

FRANKENTHALER CLIMATE INITIATIVE LAUNCHES FIFTH GRANTMAKING CYCLE JANUARY 15, 2025

Advancing Climate Action in the Arts, the Multiyear Initiative Provides Visual Arts Organizations with Support and Resources to Undertake Ambitious Sustainability and Energy Efficiency Projects

New York, NY—January 9, 2025—The [Helen Frankenthaler Foundation](#) announced today it is opening the fifth application cycle of the [Frankenthaler Climate Initiative](#) (FCI) on January 15, 2025. Since its inception in 2021, the \$15-million initiative has distinguished itself as the largest private national grant-making program to support climate action in the visual arts, providing funding and resources for organizations to assess and implement clean energy and energy efficiency projects. To date, FCI has advanced 244 projects at 200 art museums, art schools, and non-collecting arts organizations across the country. FCI is managed by the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation in partnership with [RMI](#), a leading global clean energy nonprofit, and [Environment & Culture Partners](#), a nonprofit driving the U.S. cultural sector’s climate action efforts.

The FCI application portal will be open for submissions from **January 15** through **March 28, 2025**. An **informational webinar** for potential applicants will be held on Thursday, January 23, 2-3 pm ET. Registration for the webinar and details regarding the 2025 application process are available at frankenthalerclimateinitiative.org.

“Over the course of the FCI’s trajectory, we have seen a groundswell of enthusiasm and participation from a range of applicants. These arts organizations vary in size and mission, but each demonstrates how, through the right partnerships and support, the arts are moving towards a zero-carbon future,” remarks **Elizabeth Smith, Executive Director of the Frankenthaler Foundation**.

“Arts and culture spaces are natural incubators for creativity and innovation, and help lead the way in imagining new futures for society. FCI ensures that these organizations can implement creative climate solutions by providing the resources to transform their infrastructure,” adds **Lise Motherwell, Chair of the Foundation’s Board of Directors**. “We’re proud to stimulate a sector-wide shift in operational energy standards, with positive impacts that reverberate throughout the communities these organizations serve.”

“With each year that FCI has grown, the level of complexity and sophistication in project proposals has grown as well,” comments **Sarah Sutton, CEO of Environment & Culture Partners**. “Climate action continues to build in the visual arts sector as applicants move from scoping and assessment projects to implementation of major energy-efficient upgrades, and with new first-time applicants each year. It’s inspiring to see such action build to an industry-wide trend and to generate such momentum.”

FCI 2025 Details

Eligible organizations are invited to submit applications for the following grant in the 2025 cycle:

- **Catalyst** grants provide funding to organizations with an annual operating budget under \$500,000 who are pursuing simple stand-alone energy efficiency projects, such as a first action or in a small space, and can include an additional award of in-project coaching of up to 5 hours. **Up to \$15,000.**
- **Scoping** grants help institutions understand the energy efficiency and clean energy opportunities at their facilities by funding an assessment with an independent environmental engineer, building science specialist, or sustainability consultant. **Up to \$25,000.**
- **Technical Assistance** grants fund advanced assessments or technical specifications, where an initial comprehensive evaluation may have been completed (e.g., site-wide master plan). **Up to \$50,000.**
- **Implementation** grants directly address an institution's climate impact and provide partial or full funding for organizations who have achieved institutional buy-in for their projects. These grants typically range from **\$50,000 to \$100,000** and do not exceed \$100,000.

Eligible applicant categories include:

- Museums, archives, and institutions whose primary mission emphasizes visual art;
- Higher education art schools, centers for study;
- Residency programs;
- Community art centers and cultural arts organizations whose primary mission emphasizes visual art;
- Artist-endowed foundations;
- Arts organizations, including those that may not have a physical structure (but must have an ability to monitor energy consumption and/or generation); and
- Not-for-profit events, including biennials, temporary projects, and large-scale public art exhibitions.

Previous grantees are eligible to submit applications for a different type of grant or in support of a new initiative, unless they have received an FCI award three times previously.

About the Frankenthaler Climate Initiative

The [Frankenthaler Climate Initiative](#) is the first nation-wide program to support energy efficiency and clean energy use for the visual arts and the largest private national grant-making program to address climate change action through cultural institutions. The \$15-million, multi-year initiative provides critical support to visual art institutions in the United States seeking to assess their impact on the environment and to lower ongoing energy costs. To date, the Foundation has conferred more than \$14.1 million supporting 244 energy efficiency and clean energy projects at 200 institutions across 37 states in the U.S. through the Frankenthaler Climate Initiative.

Building on the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation's commitment to social impact philanthropy and to catalyzing positive change on critical issues in the arts, the Foundation launched the Initiative in 2021 in association with [RMI](#) and [Environment & Culture Partners](#) (ECP). RMI is an independent nonprofit that engages businesses, communities, institutions, and entrepreneurs in accelerating the adoption of market-based solutions that cost-effectively create a clean, prosperous, and secure low-carbon future. ECP is a national nonprofit leading collaborations that engage the cultural sector in broader climate action. For more information, visit frankenthalerclimateinitiative.org.

About Helen Frankenthaler Foundation

Established and endowed by Helen Frankenthaler during her lifetime, the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation advances the artist's legacy and inspires a new generation of practitioners through a range of philanthropic, educational, and research initiatives. Since becoming active in 2013, the Foundation has continued to strategically expand its program, which includes organizing and supporting significant exhibitions of the artist's work, fostering new research and publications, advancing educational programs in partnership with arts organizations around the world, and launching groundbreaking initiatives that foster systemic change in the field. As a primary resource on the artist, and a steward of her collection and archive, the Foundation holds an extensive selection of Frankenthaler's work in a variety of mediums, her collection of works by other artists, and original papers and materials pertaining to her life and work.

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