

Open Call Room for Design Critique, Reflection and Debate



**creatieve industries
fund NL**

**design
architecture
digital culture**

p.o. box 29066
3001 gb rotterdam

groothandelsgebouw
entrance c, 5e etage
weena 723, rotterdam

+31 (0)10 436 16 00

The Creative Industries Fund NL is calling for observers, makers and platforms to submit proposals for activities that contribute to enhancing reflection and debate within today's design practice.

The design field is evolving rapidly - not only are the boundaries between the design disciplines blurring, but theory and practice also seem to be merging. These developments ask for new, up to date work formats and presentation forms. How can design critique, reflection and debate be applied within this changing landscape? And how can reflection on the design practice contribute to defining the significance of design for society?

Broadening, deepening and approaching design critique, reflection and debate from a plurality of perspectives, stimulates a strong and inclusive design climate. Through this open call, the Fund wants to create room for reflection on the design practice in various forms. Observers, makers and platforms can submit an application for projects that contribute to this in terms of substance, collaborations or presentation forms. For example, projects that lead to new insights into existing practices and theory, or projects that reflect on connections within or between the design disciplines can apply for a grant.

Open Call Room for Design Critique, Reflection and Debate

- Submission deadline: 15 June 2022 at the latest
- The maximum contribution per project is € 15,000. Co-financing is not required.
- Budget: € 80,000

who is this open call for?

- This open call is open to projects initiated by designers, makers, observers, agencies or cultural institutions that are active within the fields of design, architecture and digital culture or any crossovers between them.
- The applicant is registered in the Commercial Register of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce or one of the Chambers of Commerce that fall within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
- This open call is not open 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 for the Creative Industry 2021-2024.

which projects are eligible for a grant?

The projects may, for instance, focus on:

- theoretical research and reflection, aimed at questioning current developments within the design disciplines;
- practice-based critique;
- activities that engage designers, observers or researchers in debate or activities which involve a wider audience;
- using experimental work formats, new target audiences and surprising collaborations in the field of design critique.

submission of the application

You can submit your proposal **up to and including 15 June 2022** in the Fund's [online application environment](#). Select the 'Open Call' grant scheme and then the 'Room for Design Critique, Reflection and Debate' round.

The proposal consists of:

- A brief and coherent project plan (7 pages at most, A4 in PDF), consisting of:
 - a personal motivation and explanation of the applicant's position and mission;
 - an explanation of the chosen theme and a formulation of the problem, the project form, the intended target group(s) and the collaborative parties;
 - insight into the intended results and how they contribute to a strong and inclusive design climate.
- Planning (1 page at most, A4 format, included in the same PDF file as the project plan);
- Budget (1 page at most, A4 format in PDF);
- CVs of the parties involved (2 pages at most, A4 format in PDF);
- A portfolio with recent and relevant work (10 pages at most, A4 format in PDF);
- A digitally certified extract from the Commercial Register of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce (issued no longer than one year ago);
- A communications plan (2 pages at most, A4 in PDF);
- A representative image for communication purposes.

If the entry does not meet the above description, the proposal will not be assessed.

Please note:

- 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.
- If you successfully received support from a previous edition of this open call, we would ask you to reflect on the results of the previously received support when you submit a new plan. The plan must be clearly distinguishable from the previously submitted application.

what is assessed?

Grant applications will be submitted to at least three external independent advisers for assessment. This committee assesses the plans based on the following four criteria:

- the quality of the proposal in relation to enhancing design critique, reflection and debate within the creative industry;
- the distinctive value of the proposal to the design practice;
- the extent to which the proposal contributes to multiperspectivity and an inclusive design climate;
- the scope of the proposal in relation to target groups and any collaborations.

grant procedure

The assessment of an open call is similar to a tender - this means that within the budget available, a number of proposals will be preferred over other ones. 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 in particular the extent to which the application meets the open call's criteria. The committee issues its advice to the Fund's board for each application. Any grants will be awarded on the basis of this grant scheme.

acknowledgement of receipt and announcement of selection

You will be sent an acknowledgement of receipt by email no later than two weeks after the closing date. The selection will be announced to applicants no later than on 24 August 2022 via the application environment.

contact

For questions about the open call and the procedure, please contact: Joannette van der Veer via j.vanderveer@stimuleringsfonds.nl or call +31(0)10-4361600.

On the Fund's instructions, Saskia van Stein investigated the state of affairs in the field of design critique in the Netherlands. Departing from the creative industry's origins and development, she reflects on the changing culture and society and discusses the role design critique plays in this.

If you need some inspiration, you can read Saskia van Stein's article ['Kritiek, reflectie en debat binnen de ontwerpdisciplines architectuur, vormgeving en digitale cultuur in Nederland'](#) (in Dutch only).