

Open Call Mentorship Building Beyond



**creatieve industries
fund NL**

**design
architecture
digital culture**

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The Creative Industries Fund NL and The Prince Claus Fund jointly organize the programme Building Beyond. Are you a creative, designer, artist, thinker or architect from Africa and are you interested in a mentorship programme? Can you reimagine the future of your city through design and creative problem-solving? This is an invitation to dream with us.

In this open call, we invite you to define the future of public space, community and functionality on a growing continent by activating the imagined possibilities of your localised contextualities.

Across the world, urban centres and youth populations are growing rapidly, but nowhere more so than on the African continent. With increased levels of population, polarising societies, anthropogenic climate change, and rising levels of inequality; we urgently need new perspectives and sustainable solutions for how we live and what the future could behold. We need radical ideas grounded in community and care. Ideas of hope that dream new realities into being.

At the Prince Claus Fund and the Creative Industries Fund NL, we believe in making space for new generations of creatives who actively challenge dominant power structures and put forward new methods for engaging with communities. We believe in making space for unique perspectives on the world and in amplifying the exciting future-proof solutions you have for your communities. Our viewpoint is that these critical design practices and creatively driven solutions could catalyse new forms of activism, stimulate change, reaffirm agency and strengthen ownership.

This belief is at the core of Building Beyond, a new mentorship programme for individuals from Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Egypt, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Tanzania, Tunisia, Chad, South Africa, and South-Sudan.

Through Building Beyond, we are forming a space where you and your peers can reflect on the future of your communities. This is an alternative educational structure that aims at fostering thought leadership, promoting criticality, and reframing design-based practices. This programme is part of a longer conversation on how creative practices rooted in locality, community, queer theory, decoloniality and/or intersectional approaches can lead us toward new perspectives and fresher methodologies, as well as promote transformative urban agendas on how we inhabit the world and our continent. We invite creatives, designers, artists, thinkers, architects, and those working anywhere in-between to join us.

mentorship building beyond

Cities are defined by the energetic intermingling of different people, politics, cultural expressions, infrastructures and economies. In the turmoil of urban life, we struggle with the ownership of land and public spaces, monopolised access to the property, the escalating effects of climate change, increased levels of A.I. and street surveillance, as well as shrinking civic and political spaces. In this reality, creatives are opening up spaces for autonomy to reimagine what society and community mean; while dreaming new forms of life into being.

For the mentorship Building Beyond, we invite you as an emerging artist, designer, creative and thinker whose practice relates to design, public space, architecture, activism, policy, and the digital space to propose new methods for investigating challenges relating to your city, its surroundings and its communities. We are excited by experimental out of the box practices that move beyond disciplinary and thematic boundaries and especially welcome applications from individuals who consider community needs and desires while promoting the inclusion of women and other marginalised groups.

Building Beyond is an alternative educational space that brings together 12 creative thinkers and doers with at least 5 years of experience in design practice, design research and design disciplines. It merges the creatives with 4 mentors in a year-long programme. Each participant will develop a body of work, receive mentorship guidance, an active exchange of ideas and opportunities for collaboration. If you are selected, you will be part of an international and interdisciplinary peer group that jointly dives deeper into this practice.

The 4 mentors will guide you throughout the programme, which consists of two Labs (week-long mentoring intensives, one in person and one online), monthly online masterclasses, peer-group sessions and a visitor's programme in the Netherlands where there will be opportunities for exchange and to build your network with the Dutch field. Each participant receives an award of € 10,000 to work on the concept for a body of work that is outlined in their application.

how to apply?

Applications can be completed via the [Prince Claus Awards Platform](#). Please consult the [Guidelines & Eligibility](#) before applying and check out the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information.

timeline

The deadline for the submission of project applications is **1 November 2021 23:00 CET**. Only complete submissions received in the platform before the deadline can be considered.

Prince Claus Fund

The Prince Claus Fund's mission is to support, honour and connect artists and cultural practitioners in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Eastern Europe, especially where cultural expression is under pressure. We stand firm with those who create, who believe in the transformative power of culture, who advance new ideas and develop new perspectives.

Creative Industries Fund NL

Creative Industries Fund NL is the Dutch cultural fund for architecture, design and digital culture, as well as every imaginable crossover. It strives to make a substantial contribution to the quality of professional design practice within and especially between the disciplines of architecture, design and digital culture. Part of this endeavour is the interdisciplinary interplay between the cultural, social and economic domains. Creative Industries Fund NL supports exceptional and innovative projects and activities of designers, makers and cultural institutions in the creative industries.