

INFORMATION SHEET
on
**Project and reading series Funding – Literature for 2026 /
2027**

The application deadline ends on 05.08.2025, **11. a.m.**

In 2025, subject to the availability of funds, Berlin's Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion will be awarding grants to promote literature projects and reading series in Berlin.

Target group

- Individuals, groups, civil law partnerships (*GbRs*), literature professionals, associations, and other organizations, including venues where readings are held on a regular basis (*Lesebühnen*), are eligible to apply, provided the applicant's primary residence or registered office is in Berlin. The annual revenue of publishing houses that wish to apply (publication projects) must not exceed €100,000, and they must not have more than three employees.

Purpose of funding

A) Project Funding

- Funding is awarded to literature projects reflecting target-group-oriented approaches and formats in presenting contemporary literature and cartoons.

Potential projects may range from innovative, comparative, or creative forms of presenting and communicating sophisticated contemporary literature to interdisciplinary and/or subject-specific symposiums and conferences with a focus on modern literature.

Publication projects of high literary quality are also funded, such as issues of literary magazines and digital/alternative forms of publication.

B.) Support for reading series

Independent reading series in the narrower sense of the word, but also reading stages, regular event programmes of literary associations, literary salons or literary sections of houses of the independent scene are considered reading series. Independent initiatives or individuals are also eligible to apply

Funding is available for reading series that are already established (at least 3 years) as well as for reading series that are still being developed. For applications for two-year funding, a period of 3 years is required in which reading series have already been organized continuously. What is required is a (re-)recognisable content concept for a continuous, serial literary event

Verkehrsverbindungen
U-Bahn Rosenthaler Platz - U-8
Bus 240
Straßenbahn M1, M8, 12

Sprechzeiten
nach Vereinbarung

Zahlungen bitte bargeldlos
nur an die Landeshauptkasse Berlin,
Klosterstr. 59, 10179 Berlin

Internet: www.berlin.de/senatskanzlei

Geldinstitut	Kontonummer	Bankleitzahl
Postbank Bin	58100	100 100 10
Berliner Spk	0990007600	100 500 00
Berliner Bank	9919260800	100 200 00
Landeszentralbank	10 001 520	100 000 00

E-Mail Adresse nicht für Dokumente mit elektronischer Signatur verwenden

format (at least four public, non-commercial events per year) and proof of previous continuous work. Authors, translators and literary guests should be invited to the reading series.

Reading series can be funded for one or two years. For two-year funding, a concept for two years must be set out in the appendix "Detailed project description" and the costs for two years must be stated in the financing plan (see sample). Please note that the costs in 2026 and 2027 must also be stated in the online form; for reading series that are only to take place in 2026, the financing plan for 2027 must still be completed in the online form (with € 0.00 for the individual approaches). The jury is free to vote for a project applied for two years for one year only.

The following applies to literature projects and reading series:

In addition to a detailed project description, the following aspects need to be addressed in the application documents:

1) What is unique about your project? What is the specific artistic value of your project (e.g., innovation)? When applying for reading series: Are you applying for a one-year or a two-year grant?

2) Raising public awareness through targeted measures (media outlets, etc.).

Please describe which target groups (audience, media outlets, experts) you intend to reach and how you intend to achieve this (public relations). Please state the audience size anticipated.

The final report on the expenditure of funds will assess the extent to which the targets were met and which of the media outlets mentioned actually reported on the project.

3) Professional project implementation

The project organizers or organizations should have a track record of high-quality work in the field of literature or be able to prove experience in organizing projects or producing publications; this needs to be demonstrated by supporting documentation. The final report on the expenditure of funds will assess the extent to which the individuals mentioned were actually involved in implementing the project.

4) Involvement of authors from Berlin

Authors who live and work in Berlin should be considered in and for the programming or the publication project. The authors' names need to be stated in the project application so it can be assessed in the final report on the expenditure of funds whether they indeed took part and whether the plans were realized.

Exclusion:

1. students are not eligible to apply, nor are projects involving students.
2. anniversary and other predominantly internal events are excluded from funding.
3. members of the jury and employees of the Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion and their relatives are excluded from submitting an application.
4. projects applied for by political parties or party-affiliated foundations and/or trade unions are excluded from funding.

Prerequisites and conditions

The project needs to be carried out in **Berlin** between **March 2026** and **December 2026**. Pursuant to budgetary provisions, **only projects that have not yet started can be funded**.

This formulation refers only to the project currently being applied for in the funding year, which is formally treated as a new project. However, the reading series/project may have already taken place in previous years under the same or a different name.

In the case of applications for a two-year reading series grant, applicants will be notified of the jury's positive vote, but a binding commitment for 2027 cannot be given for budgetary reasons.

Amount of funding

The jury will deliberate on the number of projects to be funded and the amount of funding for each project. The jury's recommendations will be submitted to Berlin's Senate Department for Culture and Community. Around €330,000 is available for around 60 applications.

The project grant applied for must not exceed €25,000 per year.

Applications can be made for both human resources (fees) and the physical resources needed for project implementation and public relations work (e.g. pro rata rental costs or costs for stage equipment, moderation).

Important: In the online application form, you must indicate under "Previous year's funding" whether and in what amount you have already received grants from public institutions in the current and previous two calendar years, which are "de minimis aid".

Submitting an application / Applications:

In principle, **applications** have to be submitted **online**.

Online applications must be received by 5 August 2025, 11:00 a.m. Applications cannot be sent after 11:00 a.m.; any uploads in progress at 11:00 a.m. will be terminated automatically.

We advise you to make sure you start the application process in good time and prepare all the necessary supporting documents in advance.

Please also make sure you are using a stable Internet connection with sufficient speed and bandwidth to upload large amounts of data.

You can find further information on the online application in our FAQs (in German): <http://www.berlin.de/sen/kultur/foerderung/antragscenter/artikel.85073.php>

The application form, including the project description and the detailed explanation of the project (Annex 1), need to be submitted in German.

You can access the **link to the online form** on the Internet at

<https://www.berlin.de/sen/kultur/foerderung/antragscenter/>

Please do not use any previous links you may have saved or links from external providers to access the online form. The online form should be accessed only via the Senate Department for Culture and Community website.

Submitting an application

For an online application that includes the necessary supporting documents in electronic format as described below, no additional paper documents are required.

The following supporting documents must be submitted with the application:

- Detailed project description** (e.g., conceptual idea/topics/aesthetic approach, main focus), **up to 4 MB, at most 4 pages**
In the case of reading series, the criteria listed above under "Purpose of funding" B) Funding of reading series must be taken into account.
File name for the online application: PB_Applicant's name

- Applicant's CV**
File name for the online application: CV_Applicant's name, 2 MB, at most 2 pages
- Your group's/your previous projects in Berlin (covering at least the last 2 years), 4 MB, with links to meaningful documentation material, at most 3 pages**
File name for the online application: PROJEKTE_Applicant's name
- List of project participants, 2 MB, at most 2 pages**
File name for the online application: BETEILIGTE_Applicant's name
- Financial plan, in line with the example on the website/on the online form, 2 MB**
Please note: For one- and two-year projects, the columns for the years 2026 and 2027 must be completed in the sample financing plan! If the project is only planned for 2026, the estimates in the financing plan for the year 2027 must be stated as 0,00 €.
Any costs for the removal of barriers or for assistance should be taken into account in the financing plan.
File name for the online application: FP_Applicant's name
- Excerpts from the register of associations and statutes of the association/initiative (only mandatory for associations), 2 MB**
File name for the online application: Verein_Applicant's name
- Confirmation of the venue of the presentation/event, 2 MB**
File name for the online application: VO_Applicant's name
Mandatory for two-year reading series

The applications must be filled in and submitted in German.

Please be sure to observe the specified maximum number of pages, otherwise the application cannot be approved!

Allocation of the funds

The Senator responsible for cultural affairs will decide on the allocation of the funds after consulting an advisory body of experts (jury). The independent jury will issue its recommendations by the end of **January 2026**. The vote will be based on the expected quality of the literature to be presented and how it is communicated, as well as on the response anticipated from the public.

Awards can only be made subject to the availability of funds. There is no right to funding.

All applicants will receive written notification via email of the jury's vote by the end of **January 2026**.

Deadline for submission / application

This year, the application deadline is **5 August 2025**.

Please note:

The online applications must be submitted to the Senate Department for Culture and Community by 5 August 2025, by 11 a.m. at the latest, as described above.

Applications will only be considered if they are complete. All information given will be treated confidentially and used only for selection and funding purposes.

Compatibility with EU Commission Regulation

If the grant can be considered state aid, the funding is being awarded on the basis of Chapter I and Article 53 of Chapter III of the 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) (EU OJ L 187/1, 26.6.2014) as amended by Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/1315 of 23 June 2023 (EU OJ L 167, 30.6.2023) or on the basis of Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid (EU OJ L, 2023/2831, 15.12.2023).

Companies or sectors are excluded from funding in the cases of Article 1 Para. 2, 3 and 5 GBER.

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 by the same Member State will not be granted individual aid.

Companies in difficulty are excluded from funding in accordance with Article 1 Para. 4 Letter c GBER. Companies in difficulty are companies to which at least one of the circumstances according to Article 2 No. 18 letters a-e GBER applies.

It should be noted that information about each individual aid of over €100.000 is usually published in the European Commission's State aid transparency database or on a comprehensive national or regional aid website within six months of the date of granting

7

of the aid. Reference is also made to the reporting obligation in accordance with Article 11 GBER.

Contact and more information

Please read the information sheet and the FAQs on the website carefully. If you have a

The Information Sheet in German is binding. The Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion is not liable for mistranslations

Contact / further information:

Mr. Wolfgang Meyer, I A 11

-Literature funding: projects -

Tel.: +49 (0)30 90228 - 536

Email: wolfgang.meyer@kultur.berlin.de

<http://www.berlin.de/sen/kultur/foerderung/foerderprogramme/literatur/>

<https://www.berlin.de/sen/kultur/foerderung/foerderprogramme/literatur/artikel.82137.php>