



Open Call 2023: Research Grants

With this call for proposals, the Division of Cultural Affairs (Abteilung Kultur) aims to support research projects by professional artists and cultural workers with one-time grants ranging from CHF 5,000 to CHF 20,000. The research grants enable artists and other cultural workers to reflect, to try out new ideas and methods, and to experiment with developing their own creative practice outside of the production process. The grant also provides space for recipients to deepen their knowledge in specific fields and to engage in inter- and transdisciplinary exchanges with other artists, researchers or specialists related to their research. The research grant is open-ended in terms of process and result, i.e. the grant is not tied to a specific product or result to be completed within in a given period.

Eligibility

All professional artists and cultural workers (individuals, collectives or groups) who have been resident and/or professionally active in the canton of Basel-Stadt for at least one year and have completed their associated professional education or have proven professional experience in a field relevant to the research proposal are eligible to apply.

The cultural work does not have to be defined to a single artistic discipline and can be inter- or transdisciplinary in nature. In addition to artists in a narrow sense of the word, arts professionals and cultural workers from behind or beyond the stage are also entitled to apply (e.g. production managers, independent curators, costume designers, fashion designers, tour managers, sound designers, graphic designers, etc.).

Depending on the aims, research projects may be conducted independently or in collaboration with a cultural institution and may be completed in Kanton Basel-Stadt or from another location.

It is also possible to combine funding with grants or stipends from other foundations or institutions (e.g. a creation grant from a national or private foundation).

A research project is not eligible for a grant if the project is part of a school or university curriculum or of any other training or education programme (e.g. dissertations, diploma projects, university grants, etc.). Additionally, if the project has already received support from another agency or institution of the canton of Basel-Stadt (e.g. development or work grants from the specialist committees ("Fachausschüsse") BS/BL or a grant from the Basel-Stadt art credit ("Kunstkredit") it is also not eligible to receive a research grant.

Grant

Grants are awarded between CHF 5,000 and CHF 20,000. The amount of the research grant is dependent on the number of participating artists or cultural workers:

- CHF 5,000 for one person
- CHF 10,000 for two people (collaboration or artist duo)
- CHF 15,000 for collectives or groups of three people
- CHF 20,000 for collectives or groups of four people or more

Recipients may use the research grant to cover all costs required for enabling sufficient creative space.

A successful research grant application does not preclude an application for a follow-on grant from cantonal funds in the following year; however, there is also no guarantee of further funding. Research that has been funded through this open call and leads to a concrete project (e.g. theatre production, film project, concert, or manuscript) must be clearly indicated and documented in any application for a follow-on grant.

Application content

- Letter of motivation including a description of the research approach (max. 2 A4 pages)
- CV of the applicant(s) (professional career, reference projects, links, etc.) (max. 1 A4 page per person)
- Project timeline (max. 1 A4 page)
- Contact information of the applicant: name, address for correspondence, telephone, e-mail and bank information (IBAN)

Application submission

Applications can be submitted via the [electronic application portal](#) from August 11, 2023, until September 22, 2023, 11:59 p.m. Submissions received after this deadline will not be considered.

Evaluation criteria

The jury will assess applications according to the following criteria:

- Significance of the submitted project for the further development of the applicant's own work
- Clarity and inner coherence of the motivation and research plan
- Quality, experimental nature and impulse-generating potential of the planned research

The order of the criteria does not indicate any relative importance. The jury will make an overall assessment based on the given criteria.

The research must be carried out in 2024. Grant recipients must be willing to take part in an exchange meeting in 2024 to present their own research and evaluate the open call. They are also obliged to provide material from their research work of the Division of Cultural Affairs for a publicly accessible archive (blog or social media) of completed projects.

Evaluation procedure

An interdisciplinary jury will assess complete applications that meet the above criteria. The jury is composed of six external experts and one representative of the Division of Cultural Affairs (chair).

The jury acts as an advisory body; it makes recommendations to the Division of Cultural Affairs, Department of Presidential Affairs.

Funding Decision

Based on the recommendations of the jury, the Division of Cultural Affairs of the Department of Presidential Affairs decides on the awarding of grants.

The Department of Cultural Affairs may obtain further information from the applicants if deemed necessary in the course of reviewing the application.

Even if all requirements and criteria are met, there is no entitlement to receive funding.

Timeline

11. August – 22. September 2023	Application window
November 2023	Jury evaluation
December 2023	Communication of grant decisions

Contact

For questions concerning this open call or the application process, please contact:

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