

India Foundation for the Arts: Call for Proposals

India Foundation for the Arts (IFA) is an independent, professionally managed, national grant-making institution. Given the richness and diversity of the arts in India, IFA seeks to provide sustenance to creativity, collaborative work and critical reflection.

Twenty-four grants awarded earlier under the arts research and documentation programme supported the study of subjects like compositions in Carnatic music, popular and commercial art, craft traditions and lifestyles, women photographers, architectural history, mural and miniature painting, and the traditions of Indian sculpture. This list is only indicative of the diversity of interest generated by this programme and the range of the projects it attracts.

Arts Research and Documentation Request for Proposals

IFA now plans to offer a third round of grants for research and invites applications from individuals and organizations.

We intend the arts to be interpreted widely to include the written, the painted, the crafted, the performed, the broadcasted, and the filmed: both the traditional and the modern.

Our programme envisages not only support for the documenting of histories, but also investigation and interpretation of arts processes, comparative analyses, and theoretical research. We encourage efforts directed towards fostering critical attitudes and appreciation with regard to arts practices in the country, and strengthening methodology in any area of the arts. We also seek to encourage the examination of the arts in relation to other areas of study.

IFA attaches importance to research that investigates marginalized or relatively unexplored areas of concern, both historical and contemporary. Research proposals may also be collaborative or interdisciplinary in nature.

We also envisage seed grants for preparatory research towards exhibitions, literary publications including fiction, educational audio-visuals, films/videos, stage productions, performance tours, workshops etc.

Proposals that address the practical concerns of the arts community, like support systems for artists or issues of cultural policy, are welcome. We invite proposals concerning language development activities that have a bearing on the arts.

IFA interprets documentation to include films/videos on arts subjects and systematic archiving of valued cultural materials and collections, which are placed in the public domain and address the interests of relevant audiences and users.

Documentation proposals should be grounded in a well-articulated research perspective.

Application Guidelines

Proposals may be formulated in any manner that conveys project ideas and concerns effectively. Applications should, however, contain the following:

1. Brief narrative of the background and context of the proposal, and the needs, issues or opportunities it addresses.
2. Overall goals, specific objectives, and rationale of the proposal.
3. Description of the research or documentation methods that will be used or developed.
4. Description of the anticipated outcome of the project; its educational or social value; and dissemination, preservation or other strategies that will enhance its impact.
5. Proposed duration of the project.
6. Detailed budget and explanation, including any funds anticipated from other sources.
7. Published literature, visuals or other supporting material, if any. (IFA will be unable to return any material accompanying the proposal.)
8. Address, telephone/fax number and e-mail address, if any.

Individual applicants should also submit their bio-data, and those of research associates, if any. Institutional applicants should submit background information on the organization (legal status, main sources of funding, management and staff structure, current activities, and a resume of the principal researchers associated with the proposed project).

All proposals must necessarily be accompanied by a summary of not more than 750 words highlighting the salient features of the project.

General Information

1. Proposals may be submitted in any Indian language including English.
2. Indian nationals, registered non-profit Indian organizations, and persons resident in India for at least 5 years are eligible to apply. Collaborating researchers should fall into one of the above categories.
3. The duration of the proposed project may be two years or less.
4. Grant awards will be determined through a competitive process and, wherever necessary, proposals will be referred to specialists.
5. Support for up to Rs 5 lakh may be requested. Proposal evaluation will take into consideration whether the budget is realistic and appropriate.
6. Support may be requested for fresh, ongoing or preparatory research activity. However, funds will not be available to cover costs incurred before the grant is activated.
7. The identity of the applicant should not be made evident in the text of the proposal.
8. Funds would be available only for project related personnel costs, activities and travel, and for modest equipment and materials, if necessary.
9. Institutional overheads, building costs, and infrastructural development should not be budgeted. Funds would also not be available to pay for exhibitions, screenings, productions, lecture tours, or publications.
10. Requests for support to present or disseminate project results may be considered at a later stage, following an evaluation.
11. Short listed applicants may be invited for an interview and/or to respond to evaluations. IFA staff or consultants may also make site visits to gain a better appreciation of the proposed project.
12. IFA's decision on grant awards will be final.

13. Proposals sent by fax/e-mail will not be considered.

IFA staff will be glad to discuss proposal development, and respond to draft proposals or questions regarding this grant programme. Written enquiries should reach IFA one month prior to the deadline for applications.

Timetable

Applications should reach IFA by April 30, 1999. Grant awards will be announced on or before September 30, 1999.

Applications and all other communications should be addressed to:

The Executive Director

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Tharangini, 12th Cross

Raj Mahal Vilas Extension

Bangalore - 560 080

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Film Studies

Time and Dreams

The Films of Buddhadeb Dasgupta

John W. Hood

The alternative cinema in Bengal has a considerable reputation, with masters like Satyajit Ray, Ritwik Ghatak and Mrinal Sen establishing a reputation for originality and artistic integrity. Poet and filmmaker Buddhadeb Dasgupta upholds this tradition with his sensitive films which have won critical kudos and awards at national and international film festivals.

With his very first feature film, *Duratwa*, in 1978, Buddhadeb Dasgupta was considered a filmmaker to watch; Satyajit Ray found the film 'poetic'. Two decades and ten feature films later, he has lived up to his earlier promise, continuing to win recognition at film festivals and establishing his reputation as a sensitive and serious filmmaker.

By way of an introduction to his cinema, this volume takes a close look at his feature films, tracing significant themes and motifs through the oeuvre. A complete filmography and list of published works are also included.

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