

FRANKENTHALER CLIMATE INITIATIVE EXPANDS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND INTRODUCES NEW GRANT IN ITS FOURTH APPLICATION CYCLE OPENING FEBRUARY 2024

*Biennials Now Eligible for FCI Grants,
Alongside Art Museums, Art Schools, and Non-Collecting Arts Institutions*

*New “Catalyst” Grants Provide Immediate Funding
for Smaller-Scale, Near-Term Energy Efficiency Projects*

New York, NY—January 25, 2024 —The **Helen Frankenthaler Foundation** announced today an expansion of its **Frankenthaler Climate Initiative** with broader eligibility criteria and a new grant type, making climate action more readily accessible across the visual arts. Launched initially in 2021, the \$15-million initiative is the largest private national grant-making program of its kind in the country supporting the assessment and implementation of energy efficiency projects at art museums, non-collecting visual arts organizations, and art schools across the U.S. The 2024 grant cycle extends the program’s impact by allowing nonprofit art events, such as biennials, to become eligible for grants for the first time. In addition, the cycle introduces new Catalyst grants, which will fully fund smaller-scale, shovel-ready projects that are being completed within six months. FCI is implemented in partnership with [RMI](#), a leading nonprofit advocate of clean energy systems, and [Environment & Culture Partners](#), the leading advocate of cultural sector climate action.

The Foundation simultaneously announced that FCI’s application portal will be open from **February 8** through **March 15, 2024**. An **informational webinar** for potential applicants will be held on **February 15, at 1pm ET**. More information about FCI, including registration for the webinar and details on eligibility criteria and the 2024 application process, is available at frankenthalerclimateinitiative.org.

“The Frankenthaler Climate Initiative has blossomed from an original \$5-million commitment to a \$15-million grant-making program that today supports museums and art schools across the country. There is an urgency and need in the creative sector for this type of funding, knowledge sharing, and support, and we are proud to be a leading resource for energy efficiency and sustainability in the visual arts,” said Lise Motherwell, Chair, and Clifford Ross, President of the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation’s Board of Directors.

“Each year, we receive exciting proposals from visual arts institutions whose efforts shape an environmentally sustainable world. The diversity of these projects underscore the fact that biennials, collaborative exhibitions, and small-scale organizations are vital components in today’s art world. As we evolve FCI and deepen our commitment to climate action, we are thrilled to expand access to an ever broader range of nonprofit arts organizations,” added Elizabeth Smith, Executive Director of the Frankenthaler Foundation.

“Together with the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation and ECP, we are helping an industry transform itself,” noted **Jon Creyts, CEO of RMI**. “These grants act as catalysts for long-term sustainability efforts at individual institutions, and model how scientific climate data can be utilized to assess and implement

change across an entire sector. Thanks to FCI, arts organizations across the U.S. are inspiring us all toward a greener future.”

“The Frankenthaler Climate Initiative has created important momentum in climate action for the visual arts sector. By providing funding in a variety of project phases, FCI enables a wide range of energy efficiency and clean energy work to move ahead,” said **Sarah Sutton, CEO of Environment & Culture Partners**. “FCI helps these organizations pursue changes that are important to them and their communities in a way few funders have yet to value appropriately.”

FCI 2024 Details

Organizations are invited to submit applications for the 2024 grant cycle from February 8 through March 15, 2024 for the following grant categories:

- **Catalyst** grants fund a simple stand-alone energy efficiency project, such as at a small space or a first action at any site, 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 conducting 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 includes visual art;
- Higher education art schools, centers for study, residency programs;
- Community and cultural organizations whose mission includes an emphasis on 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 award in all three previous years.

Additional details on the application process are available at frankenthalerclimateinitiative.org.

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. The \$15 million ongoing 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 \$10.8 million supporting 175 energy efficiency and clean energy projects at 147 institutions across 34 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](#), 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 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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