



Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion
Department of Culture
Division I A - Funding for Artists, Projects and Independent Groups

INFORMATION SHEET

MULTI-SECTOR FUNDING

FESTIVALS AND SERIES (1-2 YEARS)

(Funding starts in January 2026)

The application deadline is 15 July 2025 at 2 pm (local Berlin time).

Please read the whole sheet carefully and take note of all formal requirements. Please note that applications which do not meet the requirements will be excluded from the jury process and formally rejected.

Subject to the availability of funds, Berlin's Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion awards funding to arts and cultural projects to be realised in Berlin. Projects from all artistic disciplines can apply, inter- and transdisciplinary projects as well as projects from one discipline.

Target group

These funds are primarily intended to support members and stakeholders of Berlin's so-called "independent arts scene." Natural persons and legal entities based in Berlin and professionally engaged in artistic or curatorial work are eligible to apply.

Purpose of funding

The goal is to promote arts and cultural projects that correspond to Berlin's self-image as an open, creative, history-conscious metropolis.

Support is granted to projects that cannot be or are not adequately funded by regular funding programmes of the Senate Department for Culture. The projects have to be

developed and publicly presented in Berlin. The majority of artists involved have to be based in Berlin.

Applications may be submitted for:

- A series or similar events (a minimum of three different events is mandatory)
- Festivals
- A special programmatic focus (e.g. anniversary)

Eligibility and conditions

Natural persons or legal entities, registered in Berlin, are eligible to apply. The majority of artists involved in the project or the venue applying for funds have to be based in Berlin (registration in Berlin is mandatory!).

The application form and all its attachments have to be submitted in German, with the exception of the CV of the artistic director(s) and of participating artist(s) which, if necessary, can be in English.

Please consider minimum fees (Honoraruntergrenzen) for artists in the financing plan.

Funded projects must be realised and publicly presented in Berlin in the years in which they receive funding.

People with disabilities are legally entitled to full participation in cultural life, especially when it comes to access to cultural events and activities. If you are planning accessible events, please indicate your target group and associated expenses in your financing plan. An initial consultation on the topic of diversity can be arranged with the Berlin Office for Diversity Development in the cultural sector (DAC) via their [website](#).

Applicants may only submit one application. If you submit more than one application only the most recent application (the last submitted) will be considered. It is allowed to participate in several (applied) projects.

The german information sheet is binding. SenKultGZ is not liable for mistranslations.

Not eligible are:

- Projects which have already started
- Projects taking place outside of Berlin

- Profit-orientated, commercial projects
- Single projects (e.g. one exhibition, one concert or one dance performance)
- NEW: purely film festivals and film series
- Projects that could be realised with funds from Berlin's cultural institutions as part of their regular activities
- Applications for purely institutional funding
- Awards, award-ceremonies and artists' grants
- Entire annual programmes
- Purchases (for libraries, museums, and archives), the restoration of art objects, printing costs (except for catalogues as part of the funding for an exhibition), the digitalisation (production of digital copies) and archiving of art objects and collections, the maintenance of websites and apps, and the production of films (except purely artistic films)
- Projects for which the Berlin Senate already provides relevant funding instruments
- Ongoing projects which have already been funded within this programme in three successive years (i.e. a fourth year of funding)
- Projects that were already granted (partial) funding from the Senate Department for Culture (e.g., Musicboard, inm, DKLB Stiftung (LOTTO))
- Digital presentation formats (e.g. streaming) without a live presentation in a Berlin venue

Students cannot receive funding if they are matriculated during the planned funding period. Violations of the provisions might lead to later revocation of the funding.

Projects applied for by political parties or party-affiliated foundations and/or unions are excluded from funding.

Please note:

Complementary funding from the EU, on district level, from the federal government or the Capital Cultural Fund (Hauptstadtkulturfonds) is permitted.

The earliest starting date for a project is January 2026. Projects must be realised and publicly presented until the end of 2027.

There is no entitlement to funding.

Funding volume

Projects with an application volume of more than 100.000 € for 2027 are not eligible. It is permitted to apply for 2027 with 100.000 € or less. This does not apply for 2026. For 2026 it is still permitted to have an application volume extending 100.000 €.

Priority will be given to artistic (co-)productions. Applicants who are not receiving institutional funding can also apply for project-related support for rent and other running costs such as personnel and material expenses.

The funding only covers expenses directly connected to the project.

Please note that projects can apply for one year (2026 or 2027) or, in justified cases, for two years (2026 + 2027).

Selection process and allocation of funds

An independent, interdisciplinary expert jury will decide on the number of projects to be funded and their funding volume. Funding decisions are based on the following criteria:

- Artistic quality and the jury's professional evaluation of the project proposal
- The value of the project in the context of Berlin's cultural offerings
- Lasting impact beyond the project itself (including structural reinforcement of "anchor positions" of the independent arts scene, dealing with key topics, initiating new discourse or alliances)
- Appropriate budgeting (e.g. adequate proportion between artists' as well as other costs (project management))

The jury consists of 14 people, 7 of whom will attend the jury meetings: Juana Awad, Birgit Effinger, Veronika Gerhard, Hans-Jürgen Hafner, Jörg Heiser, Svealena Kutschke, Nazanin Noori, Yosa Peit, Miryam Schellbach, Stefan Stahnke-Hilsdorf, Léna Szirmay-Kalos, Neam Tarek, Caner Teker, Katja Vaghi.

The final decision on the allocation of funds is expected in December 2025. The disbursement of the funding is expected at the earliest time of the ending of January 2026.

All applicants will be informed by e-mail.

Please note that the following information will be published in case of the allocation of funds: project title, name and homepage of the applicant, short project description, funding amount, venues and project format.

If funding is approved, the short project description will be available on the homepage under [this link](#).

Application procedure and deadline

Please submit your application and all supporting documents electronically. The online application form (where you can also upload your supporting documents) is accessible [here](#).

The online application must include the following supporting documents/attachments:

1. Detailed project description

(max. 10 DIN A4 pages (incl. cover sheet, photos etc.), max. 12 MB, docx or pdf file)

Filename: PB_Name of the applicant

Please use the template for the project description with information on how to complete available online.

2. Financing plan (Use of template is mandatory!)

(max. 2 MB, xlsx or pdf file)

Filename: FP_Name of the applicant

Please consider an adequate proportion between artists' as well as other costs (project management).

Possible costs for accessibility should be included into the financing plan.

Please make sure that all amounts entered in your application form correspond to the amounts in your attached financing plan. In case of discrepancies the entered data from your application form will be considered as binding.

The financing plan must be balanced (i.e. income equals expenses).

The annual totals are binding. Funding, which is not used in the first calendar year, cannot be transferred to the following year.

Please use the financing plan template available online.

3. Confirmation of at least one presentation venue

(max. 2 MB, docx or pdf file)

Filename: PO_Name of the applicant

Please use the template for the confirmation of the presentation venue available online.

The confirmation must include specific dates (incl. calendar year).

Projects must be realised and publicly presented in 2026 respectively in 2026 and 2027.

4. CV of the artistic director(s) and of the participating artists

(max. 2 MB, docx or pdf file)

Filename: CV_KL Beteiligte_Name of the applicant

Please also indicate the place where each of the participating artists lives and works.

5. Proof of Berlin address

(max. 2 MB, docx or pdf file)

Filename: MB_Name of the applicant

A copy of the valid ID card (front and rear side, Personalausweis) or passport with registration certificate (Meldebestätigung) for natural persons or GbR. A copy of the extract from the register of companies / associations for legal entities (e.g. associations, UG, gGmbH)

Please note: Only complete applications can be processed. Subsequent submissions after the deadline are not permitted. **Applications which do not comply with all described requirements are excluded from the jury process and formally rejected. Once the application has been submitted, no further submissions are possible by email or in the application centre.**

When submitting your application, please make sure that you upload all necessary documents correctly and in a legible manner.

Please do not send any additional application materials by post. Only the supporting documents uploaded with your online application will be submitted to the jury.

All information given is treated confidentially and used exclusively for the selection and funding process.

The application deadline is 15 July 2025 at 2 p.m.

Please note: Online applications must be fully submitted by 2 pm (local Berlin time). It is not possible to submit the application after 2 pm, data transfers which were started but not completed are automatically cancelled.

We strongly advise you to submit your application in good time and have all necessary attachments ready beforehand.

Please also make sure that you use a stable network connection with sufficient speed and capacity to upload large amounts of data. [Click here](#) for further information.

There will be no further deadline in 2025. The next call for proposals is expected to be published in summer 2026 for projects in 2027 or 2028 or 2027 and 2028.

Exclusion

Members of the jury, employees of the Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion, and their family members are not allowed to apply.

Please note:

According to the UN Disability Convention and the equality laws of the Federal Republic of Germany and the federal state of Berlin, cultural offerings should be accessible to people with disabilities. After reviewing the checklist for accessible exhibitions at <https://www.berliner-museumsverband.de/fg-inklusion/>, please indicate the groups for which your event will be accessible and how the venue and the project will meet their needs. This should also be reflected in your advertising for the event.

If the grant can be considered state aid, this funding is being awarded on the basis of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories

of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (General Block Exemption Regulation) (OJ L 187/1, 26.6.2014).

Companies that have not complied with a recovery injunction based on a previous Commission decision on the inadmissibility of an instance of state aid and its incompatibility with the internal market will not be granted individual aid.

Contact / Further information:

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us via e-mail or phone. We look forward to helping you.

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