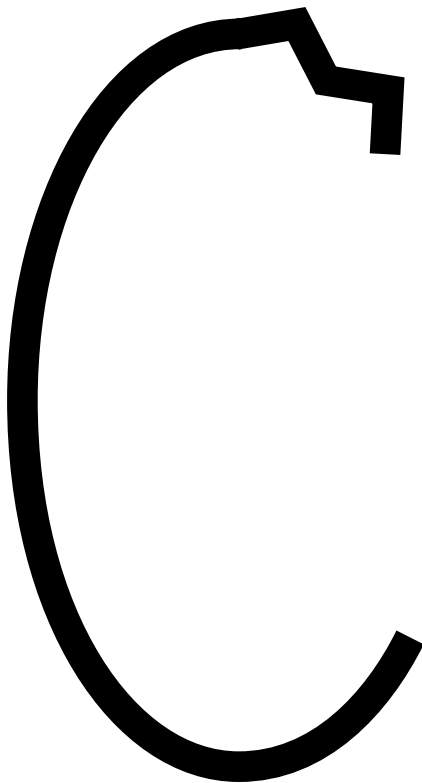


Open Call Professionalization and deepening of the practice #9

creative industries fund NL



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Whether you have a practice as a fashion designer, game developer or landscape architect – COVID-19 has created new challenges. With this open call, the Creative Industries Fund NL is offering professionals within the fields of design, architecture and digital culture the opportunity to develop a distinctive strategy to achieve their own future-proof practice. Proposals may be submitted until Wednesday 20 April 2022.

The COVID-19 crisis has greatly increased the urgency to reflect, professionalize and think strategically about the future. More than ever, we have experienced that ongoing assignments can suddenly grind to a halt, and that acquiring new assignments has become a lot more challenging due to the disappearance of informal encounters. How can you achieve new and distinctive forms of acquisition? How do you ensure that you remain visible to others? And what is the best way to renew your practice? A long-term vision and strategy, both in artistic and entrepreneurial terms, are therefore of great importance.

Open Call Professionalization and deepening of the practice (during and after COVID-19)

- submission deadline: 20 April 2022
- number of grants: 40 projects à € 7,500
- period: 12 months

who is this open call for?

This open call is intended for makers and designers with their own practice within the fields of digital culture, design or architecture and the crossovers between these fields. By this we mean garden and landscape architects, graphic designers, game developers, urban designers, product designers, social designers, interior architects, fashion designers, collectives, digital makers, observers, storytellers and makers in many other sub-disciplines.

Proposals may be submitted by applicants who are based in the Netherlands and have had their own practice for at least three years.

For this project, you need to collaborate with at least two partners or gain knowledge from at least two external parties. The choice of these partners or parties should be justified in the plan. Designers or design studios who have been supported in a previous edition of this open call and who are currently still involved in an ongoing project cannot submit a proposal. However, you can submit a plan if your grant process from a previous edition has already been completed. When submitting a new plan, you should reflect on the results of the previous support. The plan must be clearly distinguishable from the previously supported application.

for which projects can a grant application be submitted?

This open call provides an opportunity to conduct research in the areas of professionalization, reflection and deepening of the practice. The Fund expects applicants to provide insight in particular into a vision for the future and problem definition in their proposal, and to set out a long-term development plan, involving at least two partners or advisers. In this way, the Fund aims to strengthen the design field and boost connections between culture, entrepreneurship and society.

The proposal needs to be completed within 12 months of the announcement of the selection. The maximum contribution is € 7,500. The contribution can be used to cover costs that support the stated objective within the open call, for example:

- hours worked (including own hours)
- travel expenses
- hiring specific knowledge
- any material costs

N.B.: No application can be made for regular running costs, such as studio rent, office costs, the development of a corporate identity and website, obtaining legal advice or for the further development of an existing design.

what are the assessment criteria?

Grant applications are submitted to an independent advisory committee for assessment. This committee assesses the proposal to gauge how consistent it is and the extent to which it meets the criteria for this open call. In the assessment, design practices associated with the various (sub)disciplines, the circumstances in which the applicant works, and the methodology being used are taken into account. The advisers base their recommendation on the following criteria:

- the sharpness of the reflection on the development of your own practice until now and how this step can add value for a more future-proof practice;
- the quality of the action plan in relation to the intended result and dealing with the COVID-19 reality;
- the artistic quality of the portfolio;
- the quality of the contribution of the partners/advisers involved.

Each dossier is assessed by the individual advisers on the basis of the 4 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.

From the plans submitted, and depending on sufficient quality, the committee selects a maximum of 40 proposals.

submitting the application

Your proposal can be submitted **until Wednesday 20 April 2022 at the latest** via the Creative Industries Fund NL's [online application environment](#). Select the round 'Open Call Professionalization and deepening of the practice #9'.

The proposal consists of:

- 1 a project plan that focuses on reflection, practice development and possible implementation (max. 7 pages A4 format, as PDF) containing:
 - a a vision on the positioning of the maker, designer or studio in relation to the professional field and a future vision on your own practice (the proposal demonstrates that the designer is encountering limitations in their current practice due to COVID-19);
 - b a clear description of the problem in your own practice for long-term development;
 - c an action plan with justification and explanation of at least two partners/advisers who will be involved in concretization and/or implementation (e.g. by providing guidance or exchanging knowledge);
 - d an explanation of the intended effect for your own practice, both for artistic development and entrepreneurship;
 - e a vision on the relevance of the approach developed within your own design practice for the design field and how this can be shared with others;
- 2 a planning (max. 1 page, PDF, A4, upload in the same document as project plan);
- 3 a budget (max. 1 page, PDF, A4);
- 4 CVs of the designer(s) involved (max. 2 pages, PDF, A4);
- 5 a portfolio of recent and relevant work (max. 10 pages, PDF, A4);
- 6 an extract from the register of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce (max. 1 year old);
- 7 a representative image.

If the submission does not comply with the above description, no assessment of the proposal can take place.

N.B.:

- Create an account in good time for the [online application environment](#) and become familiar with the application form. Validation of a new user account can take up to one working day.
- Refer to the [Grant Application Guide Open Call](#) before submitting your application. The guide provides direction with regard to the grant application and drawing up a project plan.
- If you have been successfully supported in a previous edition of this open call, you should reflect on the results of the previous support when submitting a new plan. The plan must be clearly distinguishable from the previously submitted application.

grant procedure

The assessment of an open call takes the form of a tender: this means that, within the available budget, a number of proposals will be prioritized over other submissions. Only projects with a positive assessment can be supported. The processing and assessment of the proposals submitted is carried out within the framework of the Fund's [Open Call Grant Scheme](#), and in particular, the extent to which the application aligns with the criteria of the open call. For each application, the committee issues a recommendation to the Board of the Fund. Any subsidy is awarded on the basis of this grant scheme.

confirmation of receipt and selection announcement

You will receive confirmation of receipt by e-mail at the latest two weeks after the closing date. The selection will be announced to applicants via the application environment no later than 1 June 2022.

contact

For questions about the open call and the procedure, please contact Dewi Kruijk at d.kruijk@stimuleringsfonds.nl or Carlijn Limburg at c.limburg@stimuleringsfonds.nl or via 010-436 1600. For this open call you may not submit a draft proposal to the Fund for advice.

questions?

This extra Open Call Professionalization and deepening of the practice has been made possible by the fifth support package made available by State Secretary Uslu. The call specifically addresses the policy objective: *promoting a healthy and innovative design infrastructure*. The open call is being issued for the ninth time and it focuses on the fields of design, architecture and digital culture and every possible crossover between these disciplines. View [here](#) the grants awarded through the last open call.