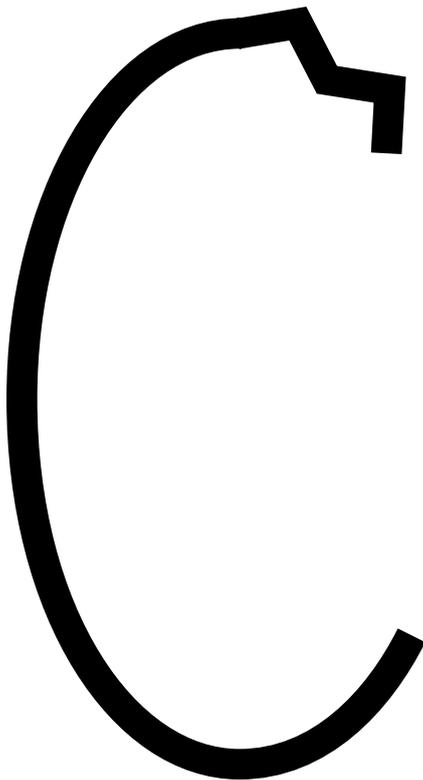


Open Call Venice Architecture Biennale 2023

The Biennale as Metabolism



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An open call asks for contributions to the parallel programme of the Dutch pavilion at La Biennale di Venezia 2023. The open call programme will run independently, as an addition to the realisation of the pavilion, the theme of which the institute will announce shortly. The starting point is that the parallel programme should enrich the Netherlands' official contribution to the biennale, but that entries for the call should be seen as separate projects.

Het Nieuwe Instituut and Creative Industries Fund NL are launching an open call for proposals from (landscape) architects, urban planners and spatial researchers that will expose the invisible flows of materials, waste and labour that lie behind the exhibitions at the Venice Architecture Biennale. Mapping and visualising this metabolism can increase the insight and awareness needed to develop a more sustainable biennale that makes a positive contribution to the Venetian ecosystem.

Every two years, the international architecture community travels to Venice to be inspired by the exhibitions, to meet old friends and new people, to reflect on architecture and urbanism and to discuss the urgent issues facing the field. Against the backdrop of a city that is suffering the effects of climate change and trying to cope under the weight of the tourism industry, numerous discussions about sustainability arise. But where is the city of Venice in these discussions? How can the biennale itself, and all its participants, contribute to a sustainable future for the generous city host of this event? How much does Venice get in return, apart from financial profit and even more visitors?

research programme

These questions have been asked for years by We are here Venice, an action group and research institute that strives for a sustainable and livable future for Venice. Together with We are here Venice and a group of actors who share the same ambition, Het Nieuwe Instituut has taken the initiative to develop a multi-year research project that can lead to a model for a sustainable biennial in particular, as well as more sustainable international exhibitions on such platforms in general. We are here Venice will embed this research in the local communities of Venice and ensure that Venetian knowledge, methods, and processes concerning materials and reuse are shared.

The research aims to uncover an image of the biennale that no visitor has seen or been able to see. It offers a glimpse of the incoming and outgoing flows of materials, transport, labour and waste that are inherent in the construction of the pavilion exhibitions. For this research, Het Nieuwe Instituut has joined forces with Superuse, an architectural firm based in Rotterdam, which has been designing strategies for building with recycled materials for over 25 years in order to reduce its ecological footprint. To stimulate research and involve the architectural community in the Netherlands, this open call is being organised together with the Creative Industries Fund NL.

The outcomes, in the form of ways to make the creation of exhibitions circular or even regenerative, will be shared with other national pavilions participating in the biennale. This will offer the opportunity to discuss and collaborate together.

more information on the biennale theme

The 18th edition of La Biennale di Venezia will run from 20 May to 26 November 2023 and is being developed under the artistic direction of architect and researcher Lesley Lokko. The overarching theme is the Laboratory of the Future. Lokko's [full statement](#) as curator can be read online.

The research project within which this open call is taking place is separate from the Dutch pavilion and its exhibition theme, which have yet to be announced. The intent is to link them together, in the way that Lokko links the notion of decolonisation to that of cutting carbon use, or the way she aligns definitions of the word 'laboratory' with sociologist Richard Sennett's use of the etymologically closely related word 'workshop'. Sennett's

analysis lends a different kind of depth to the concept of collaborative work: the shared commitment as a valued institution that holds society together.

who is this open call for?

Het Nieuwe Instituut and Creative Industries Fund NL are calling on (landscape) architects, urban planners and spatial researchers to submit proposals for (research) projects aimed at visualising and analysing material and waste flows, production chains, transport movements and workers, for projects aimed at different material use and reuse, or projects focused on the design of circular systems, with attention to the local context. Preference will be given to programmes that include collaborations with researchers and practitioners, institutions and organisations in the Netherlands and abroad.

Both individuals and collectives can take part. A team will be created with the authors of the approved proposals and Superuse architects. Team members will work together on making the invisible impact of the biennale apparent.

Participants can approach the theme *The Biennale as Metabolism* in various ways:

- Visualising and analysing material and waste flows that arise around (for example) the biennale;
- Visualising and analysing production chains, reflecting on labour and transport movements, for international exhibitions, such as the biennale;
- Providing insight into the possible spatial, political, ecological or social consequences of a biennial in the local context;
- Presenting designs of circular systems based on the alternative use of materials.

Projects can be of various kinds. For example, they can take the form of:

- New architecture and design research;
- Additional research for existing projects that may have been presented before but are still under development;
- Projects aimed at propagating knowledge, such as events, symposia, workshops and publications;
- Innovative collaborations with institutions or organisations, with clear and communicable results;
- Digital tools or software solutions;
- Speculative or artistic interventions and events.

The programme is being developed in parallel with the Dutch pavilion but is not part of the Dutch biennial entry. In other words: qualifying projects will not be featured in the Dutch pavilion.

what are the assessment criteria?

Het Nieuwe Instituut and the Creative Industries Fund NL will appoint an advisory committee that will make the selection for the public parallel programme.

This committee will assess each plan on the basis of the following three criteria:

- 1 Its relation to the theme of *The Biennale as Metabolism*;
- 2 Its relevance in the field of contemporary architecture;
- 3 Its capacity to address relevant subject-related and social issues and to use various channels for their propagation.

submitting the application

Your proposal can be submitted **until Wednesday 19 September 2022 at the latest** via the Creative Industries Fund NL's online application environment. Select the 'Architecture Biennale Venice #1_Public Parallel Programme Dutch Pavilion'.

The proposal consists of the following information:

- a An introduction (max 250 words), in which participants explain the relationship between their proposal and previous projects and interests. NB: no CV is required;
- b A brief description of the project, objectives and motives of the project and a proposal for a timetable (before, during, after the biennale) and the relationship with the main programme (max 1000 words);
- c Relevant documentation of previous work by participants and collaboration partners, including images of the proposed project (max 20 images) and/or links to audio or video files (max 10 minutes);
- d Working method and associated planning (max 250 words);
- e Description of the target group and its involvement in the project (maximum 100 words);
- f A realistic budget, including possible co-financing;
- g An extract from the Chamber of Commerce, not more than one year old.

Applications must be in English and submitted in a single PDF file of maximum 10 MB, consisting of a maximum of five A4 pages (not including the Chamber of Commerce extract).

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.
- Before submitting your application, refer to the [Open Call Grant Scheme](#).
- You cannot submit draft proposals to the fund.

selection procedure

The assessment of the 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.

Het Nieuwe Instituut and the Creative Industries Fund NL expect to support at least two and at most five projects, with a maximum contribution of €25,000 per project. A maximum budget of €50,000 has been made available for the call.

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.

Deviating from the Open Call Grant Scheme, the following regulation provisions do not apply:

Article 7.2

Article 8.4

confirmation of receipt and selection announcement

No later than one week after the closing date, you will receive a confirmation of receipt via the Fund's digital application environment. The selected proposals will be announced to applicants via the digital application environment no later than the end of October 2022. The Creative Industries Fund will communicate regarding the selected proposals exclusively on the website. Rejected applicants will be notified.

contact

For questions about the open call, please contact [Ibrahim Alaoui Chrifi](#) or [Dominique Geelen](#) or call: +31 (0)10-4361600.