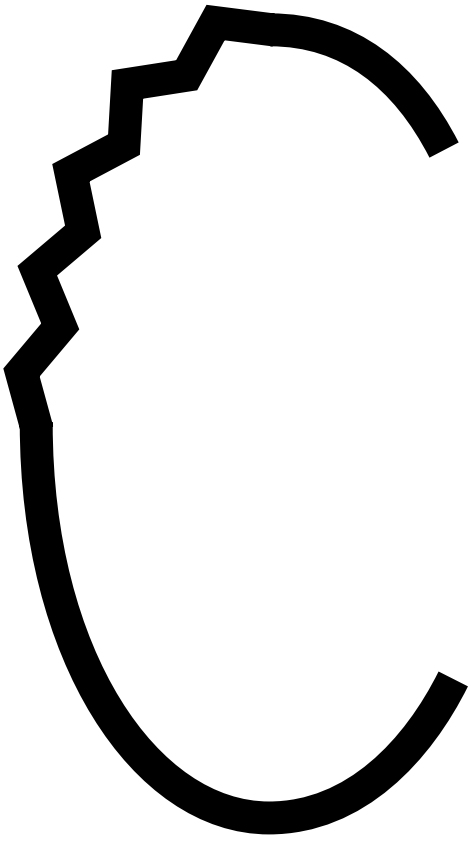
Open Call Contemporary Use of Crafts #5

This document is a descriptive translation of the original Dutch *Open Oproep Eigentijds gebruik van ambachten #5*. 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.

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Are you a designer, an architect or a digital maker who explores innovative applications of artisanal knowledge, materials and/or techniques in collaboration with an artisan? This open call offers the opportunity to explore together new uses of traditional and contemporary crafts. You should submit your application by Tuesday 26 January 2027,16:00 CET, at the latest.

the details

- For equal collaborative projects between at least one artisan and at least one designer, architect or digital maker who are jointly committed to the preservation and/or renewal of the craft.
- Total budget: € 400,000.
- Contribution per project: a minimum of € 10,000 and a maximum of € 30,000. Co-financing is not required.
- Deadline for submission: 26 January 2027,16:00 CET.
- Announcement of selection: on 13 April 2027 at the latest.

what is this call's objective?

With this open call, the Fund wants to promote equal collaborations between artisans and designers, architects and/or digital makers who are working towards a sustainable future for craftsmanship. The collaboration is fundamentally aimed at strengthening, renewing and/or making artisanal knowledge and techniques more sustainable through design.

Since the Netherlands ratified the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2012, artisans have been encouraged to safeguard their craft and keep it going for the future. Through various national culture funds, the Minister of Education, Culture and Science wants to stimulate the contemporary development of crafts and has therefore made a budget available for the 2025-2028 period for preserving and developing intangible heritage.

who is this open call intended for?

This open call is open to collaborative ventures between at least one professional artisan and at least one professional designer, architect and/or digital maker, who works independently or at an agency or a cultural institution and whose work relates to the fields of design, architecture and digital culture or any crossovers between them.

Both the artisan and the maker may submit the application, as long as they are registered in the Commercial Register of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce or one of the Chambers of Commerce that fall within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Please be aware that no grant will be provided to:

- institutions that receive a government grant under the cultural Basic Infrastructure (BIS) scheme or institutions that have received a grant from the Fund under the Four-year Institutional Grant Scheme for the Creative Industry 2025–2028;
- applicants who are or will be supported with a grant under the Talent Development Grant Scheme, the Open Call Emerging Design Practices ABCSSS or the Open Call Self-taught Designer at the time of the submission or in 2027.

which projects are eligible for a grant?

- Grant applications can be submitted for equal collaborative projects between at least one artisan and at least one designer, architect or digital maker who are both committed to the preservation and renewal of the craft.
- The project contributes to strengthening, renewing and/or making the craft more sustainable.
- There is a need for a grant of between € 10,000 and € 30,000. Co-financing is not required.

- The plan provides insight into the chosen craft, the design method, the collaboration, the scheduled activities and the intended result.
- You can apply for the grant for projects that, for example, focus on:
  - experiments with materials and/or techniques;
  - research by design or artistic research in which knowledge sharing plays a role;
  - a collaboration within a workplace or lab;
  - the development or application of innovative bio- or other materials or local raw materials used for a particular craft;
  - using digital or other technologies within artisanal processes;
  - preserving artisanal methods, materials or techniques.

Please be aware that the terms of the Open Call Grant Scheme apply to this open call. This means that under this scheme you may not apply for a grant for activities that have already been implemented, nor for acquiring any items that will still have a value after the project nor for standard business costs.

what is assessed?

Grant applications will be submitted for assessment to an external independent advisory committee. This committee applies the Advisory Committee Procedure as published on the Fund's website and bases its opinion on the criteria set out below:

a. **The intended added value for the craft**
   This criterion looks at how the project contributes to the preservation, development and/or sustainable future of the craft through design. The committee assesses whether the project raises unexpected questions, offers new perspectives, or develops or applies innovative techniques. In this regard, the committee considers how the applicant's proposal relates to existing artisanal knowledge and practices, and how design contributes to strengthening, renewing and/or ensuring the sustainability of the craft.
b. **The artistic quality of the project**
   The artistic quality, the relationship between the project's form and substance and the degree to which design and craft are brought together to produce a compelling result, is assessed in this criterion. What is the artistic objective or principle and how is this translated into research, an experiment or another form of expression? How is the craft linked to design, and what artistic and innovative outcomes does this produce? In this regard, the committee also considers the portfolio/visual material submitted.
c. **Effectiveness in terms of set-up, methods and the expertise involved**
   With this criterion, the committee considers the project's practical implementation, assessing how much the objective and set-up accord with each other, looking at the clarity of the plan of action and the effectiveness of the selected method. The committee also assesses whether the expertise involved gives it confidence that the project will yield meaningful results.
d. **The quality and equality of the collaboration**
   The committee scrutinises the quality and equality of the collaboration with this criterion, assessing the rationale behind the choice of collaboration partner(s), the extent to which the collaboration is structured on an equal footing and how much the expertise in the fields of design and craftsmanship complements one another. In this regard, the committee also takes into account the significance of the collaboration for both the practices of the parties involved and the wider field.

how do you submit an application?

Applications can be submitted via the Fund's application platform from **Thursday 22 October 2026, 15.00 CEST** up to **Tuesday 26 January 2027, 16.00 CET**, by selecting 'Contemporary Use of Crafts #5' in the 'Open Call' scheme.

The application should consist of the following documents. Pay close attention to the maximum file size and maximum number of pages, including visual material, of the various types of documents.

1. A fully completed **application form.**
2. A **project plan** (5 A4 pages at most, including visual material, not larger than 8 MB, in PDF), in which you should at least set out:
    a. the chosen craft and which techniques, processes and/or materials are going to be used;
    b. which design method is going to be applied;
    c. who the collaboration is with and why, along with a breakdown of the division of roles;
    d. a plan of action that provides an overview of the scheduled activities;
    e. what you hope to achieve and when you would consider the project a success.
3. A **schedule** (1 A4 page at most, not larger than 4 MB, in PDF). Projects may not start before the decision date of 13 April 2027.
4. A **balanced budget and funding plan** following the Fund's format (2 A4 pages at most, not larger than 4 MB, in PDF).
5. A **portfolio** containing visual material from both parties (15 A4 pages at most, not larger than 12 MB, in PDF).
6. Concise **CVs or biographies** of the parties involved (2 A4 pages at most, not larger than 4 MB, in PDF).
7. A **collaboration agreement** signed by the collaboration partners. To draw up the letter(s) of intent, you can use the Fund's 'Letter of Intent Template' or draft one yourself (a single document, not larger than 4 MB, in PDF).
8. A digitally certified **extract from the Dutch Chamber of Commerce** (issued no more than 1 year ago) relating to the applicant.
9. A **representative image** of the project, for communication purposes by the Fund (1 JPG at most, not larger than 4 MB).

Please be aware:

- Everything has to be submitted as a PDF in portrait layout, except for the project image. For all documents, use a minimum font size of 10 and line spacing of 1;
- If the application does not meet the foregoing requirements, no substantive assessment can take place.
- Make sure you create an account for the application platform in good time, as it takes one working day to activate a new account.

grant procedure

- The budget available for this open call is € 400,000, which is expected to support 13-15 projects.
- The submitted proposals will be assessed based on the aforesaid criteria.
- An independent committee issues its advice on each application to the Fund's board.
- Only positively assessed applications will be supported.
- The processing and assessment is done on the basis of the Fund's Open Call Grant Scheme. In addition to the provisions set out in the Open Call Grant Scheme, the following articles of the Open Call: Contemporary Use of Crafts are applicable:
    – Article 5.1.: Contrary to what is stated in the Open Call Grant Scheme, professional artisans may also submit an application;
    – Article 5.1.: Contrary to what is stated in the Open Call Grant Scheme, it is not possible to submit an application as an observer.

prioritisation

The assessment is similar to a tender. If the total amount requested in the applications eligible for funding exceeds the budget available, applications will be prioritised. The

following procedure will then be applied:

1. The applications will be prioritised based on the average of the scores given to the criteria, creating a ranking list of the proposals that have been assessed.
2. The grant will be awarded to the applicants whose applications are ranked the highest.
3. The highest-ranking proposals will be provided with the amount advised by the committee, as long as the total amount does not exceed the grant ceiling.
4. The applicant, whose award would lead to the grant ceiling being exceeded, will be awarded the amount up to the grant ceiling provided that this is at least 50% of the amount applied for. If the remaining amount available up to the grant ceiling is less than 50% of the amount applied for, then the application will be rejected.
5. If applications end up being ranked the same based on the average final score and the grant ceiling would be exceeded with these applications, priority between those proposals will be given to the one that scores the highest for criterion a., as referred to in the first paragraph. If this score is the same for both applications, the score for criterion b will be then considered, followed by c and d.

acknowledgement of receipt and announcement of the selection

You will receive an acknowledgement of receipt via the Fund's application platform no later than two weeks after the closing date. The selection will be announced via the application platform no later than eleven weeks after the closing date.

contact

For questions about the open call and the procedure, please contact Joannette van der Veer via j.vanderveer@stimuleringsfonds.nl and/or Robin Alberts via r.alberts@stimuleringsfonds.nl or call 010 436 16 00.