



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

INFORMATION SHEET BASIC FUNDING (“BASISFÖRDERUNG”) IN VISUAL ARTS FOR TWO YEARS TO EXHIBITION SPACES AND INITIATIVES WITHOUT SPECIFIC LOCATION

FUNDING PERIOD: 2026-2027

The application deadline is March 6, 2025, at 2 pm (CET).

The Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion awards - subject to the approval of funds and the administrative regulation for the promotion of independent exhibition spaces and initiatives without specific location in the field of visual arts - in the funding period 2026 - 2027 925.000,00 € each year to support exhibition spaces and location-independent initiatives in the field of the visual arts.

Eligible persons/Target group

- 1. Exhibitions spaces** (self-organized, independent spaces for the presentation and production of visual arts, with their own curated programming, which can also serve for production, development, and research)
- 2. Initiatives without specific location** (hereinafter referred to as **initiatives**; these are associations of at least two people who, without a fixed connection to a presentation venue and under their own programmatic name, implement self-organized or curated projects).

The funding programme is intended to support natural and legal persons. Individuals, associations and artist groups (GbR) are eligible to apply.

The exhibition spaces and initiatives have to be located and operated in Berlin, they need to present a distinct programme including events that are open to the public, and be dedicated to the presentation, production, development and research in the field of the visual arts.

The exhibition spaces and initiatives must have been active since at least January 1, 2023.

Funding purpose

The aim is to provide exhibition spaces and initiatives with planning security and perspectives for development, to strengthen their organisational structure and to secure their artistic and cultural purposes. The exhibition spaces and initiatives should offer opportunities especially for Berlin based artists and curators to present and produce and supplement Berlin's cultural scene with important impulses.

Funding object

Funding will be provided for a period of two years.

The maximum application amount is 50.000,00 € per year.

Expenses eligible for funding:

- structural costs (personnel and material costs, rent)
- artists' and curators' fees (limited to 15% of the total amount)
- minor investments for expansion, maintenance and equipment; construction work, which needs **a building permit („Baugenehmigung“)** **can NOT be funded.**

Only costs incurred in Berlin and connected to the basic funding can be covered.

Funding for three consecutive funding periods is not planned.

The basic funding is granted as project funding and usually as funding of shortfalls („Fehlbedarfsfinanzierung“), potential income (third-party funding, ticket sales, rental revenue) must be included in financing plans.

There is no entitlement to funding.

Conditions of funding (proof to be given in several attachments listed belows):

- a continuous, visible and outstanding work/exhibition programme in the last years 2023, 2024 and plans for 2025
- the presentation of a programme covering the years 2026 - 2027,
- an art context that opens up for projects, discourse and activities by third parties (artists, curators, theorists, mediators),
- for initiatives only: proven need for structural material expenses (e.g. rent for office or exhibition space, additional service charges, office supplies etc.).

Funding will not be granted to:

- profit orientated exhibition spaces/initiatives,
- exhibition spaces/initiatives that receive (partial) structural funding from the Berlin Senate, Department for Culture and Social Cohesion.

Allocation of funds:

The basic funding will be allocated based on the recommendations of an expert jury.

The jury for 2026 - 2027 consists of:

Nadine Fecht, Lena Fließbach, Nazanin Noori, Manfred Peckl, Vincent Schier, Katharina Schilling.

Funding decisions are subject to the following criteria:

- artistic quality and the professional assessment of the applicant's previous as well as future curatorial/artistic work
- significance of the space/initiative in Berlin's overall scene of visual arts venues
- relevant professional qualifications of the management/leadership team
- context that opens up for projects, discourse and activities by third parties (artists, curators, theorists, mediators)
- future potential and innovative impulses for Berlin's cultural scene

The decision on the allocation of funds will probably be announced in Spring/Summer 2025. All applicants will be notified via e-mail. The names of the recipients and the funding amounts will be made public on our website and through a press release.

Exclusion

Members of the jury and staff members of the Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion, as well as their families, are not eligible to apply. Jury members who have a conflict of interest will have to abstain from casting a vote.

Application procedure

Applications, including all supporting documents, must be submitted online. It is not possible to send the application documents by post.

Please fill in the **application form** and upload the required supporting documents [here](#).

Please include a short project description including details on the profile of your exhibition space/initiative **in the online application form** (under the heading “**Projekt-Kurzbeschreibung**”) with a max. of 1,900 characters, including spaces and paragraphs).

Important information on the attachments:

- Please combine attachments no. 1 - 4 (see below) in one single PDF, max. 15 DIN A4 pages, max. 20 MB.
- Attachments that exceed the permitted number of pages or the MB size will not be accepted and the application will be rejected on formal grounds in the interest of equal treatment of all applicants.
- The online application form including must be submitted **in German**. All supporting documents/attachments can be in English.

Supporting Document DOKU (PDF file, 20 MB max., 15 DIN A4 pages max.)

1. Profile description of your exhibition space/initiative (non-binding suggestion: 1-3 DIN A4 pages)

- What is unique about your exhibition space/initiative?
- What is the artistic/curatorial concept/idea/focus of your exhibition space/initiative?

Mandatory details for exhibition spaces:

founding date, location, including address and floor area (square meters plus floor plan), information on current tenancy status (rent per square meter, any announced or imminent rent increases)

2. Curatorial concept/planned focus of your work for 2026 - 2027 (non-binding suggestion: 3-7 DIN A4 pages)

Please provide a comprehensive overview of the artistic-curatorial activities, especially from 2023 onward. Include (press) information, photos, videos, links, press clippings, and documentation, etc. Information that cannot be uploaded electronically should be made available on your website.

3. Presentation of activities (especially from 2023 onward)

Detailed information, photos, videos, links, press clippings, documentation, etc. of your last years artistic/curatorial activities (two years min.).

4. Information on the artistic directorship of the exhibition space/initiative (non-binding suggestion: 1-3 DIN A4 pages)

Short CVs on the artistic directorship.

- The applicant must be the authorized representative (e.g. board member of an e. V.).
- Mandatory for initiatives: if you work as a group (= GbR), the majority has to have the main residence in Berlin. In case of funding, proof must be furnished.

Detailed financing plan (500 KB max., xlsx or PDF)

- **Please use the provided sample financing plan and DO NOT modify the rows highlighted in yellow!**
- Please adhere as closely as possible to our recommendations regarding minimum fees and exhibition compensations (see recommendations on minimum fees on our website).
- We encourage the inclusion of funds for accessible offerings in your financing plan. For additional information beyond wheelchair ramps, please refer to our accessibility information sheet (see accessibility information sheet on our website).
- If you are planning minor investment measures, please explain their urgency at the end of the financing plan under "**Comments.**"
- Please do not confuse **own funds** with **in-kind contributions**:
 - **Own funds:** Financial or monetary resources that are included in the financing plan.
 - **In-kind contributions:** Non-monetary contributions, such as free provision of tools, equipment, spaces, labor, etc. These must not be included in the numerical part of the financing plan but, if necessary, can be mentioned at the end of the financing plan under "**Comments.**".

Only material that meets the above requirements will be submitted to the jury.

Deadlines for submission

The application deadline is March 6, 2025, at 2 pm (CET).

Please note: Online applications must be fully submitted by 2 pm and cannot be sent after this time. Any uploads in progress will automatically stop at 2 pm.

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

Further information on the online application process can be found in our frequently asked questions ([FAQ in German](#)).

Information on accessibility

According to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the equality laws of the Federal Government and the State of Berlin, cultural events must be accessible to people with disabilities. After checking the checklists for barrier-free exhibitions [on this website](#), please indicate for which groups your event is accessible and with which offers. This should also be taken into account in advertising measures.

Compatibility with EU 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/Further information:

Please read the information sheet and the website first. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Mr Veit Rieber can be reached by telephone on +49(0)30 90 228 764 and by [e-mail](#).