

CREATIVITY PIONEERS FUND 2024

OPEN CALL GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION

The Creativity Pioneers Fund

The Creativity Pioneers Fund (CPF) catalyzes transformational social change by investing in, connecting, and championing cultural and creative organizations that advance bold and unconventional practices for building a more just, inclusive, and equitable world. Working with and alongside organizations, donors and other stakeholders across the creative ecosystem, the Creativity Pioneers Fund aims to mobilize a collective effort to advance Creativity for Social Change.

The Creativity Pioneers Fund was launched in 2021 by Moleskine Foundation to provide flexible funding in the amount of € 5,000 to creative and cultural organizations to help sustain their essential functions and programs. Today, the Creativity Pioneers Fund represents a coalition of Partners who believe in the transforming power of creativity and the need to use a new philanthropic approach to social change. Leveraging the creative ecosystem of partners and stakeholders, the Creativity Pioneers Fund aims to offer various learning and development opportunities for its participants/recipients.

The micro-grant represents only a starting point for a more extensive and long-term collaboration system towards a platform model that provides the Creativity Pioneers with access to more financial opportunities, in-kind and know-how support, mentoring and learning opportunities, peer-to-peer exchange and networking.

The Creativity Pioneers Fund intends to invest in bold, inspiring and intersectional organizations close to the challenges and communities they seek to address. Through the Creativity Pioneers Fund, we are promoting a more progressive philanthropic approach based on trust, unrestricted funding, valorization of intersectionality, simple and inclusive paperwork both at the selection process and M&E, and a strong focus on building long-lasting networks and ecosystems.

GUIDELINES

I. Eligible Organizations

- Support is granted only to non-profit organizations that are legally registered and operating in the countries in which they operate, with no limits on geographic origin.
- We seek for organizations that place creativity at the center of their mission and programs, demonstrating how they strengthen the role creativity plays in the social transformation of their target communities.

CREATIVITY PIONEERS FUND 2024

OPEN CALL GUIDELINES

- Priority is given to organizations that focus their work on disadvantaged and/or marginalized communities and that work primarily with youth (16-27 years old).
- The organization must be able to provide a bank account number registered in the name of the organization. As a foundation we cannot make donations to individuals' bank accounts.
- **Please note:** if your organization is unable to receive donations from the EU and US due to political/regulatory restrictions, we encourage applicants to propose alternative options aligned with our guidelines. Each exception will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Organizations are not eligible to apply:

- If they have already received the micro-grant from the Creativity Pioneers Fund.
- If they represent political parties, religious organizations or engage in lobbying activities.
- If are not legally registered.
- If they are not non-profit entities.
- If their founder(s) and/or any legal representatives are involved in events prejudicial to their reputation and/or legal status, including but not limited to breach of criminal laws, malfeasance, tax evasion (even if not criminally relevant), discrimination, hate speech, or dissemination of fake news.

II. Eligible Expenditures

- The Creativity Pioneers Fund focuses on the organization's achievements over the years and its potential both in fulfilling its mission and in terms of its vision for change.
- The purpose of the call is to support organizations by providing unrestricted funding to cover the expenses necessary to more effectively fulfill their mission.
- We believe that organizations engaged on the front lines are best qualified to determine where to allocate the funds provided, so the grantee organization has decision-making autonomy over the use of resources.
- The application should report all costs incurred directly for planned activities and programs during the year-which may include, but are not limited to, the following items:
 - o expenses inherent to programming;
 - o personnel costs, whether newly hired or for paid work of existing staff, provided such costs are vital to the operation and programming of the organization;
 - o travel and subsistence costs, e.g., airfare and ground transfers, for meals and lodging, must be congruent with the policy on expenses adopted by the organization, if any;

CREATIVITY PIONEERS FUND 2024

OPEN CALL GUIDELINES

- promotion costs, such as costs for marketing and distribution of related materials or advertising on media platforms, if any;
- evaluation costs, including the collection, storage and analysis of data and the production of evaluation reports, including overtime worked by staff or appointments given to external consultants;
- fees charged by professionals: payments made to organizations or individuals for professional services of a financial, legal or marketing nature;
- overhead expenses to support business growth and development to ensure long-term sustainability.

III. The application process

- Applications undergo review by a selection committee comprised of experts, partner organization members of the Creativity Pioneers Fund, and previous Creativity Pioneers, ensuring diverse perspectives and a participatory process.
- Following the initial evaluation by this panel, the Creativity Pioneers Fund team conducts an internal review. Additional materials, like videos or interviews, may be requested from shortlisted applicants during this phase.
- Selected organizations will receive notification of their acceptance by early August.
- Final award decisions will be publicly announced in September, with agreements finalized and funds disbursed by December.
- Due to the anticipated high volume of applications, detailed feedback will not be provided to organizations that are not selected.

IV. How to submit your application

- To submit the application, you need to create a free account on the Optimy platform that is operating on this website. You can save a draft of the already completed part if you wish to complete the form at a later date. Before the submission date, the draft can be saved and edited. **Once the application has been submitted, you will not be able to reopen it to edit it.**
- The Optimy platform works best on Google Chrome, Firefox, Edge or Safari. **Internet Explorer is not supported.** Verify that your browser is supported.
- The application form is available in 4 multiple languages (refer to the menu option located in the top-right corner of the page). Please ensure that you are completing the form in the same language you are using to write the application. This helps us process your application accurately and efficiently.
- **Please make sure to click VALIDATE AND SEND at the end of the form and receive a confirmation email, otherwise your application will not be submitted.**

CREATIVITY PIONEERS FUND 2024

OPEN CALL GUIDELINES

- Throughout the process we will keep you constantly updated on the status of your application. Make sure that Optimy notification emails are categorized as "no spam" and regularly check the email box used to create your Optimy account.
- For any technical problems, please contact CPFsupport@moleskinefoundation.org

Timeline and deadlines	
Opening Open Call 2024	April 29th
Deadline Open Call	May 27 th (11:00 pm CET)
First round of Evaluation	June 10th-24th
Last Round of Evaluation and Due Diligence	June 24th – July 29th
Notification of Proposal Outcome	August
Public announcement of outcomes	September
Completion of contracts and disbursement of funding	December

V. Selected Candidates

- The names of selected applicants will be published on the Moleskine Foundation website following the final decision. Only grant recipients will be contacted individually by email with notification of the successful outcome of the selection process.
- Selected projects will be made public no later than September 2024.

VI. Contract regarding the financial contribution

- Moleskine Foundation will draft a contract to be signed by the recipients of the selected financial grants.
- The contract will include the start and end dates of the contract, the amount of the financial contribution, financial requirements, payment deadlines, general provisions, implementation and amendments, and expected reports.

VII. Payment deadlines

CREATIVITY PIONEERS FUND 2024

OPEN CALL GUIDELINES

- Beneficiaries receive 100% of the financial contribution as the first payment upon completion of the contract.
- At the time of project initiation, the organization receiving a financial contribution must indicate an active bank account qualified to receive international funds.
- Organizations must be prepared to provide financial and project status reports.
- A due diligence check will be conducted prior to disbursement of funding.
- Moleskine Foundation cannot match payments to organizations subject to international sanctions or not legally registered.

VIII. Application evaluation criteria

- Proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria listed below.
 - Decisions are the prerogative of Committee Review Panels, which include experts, members of the Moleskine Foundation and Fund Partners teams, Creativity Pioneers beneficiaries of past editions of the Creativity Pioneers Fund.
 - Panel members will select which applications to support based on their judgment, taking into consideration the quality of the applications and the overall composition of the group of grantees.
 - Please note that applications don't need to meet all of the criteria listed below; however, selected applications should consider and incorporate each criterion within their project and scope of work.
- a) Nature of the organization:** enterprising, flexible, small size, run by young people, outside the mainstream of large donors/institutional grants, belonging to the third sector.
 - b) Rigor:** an interesting idea, properly conceived, structured, produced and presented.
 - c) Creativity:** unique, unconventional, adventurous and revolutionary ideas, perspectives and concepts, such as to offer new perspectives, generate new and meaningful ideas, raise new questions and present solutions to identified challenges.
 - d) Social transformation and ecosystem impact:** ability to influence, directly or indirectly, at multiple (individual or collective) levels, triggering positive systemic change, through creativity, culture, and creative skills.
 - e) Contextuality:** relevance at the local level in factual or discussion terms, with designs that enhance the local context and communities.
 - f) Inclusiveness:** linkage (direct or indirect) to the ultimate goal of more inclusive societies, connecting people in ways that resist marginalization, oppression, and division. This can occur at different levels, e.g., through the people involved, the recipients, the program, and the context or organization.

CREATIVITY PIONEERS FUND 2024

OPEN CALL GUIDELINES

- g) Influence and integrity:** ability to lead growth and predisposition to change perceptions around the "Creativity for social change" theme/key area. Ability to positively influence debate and integrity in carrying out one's work.
- h) Educational purpose:** programs or organizations that aim to directly or indirectly develop young people's creative skills, i.e., critical thinking, creative doing, lifelong learning, and a change-oriented approach.