

Creative Industries Festivals Grant Scheme 2025-2028

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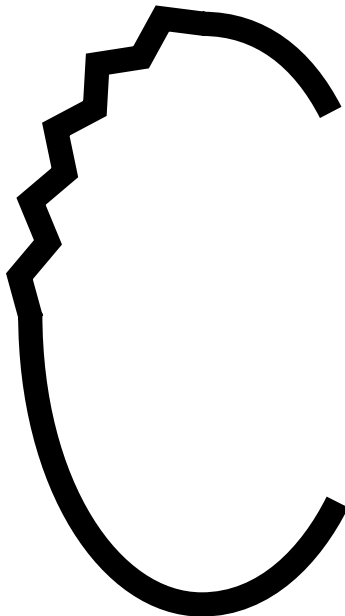
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This document is a descriptive translation of the original Dutch *Regeling Festivals creatieve industrie 2025-2028*. The English translation is provided for reference purposes only, and in all instances the original Dutch text takes precedence. If you would like to report a translation error or inaccuracy, we encourage you to contact the Creative Industries Fund NL.

Having regard to Article 10(4) of the Cultural Policy (Special-Purpose Funding) Act, the board of the Creative Industries Fund NL, with the approval of the Minister of Education, Culture and Science, decides:

Chapter 1: Definitions

Article 1. Definitions

The definitions used in this scheme have the same meaning as laid down in *Regeling op het specifiek cultuurbeleid* (Specific Cultural Policy Regulations, available in Dutch only).

Within this scheme the following are understood to mean:

- 1 **applicant:** a natural person or legal person who submits a grant application to the Fund under this scheme;
- 2 **advisory committee:** an independent committee of external experts appointed by the board;
- 3 **decision:** the letter by which the board formally decides on whether or not to award the grant;
- 4 **decision date:** the date stated on the decision;
- 5 **board:** the Executive Director of the Fund, as referred to in Article 5 of the articles of association;
- 6 **co-financing:** additional financing for the project in the form of another grant, sponsorship, investment, own income from for example ticket sales or contribution from an external party, in addition to the grant applied for from the Fund. Own contributions in the form of investments or charged discounts are not considered co-financing;
- 7 **creative industry:** the field of work relating to the design, architecture and digital culture disciplines, including possible crossovers between these disciplines;
- 8 **cultural institution or organisation:** a not-for-profit legal person under private law with a supportive, producing or initiating function within the creative industry;
- 9 **festival:** a programme of interrelated activities accessible to the public that are organised under a joint theme for a limited period of time. Both one-off manifestations and recurring festivals fall under this definition. Regular exhibitions do not fall under the definition of a festival;
- 10 **the Kingdom:** the Kingdom of the Netherlands, consisting of the countries Netherlands, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten and the public bodies Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba;
- 11 **producer:** a legal person who commercially takes care of the development, coordination and production of (media) productions such as (animation) films or other types of AV products and acts as applicant on behalf of a maker in that role;
- 12 **Fund:** the Creative Industries Fund NL, known in Dutch as Stichting Stimuleringsfonds Creatieve Industrie.
- 13 **grant request:** the amount applied for from the Fund under this scheme. This amount is formed by the total project costs minus the co-financing and any own contributions;
- 14 **grant ceiling:** the maximum amount available for grants within a grant period;
- 15 **field of architecture:** the field of architecture includes: architecture, interior design, garden and landscape design, urban planning and spatial planning, including related activities aimed at analysis, research, reflection and debate in these areas;
- 16 **field of digital culture:** the field of digital culture includes: design in relation to new

media and technologies, games, AV performances, worldbuilding, creative coding, sensory storytelling, art-science, posthumanism, internet culture, including related activities aimed at research, experiment and reflection in these areas;

- 17 field of design:** the field of work formed by the (sub)disciplines animation, bio design, food design, glass design, graphic design, illustration, interior design, ceramics design, lighting design, fashion design, product, furniture and industrial design, scenography, jewellery design, comics and graphic novels, exhibition design, textile design, typography, including related activities aimed at experiment, research, reflection and debate in these areas;

Article 2. Creative Industries Fund NL Mission Statement

- 1** The mission of the Fund is to continue and renew the rich design tradition of the Netherlands, from a cultural perspective, by stimulating the process of experimenting, researching and making and to promote good commissioning.
- 2** In accordance with its articles of association and according to the statutory provisions and grant schemes, the board provides grants to natural and legal persons who contribute to promoting high quality, development and professionalisation of the contemporary creative industry within the Kingdom.

Chapter 2: General Provisions

Article 3. Scope and objective

- 1** This scheme applies to applications from cultural institutions or organisations aimed at organising festivals within the context of the Dutch creative industry, serving an important public function.
- 2** The festivals contribute to widening the audience reach, interest in and development of the fields of design, architecture and/or digital culture.
- 3** With this scheme, the Fund gives substance to the following policy objective:
 - Promoting a healthy and innovative design infrastructure.

Article 4. Budget reservation

A grant is always provided on condition that sufficient funds have been allocated to the Fund by the Minister of Education, Culture and Science.

Article 5. Grant period and grant ceiling

- 1** The board announces via www.stimuleringsfonds.nl and via the Government Gazette within which grant period(s) a grant application under this scheme can be submitted.
- 2** The board may set a grant ceiling per grant period.
- 3** The grant ceiling per grant period is announced in advance on www.stimuleringsfonds.nl and in the Government Gazette.

Article 6. Regions

- 1** To stimulate regional spread of the festival offer within the Kingdom, this scheme distinguishes between five regions and the Caribbean part of the Kingdom:
 - a** North: Friesland, Groningen, Drenthe;
 - b** East: Gelderland, Overijssel;
 - c** Central: Utrecht, Flevoland;
 - d** South: Zeeland, Noord-Brabant, Limburg;
 - e** West: Noord-Holland, Zuid-Holland;
 - f** the Caribbean part of the Kingdom: the constituent countries Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten and the public bodies Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba.

- 2 The regions and the Caribbean area are leading in the prioritisation of positively assessed proposals, as referred to in Article 14.
- 3 The applicant indicates in the application within which region grant is applied for. This is the region within which the main activity of the festival takes place.

Article 7. Entry requirements regarding the applicant

- 1 The applicant is a cultural institution or organisation that demonstrably positions itself within the creative industry.
- 2 The applicant is registered in the Business Register of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce or at one of the Business Registers that fall within the Kingdom.
- 3 Not eligible for grant under this scheme are:
 - a applicants who are financed via the Grant Scheme for Basic Cultural Infrastructure of the Minister of Education, Culture and Science, with the exception of regional museums and heritage museums within the creative industry;
 - b applicants who have another structural grant relationship with the central government;
 - c applicants who during the period to which the grant relates have received grant under the Four-year Institutional Grant Scheme for the Creative Industry 2025-2028;
 - d applicants who during the period to which the application relates have received grant under the Creative Industry Activities Programme Grant Scheme;
 - e educational institutions and post-academic institutions and organisations directly affiliated with these institutions, as well as projects by (guest) researchers and (guest) teachers carried out from these institutions; and
 - f applications aimed at developing educational programmes and related activities of educational institutions.

Article 8. Entry requirements

- 1 The grant request amounts to at least €35,000 and at most €85,000.
- 2 The festival contributes to strengthening the fields of design, architecture and/or digital culture within the Kingdom.
- 3 The festival takes place within the Kingdom.
- 4 With the exception of festivals taking place in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom, there must be an audience strategy aimed at reaching at least 1,000 physical visitors per edition.
- 5 The festival edition to which the application relates takes place within 13 months after the decision date.
- 6 The festival edition to which the application relates has not previously been subsidised under another grant scheme of the Fund.
- 7 At the time of submission, there is no other application for the relevant festival edition being processed within another grant scheme of the Fund.
- 8 No grant is provided to or for:
 - a activities that have already taken place or start before the decision date;
 - b festival editions for which grant is applied for again after a (partial) rejection, without the applicant naming new facts or changed circumstances;
 - c labour costs for employees of national, provincial and municipal institutions;
 - d acquiring property, materials or equipment that also represent a value after the end of the festival;
 - e activities and costs directly related to establishing a company or organisation; and
 - f applications where there is no reasonable degree of co-financing given the setup, whereby a lower limit of 20% of the total project costs is applied.

Article 9. General conditions

- 1 It can reasonably be expected from the applicant's working method that the goals set by the applicant will be achieved.
- 2 The applicant has not fallen short in complying with its grant obligations in the context of a project for which the Fund previously provided a grant.
- 3 Applications that are not submitted on time or are incomplete may be rejected by the board.
- 4 In the context of European legislation regarding state aid, it also applies that for applicants who can be considered as undertaking, grant under this scheme is refused if:
 - a a recovery order as referred to in Article 1(4)(a) of the general block exemption regulation 651/2014 is outstanding against the applicant; or
 - b the applicant can be qualified as an undertaking in difficulties as referred to in Article 2(18) and Article 1(4)(c) of the general block exemption regulation 651/2014.

Chapter 3: Grant Application

Article 10. Submitting the application

- 1 The grant application is submitted via the Fund's [application platform](#).
- 2 Applications are submitted in Dutch or English.

Article 11. Contents of the application

- 1 An application consists of:
 - a a fully completed application form;
 - b a project plan that provides sufficient insight into the purpose, programming and planning of the festival edition;
 - c a balanced budget, including funding plan and explanation of the application of the Fair Practice Code, according to the format of this scheme. The format is published on the [grant page of this scheme](#), on the Fund's website;
 - d a communication plan, including a detailed audience strategy and expected performance data;
 - e letters of intent from, or collaboration agreements with the most important project partners or makers;
 - f where applicable, a statement about the arrangements regarding intellectual property, specifically concerning the creation of new work; and
 - g in the case of a recurring festival, the most recent substantive and financial annual report regarding the previous edition.
- 2 The application also contains the following mandatory appendices:
 - a a digitally certified extract of maximum one year old from the Business Register of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce or from one of the Business Registers that fall within the Kingdom of the Netherlands; and
 - a a representative image of the festival, intended for communication purposes by the Fund and of which the necessary rights to the image lie with the applicant.
- 3 The board may establish guidelines, models and protocols for submitting applications, which are published on the Fund's website prior to the grant periods.
- 4 The documents referred to in the second paragraph are not made available to the advisory committee.

Chapter 4: Grant Provision

Article 12. Advice

- 1 The Fund checks whether the application is complete, meets the conditions and fits with the Fund's mission statement as expressed in Article 2 and fits within the scope of this scheme, as referred to in Article 3. If this is the case, the board submits the application to an independent advisory committee established by the board for advice.
- 2 The Fund conducts an analysis based on the application regarding compliance with the Fair Practice Code by the applicant. The Fund makes this analysis available to the advisory committee.
- 3 In formulating the advice, the advisory committee bases itself exclusively on the data provided by the applicant and the Fund's analysis of the Fair Practice Code.
- 4 Positive advice may be accompanied by a substantiated recommendation about the amount of grant to be provided and substantiated recommendations regarding the implementation or not supporting specifically mentioned activities.
- 5 The advisory committee applies the Advisory Committee Procedure. The version published on the Fund's website at the time of submission applies.

Article 13. Assessment criteria

The advisory committee applies the following criteria when assessing an application, which are weighted equally:

a The contribution of the festival to strengthening public interest in the creative industry in the relevant region:

Increasing audience reach and interest in the fields of design, architecture and/or digital culture is an important goal of this scheme. The advisory committee looks at the purpose, setup of the festival, programming and the translation of this into an audience strategy, reach and expected impact on the public. The advisory committee considers the extent to which the festival is embedded in the local context. The advisory committee also considers the 'audience' part of the Diversity and Inclusion Code when applying this criterion.

b The significance of the festival for the creative industry:

The advisory committee assesses the extent to which the festival contributes to the development of the fields of design, architecture and/or digital culture. In this context, for a recurring festival, the advisory committee primarily considers the impetus for the programme, the most recent substantive annual report and the applicant's reflection on the last edition. In the case of a first edition or one-off manifestation, the advisory committee considers the relevance of the programme's theme, the extent to which the programming is distinctive within the existing offer, the participating makers and the programme's setup.

c The extent to which the application is effectively designed and support is created for the festival:

The application must show by whom and how the festival is organised. When assessing, the advisory committee looks at the degree of consistency in purpose and setup. It is assessed whether the plan of approach is clear and whether the intended goals can be achieved. The advisory committee assesses whether the necessary expertise to achieve this is present and with which partners collaboration takes place. In the case of an annually recurring festival, the most recent financial annual report is also included.

d The business health of the organisation:

The advisory committee assesses the feasibility of the budget, including the funding plan and the extent to which there is a sustainable and solid organisation. The advisory committee applies the principles of the Fair Practice Code and includes the Fund's analysis of the application of Fair Practice in the assessment of the application on this criterion.

Article 14. Prioritisation

- 1 The board decides simultaneously on the submitted applications.
- 2 For the numerical assessment of the criteria, the advisory committee uses the following five-point scale: 1 'highly unsatisfactory'; 2 'unsatisfactory'; 3 'sufficient'; 4 'good'; 5 'very good'.
- 3 An application is positively assessed if the average final score on the criteria is 3 or higher. Only positively assessed applications are eligible for grant.
- 4 The applications are ranked within the region indicated by the applicant, as referred to in Article 6, based on the outcome of the numerical scores.
- 5 The two highest valued, positively assessed applications within each region are first eligible for grant.
- 6 If applications end up equal on the ranking list based on the average final score when applying the second paragraph within a region, the application that is valued highest on criterion 1 is first eligible for grant, then the application that scores highest on criterion 2, and so forth.
- 7 The budget remaining after applying the second to fourth paragraphs is used for the other positively assessed applications submitted within the grant period. These applications are ranked based on the outcome of the assessment on the criteria referred to in Article 13. The second to fourth paragraphs apply correspondingly, with the understanding that the distribution over the regions is abandoned. The highest placed applicants are awarded the contribution advised by the advisory committee as long as the total does not exceed the grant ceiling. The applicant for whom an award would lead to exceeding the grant ceiling is awarded the amount remaining up to the grant ceiling provided this is at least 50% of the requested amount.
- 8 Budget not used after applying this article is added to the next grant period.

Article 15. Grant provision

- 1 The board informs the applicant in writing about its decision within eleven weeks after the final submission date.
- 2 The board may attach specific obligations to this decision with reference to provisions applicable under this scheme.
- 3 The decision to provide a grant contains a representation of the advisory committee's advice and the board's considerations, the conditions under which the grant is made available, the duration of the grant period, the obligations that apply to the recipient, the maximum amount of the grant and information about payment and advance provision.
- 4 No rights can be derived from the grant provision by the recipient regarding a subsequent application.

Article 16. Advances

- 1 In case of an award, the Fund pays 80% of the awarded amount as an advance. The remaining part is paid after the decision to determine the grant, at the end of the grant period, unless the grant is set lower in the decision to determine.
- 2 In appropriate cases, a different rhythm in advance payments or phasing of payment may be maintained.

Chapter 5: Grant Recipient's Obligations

Article 17. Administration

- 1 The grant recipient maintains a project administration arranged in such a way that the rights and obligations relevant for determining the grant as well as the income and costs can be verified at all times.

- 2 The grant recipient provides the Fund with insight into the project administration upon request.
- 3 The grant recipient keeps the project administration and associated documents for seven years after determining the grant.
- 4 The grant recipient applies the following codes:
 - a [Fair Practice Code](#);
 - b [Diversity and Inclusion Code](#); and
 - c [Cultural Governance Code 2019](#).

Article 18. Referencing the Creative Industries Fund NL

In all public statements about the subsidised activities, the grant recipient mentions the Fund as grant provider. The Fund's logo is included in publications and reports relating to the subsidised activities and on invitations, announcements, websites and audiovisual productions relating to them. If a grant recipient includes logos of other parties, the Fund's logo is displayed in comparable size and layout in proportion to the contribution.

Article 19. Notification to the Creative Industries Fund NL

If one of the following situations occurs, the grant recipient immediately notifies the board:

- 1 the activities for which grant was provided will not or not entirely take place;
- 2 the obligations attached to the grant will not be fully met;
- 3 there are significant artistic or business changes compared to the application based on which grant was provided; or
- 4 there are developments that may hinder the implementation of activities, such as reports of unwanted behaviour or involvement in a lawsuit.

Chapter 6: Grant Determination

Article 20. Determination

- 1 No later than sixteen weeks after the end of the grant period, an application for determination is submitted by the grant recipient via the Fund's application platform. The accountability form is used for this.
- 2 If the activities have been implemented according to plan and all obligations attached to the grant have been met, the board determines the grant within ten weeks after submitting the accountability in accordance with the provision.
- 3 If it appears that activities have not or only partially been implemented, the grant may be set lower.
- 4 The board may give the recipient further instructions about monitoring compliance with the conditions attached to the grant provision.

Article 21. Accountability for grants of €25,000 or more

- 1 The grant recipient demonstrates by means of the accountability form that the activities for which the grant was provided have been performed and that the obligations attached to the grant have been met.
- 2 The grant recipient demonstrates by means of a financial report:
 - a what the realised eligible costs are, with a specification of the items;
 - b what the realised income is, including co-financing; and
 - c where applicable, what the total amount of the realised own contribution is.

Chapter 7: Final Provisions

Article 22. Protection of personal data

- 1 The Fund does not provide confidential information about business and manufacturing data to third parties.
- 2 The Fund handles personal data as referred to in Articles 22 to 33 of the General Data Protection Regulation Implementation Act carefully. The Fund uses personal data for no other purpose than that for which it was provided to the Fund, unless the provision follows from a legal obligation or evidently does not infringe on personal privacy.

Article 23. Hardship clause

In exceptional cases, the board may deviate from provisions in this scheme in favour of the interested party if application thereof leads to unreasonableness of overriding nature.

Article 24. Effective date and expiry

- 1 This scheme comes into effect on 1 September 2025.
- 2 The Festivals and Public Presentations Grant Scheme for the Creative Industry 2023-2024 is revoked.
- 3 Where other grant schemes of the Fund refer to the Festivals and Public Presentations Grant Scheme, the Creative Industries Festivals Grant Scheme 2025-2028 is meant.
- 4 The *Subsidiereglement Stimuleringsfonds Creatieve Industrie 2018* (Grant Regulations Creative Industries Fund NL 2018) does not apply to this scheme.
- 5 This scheme expires on 1 January 2029 with the understanding that it remains applicable to the settlement of grants provided under this scheme.

Article 25. Citation

This scheme is cited as: Creative Industries Festivals Grant Scheme 2025-2028. This scheme will be published in the Government Gazette.

*The Creative Industries Fund NL,
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