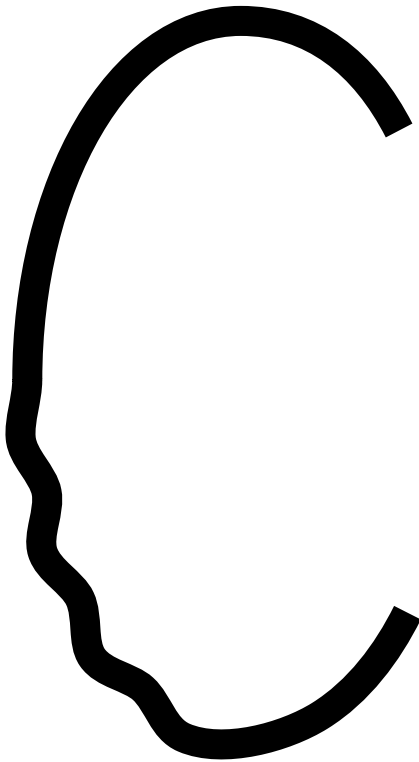


Open Call Professionalisation and deepening of the practice



**creatieve industries
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**design
architecture
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With the Open Call Professionalisation and deepening of the practice, the Creative Industries Fund NL is offering professionals in the Netherlands and the Caribbean part of the Kingdom the opportunity to develop a distinctive strategy to achieve their own future-proof practice. This open call is aimed at designers and makers within the fields of design, architecture, digital culture and the crossovers between these fields, and focuses on regional spread. Proposals may be submitted until 5 pm on Wednesday 4 September 2024.

Developing a long-term vision and strategy is important for your design practice. In a professional practice, you schedule time for both your artistic development and your growth as an entrepreneur. How do you find the right balance between the two? What is your vision of the future and which strategy can you use to achieve that?

in short

- for makers and designers who have run their own practice for at least three years
- apply for up to € 8,250 to professionalise your practice
- submission deadline: Wednesday 4 September 2024
- results: Tuesday 15 October 2024

who is this open call for?

- This open call is intended for makers and designers with their own practice within the fields of design, architecture or digital culture and the crossovers between these fields. By this we mean garden and landscape architects, graphic designers, game developers, urban designers, product designers, interior architects, fashion designers, digital storytellers, sound designers, jewellery designers and illustrators and makers in many other sub-disciplines.
- Proposals may be submitted by applicants who are based in the Kingdom of the Netherlands and have had their own practice for **at least three years**. You can apply individually or as a partnership, such as a duo or collective.

No application can be submitted by:

- Designers or design studios who have been supported in a previous edition of this open call.
- Designers who at the time of application have another application pending with the Creative Industries Fund NL.

for which projects can a grant application be submitted?

This open call provides an opportunity to conduct research in the areas of professionalisation, reflection and deepening of the practice, to improve your practice as a designer or maker. The maximum contribution of the Fund is € 8,250. The proposal needs to be completed **within 12 months** of the announcement of the selection. With this open call, the Fund wants to strengthen the design field and promote connections between culture, entrepreneurship and society.

Specifically, the contribution can be used to cover the following costs:

- own hours to take on this trajectory;
- hiring specific knowledge;
- travel expenses;
- any material costs.

Please note: regular company costs will **not** be paid, for example:

- work space rental;
- office costs;
- developing a corporate identity and website;
- obtaining legal advice;
- further developing a current design.

what are the requirements for my project plan?

You have to engage at least two advisers/mentors for the implementation of your project plan. For example, a business coach, an artistic coach, a financial adviser, a branding strategist or somebody who can advise you about impact. You could also ask curators, intermediaries or other designers for advice.

Motivate your choice for these partners or parties by making a link with the goal and your long-term vision as stated in the project plan. Explain in detail why these persons match the goals you have set yourself.

submitting the application

To qualify for this grant, you write a proposal. This consists of several documents. Listed below is what should be in this application. Your proposal can be submitted **until Wednesday 4 September 2024, 17:00 (5 pm) at the latest** via the Creative Industries Fund NL's [application environment](#). Select the round 'Open Call Professionalisation and deepening of the practice 2024'.

The proposal consists of:

- 1 A **project plan** (1 - 2 pages A4 format, as PDF, 8 MB) containing:
 - a *your own mission and position*: what do you make and why? Give a brief profile of your practice as maker, designer, studio or collective. Explain your vision, mission and how you position yourself in relation to similar makers and designers in your field;
 - b *objective long-term practice development and approach*: what is your future vision for your practice? What activities do you want to undertake as part of your development and why do you choose this approach?;
 - c *suggested collaborations*: Which partners/consultants would you like to work with? Choose at least two parties. Why do you want to collaborate with them? Also explain in which way the collaboration will take place. What method or strategy will be used in the context of the development goal?;
 - d *intended effect and expected outcome*: briefly explain the intended effect for your practice, both in terms of artistic development and entrepreneurship. What kind of result do you expect? Why do you expect this result?;
- 2 A **planning** (max. 1 page A4 format, as PDF, 4 MB);
- 3 A **budget including coverage plan** (max. 2 pages A4 format, as PDF, 4 MB);
- 4 Your **CV** (max. 1 page A4 format per person, as PDF, 4 MB);
- 5 Your **portfolio** of recent and relevant work (max. 10 pages A4 format, as PDF, 12 MB);
- 6 An **extract from the register of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce** (max. 1 year old);
- 7 **Letters of intent** from counselors or coaches (optional, max. 4 MB).

You have to upload a total of six separate PDF files. If the submission does not meet the above description, a proper evaluation of the proposal cannot take place. The last PDF file is optional but is strongly advised.

N.B.:

- Create an account in good time for the [application environment](#). Validation of a new user account can take up to one working day.
- Refer to the Grant Application Guideles - Open Call before submitting your application. The guide provides direction with regard to the grant application and drawing up a project plan.

what are the assessment criteria?

The processing and assessment of the proposals submitted is carried out within the framework of the Fund's [Open Call Grant Scheme](#) and the Open Call Professionalisation and deepening of the practice. For each application, the independent advisory committee issues a recommendation to the Board of the Fund. The committee makes an assessment based on the following criteria:

- the artistic significance of the practice;
- the extent to which the approach fits the professionalisation goal;
- the quality of the contribution of the partners/advisors involved;
- the sharpness of the reflection on the expected added value for a more future-proof practice.

Each dossier is assessed by the individual advisers on the basis of the four criteria above. This is done using the following five-point scale for each criterion:

1. unsatisfactory 2. moderate 3. satisfactory 4. good 5. very good.

Applications are ranked based on the average final score given to the proposal by the committee.

available budget and regional spread

A budget of € 182,500 is available for this open call. This means that 22 positively assessed projects can be supported.

The budget is divided among 13 regions: the provinces of Drenthe, Flevoland, Friesland, Gelderland, Groningen, Limburg, Noord-Brabant, Noord-Holland, Overijssel, Utrecht, Zeeland, Zuid-Holland and the Caribbean part of the Kingdom (Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Sint Eustatius and Saba). Each region has room to award at least one positively assessed application. The remaining nine spots will be awarded based on the highest scoring positively assessed applications on the ranking list.

Applicants are classified by region based on the place of establishment as mentioned in the Chamber of Commerce extract. The proposed activities or cooperation partners do not necessarily have to take place in the same region.

important dates

- online consultation hours: Thursday 1 August 2024 and Wednesday 14 August 2024
- opening date: Wednesday 31 July 2024
- submission deadline: Wednesday 4 September 2024
- confirmation of receipt: Thursday 12 September 2024
- results: Tuesday 15 October 2024

contact

The Fund organises online consultation hours where you can learn more and ask questions about this open call. You can register for the consultation hours [here](#).

For questions about the open call and the procedure, please contact Chloë Neeleman via c.neeleman@stimuleringsfonds.nl or Dewi Kruijk at d.kruijk@stimuleringsfonds.nl or call via 010-436 1600.

If you have a more general question, have a look at our '[frequently asked questions](#)' page. If you want to set up an artistic or other project that does not specifically concern the development of your creative practice, have a look at one of our [other grant schemes](#).