



Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion

Division I A Funding for Artists, Projects and Independent Groups

## **INFORMATION SHEET VISUAL ARTS RESEARCH GRANTS 2026**

**Deadline for applications: 18 March 2026 at 11 am (CET)**

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

The Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion awards – subject to the availability of funds – in 2026 research grants in the visual arts, i.e. contemporary visual arts (works on paper/ drawing), sculpture, film/video art, installation, interdisciplinary art, sound art, urban art/art in public spaces, photography, painting, digital/media arts, performance.

### **Who can apply?**

The grants are aimed for the artistic or curatorial development of professionally working

- artists
- curators
- groups of artists or curators

in the visual arts, based in Berlin.

### **What is supported?**

The grants are intended to promote the artistic development of Berlin based artists and curators. Artistic/curatorial development requires in particular the opportunity to develop new ideas and approaches. For this reason, grant recipients should be given the opportunity to carry out research projects of their own choice, e.g.:

- research or preliminary work on a specific topic
- development of new projects
- development of new working techniques

- continuation or finalisation of certain projects
- art education, documentation or publication

### **Conditions**

1. Only one application per applicant is possible. (Should one person submit several applications the latest one will be considered for the award process.)
2. Applications have been accepted annually since 2025.
3. Visual artists and curators who have completed artistic training and/or can demonstrate several years of artistic/curatorial activity in the field of visual arts are eligible for funding. The criteria for selection are primarily the quality of previous artistic/curatorial work and the quality of the research project.
4. Applications from artistic or curatorial groups are welcome. Groups that form specifically for the purpose of submitting an application are eligible to apply. The group must confirm this association of artists or curators by means of a joint declaration. Applications from legal entities or institutions such as e.V. or GmbH are not permitted. In the case of groups, more than 50% of the group members must be registered with their 1st place of residence in Berlin (in the case of a group consisting of 2 persons, both, in the case of groups of 3 persons at least 2 etc.).
5. Applicants must live and work in Berlin and maintain their 1st place of residence in Berlin during the application process as well as during the grant period. The Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion must be informed of any change of residence.
6. Non-EU citizens living in Berlin can only apply if their passport/ID card does not contain a special note from the foreigners authority prohibiting them from self-employment.
7. Designers (incl. stage/set designers), directors, screenwriters and cinematographers in the field of documentary film and feature film are not eligible to apply. Only the above-mentioned sub-sectors are eligible for funding. In the case of media artists and/or artistic film/video, there must be a clear connection to the visual arts (predominant presentation of the work in exhibition contexts). In the case of artists

and curators working across disciplines, the focus of their work must be in the field of visual arts.

8. Students (including PhD-students) at the time of application and/or during the funding period cannot apply. Violations may result in the cancellation of the grant.
9. Artists/curators 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.
10. It is possible to apply for the research grant, if an applicant has applied for other grants, with the exception of the working grant for the visual arts. The research grant can be combined with other grants of the State of Berlin up to an amount of € 24,000 per year.
  - Combination with project funding is possible
  - Please note that artists who have already received a grant from the Stiftung Kunstfonds Bonn for 2026 are generally excluded.
  - The grant period cannot be postponed.
  - The research grant can be freely combined with other grants from domestic and foreign funders not mentioned here. (In this case, please make sure to find out whether the other funding institution accepts parallel funding).
  - Grants approved for 2026 must be indicated in the application form.
  - An application is possible if further applications have been submitted (for one of the above-mentioned grants) but has not yet been granted.

Applicants are obliged to notify the Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion immediately via [email](#), if further funds from the State of Berlin or the Kunstfonds Bonn are expected or received.

If necessary, please find out prior to your application whether this funding may be offset against any transfer benefits according to SGB II or housing benefit. Unfortunately, the Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion is unable to provide any information on this.

### **Exclusion**

The reviewer and their relatives, and employees of the Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion and their relatives are not permitted to submit applications.

## **Funding volume**

Subject to the availability of funds in the year 2026 the research grants comprise € 8,000 each and are being paid in four monthly rates of € 2,000 from September to December 2026.

An evaluation form must be completed after the grant period in German.

## **Allocation of funds**

Since 2025, the research grants have been awarded through a partially randomised procedure (Definition of ‘partially randomised’: Something is decided partly by chance.).

After submitting the online application, the application documents will be reviewed by the reviewers based on professional criteria (quality of previous artistic/curatorial work and quality of the research project) and selected for the lottery process. The grants will be awarded by means of a digital lottery process. Only complete and formally valid applications will be admitted to the award process.

The reviewers will be set up by a pool of experts from the art scene. Arts initiatives and institutions will propose suitable artists, curators, critics/journalists and representatives of institutions. Grantees from previous years vote on this pool in a participatory process and propose the most selected experts to the Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion for appointment to the reviewers.

The names of the reviewers will be announced at a later date.

All applicants will be informed of the results of the draw by email in July 2026. The names of the funded artists, curators and groups will be published.

## **Application process**

Applications and all necessary attachments can only be submitted online. The online application form can be accessed [here](#).

Please note that it is not possible to send application documents by email or post.

## **Application form and attachments**

The online application form including the short project description have to be filled in in German. Should the project description not be written in German, the application will be excluded from the award process and formally rejected.

In the online application form under "Kurzbeschreibung" please provide a precise and informative description of the research project you are applying for (max. 1,900 characters including spaces and paragraphs). The following questions can serve as a guide:

- What is special about your artistic work?
- Why is the application important to you at this point in time?
- What project would you like to work on during the grant period?

**In addition to the filled in application form the following attachments need to be uploaded:**

**1. Artistic CV and Portfolio (max. 10 MB, pdf, max. 10 A4 pages)**

This file (preferably in landscape format) should present photos or other image material of completed works/exhibitions etc. in the portfolio. For film and video material, the portfolio should include stills and a brief description of the work, including links (Vimeo or similar). Please concentrate on work from the last three years!

- In the CV section, please mention grants, awards, list of exhibitions and participation in exhibitions.
- The artistic CV with portfolio can be submitted in English if necessary.
- For group applications, the CVs must be combined in one file.
- The maximum number of pages for group applications is also 10 A4 pages.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Artistic CVs/portfolios which exceed the maximum number of 10 A4 pages will be excluded from the award process. There is no need for cover sheet. Please also note that the file must contain a CV section and a portfolio section.

**2. Proof of identity (identity card or passport), proof of principal residence in Berlin and residency permit**

- Applicants with German citizenship:
  - Identity card (front + back)
- EU citizens:
  - Identity card (front + back) **OR** passport and

- „Meldebescheinigung“ (registration certificate from the residents' registration office)
- Non-EU citizens with residency permit card:
  - The residency permit card (front + back) is valid as an identity document and as a registration certificate („Meldebescheinigung“).
- Non-EU citizens without residency permit card:
  - Identity card (front + back) **OR** passport and
  - „Meldebescheinigung“ (registration certificate from the residents' registration office) **AND**
  - valid residence permit or certificate of right of residence (front and back)
- Group applications need to include the identity documents of all group members.

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.

### 3. Only for group applications (mandatory!)

- GbR contract for existing GbR (max. 5 MB, pdf file) **OR**
- declaration on the association of artists with signature of all group members according to the template (max. 5 MB, pdf file)

The grant is a personal grant. Therefore, only natural persons and GbRs are eligible to apply. Associations and similar organisations are not eligible to apply. The declaration on the association of artists must be signed by all participating applicants - just as the registration address must be verified by all group members. If there is already a GbR contract, please submit a copy of it. A template for the declaration on the association of artists can be downloaded [here](#).

#### **Submission deadline**

The deadline for submitting applications is 18 March 2026 at 11 am (CET).

Please note: Online applications must be fully submitted and received by 11 am.

After 11 am it is no longer possible to submit applications. Any transmissions that have been started will then be automatically cancelled.

### **Important notes on submitting applications**

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 award process. Missing documents will not be requested subsequently. Please check your application carefully before sending it. Once the application has been submitted, no further submissions can be made by email or in the online application centre. Documents in paper form will not be accepted.

We recommend that you start the application process in good time and prepare all the necessary attachments in advance. 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 funding purposes.

### **Compatibility with EU regulations**

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

**Contact and further information:**

Please read the information sheet and the FAQ on the website first. If you have any further questions, please contact Miriam Szymanski during the following office hours:

Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00 to 16:00 by telephone on +49(0)30 90 228 798 or by [email](#).