



AMIA Fiscal Sponsorship Program

For more than 25 years, AMIA programs have helped students and professionals work together to preserve and provide access to our media heritage. The AMIA Fiscal Sponsorship Program is another service to encourage projects that move our field forward, that educate about the importance of preserving our media, and add to the knowledge of the field.

Many individuals, foundations, corporations, or government organizations restrict funding of independent projects to tax-exempt organizations. AMIA's Fiscal Sponsorship program is a legal and financial mechanism by which AMIA, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, serves as a conduit for financial resources, and provides some support and oversight for project grants.

Projects under AMIA's fiscal sponsorship umbrella are able to offer the incentive of a charitable deduction for income tax purposes, a service individuals could not otherwise offer. It also enables grant seekers the ability to access foundation and government grant funding that may only be accessible to non-profit organizations or fiscally sponsored projects.

AMIA provides administrative and programmatic platforms that enable you to develop, launch and promote high-impact projects around the globe. Our fiscal sponsorship services make it possible for individuals and unincorporated groups to create grantmaking programs or receive U.S. tax-deductible donations. Establishing a fiscal sponsorship under AMIA's 501(c)(3) public charity designation substantially reduces the costs typically associated with developing nonprofit governance, management and operational infrastructure. It also can be a useful interim step while your project makes the transition to independent charitable status.

Many Grants Call for Institutional Affiliation

It is said that fewer than one out of ten foundations and very few government agencies are willing to consider proposals from individuals without institutional affiliation. One of the key reasons funders require affiliation is that sponsors serve as a buffer to dilute the funder's responsibility. Such responsibility is of particular concern to foundation administrators, whose programs of grants for individuals have been the subject of much Congressional scrutiny in the past. Most foundation grants are awarded to tax-exempt organizations, which in turn select individual recipients to participate in various programs.

Advantages of Fiscal Sponsorship

Ability to receive tax-deductible donations. A donor that contributes to a project through a fiscal sponsor with 501(c)(3) status may normally deduct the contribution as a charitable contribution deduction. Those funds will then be directed to the project to assist the project with running its programs.

Ability to get off the ground faster. Typically, a fiscal sponsor permits a new project to test its new ideas more quickly than it otherwise could by providing administrative and capacity-building support and permitting the project to begin funding without the delays associated with incorporating and filing for tax-exemption.

Wider base of support. Projects that don't already have pre-existing relationships with funders may be in a better position to secure some grants or charitable donations if they have a fiscal sponsorship relationship with a reputable charity.

Financial and administrative support. This support not only makes it possible for projects to focus more time and energy on their missions and less on administrative

matters, but, due to economies of scale, may also be provided at lower cost to a project than the project might have to pay if it incorporated on its own.

Project Eligibility

To be considered, your project must be a non-commercial work – not intended as a for-profit business opportunity – and fall within AMIA’s mission, which is dedicated to the preservation and use of moving image media. AMIA Membership is required for all projects accepted into the program at either the Individual or Institutional level. Membership must be maintained throughout the life of the fiscal sponsorship account.

How to Apply

AMIA will accept up to three projects per year in order to allow sufficient resources for administration and financial services. There is an application fee of \$25.

Each applicant must provide:

- **Project Description** – A thorough description of the project, its goals and deliverables.
- **Project Timeline** – A month by month calendar from the project inception to finish.
- **Funding Strategy** - A key factor in determining our acceptance of a project is the project leader’s ability to raise funding to complete the project. Include specific grants that you intend to pursue to meet your budget. Please include specific grant targets.

- **Budget** – should be well-developed, realistic and consistent with your timeline. It should include all phases for which you need fiscal sponsorship.
- **Key Staff Bios** – Principle personnel: Project leader, partners, independent contractors

How it Works

For foundation and government grant applications made with the support of AMIA, AMIA charges a standard administrative fee of 8%, as well as a final accounting report fee of \$750. Please note that the applicant is responsible for all fund raising, AMIA acts as the fiscal sponsor but will not seek funding for projects and does not provide grants or any monetary funding.

Credit Card Fees: Donations made by credit card incur an additional 3% transaction fee, in addition to the administrative fees listed above.

Contributions to your account are deposited into AMIA's federally-insured bank account. Fees are deducted at the time of contribution. Expenses incurred on behalf of the Project (bank charges) will be billed against the account.

You are responsible for maintaining your own financial records. In addition, the project leader will provide a final financial report to AMIA so that it may be used to reconcile with the AMIA financial report to the funder(s). AMIA will send you a 1099 form each year. Consult a tax advisor concerning your participation in the program.

Application Review

The AMIA Board reviews all applications. Projects will be prioritized based on adherence to AMIA's mission, the thoroughness of the application materials, any history

of involvement with AMIA by the project's principals, the impact of the project, and the ability of AMIA to provide the best environment for your initiative to start, grow and achieve.