

Documentary Photography Project

2009 Distribution Grant Guidelines

Traditional media offer limited opportunities for presenting documentary photographs in a way that creates a meaningful and lasting impact on the communities or issues addressed in the images. The Open Society Institute's Documentary Photography Project is offering a grant to documentary photographers who have already completed a significant body of work on issues of social justice to collaborate with a partner organization and propose new ways of using photography as a tool for positive social change.

All photographers must have another entity (such as a nonprofit, NGO, or community-based organization) that will work with the photographer to design an innovative distribution strategy that targets specific communities and advocates for social change. The partner must engage with the photographer to accomplish these goals—and not just fund or publish the project.

Grants of \$5,000 to \$30,000 will be awarded.

Please visit our website for a list of previously-funded projects:

http://www.soros.org/initiatives/photography/focus_areas/distribution/grantees

Eligibility

- Proposals must present strong images that are contextualized, when necessary, with text, sound, or other media.
- Proposals must address a current social justice issue. Preference will be given to work that coincides with the issues and geographical areas that concern OSI. Please consult our website at www.soros.org to familiarize yourself with OSI's activities.
- Proposals must engage a specific audience, community, and/or site and use creative distribution strategies that are tailored specifically for that context.
- Applicants must partner with an organization that will provide administrative, programmatic, and financial and/or in-kind support.

The following projects are not eligible for funding:

- Projects that involve the making of new photographs;
- Projects whose only goal is to raise awareness in a general way;
- Book production;
- Gallery exhibitions that serve only the interests of the photographer or the gallery;
- Dated material, unless the project serves a historical purpose; and
- Documentary film or video.

OSI cannot support lobbying activities. Projects that include lobbying activities will not be funded. OSI does not discriminate based on any characteristics that may be protected by applicable law.



Criteria for Selection

When evaluating proposals, the Selection Committee will consider the following:

Photographs

- Are the photographs well-executed and compelling?
- Is the issue addressed in the photographs of major global, national, or local significance?
- Do the images adequately portray the issue addressed in the project?
- Do the images work well with the distribution plan to realize the larger goals of the project?

Distribution Plan

- Is the mode of distribution unique and innovative in its approach?
- Is the mode of distribution designed in a way that will resonate with the target audience, encourage community engagement, and achieve positive social change?
- Does the distribution plan provide a replicable model for other photographers?

Applicant

- Does the applicant demonstrate the skills, experience, and discipline needed to accomplish the project within the proposed timeframe and budget?
- Does the applicant have a demonstrated commitment to and understanding of the issues he or she proposes to address?
- Does the applicant have experience working with the communities targeted in the project?

Partner Organization

- Does the partner organization demonstrate a successful track record reaching or mobilizing the target audience?
- Is the partner organization committed, in terms of time and financial and/or in-kind resources, to working with the photographer to achieve social change?

Budget and Timeline

- Are the budget and timeline reasonable?
- Is the project feasible given the amount of time and financial resources budgeted?

Application, Review, and Selection Process

Please submit your application online at <http://oas.soros.org/oas/>. The online application must be submitted no later than Friday, June 19, 2009 at 5:00pm (Eastern Standard Time). Semi-finalists will be selected in late summer 2009 and may be contacted at that time with requests for additional information. Grant recipients will be notified in September.

Application Checklist

Applications must be submitted through our [online application system](#). On the online application system, please register and choose "Individual Grants" and select "Documentary Photography - Distribution Grant." A complete application consists of uploading responses to the following 8 sections of the online application.

1. **Applicant Information** (enter contact information and upload resume)
2. **Project Summary** (enter answers to all 4 questions describing your project)
3. **Applicant Questions** (answer and upload all 7 questions as a Word document)
4. **Partner Organization Questions** (enter contact information, upload a PDF of the letter of commitment, which should answer all 5 questions)
5. **Budget** (enter answers to all 3 questions and upload itemized budget)
6. **Timeline** (enter project begin and end date and upload detailed timeline)
7. **Examples of Work** (upload 15 low-res jpegs, captions, accompanying text, and any additional material)
8. **Letters of recommendation** (enter contact information and upload letters of recommendation from 2 references)

Deadline: Complete online applications must be submitted no later than **Friday, June 19, 2009 at 5:00pm (Eastern Standard Time)**.

Contact: If you have any questions, please contact Yukiko Yamagata at yyamagata@sorosny.org.

**Open Society Institute
Documentary Photography Project**

**2009 Distribution Grant
On-line Application Questions**

*Responses to these application questions must be submitted online at:
<http://oas.soros.org/oas/>*

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

- Prefix
- Last name
- First name
- Street address
- City
- State (for US applicants only)
- Postal code (leave blank if not applicable)
- Country
- Phone
- Email address
- *Please attach a resume that includes a list of produced work, publications and exhibitions.*

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Description:

- Please write a *brief* 1 sentence description of your project (25 words or less)

Project Distribution:

- In what countries or regions will your project be distributed?

Previous OSI Support:

- Have you received previous funding from OSI? (please answer "Yes" or "No") If yes, indicate which OSI program supported your work and the name of the project for which you received funding.
- Has your work ever been exhibited in the Open Society Institute's Moving Walls exhibition? (please answer "Yes" or "No")

APPLICANT QUESTIONS

Your responses to the following 7 questions will constitute a significant portion of your application. Please copy the following questions into a separate Word document, respond in the order in which they are asked, and attach the document in the space provided:

1. Please describe your project and how you came to work on this issue.
2. What current social justice or human rights issue does the project address and why is the issue relevant today?
3. What are your distribution plans? (Please be as specific as possible)
4. Who is the intended audience for the project and in what ways have you tailored your distribution plan to ensure that the project will be seen by and resonate with the target audience?

5. Why did you select this particular partner organization? Have you worked with this organization before? If so, for how long and in what capacity?
6. What impact, from your perspective as the photographer, do you think the project will have? How do you plan to evaluate success?
7. What's the lifespan of the project? Do you have plans for it beyond the OSI grant term?

Attachments should be in Word format; 5 pages maximum; double-spaced; Times New Roman; 12 point font; one inch margins. Submissions that exceed these requirements will not be considered.

PARTNER ORGANIZATION QUESTIONS:

NOTE: This section should be completed by the partner organization.

- Primary partner organization:
- Street address
- City
- State (for US applicants only)
- Postal code (leave blank if not applicable)
- Country
- Contact person at primary partner organization:
- Contact person's title:
- Contact person's phone:
- Contact person's email address:

Letter of Commitment from Partner Organization:

Please upload a letter of commitment from the partner organization addressing the following 5 questions, in the order in which they are asked. Responses to the following will constitute a significant portion of your application.

1. Aside from this particular project, what role does your organization play in addressing this issue and reaching or mobilizing the target audience?
2. Why did you choose to work with this photographer?
3. What role will your organization play in the project?
4. What financial and/or in-kind support will your organization contribute to the project?
5. What impact, from your perspective as the partner organization, do you think the project will have? How do you plan to evaluate success?

Letter must be signed and printed on letterhead; PDF format is preferred. Letters should be 3 pages maximum; double-spaced; Times New Roman; 12 font. Submissions that exceed these requirements will not be considered.

BUDGET

- What is the total budget for your project?
- What is the amount to be covered by OSI?
- What is the amount to be covered by the partner organization?
- Please attach a detailed, itemized budget for the total cost of the project including previous funding, partner organization financial and/or in-kind support, and support requested from OSI. The budget may include but is not limited to: printing; educational and/or public programming; equipment; packaging; production of distribution materials; outreach; shipping; installation; stipend for photographer or project manager; and travel costs.

TIMELINE

- Project begin date
- Project end date

- o Please attach a detailed timeline for the project, including any work that has already occurred and/or will continue after the grant period.

EXAMPLES OF WORK

- o Please upload 15 low-resolution jpegs (no larger than 1 MB each) of images from the proposed project.
- o Please upload a Word document with a list of descriptive captions for the 15 images.
- o If you have additional text that should accompany the images, please upload a Word document. Please do not attach general project descriptions or artists' statements whose content is included in other parts of this application. This section is for text that is an essential part of the work itself.
- o Please upload any additional material that would help the selection committee visualize the project (eg., mock-ups of printed materials, floor plans or sketches, installation photographs, etc.)

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Please enter contact information and attach letters of recommendation from 2 references. Letters of recommendation are not confidential, but should be printed on company letterhead and signed, scanned, and uploaded (preferably as PDF documents). Each letter should comment on at least two of the following:

1. your skills as a photographer;
2. your experience working with partners, such as non-profit or community-based organizations;
3. your knowledge of the human rights or social justice issues addressed in your project;
4. your experience working with the communities targeted in your project; and/or
5. your ability to successfully carry out the project within the proposed timeframe and budget.

1st reference's name:

1st reference's title:

1st reference's organization:

1st reference's phone:

1st reference's email address:

Recommendation letter from 1st reference (please upload here):

2nd reference's name:

2nd reference's title:

2nd reference's organization:

2nd reference's phone:

2nd reference's email address:

Recommendation letter from 2nd reference (please upload here):