

Creativity Pioneers Fund 2023

Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL INFORMATION

Q: *What is the goal of the Creativity Pioneers Fund?*

A: The Creativity Pioneers Fund aims to create a platform of organizations that recognize creativity as a catalyst for positive social transformation. The grant recipients enter a global ecosystem where they can connect with peer organizations and access learning, mentoring, and networking opportunities. Participation in this platform can enable like-minded organizations to create a movement of Creativity for Social Change.

Q: *How can I apply to the Creativity Pioneers Fund?*

A: You can register, complete, and submit your application via the following online platform <https://creativitypioneersfund.ca.optimytool.com/en/>, which is available in 4 languages: English, Italian, French, Spanish. Look at the guidelines to see the supported browsers.

Q: *Are there examples of organizations already supported in the past years?*

A: Yes, you can see [here](#) the stories of the former Creativity Pioneers, and [here](#) their interviews.

Q: *What can I do if I face technical issues with the application submission?*

A: If you have any urgent technical questions, contact us by email and write to: marina.mussapi@moleskinefoundation.org. We remind you that the deadline for the open call is May 14th. We advise you to submit your application before that date, so if there is a technical problem, we will have enough time to solve it. Note that many fields are mandatory, and others have character limits. Make sure not to leave the application as a draft, and click VALIDATE and SEND at the end of your form. Once submitted, you should receive an email confirming your submission in the following 24 hours. If you do not receive it, contact us.

Q: *What is the duration of the support?*

A: The grant covers one year of programming and must be spent by December 2024. However, we hope to create long-term relationships with all the Creativity Pioneers, the grant is only the starting point of a longer journey.

Q: *How many organizations will receive the grant this year?*

A: The final number depends on the quantity and quality of the applications we will receive. In 2022 we supported 38 organizations, and we expect this number to grow.

Q: *How much is geography a factor that influences the selection of the organization to support?*

A: The Creativity Pioneers Fund is a global program. In the last year, we received applications from 90 countries, but some areas were under-represented, therefore we added a fourth language to be sure the call can be more accessible and have a greater reach.

Q: *We have applied in 2022, but we were not selected. Could you provide feedback on our past application? Does it make sense to apply again?*

A: Due to the number of applications received, we cannot provide individual feedback. Please note that if you were not selected, it does not mean that you did not deserve it, but there could be several reasons like available funding, balance among different geographies, etc.

NATURE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Q: *Our organization doesn't work in the creative and cultural sectors. Can we still apply to the Fund?*

A: The definition of creativity for us is inclusive. It goes beyond the idea of sectors and is more related to creative skills development. By creative skills, we mean those attributes - such as creative doing, critical thinking, change-making attitude, and lifelong learning - essential to tackle our most pressing social challenges. We are interested to understand how you center creativity as a mindset, an attitude that underlies all of your organization's work.

Q: *We do not work only with youth, but we engage multiple communities and target audiences. Can we still apply to the Fund?*

A: Yes. We are interested in having a complete overview of your organization, so do not leave out essential parts of your work even though they are not explicitly related to the criteria of the Fund. If you serve multiple target audiences and work across different age groups, tell us more about your work and give us the whole picture.

Q: *We have a project that we would like to support with the grant of the Creativity Pioneers Fund; how much should we tell about it in our application?*

A: We recommend that you describe your organization in its entirety. However, if you want to talk about a specific program or project, you can always add a description to your application. We want to build a long-lasting relationship with the Creativity Pioneers, regardless of specific projects they might have planned for a particular time of the year.

Q: *Can you explain more about what you are looking for regarding our track record? We are a relatively new organization.*

A: We do not penalize organizations that have little track record. The Creativity Pioneers can be organizations born many years ago, as well as new and small organizations. If you have little experience as an organization, provide a clear plan about your work and how you intend to achieve your mission.

Q: *Does the organization need a physical location, or can it be present online? Can it work across various countries?*

A: It is not mandatory to have physical space. You can apply even if you operate online. It will help us to understand if there are any physical/digital spaces that bring together communities and facilitates the generation of impact. We welcome organizations that operate in multiple countries.

Q: *If our organization is brand new and does not yet have beneficiaries, do we put zero, or do we put an estimated number of beneficiaries?*

A: We recommend providing an estimated number of beneficiaries and explaining that it is not an actual number but a projection.

Q: *Our organization has been around for 25 years, and there was a leadership change during this time. What should we focus on?*

A: The intention of this question in the application form is to understand the leadership style that your organization adopts. For us, your organization's history is important to know how it all started. However, if the leadership style has changed significantly over time, you can describe the current situation. We are also interested in knowing who the person that will become the point of reference (face) of your organization is.

Q: *We are a collective. How can we respond to your question regarding the founder of the organization?*

A: We want to understand your leadership style, whether it is based on an individual or a collective. You are welcome to provide multiple biographies of your founders.

Q: *Will it be possible to indicate the organizations that support us but that are not necessarily donors?*

A: Yes, you can mention them within the list of donors.

Q: *Our organization cannot disclose information about our donors, will not answering this question lessen the chance of the success of our application?*

A: This section of the application is not mandatory. Nevertheless, it will not impact your application if you choose not to provide information about your donors due to privacy concerns.

Q: *Some Partners of the Creativity Pioneers Fund are also among our donors. Will this be a problem?*

A: No, it will not be a problem.

Q: *Our organizational budget heavily depends on the fundraising results and how many grants we win during the year. What should we indicate in the question related to our annual operating budget?*

A: We ask you to give us a general overview of your annual budget, so please indicate an average number. If your budget presents huge differences and fluctuations from year to year, please explain to us why.

Q: *As a new organization, we do not have a defined approach to monitoring and evaluation. How should we respond to these questions in the application form?*

A: For us, it is sufficient if you are aware of the short-, medium-, and long-term impacts you wish to accomplish and how you plan to do so, even if your organization is still young and does not yet have a defined monitoring or evaluation strategies, or formalized key performance indicators. It is also okay if you do not believe in traditional M&E and think some dimensions cannot be measured, as long as you argue that in the application form with a consistent narrative.

FORMAL REQUIREMENTS

Q: *Is it possible to apply as an association?*

A: The formal requirements that we ask are that you operate as a non-profit organization and are legally registered. In the second phase of the application, you will be asked to upload the certificate of registration of your organization.

Q: *What is the valid certification document for the organization's registration?*

A: Any official, legalized, and registered certification is valid, e.g., a ministerial document, registered statute, Register entry, etc.

Q: *Due to political reasons in our country, we could not register as a non-profit but as a limited liability company. Are we eligible for the Fund?*

A: Unfortunately, not. As a foundation, we can only provide donations to non-profit organizations.

Q: *We are based in India and we do not have a FCRA certification to accept foreign donations for our non-profit entity. Are we eligible for the Fund?*

A: Unfortunately, if you are not able to receive foreign donations, you cannot apply to the Fund.

Q: *Does the organization have to be registered at the moment of the application? Is it a problem if my organization is currently in the process of finalizing its registration?*

A: We can only fund registered non-profit organizations. If you are in the process of registering, we will accept the application for the Expression of Interest, but you will need to prove your registration no later than July 2023. Third-party organizations cannot be used as intermediaries to apply. More information on this topic can be found in the guidelines.

Q: *If we receive the grant, is there any specific requirement or expectation on how to mention the Partners of the Creativity Pioneers Fund?*

A: There is no specific formal request, but we are glad if you mention the Creativity Pioneers Fund and its Partners in your communications. First and foremost, we work to amplify the stories of the Creativity Pioneers. If your organization is selected, we will ask you to share visual materials that we can use to create dedicated communication content and storytelling activities.

FUNDING AND REPORTING

Q: *Are there any expenses we are not allowed to cover with the grant?*

A: The grant's money cannot be used to cover projects with political or religious affiliation, social impact investments, or projects where private gain outweighs the public benefit.

Q: *What organizational costs can we cover with the grant?*

A: The grant can be used to cover costs associated with staff, programming, consultancies, traveling expenses, etc. More information is provided in the guidelines.

Q: *How will the Moleskine Foundation provide the funding? Will it be given to a specific program or the organization as a whole?*

A: Since this is an unrestricted grant, we will not tell you how to use the funding. You are free to allocate the resources according to your priority and needs. We will donate the grant via bank transfer by December 2023. The Fund is intended to give help to the organization as a whole. You will not be asked about your program, but we do expect you to fill in your expectations and how you feel this amount can help facilitate your activities, and what you would like to get out of joining the Creativity for Social Change platform.

Q: *When and what information shall we provide in the reporting?*

A: We will ask you to send us a final report at the end of 2024. Please note that is report does not serve as restrictive financial reporting. It will include a qualitative part through which we can understand if and how being part of the Creativity Pioneers Fund has impacted your work and a budget section that will allow us to see what the grant has been used for.