



Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion

Division I A - Funding for Artists, Projects and Independent Groups

INFORMATION SHEET

FOR WORK GRANTS IN THE FIELD OF COMIC IN 2026

In 2026, the Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion awards - subject to the availability of funds - work grants for comic artists in Berlin.

Deadline for applications for 2026: 18 September 2025 at 11 AM (CET)

Target group

The grants are intended to support professional comic artists or groups whose primary residence is Berlin.

Purpose of funding

The work grants are intended for artistic development. Funding is available for comic artists or groups who are striving for further artistic training and want to realise specific projects (e.g. work on a specific topic or format - this includes short story collections or web comics, the development of new/different work techniques, continuation or completion of specific works, etc.).

Eligibility and conditions

- The applicants demonstrate their creative ability either through previously published comic projects or through work samples that demonstrate an artistic ability.
- It is possible to reapply with a project that has already been submitted for a comic grant in previous years.
- Only one application per applicant is possible. Should one person submit several applications the latest one will be considered for the award process.

- Applicants must live and work in Berlin. The grant holders are obliged to maintain their primary residence in Berlin during the application and the duration of the grant. The Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion must be informed immediately of any change of residence.
- If several comic artists are working together on a project, an application must be submitted as a group. The group confirms this association of artists by means of a joint declaration. If a contract of a GbR (company under civil law) already exists for the entire group, this must be submitted with the application. Legal entities or institutions such as associations, limited liability companies or similar are not eligible to apply. More than 50% of the group members must be registered with their primary residence in Berlin (please note: for a group of two people, both applicants must provide proof of primary residence in Berlin, for groups of three people at least two applicants, etc.).
- It is also possible to apply for a grant from the State of Berlin if you have applied for grants from other funding organisations. If you are accepted, you must notify us immediately so that we can check whether the grant from the State of Berlin and the grant from another funding organisation can be combined. Grants already approved for 2026 must be stated on the application form.
- The work grant for comic artists of the State of Berlin cannot be combined with a work grant for comic artists of the German Literature Fund (“Deutscher Literaturfonds”) in the same funding period.
- All grants of the State of Berlin (work, research and cultural exchange grants) can be combined up to an amount of € 24,000 per year.
- An evaluation form must be completed after the grant period.

Exclusion

Artists who are enrolled in an artistic training course at a higher education institution are not eligible to apply (including PhD-students). Further education and retraining programmes are no obstacle to eligibility.

Artists holding a professorship at the time of application and/or during the

funding period cannot apply. Violations may result in the cancellation of the grant.

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

Funding volume

The work grants amount to € 2,000 per month. The duration of the grant depends on the scope of the work project. Work grants can be awarded **for 4 months (€ 8,000) and 8 months (€ 16,000)** subject to available funds (with approximately 150 applications). The requested amount of the grant can be selected in the application form. Payment will be made monthly, probably starting in April 2026.

The jury decides on the number of projects to be funded and the amount of funding to be allocated to each application based on all the application documents submitted and makes appropriate proposals. This may include reductions in relation to the amount of funding requested.

The grant holders will most likely be given the opportunity to present their artistic productions to the public.

Allocation of funding

An independent jury decides on the applications. The names of the jury members will be announced in due course. We kindly ask you not to contact the jury members in advance of the procedure.

The criteria for the assessment are artistic and content quality as well as innovative aspects of the project.

All applicants are expected to be informed of the result of the jury meeting by e-mail in January 2026. The names of the funded artists will be announced to the public.

Application procedure

Applications and all necessary attachments can only be submitted online.

The online application form is accessible via [this website](#).

Instructions on the application:

- Please provide the link to your website in the online application form, if applicable.

- The application form and the brief description of the work project contained therein (synopsis or scenario, maximum 1,900 characters including spaces) must be submitted in German.
- The attachments 1 to 4 may be submitted in German or English.
- In total, all attachments can add up to a maximum of 30 MB.
- Please note that it is not possible to merely submit links to an online file storage or cloud (e.g. iCloud, OneDrive, Dropbox).
- Additional documents in paper form will not be accepted.
- After you have submitted the application online, you can download a PDF version of your completed application form ('form view').
- You will receive an automatic confirmation of receipt via e-mail.

Attachments

The file names of the attachments are automatically adjusted by the application system during upload.

1. Artistic CV - maximum 1 MB, pdf

Please include grants, awards and a list of publications if applicable.

2. (Optional) Portfolio on previous artistic work and/or if applicable documentation and information material - maximum 10 DIN A4 pages, maximum 7 MB, pdf

This can be publications from the last few years or meaningful samples of your work if you have not yet published a comic. In the case of currently easily accessible works, bibliographical details are sufficient. Please concentrate on works from the last three years!

ATTENTION: Portfolios exceeding 10 pages (including cover sheets, illustrations, other writings) will not be accepted. The application will be formally excluded in the interests of equal treatment of all applicants.

3. Detailed project description - maximum 3 DIN A4 pages, maximum 5 MB, pdf

Please answer the following questions:

- a) What project would you potentially like to work on while you are receiving the grant? Please outline the content, character and design of this project.
- b) What is unique about your artistic work? Why is the application relevant to you now?

ATTENTION: Detailed project descriptions exceeding 3 DIN A4 pages (including cover sheets, illustrations, other writings) will not be accepted. The corresponding application will be formally excluded in the interests of equal treatment of all applicants.

4. Work sample of the project described under 1. - maximum 20 drawn pages, maximum 15 MB, pdf

Up to 20 drawn pages, giving an idea of the style and page layout. Please state whether this is a draft or a final planned style and intended page layout.

ATTENTION: Work samples exceeding 20 pages (including cover sheets, illustrations, other writings) will not be accepted. The corresponding application will be formally excluded in the interests of equal treatment of all applicants.

5. Proof of identity, primary residence in Berlin and residence permit - jpg / png / pdf:

Proof must be provided by the applicant and, in the case of a group application, by all members of the group.

a) For citizens with German citizenship:

- copy of identity card (front and back)

b) For citizens of EU states:

- copy of identity card (front and back) or copy of passport AND
- copy of the registration from the residents' registration office (Meldebestätigung des Einwohnermeldeamtes).

c) For citizens of non-EU states with residence permit card (Aufenthaltstitelkarte):

- The residence permit card (front and back) is valid as an identity document and as confirmation of registration.

d) For citizens of non-EU states without residence permit card (Aufenthaltstitelkarte):

- A copy of your identity card (Personalausweis) (front and back) or passport AND
- copy of the registration from the residents' registration office (Meldebestätigung des Einwohnermeldeamtes) AND

- copy of your residence permit or certificate of the right of residence (front and back).

If you do not have a registration certificate, you can apply for one for a fee [here](#).

PLEASE NOTE: The address given in the online application must match the proof of the Berlin registration address.

6. Only for group applications (but mandatory there) - maximum 2 MB, pdf:

- GbR contract in the case of an existing GbR OR
- Declaration on the association of artists (Erklärung zum Zusammenschluss von Künstler*innen) with the signature of all group members if the group only joins together to submit an application; in accordance with the template.

The grant is a personal grant. Therefore, only natural persons and GbRs consisting of natural persons are eligible to apply. Legal entities or institutions such as associations, limited liability companies or similar are not eligible to apply. The declaration must be signed by all applicants involved - just as the registration address must be verified by all group members.

Please use the following form [Erklärung Zusammenschluss von Künstler*innen](#) from the website.

Deadline for submission of the application

Deadline for applications for 2026: 18 September 2025 at 11 AM (CET)

Please note: Online applications must have been fully submitted by 11 am. After 11 am, an upload is no longer possible; transmissions that have been started are automatically cancelled. We advise you to make sure you start the application process in good time and prepare all 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.

Important information

- If the formal application requirements set out in this information sheet are not met, the application will be excluded for formal reasons and will not be admitted to the jury process.

- The Senate Department for Culture will not contact you, if you submit incomplete or faulty applications. Missing documents will not be requested.
- Please check your application carefully before sending it. Subsequent submissions are only permitted until the end of the application period and if they were unavoidable and absolutely necessary (e.g. extension of residency permit, which was not issued in time).
- Submitting an application on the day of the deadline is not recommended, as experience has shown that upload times can be delayed. Applicants are responsible for submitting the application on time.
- All information will be treated confidentially and will only be used for decision-making and funding purposes (please see privacy policy in the online form).

Compatibility with EU Commission regulations

If the grant can be considered a state aid, the funding is granted in accordance with the requirements of Chapter I and on the basis of Art. 53 of Chapter III of the General Block Exemption Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 (EU OJ L 187/1 of 26 June 2014) in the version of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 2023/1315 of 23 June 2023 (EU Official Journal L167/1 of 30 June 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 Official Journal L, 2023/2831, 15.12.2023 L).

Companies or sectors are excluded from support in the cases of Art. 1 (2), (3) and (5) GBER.

No individual aid may be granted to a company that has not complied with a recovery order based on an earlier Commission decision declaring aid granted by the same Member State to be unlawful and incompatible with the internal market.

Companies in difficulty pursuant to Art. 1 (4) (c) GBER are excluded from funding. Companies in difficulty are companies to which at least one of the circumstances according to Art. 2 No. 18 a-e GBER applies.

It should be noted that information on any individual aid exceeding EUR 100,000 is generally published in the European Commission's State aid transparency database or on a comprehensive national or regional state aid website within six months of the date

on which the aid was granted. Reference is also made to the reporting obligation pursuant to Art. 11 GBER.

Contact:

Mrs Antje Glawe can be contacted by telephone on 030 90228 676 and by [e-mail](#) here.

The website for the funding programme can be found under [this link](#).

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