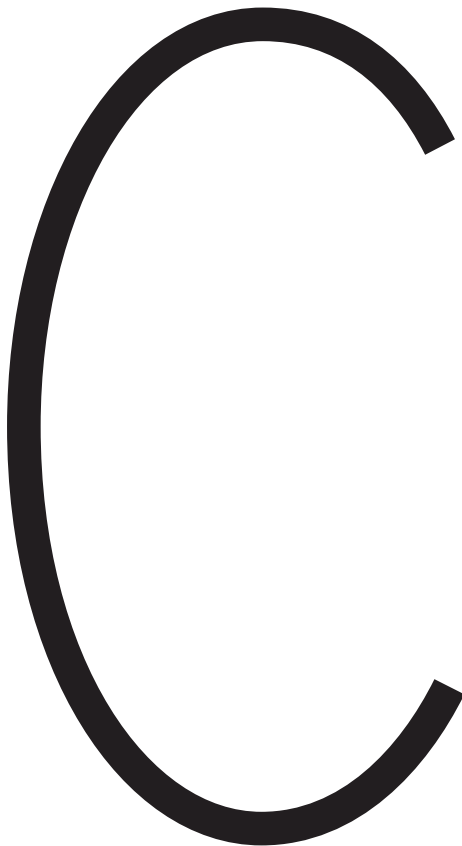


Open Call Building on Talent 2023 – experienced professionals



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Are you a design studio, agency, platform, collective or independent designer or maker with more than four years' professional experience and do you want to work with a talented starter on in-depth research or an experiment? Then submit an application for a research question formulated by you to the Open Call: Building on Talent.

With the Open Call: Building on Talent, we stimulate knowledge exchange between experienced and starting professionals in the creative industry. By creating workplaces in the form of collaboration projects, we also strengthen the connection starters have with the professional field. To bring about these collaborations, the Fund has set up two open calls:

- The first open call is aimed at design studios, agencies, platforms, collectives and independent designers and makers that have more than four years' professional experience in the creative industry. They should submit a proposal for a design challenge, a research question or an experiment, in which a role is reserved for a starting designer or maker.
- In the second open call, starters will respond to the selected workplaces and the associated design challenges, research questions and experiments. The starter may not have more than four years' professional experience. An external advisory committee will look for the best collaborations during the selection process for the second call.

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- Submission deadline: 24 April 2023, 17.00 at the latest
- Budget: € 210,000
- Number of grants: 20 workplaces at € 10,500
- Duration of the collaboration project: four months
- Start of the collaboration project: between 1 January 2024 and 1 March 2024, depending on the match
- Experience: at least four years' professional experience, meaning that you have been registered in the Chamber of Commerce since 2019 or earlier

who is this open call intended for?

This open call is for professionals who are located in the Netherlands and are active in the creative industry, like design studios, agencies, platforms, collectives and independent designers or makers with at least four years' professional experience. They can be active in the area of design, architecture and/or digital culture.

Please note:

There must be at least one designer, architect or maker involved in supervising the starter at the workplace. This supervisor must have worked professionally for at least four years within the area of design, architecture or digital culture. The supervisor could also be an intermediary, a programme maker or a curator who is active within the creative industry.

which projects are eligible for a grant?

This first open call pertains to proposals for collaboration projects around a current design challenge, research question or an experiment, which can be worked on with a starter for the duration of four months. Your proposal can be based on a self-chosen theme, something that fascinates you, a social challenge or another relevant topic. In your proposal, you need to reserve a role for a starting designer or maker and give a description of the proposed collaboration. Describe as well as possible what you expect of the starter. What kind of person are you looking for? Somebody with specific knowledge, for example? Or should the starter have certain skills? How much room is there for the starter to personally steer the collaboration project? And will the starter be able to personally interpret part of the challenge?

Please note:

- Only one proposal per applicant may be submitted in this open call.
- If you were successfully supported in a previous edition of the Open Call Building on Talent and want to submit another proposal, make sure your plan is clearly distinguishable from your previously supported proposal. You can only submit a proposal if the collaboration project of a previous round has been completed.

Have a look [here](#) at the selected collaboration projects from 2021 for inspiration.

how should the collaboration project be set up?

The grant is to be used for a part-time work period of four months. The collaboration project is to start between 1 January 2024 and 1 March 2024. Both the experienced party and the starter should commit themselves on a weekly basis. We expect a constructive collaboration that leads to substantive research or an experiment. Before the start of the collaboration, both parties have to draw up a collaboration agreement and a plan of action.

how much will be awarded to both parties?

The Fund is making a maximum grant of € 21,000 available for each collaboration. The parties will each receive € 10,500 of this amount by way of compensation for the hours invested in the collaboration. The experienced designer or maker is expected to commit one day a week to the project. The starter is expected to commit two days a week. In addition, we expect the starter to be offered a physical workplace for the duration of the collaboration. After the match, both parties can apply for an extra grant of a maximum of € 2,000. This contribution may be used to pay for any materials and travel expenses.

how are two parties matched up with each other?

The workplaces are selected through this first open call. In September 2023, the second open call will follow. Starting designers and makers can then respond to one of the selected workplaces and the associated challenge. The second open call is for designers and makers, who are located in the Netherlands and have at most four years' work experience within the disciplines of design, architecture or digital culture. They can have completed a relevant design course, but they can also have developed themselves professionally in practice, without having completed a relevant design course.

An external advisory committee will look for the best collaborations during the selection process for the second call. Matches are made between the parties based on the starter's profile, motivation and relevance to the selected proposal. If a match is made, an introductory meeting will follow to give shape to and record the collaboration. Please bear in mind that these meetings will take place in late December (week 49).

The Fund awards a grant to both parties, on condition that there is a collaboration agreement and a joint plan of action in place. Once these documents have been assessed positively, the decision will be made final and the collaboration project can go ahead.

submitting the application

Proposals can be submitted **up to and including Wednesday 24 April at 17.00 hours** via the Fund's [online application environment](#). Select the 'Open Call' grant scheme and then the 'Building on Talent 2023 – experienced professionals' round.

The proposal should consist of:

1. A fully completed application form:
 - an explanation of the applicant's position and mission;
 - an explanation of the chosen theme and a formulation of the design challenge, research question or experiment;
 - a motivation for and an explanation of the proposed collaboration;
 - insight into the role of the intended starter and the sought-after experience/knowledge;
2. A CV of the supervising professional (2 pages at most, A4 in PDF format);
3. A concise portfolio with recent and relevant work (10 pages at most, A4 in PDF format);
4. A digitally certified extract from the Commercial Register of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce (issued no more than one year ago);
5. A representative image for communication purposes.

If the application does not meet the above, the proposal will **not** be assessed.

Please note:

Make sure you create an account for the [online application environment](#) in good time. It takes one working day to activate a new account.

what is assessed?

Grant applications will be submitted to four external independent advisers for assessment. This committee assesses the plans based on the following three criteria:

1. the relevance of the selected design challenge;
2. the extent to which the design challenge and the selected approach match the applicant's expertise and portfolio; and
3. the way in which the collaboration with a starting maker or designer is proposed, with the added value of the collaboration project for both parties also being taken into account. The committee will also assess if the starter will be given enough room to add a personal interpretation to the project.

The projects that are positively assessed will be ranked based on the average assessment criteria scores. For this, the committee uses a five-point scale: 1. unsatisfactory; 2. moderate; 3. satisfactory 4. good; 5. very good. The committee will select a maximum of 20 proposals from the applications, provided that they are of sufficient quality.

grant procedure

The assessment of this open call is similar to a tender - this means that, within the available budget, a number of proposals will be preferred over other ones. Only positively assessed projects can be supported. The submitted proposals will be processed and assessed on the basis of the Fund's [Open Call Grant Scheme](#). The committee issues its advice on each application to the Fund's board. Any grants will be awarded on the basis of this grant scheme.

For this open call, the following articles of that grant scheme are **not** applicable:

- Article 4(1)(e), (f), (g), (j);
- Article 8(3);
- Article 18(2).

Applicants whose proposals are positively assessed, will receive a 'Conditionally positive' decision. Such proposals will be made final if there is a successful match with a starting designer or maker and on condition that there is a collaboration agreement and a joint plan of action in place.

acknowledgement of receipt and announcement of the selection

You will be sent an acknowledgement of receipt by email no later than two weeks after the closing date. The selection will be announced to applicants by no later than 23 June 2023 via the application environment. The Fund will only issue public communications about the proposals that have been selected. The Fund will conduct preliminary interviews with those selected between 23 June and 14 August 2023.

contact

For questions about the call and the procedure, please contact: Maria van der Togt via bouwenaantalent@stimuleringsfonds.nl or call +31(0)10-4361600. You may not submit a draft of the proposal to the Fund for this open call.