

THIRD APPLICATION CYCLE OF FRANKENTHALER CLIMATE INITIATIVE OPENS ON FEBRUARY 20, 2023

Helen Frankenthaler Foundation Extends Impact of its \$10M Commitment to Climate Action in the Visual Arts with Next Round of Grants Supporting Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy Projects at Visual Art Institutions and Art Schools

New York, NY—February 7, 2023—The **Helen Frankenthaler Foundation** announced today that the third application cycle of the [Frankenthaler Climate Initiative](#) will open for submissions on **February 20, 2023** accepting proposals supporting energy efficiency and clean energy projects at visual art museums and art schools throughout the United States. This is the third cycle of the Frankenthaler Climate Initiative which marks a continuation of the Foundation’s \$10-million, multi-year commitment to address climate change through cultural institutions. Proposals for scoping and technical assistance grants, which are designed to aid in the assessment and analysis of energy projects, and letters of interest for implementation grants, or seed funding for specified projects, are due by **March 31, 2023**, with monetary awards to be announced this summer. An **informational webinar** will take place **Wednesday, March 1, from 2-3pm ET**, and registration is available [here](#).

Launched in 2021, the Frankenthaler Climate Initiative builds upon the Foundation’s efforts to advance social impact initiatives, accessibility, and sustainability within the arts, including most recently emergency funds supporting artists and cultural heritage at risk. Through its climate initiative, the Foundation has awarded **\$8.1 million** to **128 institutions** to date. The program has been developed and is implemented in partnership with the [RMI](#), a leading nonprofit advocate of clean energy systems, and [Environment & Culture Partners](#), the leading nonprofit advocate of cultural sector climate action. More information about the Initiative and the 2023 application process is available at frankenthalerclimateinitiative.org.

“As the first grant program of its kind, the Frankenthaler Climate Initiative sets a precedent for the cultural sector and establishes the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation as a leading proponent of climate action within the field,” said Lise Motherwell, Board Chair of the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation. “With each cycle, we have enhanced the grant-making process and set sustainable climate initiatives in motion across the country. Fulfilling this \$10-million commitment galvanizes our work as we look to the continued evolution of the Foundation’s grant-making initiatives.”

“We decided to do FCI because it filled a key gap – a museum board couldn’t raise money to do the carbon reduction work it wanted to do on its building because there was no financial constituency to back that,” added Fred Iseman, President of the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation. “Yet we saw there was and is a massive social and scientific need to do so. So, we spoke to various museum professionals to draw a precise bead on the problem. And then as a group we decided to step in – nationally. With the goal of being catalysts for museums, art schools, and other arts institutions. Which in turn would catalyze artists, viewers, and society. The intent was to provoke – to improve.”

Eligible visual art institutions, which include collecting and non-collecting museums as well as visual art schools, are invited to submit Scoping and Technical Assistance full proposals and Implementation letters of interest from February 20 through March 31. Previous grantees are eligible to submit applications for a different type of grant or in support of a new initiative. Monetary awards will be issued in proportion to the scope and timeline of the project.

Highlights of FCI's 2022 grant cycle:

- Supported innovations in the field, such as the Museum of Modern Art's (NY) development of its cold storage vault;
- Advanced net zero goals through comprehensive planning, including at the Judd Foundation's (NY) facilities in Marfa, Texas;
- Assisted preservation and conservation projects, from reconstructing building envelopes to improve collection preservation, to installing environmental monitoring across gallery sites at institutions including the Center for Jewish History (NY), the Cleveland Museum of Art (OH), and Yale University Art Gallery (CT); and
- Extended existing climate commitments, which began with energy audits and assessments supported by FCI in 2021 and moved into system installations and upgrades, at institutions including the Florence Griswold Museum (CT); Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (CA); and the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute (MA).

"Large-scale, sustained energy transformation isn't a simple undertaking," noted Jon Creyts, CEO of RMI. "The wide scope of the FCI grants accounts for and supports each of the multiple stages essential to achieving sustainability. From assessments to analysis to implementation, these art organizations are not only making their own facilities greener and more energy efficient, they are also establishing a blueprint for climate action that similar institutions can follow."

"The partnership between the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, RMI, and Environment & Culture Partners is transformative. As we all face the highly complex challenge of climate change, it is crucial that we all work across sector lines and combine funding and knowledge resources," said Sarah Sutton, CEO of Environment & Culture Partners. "By improving energy efficiency and generating clean energy, institutions receiving funding through the Frankenthaler Climate Initiative are laying the groundwork for a healthier, safer, and enriching future for everyone."

Application eligibility, details, and timeline are available at frankenthalerclimateinitiative.org/apply.

About the Frankenthaler Climate Initiative

The [Frankenthaler Climate Initiative](https://frankenthalerclimateinitiative.org) 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. Its grants provide critical support to visual art institutions in the United States seeking to assess their impact on the environment and to lower ongoing energy costs. The Frankenthaler Climate Initiative builds on the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation's commitment to social impact philanthropy, catalyzing change across critical issues in the arts.

The Frankenthaler Climate Initiative was launched in 2021 and is managed in association with [RMI](#), 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, and [Environment & Culture Partners](#), a nonprofit that creates relationships and leads collaborations that engage the cultural sector in broader climate action.

For more information, visit frankenthalerclimateinitiative.org.

About the 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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