

Artist Minigrant Application
Proposal to Fund Art Opening
Project: *Decadence* (Havana, Cuba)
Kylie Grow, klg4yc@virginia.edu
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To the Director of the Miller Arts Scholars Michael Rasbury,

I am third-year Miller Arts Scholar requesting to be funded \$500 in the form of a Miller Arts Scholars Artist Minigrant to support the cost of hanging materials, photo mats, and minimal food for a week long art opening of my independently produced investigative photo essay titled *Decadence*.

Professor Amy Chan of the University of Virginia's McIntire Department of Art has helped me secure gallery space in Ruffin Hall for the period of December 4th, 2015 to December 11th, 2015. There I would be showing a 16-image film photography photo essay, previously funded by a College of Arts and Sciences Small Research and Travel grant, shot during four months spent studying abroad Cuba during the spring of 2015. I developed twenty-two rolls of film, and printed many images in my home darkroom during the summer leading up to my return to the University of Virginia.

The essay asserts the research questions *what is the state of social infrastructure as seen on the urban streets of Cuba, and how might socialism impact this state?* All images were shot in a street photography style in the major cities of Havana and Santiago de Cuba with the goal of lifting the façade of the cliché image of the 1950s American car on the Cuban street, to take a serious look at what urban communities in socialist Cuba look like, and how people interact with these spaces.

The Small Research and Travel grant awarded me \$595 to complete the photo essay, but with the new opportunity for showing my work in a gallery setting at UVA comes the need for more investment in my research. An art opening on December 4th, 2015 creates the extra costs of hanging materials, five replacement photo mats for mats that have become dirty or damaged, foam board to display an artists statement and captions, and some light refreshments to help attract students to the event. Professor Chan and I have worked together to come up with a low-cost solution for hanging and framing my matted images. I have chosen to use sheets of plexiglass and gallery clips to hold the plexi and the matted photographs together. The gallery clips are connected in such a way that they would also allow for easy hanging on the gallery wall.

I am asking that the director of the Arts Scholars also consider funding supplies to mat and hang other images that resulted from my artistic research in Cuba. I have at least five more silver gelatin photos printed from my investigation in Cuba that have not been included in the final photo essay. Extra hanging and matting materials would help me preserve these images and the hard work that they represent for the future.

For this specific opening in the Ruffin Gallery at the University of Virginia, I would need to have all of my proposed materials shipped by the Friday before the opening (November 27th). I would work that weekend to finesse a one-page statement of context and of the significance of the photo essay, and to finalize photo captions to give historical, social and political context. Hanging would occur Thursday December 3rd into the afternoon of December 4th. Professor Chan has graciously offered me her help in hanging the show if necessary.

Funding granted to me by the Miller Arts Scholars would not only fund one opening, but it would provide me with the hanging and framing materials that would allow me to seek out other show opportunities around Charlottesville and the University. A primary goal of mine in this ten-month endeavor has been to expose my academic community to lesser-understood images of a socialist state, and to spark dialogue about traditional economic and social comparisons of socialism versus democracy. With your support I would be able to do just that.

I have included one scanned image from the photo essay below as an example of content and quality, and a detailed budget of projected costs.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kylie Grow
Class of 2017



Budget for Artists Minigrant Proposal
 To support the opening of photojournalistic research project *Decadence*

COST CATEGORY	AMOUNT
Hanging Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Plexiglass <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 units at \$5.30 a unit • 14'' x 18'' x 0.08'' • Estimated shipping and tax: \$30.79 • Estimated cost: \$142.09 b. Gallery clips <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 units at \$5.49 per unit • Estimated shipping and tax: \$23.00 • Estimated cost: \$138.29 	<p style="color: red; text-align: right;">Subtotal of Hanging Costs: \$280.38</p>
Matting Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Replacement mats for damaged mats, and extras (including 1/8'' backer board) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 units at \$11.80 per unit • Opening size: 5.875'' x 8.875'' • Outer dimensions: 14'' x 18'' • Estimated shipping and tax for parts A and B: \$27.88 	<p style="color: red; text-align: right;">Subtotal of Matting Costs: \$ 145.88</p>
Mounting Written Materials Costs* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Foam board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 units at \$2.99 per unit • Estimated cost: \$8.97 b. Command strips <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 units at \$4.99 per unit • Estimated cost \$9.98 	<p>*Written materials include introduction to project, statement of purpose and context, captions for photos</p> <p style="color: red; text-align: right;">Subtotal of Mounting Written Materials Costs: \$18.95</p>
Food Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Veggie Tray <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 units at \$25 per unit • Estimated cost: \$25 b. Cheese and Crackers Tray <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 units at \$30 per unit • Estimated cost: \$30 	<p style="color: red; text-align: right;">Subtotal of Food Costs: \$55</p>
TOTAL BUDGET	\$500.21
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED	\$500