



Pilot Call for Proposals: Research Grants

With this pilot call for proposals, the cantonal Division of Cultural Affairs aims to support research and development projects by professional artists and cultural workers with one-time financial contributions ranging from CHF 5,000 to CHF 20,000. The research and development grants enable artists and other cultural workers to try out new ideas and methods and develop their creative practice beyond the production processes. Such a grant could, for example, allow them to deepen their knowledge in specific fields and to engage in research-related exchange with other artists, researchers or specialists. The research and development grants are open-ended in terms of process and result, i.e. they are not tied to a specific product to be completed within in a given period. A total amount of CHF 250'000 is available for these grants.

Eligibility

Eligible to apply are professional cultural practitioners (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.

The cultural work concerned can belong to a single artistic discipline, but this not a prerequisite. In addition to artists in a narrow sense of the word, arts professionals and cultural workers from behind or beyond the scene are also entitled to apply (e.g. production managers, independent curators, costume designers, fashion designers, tour managers, sound designers, graphic designers, etc.).

The research project in question may be conducted independently or, depending on the aims, together with a cultural institution as research partner. It may be pursued at the applicant's place of residence or from different locations.

Applications are also possible if grants or financial contributions have been or are subsequently provided by others (e.g. creation grant from a national or private foundation).

No support is granted if the research project is part of a school or university curriculum or of any other training or education programme (incl. dissertations, diploma projects, university grants, etc.), or 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"). There is no legal right support from research grants.

Grant

Grants between CHF 5,000 and CHF 20,000 can be awarded. The amount of a research and development grant is dependent on the number of participating cultural practitioners:

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

A research and development grant is intended cover those costs required to enable the people involved sufficient creative space.

Research that leads to a specific project (e.g. theatre production, film project, concert, manuscript) must be mentioned and documented in any application for a follow-on grant.

Evaluation criteria

The jury assesses 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 planned research

Jury evaluation

The applications submitted will be assessed by an interdisciplinary jury. Recommendations by the jury are then submitted to the decision-making body of the Basel-Stadt Presidential Department. The jury is made up of a maximum of six external experts and one representative of the Division of Cultural Affairs (chair). The names of the jury members are planned to be published on the website of the Division of Cultural Affairs at the end of October.

Application content

- Letter of motivation incl. description of the research methods and development (2 A4 pages at most)
- CV of the applicant(s) (professional career, reference projects, weblinks, etc.) (1 A4 page per person at most)
- Project timeline (1 A4 page at most)
- Mandatory cover sheet (to be downloaded from link on website)

Submission of application and further information

Applications must be submitted by email (all required documents put together in a single PDF document).

The email is to be addressed to caroline.prodhom@bs.ch

Inquiries by phone: Wednesdays 9:00–12:00 / 14:00–17:00, Fridays 9:00–12:00
Tel. +41 61 267 84 13, caroline.prodhom@bs.ch

Deadline

Applications must be submitted by 15 November 2022 at the latest. Applications submitted after that date cannot be taken into consideration.

The research work concerned must be carried out in the year 2023. Grant recipients must be willing to take part in an exchange meeting in the course of 2023 to present their own research and to evaluate this pilot call for proposals in general. 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.

Tax Liability

If the grant will be used to pay wages, the usual social insurance contributions are also to be paid. The grants are not subject to any special tax regulations or exemptions.