

# Open Call Resilient Communities / Inclusive Cities / Just Societies

creative industries fund NL



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**The Fund is calling on designers, makers, collectives, platforms and cultural organizations located in the Netherlands to submit a project plan that deploys design for more resilient communities, inclusive cities and just societies in Benin, Burundi, Ethiopia, Egypt, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Uganda, Senegal, Tunisia and South Africa\*. The project proposal should demonstrate equitable collaborations and exchange with one or more local partners, and a clear positioning with regard to this open call's theme.**

\*This open call focuses on countries in Africa that fall within the Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. You can find the complete overview [here](#) (in Dutch only). Applications for projects with activities in African countries and regions for which, at the time of submission, negative travel advice is in force (colour coded red and/or orange) cannot be processed.

## **context and objective**

This call focuses on regions where rapid population growth and urban development has significant implications for societies. These shifts are leading to the blurring of local, urban and global boundaries, the emergence of informal sectors, changing forms of governance and (infra)structures, new physical, digital and other forms of connectivity, and changing practices, interactions and rituals. These complex dynamics raises questions about social and economic equality, inclusion, participation, sustainability and accountability within and between communities and their surrounding public spaces. The increasing pressures of climate change is magnifying the importance of these questions, and urgently calls for the development of other ideas and narratives about how to live together.

Designers, makers and architects are requested to put current issues and questions in relation to urban spaces, their surroundings and the communities residing within and outside them on the agenda. This open call theme calls for a context-sensitive approach and cross- and interdisciplinary collaboration and exchange with regard to, among other dimensions, culture, technology, craft, new media, heritage, tradition, society, ecology and urbanism.

With this call, the Fund aims to connect, and to stimulate equitable collaboration and exchange, between the creative sectors in the Netherlands and countries in Africa. The open call relates to the Fund's objective to use design for current social issues relating to the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (11 and 16 in particular).

## **Open Call Residency Abroad**

- total available budget: € 300,000
- minimum contribution per project proposal: € 7,500
- maximum contribution per project proposal: € 30,000
- deadline: submission up to and including 23 January 2023
- start date of the project: within 1 month after the grant is awarded
- period: a maximum of 12 months after the start date

## **who is this open call for?**

- Proposals can be submitted by professional designers (designer, architect or maker), experts, platforms, organizations or collectives that are related to the fields of design, architecture or digital culture.
- The applicant is registered in the Commercial Register of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce or in one of the Chambers of Commerce that fall within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
- Within this open call, grants are not awarded to institutions that have a structural

grant relationship with the Dutch Government or that have received a grant from the Fund under the Four-Year Institutional Grant Scheme of the Creative Industry 2021–2024.

## which projects are eligible for a grant?

- Applications can be submitted for projects where there is a collaboration with local partners in one or more of the following countries: Benin, Burundi, Ethiopia, Egypt, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Uganda, Senegal, Tunisia and South Africa. The local partners are professional designers, architects, makers, observers, collectives, platforms or other cultural organizations within the creative industry. Please note that applications cannot be processed for projects and activities in African countries and regions for which, at the time of submission, negative travel advice is in force (colour coded red or orange). Consult in advance [here](#).
- The parties/partners involved in the project have a clear position on the open call's theme: resilient communities, inclusive cities and just societies.
- The plan gives insight into the ways in which and why various stakeholders are involved in the project and how equal collaboration between them will be realized. The partner's perspective should be embedded in the project.
- Project proposals can take various forms, ranging from artistic research or research by design to implementing an intervention, popular initiative or programme. Any approach is possible, as long as it can be linked to the open call's theme and the results will be made accessible to the public.

The conditions and grounds for rejection as drawn up in the [Open Call Grant Scheme](#) apply to this open call.

For this open call, Article 4(1)(d) of the Fund's [Open Call Grant Scheme](#) does not apply. Instead, the project must demonstrate that there is an equal interest between the partners/parties involved in the two (or more) countries.

## what is assessed?

Grant applications will be submitted for assessment to at least three external independent advisors. This committee assesses the extent to which the goals and set-up of the proposed project are consistent and the extent to which these relate to the open call. The advisers base their opinion on the following criteria:

### a. Relevance of the selected topic within the open call's theme

When assessing the relevance of the project, the committee examines whether, how and the extent to which the project objectives are relevant to responding to the open call's theme. In this regard, it scrutinizes the way in which the theme is approached and linked to the design disciplines. The way in which the project relates to local social developments and issues is also assessed.

### b. The plan of action

How the project is implemented is examined here. The extent to which the substance and chosen form of the project reinforce each other is assessed as well as the way in which they are distinctive. The committee assesses the extent to which the goals and objectives, the planned activities, motivation and positioning of the applicant and partners correspond to and reinforce each other. The committee looks at the clarity of the plan of action, the intended results and the way in which the results are shared with the field.

### c. The set-up of the collaboration

The committee assesses the collaboration between the parties involved. In doing so, the committee examines how and the extent to which there is equitable collaboration between the project partners. An assessment of the balanced allocation of the budget is included here. Further, the roles and expertise of the parties involved and the way in which they are involved with the implementation of the project proposal are examined.

The Fund will seek advice, if necessary, about the collaboration between NL-based and local parties/partners within the proposed collaboration from the Dutch embassies and/ or consulates in the countries concerned.

### submission of the application

Project applications can be submitted **up to and including Monday 23 January 2023** via the Creative Industries Fund NL's online application environment. Select the 'Open Call' grant scheme and then the 'Open Call Resilient Communities / Inclusive Cities / Just Societies in Africa' round.

The application should consist of:

- a. A fully completed application form;
- b. A project plan (10 pages max. of text and images, in PDF), in any case containing:
  - Rationale, goal and objectives: a clear, concise description of the project, the substantive starting point and the objectives, which should clearly relate to the open call's theme, including reflection on the local embedding and relevance of the project. You may consider the following questions:
    - What are the substantive principles of the proposed project?
    - Why is it relevant, in light of the specific context in which the project will take place (cultural, social, economic, creative or other context)?
    - In what way does the project conceptualize and approach resilient communities, inclusive cities and/or just societies?
    - What are the project's objectives?
  - Plan of action: a clear description of the intended approach and activities, with particular attention given to the way in which the collaboration with the local partner(s) will be approached. You may consider the following questions:
    - Which activities are part of the project and how do they relate to the project's objective(s)?
    - Which parties are you going to work with and how?
    - What is the project's target group and why is this group important in the context of the project? How are you planning on reaching this group and when?
    - How will the project be embedded locally during implementation and afterwards?
  - Collaboration: A description of the contributing expertise and roles of the partner(s) involved in the implementation of the project, including a description of how an equal collaboration between them will be realised. You may consider the following questions:
    - What are the roles of the various partners/parties involved in the project, and why?
    - What is the motivation for this collaboration?
    - How will inclusive and equitable collaboration be carried out in the project?
  - A description of the intended results:
    - What are the project's expected (interim) outcomes and what form will they take?
    - Who might benefit from the project outcomes and in what way?
    - What added value does the project have for the area of expertise?
    - What opportunities and/or risks do you consider most important for the realization of the project?
  - Knowledge exchange: an explanation of the (knowledge) exchange within

the project, including around the intended goal, outcomes or applications and possible users or target groups (in the partner country as well as in the Netherlands).

- c. Planning (1 page maximum, A4 format, included in the same PDF file as the project plan);
- d. A budget, including a financial plan (2 pages maximum, A4 in PDF format) that provides insights into the costs of materials, travel and working hours. This budget must include a balanced allocation of the grant between the partners involved. The applicant is responsible for sub-granting funds to the project partner(s). The financial plan gives insight into your own contribution or support from external parties for the project. The application amount is a minimum of €7,500 and a maximum of €30,000. Co-financing from local, Dutch and/or other international partners is appreciated. This may also take the form of in-kind contributions, such as time, knowledge, facilities, services, etc.;
- e. Portfolios of the core team (no more than 15 pages in total, A4 in PDF format);
- f. Concise CVs of the core team (no more than 2 pages in total, A4 in PDF format);
- g. A digitally certified KVK extract relating to the main applicant, issued no more than one year ago, from the register of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce or from one of the Chambers of Commerce that fall within the Kingdom of the Netherlands; concise CV of the core team (no more than 2 pages in total, A4 in PDF format);
- h. A representative image of the project for communication purposes by the Fund.
- i. A motivation letter from the foreign partner(s);
- j. Optional: a link to a short video (3 minutes at most), in which you and/or one or more local partners explain your motivation for the project.

*Please note:*

- If the application does not meet the elements described above, no substantive assessment can take place.
- Make sure you create an account for the [online application environment](#) in good time and familiarize yourself with the application form. Validating a new user account can take up to 1 working day.
- Before submitting your application, please check the [Grant Application Guidelines](#). These guidelines can help you with the grant application and in drawing up a project plan.
- Travel expenses can only be submitted for travel to countries with a positive travel advice (green/yellow areas). Always check the travel advice of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in advance and take local COVID or other measures into account in your plan.
- You cannot present a draft of your project plan to the Fund, but you can ask for advice on preparing your plan up to 16 January 2023.

## **grant procedure**

The assessment of the open call is similar to a tender. This means that, within the available budget, a number of proposals will be preferred over other ones. If the total number of applications that are eligible for a grant exceeds the budget available for the grant round, applications will be prioritized. The following procedure will then be applied:

- a. The proposals will be ranked based on the average scores on the three evaluation criteria.
- b. In the event that proposals are ranked equally based on the average scores and the grant ceiling is reached, then priority will be given to the proposal with the highest overall score.
- c. Within the proposals that finish equally, priority will be given to the proposal that contributes most to the diversity of themes within the selection.

Only positively assessed projects will be supported. The submitted proposals will be processed and assessed on the basis of the Fund's [Open Call Grant Scheme](#) and on this open call's criteria. The committee issues its advice to the Fund's board.

## **acknowledgement of receipt and announcement of selection**

No later than two weeks after the closing date, you will receive an acknowledgement of receipt via the Fund's [online application environment](#). The selected proposals will be announced to applicants by no later than 28 March 2023 via the digital application environment.

## **contact**

For questions about the open call and the procedure, please contact: Mireille de Koning and/or Yasmin Kursun via [international@stimuleringsfonds.nl](mailto:international@stimuleringsfonds.nl) or call +31(0)10-4361600.

## **context**

This open call is part of the Internationalization Program of the Creative Industries Fund NL supported by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. Within the International Culture Policy 2021-2024 policy framework and with financing from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Creative Industries Fund NL is implementing a four-year program entitled 'Inclusive Cities and Societies through Design'. The role and deployment of design/design thinking in the scrutiny of, and contribution to, responses to the consequences of rapid urban development and climate change and the social themes linked to these developments are central to the program. Cross-disciplinary and cross-geographic engagements and alliances are stimulated through this program, both within the design disciplines and beyond, offering opportunities for exchange and collaboration between partners in the Netherlands and in other countries.

With this programme, the Fund aims to:

- foster collaboration, alliances, exchange and knowledge and other networks between designers located in the Netherlands and other countries to address global challenges;
- support projects based on local questions and needs;
- promote an inclusive and equal approach to cross-border challenges, collaboration and exchange.