The Arab Fund for Arts and Culture

The Arab Fund for Arts and Culture is an independent Arab initiative established by local cultural lobbyists and a group of international donors in 2007. AFAC funds individuals and organizations in the fields of cinema, performing arts, literature, music and visual arts, while facilitating cultural exchange and cooperation across the Arab world and globally.

The Arab Fund for Arts and Culture - آفاق

الصندوق العربي للثقافة والفنون - آفاق

هو مؤسسة عربية مستقلة تهدف إلى دعم الفنون المحلية و الثقافة من خلال توفير الدعم الثقافي الاستراتيجي لهذه القطاعات. وقد تأسس الصندوق بجهود فرق من النشطاء العرب في العمل الثقافي، ودعم مجموعة من المهن على القطاع العالمي. وذلك لتنويع ودعم المهارات الثقافية والفنية المستقلة. ويسع الصندوق لتوسيع الفضاء الثقافي والفنونية المستقلة، ودعم مستدعات الفرد والمؤسسات في مجال صناعة الأفلام والفنون البصرية والفنون البصرية والفنون الثقافية والفنون المصرفية والفنون التشكيلية والفنون البصرية والفنون البصرية والفنون البصرية، والتي في الوقت نفسه فإن الصندوق يعمل على تحسين البدل الثقافي في نطاق المنطقة العربية وعلى المستوى العالمي.
AFAC envisions a thriving Arab art and cultural scene that is confident in its expression, open to dialogue, accessible to all, and sustained locally by committed patrons. By engaging artists and cultural practitioners to assess their needs and facilitate cooperation, educating patrons on the social impact of arts and culture, advising stakeholders on necessary interventions, and supporting projects with direct independent funding, AFAC will play a leading role in achieving this vision, serving as a model and catalyst for homegrown philanthropic initiatives across the Arab world. AFAC’s operations are guided by two fundamental principles: transparency in the grant giving process and independence through a diversity of funding sources.

About AFAC

Maybe unconsciously you want your story to be told by you. Because for so long, our story has been told by everyone else. If you see the effect that cinema has had, how many people you can reach in cinema: what makes a difference? To have your story out there? I think it makes a difference.”

Najwa Najjar
Since its launch in 2007, AFAC has received 2,100 applications from 19 Arab countries for grants in six categories: cinema, literature, performing arts, visual arts, music, and research, training and regional events. The open call for applications ensures broad and impartial access for applicants from across the region and covers a wide spectrum of genres, allowing AFAC to gauge the region’s creative pulse and identify areas in need of support. As a result, and with modest means, AFAC has distributed 165 grants to worthy beneficiaries from 15 Arab countries. 75 percent of applicants are individuals, with small institutions and initiatives contributing the majority of the remaining 25 percent.

Number of Applicants

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>More than 100</th>
<th>Between 50 and 99</th>
<th>Between 10 and 49</th>
<th>Between 1 and 9</th>
<th>No applicants</th>
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<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**OUR PROJECTS**

Since its launch in 2007, AFAC has received 2,100 applications from 19 Arab countries for grants in six categories: cinema, literature, performing arts, visual arts, music, and research, training and regional events. The open call for applications ensures broad and impartial access for applicants from across the region and covers a wide spectrum of genres, allowing AFAC to gauge the region’s creative pulse and identify areas in need of support. As a result, and with modest means, AFAC has distributed 165 grants to worthy beneficiaries from 15 Arab countries. 75 percent of applicants are individuals, with small institutions and initiatives contributing the majority of the remaining 25 percent.

Number of Grantees per year

Country size is proportional to its arabic-speaking population: [1 million]

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Between 50 and 99
Between 10 and 49
Between 1 and 9
No applicants

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Between 10 and 49
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No applicants
Our Grantees

During these first three years, AFAC funded 47 projects in film, 27 in literature, 25 in performing arts, 24 in visual arts, 16 in music and 26 in research and regional events. Our grantees' work has been reviewed in the local and international press; they have been invited to participate in high-profile festivals, artist exchanges and residencies, and have, in turn, inspired hundreds of other residents of the region to pursue artistic endeavors through workshops and trainings; despite these successes and a measure of international recognition, AFAC awardees have overwhelmingly continued to work in the region and focus their cultural production on a local context.
“All of our financing comes from Europe. So having AFAC was materially and symbolically very important. [...] It doesn’t necessarily cover all our needed budget—it cannot. But on the other hand it gives a decent amount of money and it makes us more eligible to get more funding. It is regional, but in a sense it’s local, because it’s not from any country in the region—so, it feels like we have money from back home.”

Orwa Nyrabia
of Proaction Films

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Neeme Neeme
Amir Nizar Zubi

Abaad Theatre
Hisham Jaber
Kamanjati Musical Association
Al Mastaba

Jamila Morsi
Khaled Bader
Ali Saeed
Najwa Najjar
Kamal Aljaafari
Rojeeh Assaf
Nizar Zubi
Laish Band Plays
Maya Zbib

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