

The Shape of Tomorrow

Open Call — submit by 10/07/2025

OPEN CALL: THE SHAPE OF TOMORROW

In 2023, Karlsruhe's art and cultural institutions jointly presented themselves for the first time in their own space at art karlsruhe. With media art at the centre of the room—as the nucleus of Karlsruhe's identity—various media artworks have been showcased in this space over the past three years. In 2025, the exhibition will explore a new thematic focus: *The Shape of Tomorrow*.

From **February 5 to 8, 2026**, art karlsruhe will once again take place in the UNESCO City of Media Arts Karlsruhe. The UNESCO City of Media Arts Office invites artists and artist collectives to submit project proposals for a media artwork that reflects architecture as both an artistic and social vision.

Architecture is more than just construction – it shapes our social interactions, our perception of space, and our vision of the future. How can media art and digital technologies reinterpret architecture? How can they help us design urban and architectural spaces that are sustainable, interactive, and inclusive? We are looking for a *visually rich, interactive media artwork* that engages with the space, and these questions and fosters a dialogue between architecture, media art, and society.

The selected work will be prominently displayed in the designated exhibition space at art karlsruhe 2026. Following the fair, further presentations will take place as part of the *Media art is here* exhibition by the UNESCO City of Media Arts Karlsruhe.

The selected project is being realised with the kind support of the Werner-Stober Foundation.

PARTICIPATION

The call is open to professional media artists from Karlsruhe and the region. Both individuals and groups of artists can apply. Excluded are works that are produced as part of a school or university education (e.g. term papers or final theses), as well as projects that have already been realised. We welcome applications from all people, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, cultural, ethnic and social background.

GRANT

The selected artist will receive a grant of **€10,000** for the realisation of the project. The artist's fee will be additionally remunerated.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ARTWORK

An image-rich, interactive media artwork is to be created. Eligible are all artistic expressions that are created, presented or utilized with the help of technological media and/or tools.

Due to the room conditions, the following works ***cannot be considered***:

- » Sound artworks
- » VR and AR artworks
- » Video projections - with the exception of installations whose concept includes a (semi-)enclosed space in which the video can be projected. The construction of this (semi-)enclosed space must be included in the project costs.

We encourage sustainable approaches in the creation, production and presentation of the work.

The total area available is **approx. 75 m²**. The selected project will be realised in collaboration with a scenographer.

APPLICATION

The application must be submitted **in German or English** by **July 10, 2025** and include:

- » personal information of the artist or artist group
(name, postal address, e-mail address, telephone number, short biography);
- » a short, but meaningful and well comprehensible project outline
(concept and realisation of the project incl. technical rider);
- » estimate of costs for the realisation of the project;
- » visual material in the form of renderings, photos, illustrations or video footage:
a maximum of 5 images, 3 video clips with a maximum length of 5 minutes each.

Applications must be submitted with the subject ***“Application: The Shape of Tomorrow”*** to: **cityofmediaarts@kultur.karlsruhe.de**. Due to the file size, the application must be sent **via download link**.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

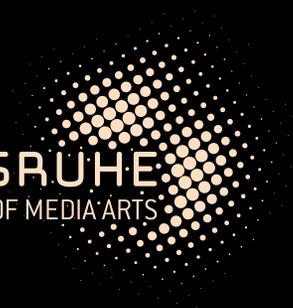
The artist or team of artists will be selected from the submitted project proposals by a jury of experts. The selection committee is made up of representatives from the fields of art and culture, architecture and research.

The decision is expected to be made by the end of July 2025. All applicants will receive a notification of acceptance/rejection immediately after the decision has been made.

CONTACT

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Further information [cityofmediaarts.de](https://www.cityofmediaarts.de).

The logo for Karlsruhe UNESCO City of Media Arts features a circular arrangement of white dots of varying sizes, creating a halftone effect. The text 'KARLSRUHE' is positioned above 'UNESCO CITY OF MEDIA ARTS' in a clean, sans-serif font.

KARLSRUHE
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