



PRESS RELEASE
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The MANUEL RIVERA-ORTIZ Foundation for International Photography
Initial grant program of \$5,000 USD
Attracts 181 applications from 45 countries

melbourne
london
new york
paris
zurich
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A GLOBAL CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Manuel Rivera-Ortiz Foundation for International Photography has received an astounding 181 applications representing some 45 countries for its maiden grant announced but three months ago in March. Photographers from all over the world from varied backgrounds and economic status submitted an impressive number of applications for funding consideration by way of a grant proposal for humanitarian photo reportage projects ranging in topic from “Street Children” in New Delhi, India, to human trafficking of women and girls on the streets of Nepal. Judging for this year’s call for entries is already underway. Final judging of entries will take place in London, UK, in early July at the offices of [FOTO8](#) under the direction of FOTO8’s Founder and Director Mr. Jon Levy. “I am incredibly humbled by the turnout of submissions,” says Mr. Rivera-Ortiz, Foundation Founder & President. “I believe it is safe to say at this juncture that the response to our call for applicants went very, very well and even better than we could have imagined.”

MEET OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS

As part of the Foundation’s mission, and to stress how important the work of so many talented photographers is to his vision of what the Foundation stands for, Mr. Rivera-Ortiz recently announced the creation of Mini-Sites for each and every participant to this year’s call for entries. “We can only have one grant recipient,” he says, “but it is our joy, honor and duty to reward everyone who participated by giving them the opportunity to showcase their hard work and talent. Our overriding principle from the beginning has been to encourage world class photo reportage and freedom of the press to the far reaches providing all photojournalists a platform from which their voices can be heard not only in their countries of origin or among their peers, but throughout the world where such pictures are being made today.” He continues, “A grant is one thing and it certainly is helpful, but our higher goal is to encourage and support and ultimately see positive change occur in the very real lives of people.” Mr. Rivera-Ortiz himself grew up poor in barrios throughout southern Puerto Rico in the 1970s. The creation of this Foundation is his vision of giving back and the Mini-Sites is another example of his commitment toward the photographers themselves.

ONE WINNING PROJECT

One winning project will be announced in the first half of July 2011. The selected entry will receive a grant totaling \$5,000 USD for the completion of a submitted and approved proposal. As part of grant award, the completed project will receive extensive promotion through Foundation activities, as well as web exposure, exhibitions, and inclusion in industry leading publications.

For more information please contact us at +917.720.5769, or visit our website included below. You may also reach us by contacting Mr. Marc Prüst, Executive Director, at m.prust@mrofoundation.org

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www.mrofoundation.org

🇺🇸 +61 46 692 4722 🇬🇧 +44 740 887 5008 🇺🇸 +1 917 720 5769 🇩🇪 +33 6 14 73 34 59 🇨🇭 +41 (0)76 424 3143
contactus@mrofoundation.org • m.rivera-ortiz@mrofoundation.org