

## PARTICIPATING VENUE GUIDELINES

FotoFocus is excited to announce that Participating Venue Applications are now available for the 2022 FotoFocus Biennial. Applicants need to include a confirmed exhibition venue and proposed project to be presented during October 2022. Applications will be reviewed by the FotoFocus Curatorial Team and awarded acceptance and grants based on artistic merit, excellence, and alignment with the FotoFocus mission, response to the 2022 FotoFocus Biennial theme: *World Record*, and adherence to these Participating Venue Guidelines.

By completing the 2022 Participating Venue Application, Applicant agrees to:

- Respond to the 2022 FotoFocus Biennial theme: *World Record*
- Promote the 2022 FotoFocus Biennial on site at venue, in social media, on website, and in all promotional and educational materials related to the FotoFocus Biennial project
- Include education/community outreach initiatives as part of the proposed programming
- Include free open exhibition hours for FotoFocus Passport Holders during the month of October 2022. Venue should offer a selection of weekdays and weekend-days throughout the month and be on view a minimum of two weeks during the month of October.
- Include examples of artist(s) work for the proposed exhibition/program
- Follow guidelines set forth for FotoFocus and Biennial brand and logo usage. (Promo Guidelines will be provided by FotoFocus at a later date)
- **NOT** host special events and programming related to the FotoFocus Biennial (other than exhibition hours) on **Saturday, October 1, 2022** (first day of the FotoFocus Biennial Program Week)
- Complete a final report following the closing of the program, which will include attendance figures, as well as venue and visitor feedback. (Report will be provided by FotoFocus at a later date)

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## DEADLINES

### **Official Application Submission Deadline: September 17, 2021**

Applications must be submitted by Friday, September 17, 2021 to ensure consideration for inclusion and funding as a 2022 FotoFocus Biennial Participating Venue.

### **Letters and Contracts Notification: Starting December 1, 2021**

Applicants will receive notifications and contracts, if accepted, on or before the first week in December. A copy of the contract is to be signed and emailed or mailed back to FotoFocus by January 10, 2022.

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## FUNDING STRUCTURE

Select funding is available for Participating Venues that fulfill the criteria, but not all venues will receive funding and not all requests will be met at 100%. All venues awarded funding will receive 50% of the grant with the acceptance notification and contract on or before the first week in December 2021. The remaining 50% will be received following successful execution of the project and submission of the final report.

## FOTOFOCUS BIENNIAL GRANT REGULATIONS

FotoFocus Biennial granted funds **CAN** support the following:

- Artists and curator honorariums and fees
- Artist lecture and curatorial travel expenses
- Exhibition shipping and installation
- Reception and special event hospitality
- Education and community engagement programs

FotoFocus funds are **NOT** to be used for any indirect expenses, such as the following:

- Personnel expenses: salaries, taxes, and benefits for staff curators, security guards, educators
- Facility expenses: utilities, maintenance, lease, or rental fees
- Insurance
- Office supplies
- Marketing and promotional expenses, such as paid advertisements

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## PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

All confirmed 2022 FotoFocus Biennial Participating Venues will need to submit promotional materials for inclusion in the Biennial website and printed materials by **Friday, March 4, 2022**. Specifications for this request, as well as FotoFocus brand and logo guidelines, will be included in future correspondence from FotoFocus.

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## APPLICATION AND IMAGE SUBMISSION PROCESS

The 2022 FotoFocus Biennial Participating Venue Application is hosted on the Submittable platform. The application is available on the FotoFocus website ([FotoFocus.org/Biennial/2022#participate](https://www.fotofocus.org/Biennial/2022#participate)). Each venue applicant will need to create a free account, if one does not already exist through Submittable. This platform allows the venue applicant to save, edit, and review the application at any time before submitting the final application. Venue applicants will be instructed via Submittable to upload images or videos of artist(s) work to be included in the proposed project, or examples of artist(s) work if new work is being proposed.

*PLEASE NOTE:* Each proposed program must complete an individual application. If the venue proposes more than one exhibition at the same location, each exhibition must be submitted as a separate application.

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## PARTICIPATING VENUE MEETINGS

Meetings are held quarterly by FotoFocus for Participating Venues as informative sessions related to the application process. These meetings provide an opportunity for FotoFocus to share updates on the upcoming Biennial and for venues to share lens-based programming in the community. Participation is required for new applicants; it is not required for returning venues, but recommended. All meetings will be at 12pm and held virtually and/or in-person.

**Meeting Schedule** (*subject to change*)

1. May 14, 2021, Friday
  2. August 27, 2021, Friday
  3. Winter TBD, 2022, Friday
  4. Summer TBD, 2022, Friday
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**FOTOFOCUS BIENNIAL SPOTLIGHT DATES**

FotoFocus encourages Participating Venues to provide a programmed event (lecture, artist talk, reception, workshop, curator tour, etc.) during or outside the venue's normal open gallery hours on the associated neighborhood date(s) below, if feasible. In addition, FotoFocus encourages each venue applicant to work with other surrounding venues to coordinate their proposed reception and/or program dates. This will help FotoFocus to better promote your programming and the surrounding venues involved with the Biennial.

**2022 FotoFocus Biennial Neighborhood Spotlight Dates**

1. Downtown Cincinnati and OTR: September 30 and October 28, Final Fridays
2. West and Central, Cincinnati: October 8, Saturday
3. Dayton, OH: October 14, Friday
4. Northern Kentucky: October 15, Saturday
5. East and Central, Cincinnati: October 22, Saturday
6. Columbus, OH: TBD

*PLEASE NOTE:* FotoFocus encourages Participating Venues to provide a programmed event during or outside the venue's normal open gallery hours on the associated neighborhood date(s) above. If the venue isn't "normally" open for the above Spotlight dates, FotoFocus can work with the venue on a case by case basis to support this endeavor. The Spotlight Days will promote an easy visiting experience to guests and highlight each of the open venues.

**THEME DESCRIPTION**

FotoFocus is pleased to announce the theme for the 2022 Biennial, *World Record*. *World Record* considers film and photography's extensive record of life on earth while exploring humankind's impact on the natural world, and the choices we as a global community now face.



*World Record* is a record of the world—an ongoing, informal, collective document in film and photographs of the natural world in all its power, wonder, beauty, and increasing endangerment. Since the

1839 invention of photography, photographic technologies have been used to record everything from plant varieties, animal species, animal behaviors, habitats, weather conditions, geologic upheavals, as well as the “other worlds” of moons, planets, stars and galaxies. This mass documentation has fed knowledge, creating a scientific record that has enriched our understanding of life on this planet and our place as humans within it. But it has also contributed to the exploitation of natural resources and their increasing scarcity, lending data to rampant industrial development that threatens the very resources it is based on.

*World Record* also refers to records, as in breaking records, *The Guinness Book of World Records*, etc. World records have traditionally been thought of positively as records of quantifiable human achievement, of humans conquering nature and the laws of physics—mountain climbing, Arctic exploration, days at sea, flight time, or space travel have been widely celebrated for the accomplishments of bold adventurers. But records have come to be associated increasingly with the extremes of the natural world, marking, with growing alarm, the hottest year on record, record numbers of animal extinctions, record levels of air pollution, record numbers of hurricanes per season, or rising sea levels, all a direct response to the overreaching behavior of man.

FotoFocus invites proposals on a range of topics, including both historic and contemporary treatments of: nature and science; exploration; space travel and outer space; climate change and its impact on societies; social lives of human beings within various environments, cultural as well as natural; forms of energy, past and present; the cultivation of natural resources, both mineral and animal; and both utopian and dystopian visions of man in nature.

For more points of discussion and proposal ideas, see theme description on page 6.

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## **2022 FotoFocus Biennial: *World Record***

October 1–31, 2022

Biennial Program Week: October 1–8, 2022

Preview Events: Final Friday, Sept. 30, 2022

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## **ABOUT FOTOFOCUS**

Founded in 2010 in Cincinnati, Ohio, FotoFocus is a nonprofit organization created to celebrate and champion photography as the medium of our time through programming that ignites a dialogue between contemporary lens-based art and the history of photography. FotoFocus presents lens-based signature programming including the **FotoFocus Biennial**, **FotoFocus Symposium**, **FotoFocus Film Program**, and **FotoFocus Talks Series**. Additionally, FotoFocus has awarded over 500 grants to support partners presenting projects and educational programs that are accessible and engaging to the public. These initiatives are a vital part of what makes FotoFocus such an impactful contributor to the community and the larger art world.

## **FOTOFOCUS BIENNIALS**

Launched in October 2012, the FotoFocus Biennial is a month-long celebration of photography, film, and lens-based art held throughout the Greater Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, Dayton and Columbus, Ohio region every two years. The Biennial is the largest of its kind in America and has featured more

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than 1600 artists and participants, and 600 exhibitions and programs throughout its history. The Biennial is centered around a unifying theme and the cooperation of museums, galleries, academic institutions, and alternative spaces, in celebration of the FotoFocus Month of Photography.

The FotoFocus Biennial Program Week constitutes the core of the Biennial, establishing the theme and dialogues that unite the broader programming. Featuring keynote lectures, conversations, performances, screenings, and receptions with international participants, the Program is designed to inspire conversations about the world through photography, film, and lens-based art.

Visit [FotoFocus.org/Biennial](http://FotoFocus.org/Biennial) for more information.

If you have any additional questions, please email FotoFocus at [hello@fotofocus.org](mailto:hello@fotofocus.org)

# WORLD RECORD

## 2022 FOTOFOCUS BIENNIAL THEME DESCRIPTION

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## POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

**World Record is a history of the scientific study of nature through photography.** Early in its invention, photography was deployed as a tool to document nature, particularly exotic specimens from foreign lands. Eventually, high-powered lenses allowed scientists to see and record things that were not visible to the naked eye—microscopic images of insects and plant specimens; solar phenomena; x-rays. Today's techniques, using drones and infrared photography, allow for ever more intimate observation of animal behaviors in remote or extreme habitats.

**World Record is a photographic account of global exploration.** Man's "conquering" of uncharted territories, from the Arctic to the moon, have long been documented as proof of human accomplishment. Such acts are often competitive—the first to reach the North Pole, the first to climb Mount Everest, etc. As adventurers continue to embrace challenges and break records, photography remains an indispensable companion to such activities and comes with its own challenges for photographers and filmmakers.

**World Record also encompasses space travel and outer space.** The heavens and the night sky in particular have long been a subject of human fascination. Photography has been an effective tool, often used in tandem with powerful telescopes, for discovering and documenting celestial phenomena.

**World Record is a record of climate change and its impact on global societies.** Photography's long documentary tradition of bearing witness to human conflicts and natural disasters is as important as ever, as climate change afflicts certain regions and their myriad inhabitants.

**World Record is documentation of human societies within particular environments, cultural as well as natural.** Environments of all kinds shape and impact human social behaviors, evolving from specific natural features into various manmade environments, from urban jungles to remote locales connected through satellite and transportation technologies, each providing a unique cultural landscape with its own gravitational center.

**World Record is an interrogation of energy production, past and present.** Energy is one of the more controversial aspects of climate change, with energy production and consumption of "dirty" fuels, such as coal and oil, contributing to the destruction and pollution of global ecosystems. Alternative energy systems offer solutions and also stir new controversies, as resistance to alternative energy has escalated political fights over control of profits.

**World Record examines the cultivation of natural resources, both mineral and animal.** Beyond energy production, the cultivation of raw materials—vegetal, mineral and animal—affects climate change. Practices, both old and new, for mining, hunting, fishing, and agriculture have come under increasing scrutiny.

**World Record imagines both utopian and dystopian outcomes for man and his relationship to nature.** Futuristic renderings of the impact of climate change on animal populations and human societies have been a favorite subject of illustrators, science fiction writers, and artists working in film and photography as well. The choices humans make today will have an impact on the health of the world.