policies, such as increasing border security, detention, and deportation
- Impacts of emigration, such as issues faced in home countries when family or community members migrate

- Anti-migrant populism, racism, xenophobia, white supremacy, fascism, nationalism, and religious or ethnic intolerance
- Policies or structures with historical roots in exclusion, racism, or intolerance
- Stereotypical forms of visual representation that dehumanize, criminalize, stigmatize, and pathologize migrants, refugees, or asylum seekers

Eligibility

- We are seeking photographers, artists, and media makers who bring expertise and new insight to an issue; who demonstrate a high level of artistic ability or excellence; and who have the skills, passion, commitment, and capacity to realize the proposed grant project.
- Applicants must demonstrate an ongoing commitment to themes relevant to migration through their past and ongoing work. In the application, we ask for examples of 2 past or current projects.
- Projects that use photography or other image-based practices to reflect on the theme in a unique and compelling way.
- Projects considered for exhibition may be for works from a larger, ongoing project, but the Moving Walls exhibit will be curated from content that already exists (funds will not be provided to create new projects specifically for the exhibition).
- Projects considered for the grant may be for continuing an ongoing body of work, or creating a new body of work related to the broader themes of the exhibit. We will consider 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 7 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. We will also consider the proposal's relevance to the theme. We are looking for a diversity of fellows, as well as approaches and interpretations of this theme.

Finalists will be notified by early May.

Finalists must be available for a preliminary phone interview with Documentary Photography Project staff in early May.

Finalists should be available for an additional phone interview with the selection committee on May 31, 2018. 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.
- **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 (in the month of June, exact dates to be confirmed upon selection), and 2) attendance at the opening reception and related events (September 23-28, 2018). 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 artists (standard shipment, uncrated).

The grant:

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

- **\$30,000-60,000 grant:** Funds may be used to cover project related expenses (including material costs, travel, and living 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 and Requirements

The Moving Walls exhibition is designed as a platform for photographers, artists, and media makers 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 (June, dates to be confirmed upon selection) and opening reception, press conference, related programming and events (September 23-28). Travel cost reimbursement/coverage will be provided. Selected participants will be responsible for obtaining the relevant visas, and Open Society will cover the costs. In the event that a visa cannot be obtained, alternate arrangements will be made.

The fellowship term shall be between 12-18 months, to start no sooner than January 15, 2019 and end by July 15, 2020. Fellows 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 Monday, April 23, 2018 at 11:59pm EDT: <http://osf.submittable.com/submit>. For a detailed list of questions in the submission form, see pages 8-10.

Deadline

Monday, April 23, 2018 at 11:59pm EDT (Eastern Time). We experience high traffic and occasional technical difficulties immediately before the deadline. To avoid this, please submit your application early.

Timeline

April 23, 2018	Submission deadline (11:59pm EDT)
May – early June 2018	Phone interviews, selection & notification
June 2018	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)
July 2018	Production (During this time, participants must be available to work remotely with curators, meet content deadlines, and oversee artwork production)
September 26, 2018	Opening reception at Open Society Foundations-New York
January 15, 2019	Grant term begins
July 15, 2019	Grant mid-term report due
Sept 2019	Beginning of possible exhibition tour (including but not limited to Open Society Foundations-Washington, D.C.)
June 15, 2020	Grant term ends
July 15, 2020	Grant final report due

Contact Information

If you have questions, please contact Siobhan Riordan at 212-547-6909, or movingwalls@opensocietyfoundations.org (include the subject line: “Moving Walls 25”)

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 23, 2018 at 11:59pm EDT. 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
- Brief 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: "yourname-exhibit-001," "yourname-exhibit-002," ... "yourname-exhibit-009," "yourname-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 migration-related 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 migration, identity, belonging and/or resilience? 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: “yourname-grant-001,” “yourname-grant-002,” ... “yourname-grant-009,” “yourname-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 that you also submit examples of past work on relevant themes in order to demonstrate a long-term commitment to the selection committee.

Can we apply together as project partners, or as a collective?

Yes, you can apply as 2 or more people working on the same project(s). However, please note:

- the grant is designed as an individual grant and must be dispersed to an individual, or split between individuals; it cannot be awarded to an organization.
- the exhibition will only feature one body of work with more than one collaborator, not separate bodies of work from each collaborator.