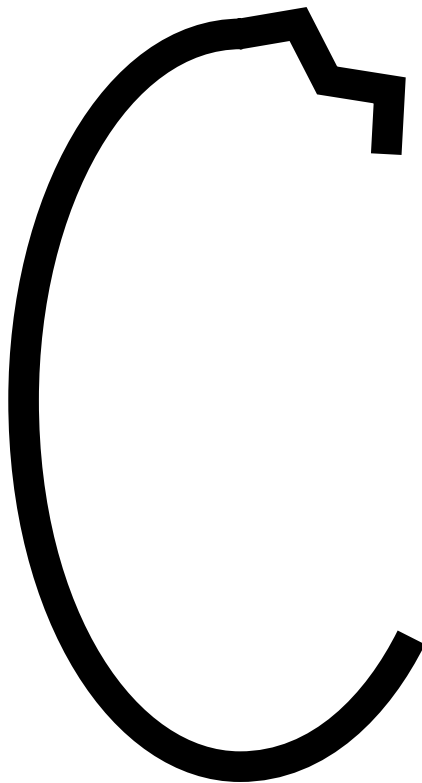


# Open Call Collective knowledge creation in architecture

creative industries fund NL



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**With the Open Call Collective knowledge creation in architecture, the Creative Industries Fund NL wants to stimulate network creation and knowledge sharing within the professional field of architecture. The call is aimed at individual designers, architects and design and architecture agencies with a maximum of five employees who want to work on collectivising their knowledge and expertise in the field of social issues. Proposals can be submitted up to and including 3 October 2024.**

## **Open Call Collective knowledge creation in architecture**

- submission deadline: 3 October 2024 at the latest
- number of grants: 12 proposals at € 20,000
- total available budget: € 240,000
- project period: December 2024 up to and including December 2025

### **incentive and objectives**

The Fund has observed that designers and researchers across the architectural field work on urgent social issues separately, gaining a lot of new knowledge in the process. However, this knowledge is not necessarily shared with a wider audience or further built on. This causes knowledge development to become fragmented within the field. It is, for the most part, larger agencies that have the advantage: they have more access to and resources for the development and transfer of knowledge and as a result have more clout. Individual designers and smaller agencies cannot afford these investments as easily, leaving them less able to make a significant impact on a larger scale. At the same time, these agencies are often strongly embedded locally and have a keen view on or ideas for changing and improving the area of expertise and the profession.

The Fund finds that the architecture industry, in which nearly sixty percent of the agencies are small organisations with five or fewer employees, is facing a big challenge.<sup>1</sup> With this open call, the Fund is encouraging designers and architects to collectivise, among other things, their thematic, procedural, technical and theoretical knowledge through innovative collaborative forms, in order to gain access to opportunities that would otherwise be out of reach of individual practices. By setting up collaborative partnerships between various smaller architecture practices, an opportunity is created to unite knowledge and expertise in order to operate as a collective on a comparable scale as larger, established parties.

The Fund is focussing on smaller practices with at most five employees with pioneering perspectives on social issues. With this open call, the Fund wants to encourage these parties to cooperate in knowledge networks. By engaging more actively in unlocking and utilising knowledge within a supportive network of like-minded parties, these parties could, for example, make significant progress in fields like upscaling sustainable construction materials and processes, transformation instead of demolition, technological innovation of the building practice or in social issues such as energy and housing security. With a contribution from the Fund, they are being enabled to build on their professional development and make a difference using their joint strengths.

### **who is this open call intended for?**

This open call is aimed at architects, urban planners, landscape architects and other spatial designers who run a practice within the Dutch area of expertise. The call is explicitly intended for smaller architecture practices, such as self-employed persons, one-man businesses or agencies with a maximum of five employees, and not for larger agencies. The call is also open to architects who are or were employed by a larger agency, but who want, in addition or afterwards, to work independently in the architectural field.

<sup>1</sup> Daniël van Hassel and Mark Hesselting. [Sectoranalyse: Duurzame inzetbaarheid in de architectenbranche](#). CAOP on the instructions of Stichting Fonds Architectenbureaus, The Hague, 2022.

An applicant must meet the open call's following conditions:

- is active as a designer or a researcher in architecture, urban planning, garden and landscape architecture or interior design;
- has not enrolled in an architecture degree;
- has been active for at least 1 year and embedded within the Dutch professional field;
- runs a small architecture practice (self-employed person, one-man business or an agency with no more than five employees);
- all of those who take part in the collaborative partnership must meet the foregoing conditions.

### **which projects are eligible for a grant?**

Within this open call you can apply for a grant to set up and implement projects in which different design practices enter into an innovative collaborative partnership with each other. It concerns projects with social relevance, in which, within a collaborative partnership, the knowledge, issue, theme and/or expertise already developed separately by the practices concerned, will be built on together to reach a higher level. Ideas could include: a combined project researching new construction techniques and materials, setting up and organising in-depth or technical workshops for the professional field on a specific theme to raise your profile as the leading expertise, or the implementation of a pilot project for a specific challenge or location, which can then be presented to a client. It is important that the proposal not only discusses the project's content, but also the steps necessary to set up an innovative collaborative partnership and to position it in such a way that the results are received effectively.

### **which projects are not eligible for a grant?**

This open call is specifically aimed at setting up collaborative partnerships between equal parties within the architectural field. Those collaborative partnerships with disciplines outside the architecture industry are therefore not eligible for this open call.

### **submitting an application**

Applications can be submitted up to and including 17.00 hours on **3 October 2024** via the Fund's [application platform](#). Select the 'Open Call Collective knowledge creation in architecture' round.

An application should consist of a fully completed application form, in which you give answers to the following questions:

- Under which discipline (architecture, urban planning, garden and landscape architecture, interior design or multidisciplinary) does the collaborative project fall?
- Which parties are going to work together?
- How many people work for each of the core partners? This includes both salaried and self-employed people who worked on a structural basis.
- Give a short summary of the collaborative project. (no more than 800 characters)
- Describe the most important obstacle to continued development. How does the collaborative project offer a solution for this? (no more than 1,200 characters)
- Substantiate the choice of partner for the collaboration and describe the working relationships in the project. (no more than 800 characters)
- Describe how the collaborative partnership and your project positions itself within the Dutch professional field. (no more than 1,000 characters)
- Define the substantive case the collaborative partnership is going to work on. What are the reasons, issue, design method and expected results? (no more than 2,000 characters)
- Describe the set-up of the collaborative project and the steps to be implemented. (no more than 1,000 characters)
- Who are the intended target groups and stakeholders? How will they receive the results of the collaboration? And how will the acquired knowledge be shared with the wider professional field? (no more than 2,000 characters)

In addition, we ask you to upload the following appendices: we je om de volgende bijlagen te uploaden:

- Budget and finance plan (no more than 2 pages, A4 in PDF format);
- A schedule (no more than 1 page, A4 in PDF format);
- A portfolio of the core partners' earlier work showing relevant visual material (no more than 10 pages, A4 in PDF format);
- Additional visual material to support the proposal (no more than 10 pages, A4 in PDF format);
- CVs of the parties involved (no more than 2 pages per party, A4 in PDF format);
- Certified extracts from the Chamber of Commerce relating to the core partners (issued no more than one year ago);
- Collaborative partnership agreement between the core partners.

The conditions and grounds for rejection as drawn up in articles 4 and 5 of the Creative Industries Fund NL [Open Call Grant Scheme](#) apply to this open call. Articles 4.j, 5.l and 5.m are excepted. The activities must ensue from the problem analysis as much as possible and if the result contains sensitive company information, this does not need to be made public.

Further applicable conditions:

- only one application can be submitted per applicant;
- the collaborative partnership may consist of a maximum of three core partners: the applicant plus the parties that act as co-applicants.

Please note: make sure you create an account for the online application platform in good time. It takes one working day to activate a new account.

## grant

A fixed amount of €20,000 is available for each project. This is the amount that will be awarded for each grant. Co-financing is not required. The grant must be divided between all collaborative parties in proportion to the time invested.

## what is assessed?

Grant applications will be submitted for assessment to a committee of independent advisors. This committee assesses the plans based on the following three criteria:

- a. the design and substantive quality of the applicants and the proposal;
- b. relevance and positioning of the identified practice problem and the proposed collaborative partnership;
- c. effectiveness of the proposal in terms of set-up, method and intended result.

## grant procedure

The assessment is similar to a tender - the first twelve positively assessed proposals will be preferred over other ones. The submitted proposals will be processed and assessed on the basis of the Fund's [Open Call Grant Scheme](#) and on the criteria of this open call. The committee issues its advice to the Fund's board for each application.

## acknowledgement of receipt and announcement of the selection

You will receive an acknowledgement of receipt by email no later than two weeks after the closing date. The selection will be announced in mid-November.

## contact

For more information about the open call and the procedure, please contact the Architecture team via [architectuur@stimuleringsfonds.nl](mailto:architectuur@stimuleringsfonds.nl) or call +31(0)10-4361600.