

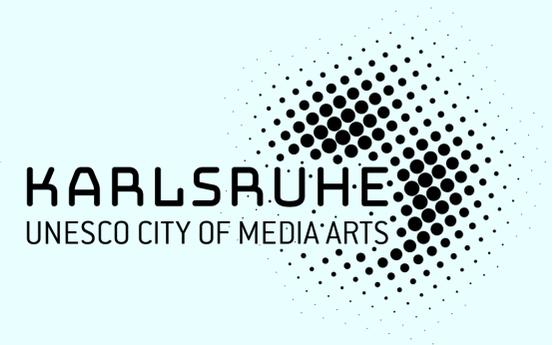
2026

OPEN CALL

DEADLINE: MAY, 18

**PROJECT
PROGRAM
FOR**

**FUNDING
MEDIA ARTS**



OPEN CALL FOR MEDIA ART PROJECTS IN PUBLIC OUTDOOR SPACES

Funding of innovative, collaborative, and interdisciplinary media art projects conceived for the public space, as well as international network activities from the municipal budget.

The City of Karlsruhe supports the production and presentation of media art projects in the public space and is allocating a budget of 100,000 Euros for this purpose. Funding will be provided for projects that are designed for outdoor spaces, and aim for high public visibility. The amount requested for funding can be up to 20,000 Euros per project; there is no minimum limit, and applications for smaller amounts are equally welcome. Selected works will be exhibited for four weeks in the summer of 2027 as part of the *Media art is here* presentation in the Karlsruhe urban area.

The aim is to enable the realization of artistic projects, which by the means of media arts provide an independent take on contemporary social issues and enrich the field of media art, especially for the viewer or interactor in the city.

Eligible are all artistic expressions that are created, presented or utilized with the help of technological media and/or tools.

The funding is aimed at artists, cultural and media professionals as well as initiatives and institutions based in **Baden-Württemberg**. Tandem applications from Karlsruhe artists in collaboration with artists from other cities in Baden-Württemberg and/or other **UNESCO Creative Cities** are particularly welcome. The aim is to promote artistic diversity and regional strength, intensify dialogue between different scenes and facilitate innovative, sustainable, collaborative projects. Applications are open to individuals and groups of persons — including students of suitable disciplines — as well as artistic, cultural, scientific and creative industry institutions. Excluded from the call are works that are part of a school or university education (e.g. term papers or final theses). Previously realized artworks may be submitted as site-specific adaptations.

AWARDED BY THE UNESCO
CITY OF MEDIA ARTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY OF
KARLSRUHE'S DEPARTMENT
OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS.

FUNDING

Funding is available for media art projects that are designed for the urban outdoor space in Karlsruhe, as well as international network activities that serve to intensify international exchange and cooperation within the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) in the field of media arts, and focus on the following aspects, among others:

- › Reflection on current social, cultural and/or artistic issues
- › Consideration of sustainability aspects (UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development), both in terms of content and through the media and methods used in the project
- › Innovative engagement with new technologies and media forms
- › Interdisciplinary approaches; artistically, technically and scientifically innovative
- › Orientation of the projects towards cooperation and synergy with existing institutions and/or projects
- › Establishing and expanding collaborations with institutions and media artists from other UNESCO Creative Cities, such as initiatives, exhibitions, events and workshops

International projects are also to be publicly presented in Karlsruhe and realized in public outdoor spaces.

Funding will only be made available if the project's financing/realization is not secured with the applicant's own funds or other financial contributions. Depending on the type of project, a suitable percentage of funding is expected from the applicant's own and/or third-party funds.

Projects for purely commercial purposes cannot be funded. In the case of applications from the commercial sector, cooperation with other artists and media professionals is required.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS REGARDING
THE FUNDING
>> "FAQ" ON PAGE 6**

APPLICATION

Applications can only be submitted via the online application form in German or English. It requires filling in information regarding the following aspects:

The completed online application form must be submitted with

- › personal details, details
- › of the team or institution,
- › a short but meaningful and easily understandable project outline,
- › ideas for the presentation of the project in outdoor public space (visualization draft including suitable location for presenting the project),
- › a description of the expected financial expenditure and the expected income from
- › further grants, third-party funds and own financing (budget and financing plan).

The costs for the construction and public presentation (e.g. technology) should be included in the project costs at an appropriate level.

The application must be supplemented by a short biography or brief profile of the applicants.

You may also submit additional documents that are relevant to your project. Please note that a maximum of

- › 3 photos (format: jpg),
- › 2 videos (maximum length 5 minutes),
- › 3 additional files (e.g. plans, graphics, sketches, tables)

may be attached to the application.

You can upload the attachments, such as photos or plans, directly via the online form (maximum 10 MB per file). For video and audio files, please provide a URL link to the corresponding file. The URL links to files must be freely accessible.

We welcome applications from all people, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, cultural, ethnic and social background.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:
MAY 18, 2026**

SELECTION PROCESS & CONTACT INFO

Among the projects submitted, an independent jury of experts selects the projects eligible for funding. The jury is formed by representatives from the fields of art, science, culture and creative industries.

There is no entitlement to funding. Decisions are not made publicly. The jury's decision is final. Applicants are expected to be notified by mid-July 2026 whether or not their project has been chosen for funding.

The detailed open call and access to the online application form can be found at: [UNESCO City of Media Arts Karlsruhe.](#)

Contact:
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Daniela Burkhardt
Tel.: 0721 133 4002

FURTHER INFORMATION: [CITYOFMEDIAARTS.DE/EN](https://www.cityofmediaarts.de/en)

FAQ

Is an adaptation of an already realized project eligible for funding?

In principle, funding is only possible for new projects. Projects that have already been realized are not eligible. However, an adaptation may be eligible for funding if it differs significantly from previous versions and is conceived specifically for Karlsruhe. Artistic independence and a clear connection to the location are decisive criteria.

Does the applicant have to be based in the City of Karlsruhe?

No, the funding is aimed at artists, cultural and media professionals as well as initiatives and institutions with their main place of residence or work in Baden-Württemberg.

Can I submit several projects?

No, only one project can be applied for per applicant, however, a person or institution can be involved in several projects that are submitted.

Is a presentation outside the city of Karlsruhe possible?

No, the presentation of the funded project must take place within the city limits of Karlsruhe. Implementation at other locations is not permitted.

If the project is approved, is the applicant responsible for obtaining permission to present the work in a public space?

No, the UNESCO City of Media Arts office will provide support in obtaining the necessary permits. However, the applicant must submit all the necessary documents by the deadline so that the approval process can be carried out.

Are the public outdoor locations pre-selected or can any location be suggested?

The public outdoor locations are not predetermined. Applicants can submit their own location proposals, which will be reviewed as part of the approval process.

In what timeframe is the project to be realized?

Project realization should begin in 2026 and be completed within one year of the jury's decision being announced or the funding decision being issued. The works should be exhibited by the beginning of August 2027 at the latest.

Does the project period refer to the entire duration of the project, including the production and presentation phase?

Yes, the project period includes both the production and presentation phases of the project.

How long does the presentation of the selected projects last?

The presentation of the projects lasts 4 weeks and takes place as part of the exhibition [Media art is here](#), from mid-August to mid-September 2027.

Will the works be insured during the exhibition? Who will cover the costs?

Yes, the works, including the associated technology, are insured during the exhibition. The costs for the insurance are covered by the Department of Cultural Affairs Karlsruhe. However, any personal injury or damage to property arising in connection with the assembly and dismantling of the installation will be borne by the applicant. These costs can be included in the cost and financing plan of the application.

FAQ

What is the approximate financial framework for the projects? Is there a lower limit?

The amount requested for funding can be up to 25,000 Euros. There is no lower limit; applications for smaller amounts are also welcome.

How high should the pro rata financing through the use of own and/or third-party funds be?

There is no specific percentage required. The use of own and/or third-party funds should be appropriate to the scope of the project. It is taken into account that the funding requirements vary from project to project and depend on whether the applicant is an independent artist or an institutionally funded initiative. However, we emphasize the importance of acquiring additional third-party funding in the form of cash or in-kind contributions.

In what form can the personal contribution be made?

Your own contribution can be made in the form of a financial contribution, contributions in kind and personnel, the provision of infrastructure and voluntary work.

Is it possible to apply for further funding at the same time as applying for the Project Funding Program for Media Arts?

Yes, this is not only permitted, but expressly encouraged.

Are Letters of Intent (LOIs) sufficient for public grants, donations or sponsorships?

Yes, during the application phase, LOIs are sufficient for public grants, donations or sponsorship. In the event of a rejection of third-party funding, the applicant must secure funding elsewhere, as the funding amount cannot be subsequently increased by the City of Karlsruhe.

Do I have to provide proof of expenditure after the project has been completed or do I have to submit a factual report?

Yes, after completion of the project, proof of expenditure must be provided and a factual report submitted. The [corresponding form for the proof of use](#) can be found on the website of the UNESCO City of Media Arts Karlsruhe.

Is it necessary to submit receipts as proof of use?

No, it is sufficient to fill out the form for the proof of use of funds; it is not necessary to submit receipts in the first step. However, the beneficiaries must keep the receipts for five years after submission of the proof of use, unless a longer retention period is specified under tax law or other regulations. The City Treasurer's Office reserves the right to check receipts retrospectively.