

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

ART CONNECTS – Aid Fund for Projects with Cultural Artists Seeking Protection

The Russian war of aggression on Ukraine once again makes it clear how important art and culture are for peace and freedom. Artistic debate and art as a means of expression are essential, especially in times of crisis. For this reason, the Hamburgische Kulturstiftung, together with the Rudolf Augstein Stiftung, the Claussen-Simon-Stiftung and the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius, initiated the »**ART CONNECTS - Aid Fund for Projects with Cultural Artists Seeking Protection**« in April 2022. The focus of the support is on artists and cultural workers of all nationalities who are seeking protection in Hamburg and have fled because of the war in Ukraine - fleeing either from the war directly or from repression in their home country. The aim is to enable them to connect to the Hamburg cultural scene and to continue their artistic work.

The aid fund was initiated by the Rudolf Augstein Stiftung, the Claussen-Simon Stiftung, the ZEIT Foundation Ebelin and Gerd Bucerius and the Hamburgische Kulturstiftung. Further supporters are the K. S. Fischer Stiftung, Mara and Holger Cassens Stiftung, Gabriele Fink Stiftung, Dorit & Alexander Otto Stiftung, Körber Stiftung, Stiftung Hamburger Hilfsspende, Richard Ditting GmbH & Co. KG, Quantum Immobilien AG as well as Werner and Katrin Holm, Dr. Christina and Philipp Schmitz-Morkramer, Hye Chong and Bernd Jörg, Christine and Heinz Lehmann, Constanze and Christian Wriedt.

In 2022, 33 project grants with a total amount of 245,000 euros were awarded. And in 2023, 12 projects have already been supported with a total of 75,000 euros. The projects realised so far have shown that the ART CONNECTS fund helps to offer the supported participants a connection to the Hamburg cultural scene, networking and a long-term perspective for their artistic work. Follow-up projects have already emerged from some projects. Many of the artists seeking protection have already been involved in several projects in different artistic constellations.

Initiators and supporters want to maintain this positive development by **continuing ART CONNECTS**. Through new acquisition, an additional 200,000 euros are currently made available. Applications may still be submitted on an ongoing basis. In the continuation of ART CONNECTS the focus in selecting of projects for the grant is increasingly set on the aspect of the projects contributing to networking and exchange.

Who can apply?

Hamburg cultural institutions and initiatives, artists or groups of artists can apply in collaboration with artists and cultural workers seeking protection. An application by the protection-seeking artists and cultural workers themselves is not out of question. However, based on the reports and experiences of previous funding, it is recommended that the application be submitted by those who have experience in the implementation of independent projects in Germany (incl. accounting, tax aspects, compatibility of fees with

social benefits, etc.). Applicant cultural institutions and initiatives should be non-profit organisations.

Which projects can receive funding?

Funding is provided for projects and working processes in Hamburg that give artists and cultural workers seeking protection the opportunity to

- pursue their artistic activities
- work together with Hamburg cultural institutions and artists
- network with the Hamburg cultural scene and with each other
- make their art visible.

Special consideration is given to the aspect of the projects contributing to networking and exchange.

Maximum funding per project

- Up to 8,000 euros per project; for larger sums please consult us in advance.

What is eligible for funding?

Eligible costs are fees and expense allowances for all project participants as well as non-personnel costs (e.g. material costs, travel costs, rent of rehearsal rooms, etc.). Please note: In the case of payment of fees or allowances to recipients of social benefits according to the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act (Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz) or the Second or Twelfth Book of the Social Code (Sozialgesetzbuch), please note that any kind of income from the recipients must be reported to the benefit provider (Social Welfare Office/Sozialamt or Job Centre) and will usually – with a few specific exceptions – be offset against the social Benefits. In some cases, the Ehrenamtszuschale (§3 No. 26 a EstG) could be considered; this possibility should be clarified in advance with the personal contact person at the service provider (Social Welfare Office/Sozialamt or Job Centre).

How can applications be submitted?

Proposals can be submitted on an ongoing basis. The application process can only be carried out online using the application form at this [link](#).

When and how will decisions on applications be made?

Decisions on applications are made on an ongoing basis. Representatives of the Hamburgische Kulturstiftung, Rudolf Augstein Stiftung, Claussen-Simon-Stiftung and ZEIT-Stiftung review the applications according to the following criteria:

- Professionalism of the applicants as well as experience in the realisation of independent projects and/or international cooperation.
- committed artistic cooperation
- aspect of networking

- coherence of the project and budget calculation.

A decision on funding is sought to be made no later than 14 days after submission of the application. Notification will be sent by e-mail by Hamburgische Kulturstiftung.

The following information should be included in the application:

- Name of cultural institution/artist/artist group
- Legal form (not applicable to artists/artists' groups)
- Contact person
- Street, house number, postcode, town
- Telephone number
- E-mail address
- Website/Internet presence of applicant (optional)
- Title of the project
- Description of the project incl. information on the project participants (max. 2,500 characters unformatted text; please also outline experience in the implementation of projects and international cooperation; links to websites of the project participants can also be added)
- Starting date and duration
- Amount applied for
- Cost plan (possible files: PDF, word, Excel; file size: max. 5 MB)
- Biographies of project participants (optional; please summarise in one document; possible files: Word, PDF; file size: max. 5 MB)

Contact information

If you have any questions about the » ART CONNECTS - Aid Fund for Projects with Cultural Workers Seeking Protection«, please contact the team of Hamburg Cultural Foundation (Ilka von Bodungen, Claudia May).

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