



Professionalizing Africa's Creative Sector

...

CALL FOR PROPOSALS # 4 - ACF
Solidarity Fund for African Artists & Cultural Organizations (SOFACO)
Batch No. 2 : Special Covid-19 / Cultural Organizations

SPECIAL CALL COVID-19 - #2 / CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS
Support for creation and resilience to African artists facing the COVID-19 crisis

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Over the past few months, the entire world has been experiencing an unprecedented health crisis caused by the Coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19). This global crisis has resulted in paralyzing human activities, that could lead to predict immeasurable negative impacts on the development of the countries in the world.

In this rather particular context where no continent or country, or even sector of activity is spared, the creative sector is proving to be one of the most severely impacted sectors by the effects of the pandemic.

In many African countries, the majority of creation, production and distribution centers are closed and artists are idle, without prospects, many of them living between despair and dismay.

In such context, it becomes urgent and a priority to offer assistance and support mechanisms for artists so that creativity and artistic productivity do not stop, but also allow them to effectively resist the pandemic and preserve the socio-economic structure of the already fragile African creative sector

In light of these findings, the African Culture Fund (ACF) is launching the second batch of calls for projects which exclusively to the benefit of cultural organizations, through the Solidarity Fund for Artists and Cultural Organizations in Africa (SOFACO), in order to support African artists on whom the COVID-19 crisis has had a negative effect.

Types of eligible projects

For this Call for "Special Covid-19 / Cultural Organizations", ACF is supporting applications in one of the following two categories of projects:

- **Category 1: Professional grants**

The professional grant is a subsidy to help a cultural organization cover all or part of its operating expenses which it cannot temporarily face, due to the crisis caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.

- **Category 2: Requests for assistance to creation**

Assistance to creation has to do with any creative or artistic innovation project adapted to the context of Covid-19 in Africa.

The request for financial support

Cultural organizations candidates will have to demonstrate a situation of vulnerability (or a shortfall) arising from the health crisis of Covid-19, and submit an application, either for a professional grant or for assistance to creation (but not both at a time), as indicated at the end of this document.

General eligibility conditions for funding requests

To be eligible, cultural organizations applicants must meet the following conditions:

- Be an artistic cultural organization operating in Africa, with at least five years of experience (*proof of legal existence to provide*).
- Submit a document showing the artistic career, process and an overview of the artistic works of your organization (*maximum 3 pages*).
- Submit a résumé (biography) of the head of the organization.
- Submit a letter of recommendation from at least one recognized reference person in the field of competency of your organization (*pointing out the need and urgency to provide financial support to your organization*)

*Selected cultural organizations must submit the above required documents **within a time limit set by ACF** following the selection notification, failing which they will not be able to benefit from the financial support of the ACF.*

Geographic coverage and maximum grant amount

The present Call covers all African countries.

ACF grant under this Call will not exceed an amount of **\$5,000 (Five thousand) United States Dollars per cultural organization**. The funding covers a **period between a minimum of 4 months and a maximum of 6 months**.

Selection procedure

The selection procedure follows five (05) steps:*

1. Recording of files.
2. Administrative review of applications.
3. Evaluation by the selection committee (Panel).
4. Approval of the list of selected projects.
5. Approval of funding allocation.

Applications will be assessed by an independent selection committee made of professionals working in the African cultural sector and knowledgeable of the artistic realities in the different African regions

Evaluation criteria

The evaluation of applications by the selection committee will be based on four (04) criteria.

1. Originality/innovation/creativity of the project or concept;
2. Technical quality of the application;
3. Financial quality of the project;
4. The relevance to the current African or regional context and to the Covid-19 context (situation of vulnerability of the cultural organization in relation to the health crisis).

Funding modalities

The Fund will sign a Grant Agreement with the beneficiary cultural organization. The Agreement will include information on the activities to be carried out, the grant amount, the disbursement schedule, and the delivery of implementation reports.

Funding to the selected projects will be disbursed in two (02) installments:

- 80% of the grant, upon signing the Grant Agreement
- 20% of the grant, at mid-term and upon submission and approval of the narrative and interim financial reports.

Indicative timeline

Activities	Deadline
SOFACO Lot 2 launch announcement	24 September 2020
Deadline for requests for clarification	30 September 2020
Deadline for clarification by the ACF	7 October 2020
Deadline for submission of applications	20 October 2020
Release of the results of the assessment by the selection board	14 December 2020
Grant notification	15 December 2020
Grant Agreement signing	Starting 24 December 2020

How to Apply

- Applicants must complete an online funding application form via the following link: <https://www.africanculturefund.net/en/application-form-for-sofaco-batch-no2/>
- Applications submitted by any other channel will not be considered.
- Applications can be submitted in **English** or **French**.
- The deadline for submission of applications is **October 20, 2020 at midnight GMT**.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- The applicant will receive an automatic acknowledgment email once the application has been received.
- The results will be published on the ACF website and social networks (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram).

Only successful applicants will receive notification by ACF. The latter must then provide all the administrative documents mentioned above, within a time limit set by the ACF.