

Frankenthaler

\$3 MILLION AWARDED TO VISUAL ART MUSEUMS AND SCHOOLS ACROSS U.S. SUPPORTING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS THROUGH SECOND PHASE OF FRANKENTHALER CLIMATE INITIATIVE

Helen Frankenthaler Foundation Advances its \$10M Commitment to Climate Action in Partnership with RMI and Environment & Culture Partners

New York, NY—August 17, 2022—The **Helen Frankenthaler Foundation** announced today that it has conferred \$3 million to 48 institutions across the United States, from visual art museums to art schools, to advance energy efficiency and clean energy projects through its **Frankenthaler Climate Initiative (FCI)**. Developed in partnership with [RMI](#) and [Environment & Culture Partners](#), the \$10-million, multi-year initiative is the largest private national grant-making program of its kind addressing climate change through cultural institutions. With \$8.1 million awarded to date, the grant-making program expanded its applicant pool in its second cycle to include non-collecting visual arts organizations and art schools, widening the range of grantees and energy projects supported.

The 48 recipients from the 2022 cycle represent a broad cross-section of visual arts institutions across 19 states, ranging from art schools and university museums such as the **Fine Arts Work Center** (MA), **Pittsburgh Glass Center** (PA), and **Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College** (NY); to regional museums with specialized collections such as **Florence Griswold Museum** (CT) and **Tacoma Art Museum** (WA); to institutions with national and international reach, such as the **Museum of Modern Art** (NY), **Museum of Fine Arts, Houston** (TX), and **MASS MoCA** (MA). Awarded projects were divided between scoping and technical assistance grants, which help institutions assess opportunities to reduce the carbon footprint and energy costs of their facilities and support the specification and budgeting for procurement and financing, and implementation grants, which provide partial and seed funding for fully specified projects. The full listing of grantees is available at frankenthalerclimateinitiative.org.

In recognition of the ongoing work of its grantees, the Foundation is organizing a **special discussion** during **Climate Week NYC** that convenes select New York-based FCI grantees alongside project leadership. Held on Monday, September 19, at the Morgan Library & Museum, [Catalyzing Climate Action at Visual Arts Organizations](#) examines the role that visual art institutions can play in the fight against climate change.

“The first round of FCI’s funding helped museums actualize climate neutrality commitments, prepare for and respond to climate-driven disasters, and create avenues to achieve long-term operational sustainability, among other key goals. This second phase expands our reach and impact by advancing current projects in development and providing a new roster of visual art institutions with the support needed to meet their climate goals,” stated Lise Motherwell, Chair of the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation.

Added Fred Iseman, President of the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, “The arts can be a powerful force in advancing global efforts against climate change. Our goal with this second grant-making cycle of the Frankenthaler Climate Initiative is to motivate individuals across the arts sector—art students to curators to museumgoers—to be change-makers, actively working to counter the most imminent and palpable threat facing our planet and existence. They say *ars longa - vita brevis* but *vita* is getting shorter.”

“The global climate catastrophe has never been more urgent,” said Jules Kortenhorst, CEO of RMI. “Cultural institutions have proven that change is possible by improving their energy efficiency and generating clean energy, setting an example for other charitable organizations.”

Highlighted projects from FCI’s 2022 grant cycle will:

- Support innovations in the field, such as the **Museum of Modern Art’s** (NY) development of its cold storage vault; an unprecedented floating gallery built upon a barge on the Delaware River Waterfront at **Philadelphia Contemporary** (PA); a new thermal envelope of the **Pittsburgh Glass Center’s** (PA) building using super high-efficiency glass; and a range of sustainability efforts at **Storm King Art Center** (NY), including photovoltaics and makeup air units.
- Advance net zero goals through comprehensive planning, including at the **Judd Foundation’s** (NY) facilities in Marfa, Texas, as well as at the **Minnesota Marine Art Museum** (MN) and **MacDowell** (NH), which will convert fossil fuel to clean electric.
- Assist 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 **Kentucky Museum** (KY), the **Cleveland Museum of Art** (OH), and **Yale University Art Gallery** (CT).
- Extend existing climate commitments, which began with energy audits and assessments supported by FCI in 2021 and will move 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).

All FCI recipients are required to track and report their energy and greenhouse gas reduction in Energy Star® Portfolio Manager to measure project outcomes over time. The Helen Frankenthaler Foundation will continue working with all grantees through the coming years to share best practices and insights from their projects. The application process for the next grant-making cycle is expected to open in February 2023.

“Climate action within the cultural sector has increased significantly since the launch of the Frankenthaler Climate Initiative. Cultural institutions are thinking critically about how to build value and community well-being through efforts such as operational sustainability, carbon neutrality, and climate resilience plans.

The crucial support that FCI provides will help these institutions realize essential changes that will benefit the sector and generations to come,” said Sarah Sutton, CEO of Environment & Culture Partners.

About the Frankenthaler Climate Initiative

The [Frankenthaler Climate Initiative](#) 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 \$10-million 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. The [inaugural grant cycle awarded 79 institutions](#) with more than \$5 million in funding. The next cycle will open in February 2023. 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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