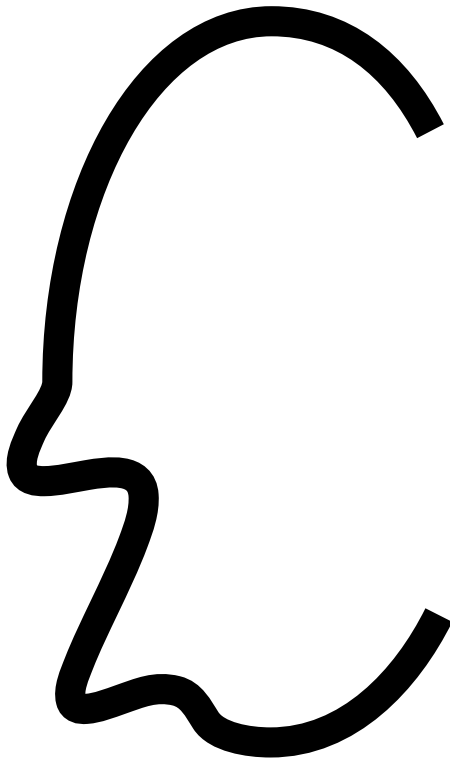


Open Call Residency Suriname 2027

This document is a descriptive translation of the original Dutch Open Oproep Residency Suriname 2027. 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 an interdisciplinary maker within the disciplines of design, architecture and digital culture and would you like to develop new work from the perspective of research, involvement and exchange in Suriname? In 2027, the Creative Industries Fund NL is offering a dynamic residency at three different locations in Suriname, namely Paramaribo, Moengo and Frederiksdorp. Together with local makers, you will work on projects rooted in the cultural, creative and social context of Suriname, with a focus on themes such as connectivity, diversity and collectivity.

The residency is set in three different contexts: in the urban dynamic of Paramaribo; the culturally rich and more rural Moengo; and the historical plantation village of Frederiksdorp, creating scope for makers to dig deeper into the cultural, historical and contemporary layers of Surinamese reality. Building on the notion of *alakondre* - the idea of a land of diversity - residents are invited to reflect on the connections and contrasts between communities, stories and landscapes, whilst at the same time, the history of Suriname, together with its social and economic challenges, forms an important foundation for exploring the interconnectivity of the contexts. In other words, the residency offers a platform to do research by design and develop work that does justice to the plurality and stratification of Suriname.

important information

- **Number of grants:** one residency
- **Amount:** € 8,500
- **Work period:** 1 September 2027 – 1 December 2027
- **Deadline:** 21 October 2026, 16.00 CEST

background and objectives

The residency is inspired by the Surinamese notion of *alakondre*, literally meaning ‘all countries’, which symbolises living together in cultural diversity and emphasises the power of co-existing differences. In Suriname, *alakondre* comes to life in the way in which diverging traditions, languages and world views influence each other, overlap and sometimes cause friction, demonstrating that *alakondre* is not just about harmony, but also about acknowledging historical inequality, cultural sensitivities and tensions ensuing from colonial and socio-economic realities. It is this context of social, historical and spiritual stratification of Surinamese society that asks for an open-minded and attentive attitude on the part of the resident, and awareness of your position as a maker. Personal stories about family history or identity, for example, may prove to be a valuable way of connecting. The three residency locations also invite makers to expand their practice and develop work that contributes to a broader and more contemporary cultural dialogue in Suriname.

three locations

The residency is made possible by a network of local partners at three different locations: Paramaribo, Moengo and Frederiksdorp, each offering its own cultural, historical and social context:

- **Paramaribo**, with a vibrant urban life, the special colonial and post-colonial architecture and cultural dynamics, gives scope for research and reflection in urban surroundings. The participant will be welcomed by Bryan van 't Kruys, manager at Zus&Zo, a creative central hub with accommodation options, workspace and an introduction to organisations in the city.
- **Moengo**, known for its art initiatives and community-focussed projects. The participant will be welcomed by artist and founder of Tembe Art Studio Marcel Pinas, who transformed a former Suralco hospital into a cultural centre for work periods, exhibitions and the exchange of knowledge.
- **Frederiksdorp** is a historical plantation village in the Commewijne district. The participant will be guided by Sirano Zalman, who is committed to re-evaluating the

history of contract labourers and their descendants, and researches how that history reverberates in the region's identity today.

The mobility between these locations creates scope for depth, encounters and working from multiple perspectives – essential for a work period dedicated to connectivity, diversity and collectivity.

exchange local makers

At every location, a local maker will be working at the same time as you during your stay at the residency. The presence of these makers, who are selected by the local partner organisations in Suriname, will give you the opportunity to exchange ideas.

The approach of this exchange is reciprocal: makers get introduced to each other's working methods, share knowledge and possibly develop new work together. This could lead to joint projects, shared presentations or talks in public, or in any way you prefer, as long as the collaboration links up with the theme of the residency and the interests of both parties.

The Dutch resident is expected to keep an open mind on various perspectives and actively contribute to sharing knowledge and networking within the various contexts.

who is this open call for?

- You are an individual designer, architect or spatial practitioner.
- You are established in the Kingdom of the Netherlands (the Netherlands, Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius or Sint Maarten).
- You are registered in the register of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce or one of the business registers within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
- You have run a professional practice within the creative industries for at least four years.

This open call is not for:

- duos, collectives or cooperative ventures;
- designers and makers who receive a grant during the work period under the Talent Development Grant Scheme, the Open Call Self-taught Designer or the Open Call Emerging Design Practices ABCSSS of the Creative Industries Fund NL.

Please note: this means that if you receive a grant for this open call, you will not be able to submit an application under the grant schemes and open calls named above in 2027.

amount and work period

The residency period takes place from 1 September to 1 December 2027. You will receive a grant of € 8,500 for the work period, intended to cover:

- travel expenses;
- insurance policies;
- living expenses;
- compensation for the time invested;
- material and transport expenses.

Costs for accommodation, using the workspace and facilitation by the partner organisations are paid by the Fund directly to Bryan van 't Kruys of Stichting Wrokopresi and are therefore not included in the grant amount you receive.

practical information about the residency

Guidance: Bryan van 't Kruys will be the main contact person in Paramaribo throughout the entire residency period. In Moengo and Frederiksdorp, the makers will be guided professionally and practically by Marcel Pinas and Sirano Zalman and/or location team

members. The supervisors will support the participants from the perspective of their own practice and will ensure access to a relevant network at the location. During the work period, participants may plan a maximum of two weekly evaluation meetings with Bryan van 't Kruys to discuss the progress of their work and any support or adjustments.

Accommodation: During the 12-week residency period (approximately 4 weeks per location, or otherwise in consultation with the partner organisations), each location will provide a place to stay. The three locations differ greatly in character. Paramaribo is urban, with plenty of amenities. In Moengo, you will be in a more rural environment with basic facilities. In Frederiksdorp, you will stay in a museum house, where visitors to the historical site also pass through during the day. At each location, you will have a bedroom, sanitary facilities, basic cooking facilities and a workspace.

Programme: You begin your work period with an orientation week in Paramaribo. During this first week, you will also get to know the other two locations from Paramaribo. Following selection, you will agree the schedule for the full three months together with Bryan van 't Kruys, Marcel Pinas and Sirano Zalman. The starting point is that you spend roughly equal time at each location. At the end of the period, you will organise a public presentation, in consultation with them.

what is assessed?

All submitted applications that comply with the formal conditions and include all the requested attachments, will be presented to an external advisory committee. It will assess the quality and development of the applicant's work in relation to the location and theme, and the extent to which the proposed activities will contribute to the applicant's artistic and professional development as well as the extent to which the proposal matches this open call's objective. The advisory committee bases its opinion on the following criteria:

a. The artistic quality of the work

The committee reviews the applicant's portfolio and CV and the applicant's position within the disciplines of design, architecture and digital culture, as well as the quality and development of the applicant's work in relation to the location and theme.

b. The quality of the development plan

The committee assesses the project plan and whether it meets the applicant's goals. It assesses how well the proposed activities contribute to the applicant's artistic and professional development, whilst also looking at the proposed creative angle on the theme selected in the plan for the work period.

c. The motivation in relation to the residency's objectives

The committee assesses whether the development plan is in line with the residency's objectives and the notion of *alakondre* as well as the collaboration with the local makers. It also considers the contribution the applicant can make to strengthening an international exchange.

The above criteria contribute equally to the final score per selection round. The advisers apply the assessment method described in the [Advisory Committee Procedure of the Creative Industries Fund NL](#).

The assessment of this open call takes the form of a tender. This means that the assessment based on the criteria leads to a ranking of the proposals submitted. The three applications with the highest total score (the shortlist) will be submitted to the partner organisations, which will assess and select the proposals in a similar way. The residency period will be awarded to the applicant whose proposal scores highest on the ranking after the combined assessments of the advisory committee and the partner

organisations. Only positively assessed proposals can be supported. If applications end up ranked the same, priority will be given to applicants who score highest on criterion c.

submission of the application

Applications for a residency in Suriname can be submitted up to **21 October 2026, 16.00 CEST** via the Creative Industries Fund NL's [application platform](#). Please select the 'Open Call Residencies 2027' round.

You can submit your application in Dutch or English. If you are selected for the shortlist, we will share your application with the partners in Suriname, so that they can prepare for this meeting and your work period.

An application should consist of a fully completed application form and the following attachments:

- a plan for the residency in Suriname (max. 4 A4 including visuals and max. 4 MB, in pdf), including:
 - what you want to develop or research during the residency;
 - how the residency fits into the long-term vision of your design practice;
 - your vision on the local urban context and the socio-spatial dynamics connected to this;
- a brief CV (max. 2 A4 and max. 4 MB, in pdf);
- relevant visual material/portfolio that gives insight into your work and practice (max. 8 A4 including visuals and max. 8 MB, in pdf);
- a digitally certified extract, no more than one year old, from the business register of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce or one of the Chambers of Commerce within the Kingdom of the Netherlands (max. 4 MB and in pdf);
- a representative image of the project, to be used freely by the Fund for communication purposes, the necessary rights to which are held by the applicant (max. 4 MB and in JPG).

Only complete applications will be assessed. *Please note:* make sure you create an account for the online application platform in good time, as it takes one working day to activate a new account.

Files that exceed the maximum file size (the number of MB) cannot be uploaded to the application platform. Documents that exceed the maximum number of pages can be uploaded, but this may still lead to the application being rejected during the assessment of the formal requirements.

Would you like to add images and sketches to enrich your plan? Please note that the maximum number of pages includes any visual material. You may also include links for illustration purposes, for example to videos or websites. Please make sure these links are publicly accessible (not WeTransfer or Google Docs) and do not contain any information that is essential for the assessment of your application. The advisory committee must be able to assess your application on the basis of the submitted documents alone.

grant procedure

Applications are processed and assessed on the basis of the [Open Call Grant Scheme](#), so please read it carefully before submitting an application, as it describes the general conditions, grounds for rejection, manner of publication, submission procedure, assessment, award and grant obligations. Articles 19 to 22 are not applicable, because the grant will be determined directly after the decision. This means that you will not have to hand in an accountability form after the residency has ended.

acknowledgement of receipt and announcement of selection

You will receive a message about the processing of the application no later than two weeks after the closing date. The Fund will let you know about the decision no more than eight weeks after the closing date, including a brief motivation on how well your application fitted in with the three criteria of this open call.

If you are selected, at least two online introductory meetings will follow with Bryan van 't Kruys, Marcel Pinas and Sirano Zalman. These are important for getting to know one another and forming a clear picture of the possibilities at each location. Your plan, and any adjustments to it, will also be discussed during these meetings.

want to know more?

For more information about the residency in Suriname you can contact the Internationalisation team via internationalisering@stimuleringsfonds.nl or call on +31(0)10 436 16 00.

context

This open call is part of the Design Sector Internationalisation Programme, implemented by the Creative Industries Fund NL with the support of the Dutch Ministries of Education, Culture and Science and Foreign Affairs. This programme supports, among other things, worldwide residencies at various cultural organisations. Keep an eye on the Fund's website and newsletter for more international opportunities.