

Open call for the 2026 program at the nGbK

Deadline: Monday, December 9, 2024, 12:00;
all submissions using the form at: www.ngbk.de



neue Gesellschaft
 für bildende Kunst

Karl-Liebknecht-St. 11/13
 10178 Berlin

www.ngbk.de

Online information events in German: October 16, 18:30 and in English: October 17, 18:30 (please register by mail to office@ngbk.de). For further information, please visit: www.ngbk.de

Curatorial work in collective structures

Founded in 1969 on a grassroots democratic model, neue Gesellschaft für bildende Kunst (New Society for Visual Art, <https://ngbk.de/en/institution/>) is an art society funded by the City of Berlin. With its program of exhibitions, events, and mediation, it creates spaces for discourse within society and fosters debate. Establishing itself early on as a location for contemporary art and exhibition production, the nGbK has influenced generations of curators, artists, and cultural producers with pioneering experimental exhibition concepts.

This two-phase open call for curatorial projects invites existing and future members of the nGbK to submit proposals in one of three categories (see below) digitally by December 9, 2024. The nGbK's program for 2026 will be selected from the projects submitted by a vote at the general assembly on March 15, 2025.

Projects may be submitted in the field of fine art and related disciplines, not only exhibitions but also events and other presentation formats. Whatever format is chosen, it must ensure continual visibility of the project, occupying the location on Karl-Liebknecht-Straße

throughout the annual program. The time slots set by the office team must be strictly adhered to, and project scheduling must be clearly reflected in the proposal.

Further information on requirements for project proposals, project funding by the nGbK, and other funding options, as well as on active art society membership, can be found in the FAQs at the end of this document, or by calling the nGbK office for advice.

Documents and checklists for project proposals (financial plan, fee framework, etc.) are made available via the application form and at www.ngbk.de.

Proposals may be submitted in one of three categories with different conditions. Projects are either funded entirely by the nGbK (Category A) or receive only initial funding from the nGbK (Categories C and N). The three categories are described in detail below:

Category A / One-year projects:

In this category, working groups can consist of both experienced project organizers and people who want to gain their first experience in implementing their own project.

- Realization period: January 2026–December 2026
- Max. total budget €74,999; funds available from January 2025.
- During the project timeframe, an exhibition or series of events must take place at the location on Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse. Additional locations are possible via cooperation partners.

Category C / Projects with external funding:

This category is intended to enable working groups with curatorial project experience to prepare a larger project by providing funds for applying for further project-specific third-party funding.

- Project duration: up to two years
- For 2025, 2,500 euros are available for processing applications for third-party funds (e.g., from Hauptstadtkulturfonds, Kulturstiftung des Bundes, or the Berlin Senate's open fund). All applications to be made in consultation with the managing director. From 2026, the nGbK itself provides up to 16,000 euros in funding for each project.
- Once external funds have been secured, an activity (exhibition, event series, etc.) must take place in the nGbK exhibition space at its location on Karl-Liebknecht-Straße in 2026 or 2027, at the latest. Further venues are possible through cooperations.
- Project proposals must be accompanied by documentation of the curatorial experience of at least one work group member, detailing max. three reference projects.

Kategorie N / External funding neighborhoods:

This category is intended to enable work groups with experience in curating and mediation to prepare a project by providing nGbK funds to support applications for further third-party funding. This new format aims to focus increased attention on the historical-political context, the urban situation, and the local neighborhood on and around Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse and station urbaner kulturen.

- Projects may run for more than one year.
- In 2025, 2,500 euros are available to support applications for funding (e.g., from Fonds Soziokultur, Kunst im Stadtraum, the Senate's urban development fund). All applications to be made in consultation with the managing director. From 2026, the nGbK itself provides up to 4,000 euros in funding for each project.
- Once third-party funding has been received, an activity must take place in 2026 (at the latest in 2028) at an outdoor location around the nGbK location on Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse or at the additional nGbK location in Hellersdorf. In addition to the open areas around the TV Tower, there are also green spaces on Rochstrasse that could anchor such a format. In Hellersdorf, interesting locations include Alice-Salomon-Platz and Kastanienallee.
- Those applying for this funding must have proven experience in curating and mediation, documented in form of up to three reference projects by at least one of those applying.

In all cases, project realization is subject to the continued funding of the nGbK by the City of Berlin, and to compliance with all funding regulations.

Important dates and deadlines:

Wednesday, October 16, 2024, 18:30

→ in German, online

General information event for project proposals, please register via email to office@ngbk.de

Thursday, October 17, 2024, 18:30

→ in English, online

General information event for project proposals, please register via email to office@ngbk.de

From Thursday, October 14, 2024

Office team available for questions every Thursday, 14:00–15:00. Please register via email to office@ngbk.de

Monday, December 9, 2024, 12:00

Submission deadline for project applications via the form on the website: www.ngbk.de

Friday, January 3, 2025, 12:00

Project applications can be viewed online (by nGbK members only).

Friday, January 17–Friday, January 24, 2025

First round of voting on projects submitted (online only, for members, at www.ngbk.de) – the office team is available to answer questions. At least eight projects will be selected in Format A, up to two projects in Format C, and up to two projects in Format N.

Friday, January 24, 2025

Announcement of results as an un-ranked shortlist by mail to nGbK members and on the nGbK website.

Thursday, January 30 and Friday, January 31, 2025

Members of the nGbK offer consultation for the proposals on the shortlist.

Monday, February 17, 2025, 12:00

Second submission deadline for revised proposals from the shortlist via the form on the website

Friday, March 7, 2025

Deadline for submitting membership applications to participate in the Annual General Meeting as a member with voting rights.

Saturday, March 15, 2025, from 9:00

167th annual general meeting to select projects; brief presentation of short-listed projects by project groups, who also answer questions from nGbK members; discussion with awareness team and precisely defined timeslots for speaking.

June 2025

New work groups officially appointed; work by group members on coordinating committee/board (KOA) begins.

Q&A

Who can submit a project?

The nGbK only realizes projects by its own members in work groups of at least five persons. Work group members may have an art-historical, political-activist, sociological, or applied-arts background, or similar. Members of the curatorial team may become nGbK members after the project in question has been selected. Artists may also curate a project, taking on the role of curator. When artists exhibit their own work in the role of curator, an awareness of the associated shifts in power relations is expected. Based on past experience, it is recommended that at least three members of the work group have their main residence in Berlin.

Which language must be used for applications?

Project proposals can be submitted in German or English.

How are projects realized at the nGbK?

The nGbK statutes declare that projects are to be carried out by groups, with curatorial activity shaped not by a single decision-maker but by collective processes. Exhibitions, interventions, research projects, event series, and publications are developed by the members in interdisciplinary work groups and supported by the office team, from the initial idea to the final implementation.

Projects are realized by work groups of at least five nGbK members. Work group members are contractually obligated to make the necessary preparations and to implement the project in close and constant cooperation with the nGbK's office team and board. They receive advice from the office staff and support with financial controlling, public relations, acquisition of external funds, and the production of presentations, publications, etc.

The nGbK is committed to sustainability and a high degree of barrier-free accessibility. We aim for socially and ecologically conscious practice in all domains. Among others, this means that travel from European countries should be undertaken by climate-friendly means of transport. For journeys of eight hours and less, the nGbK wishes flights to be

avoided. Individual cases will be examined by the board. The resulting increases in travelling time can be reflected in the financial plan. All other sustainability-related questions, such as those concerning the use of materials, can be addressed to the office team. The ecological footprint of all project proposals will be evaluated by the nGbK's climate officer.

As far as possible, the nGbK aims to ensure barrier-free access to its spaces, events, and publications. Financial plans must include the cost of translations into German/English and into simple language, as well as the writing of image descriptions for the visually impaired for the nGbK website. Costs for hybrid or zoom broadcasts and the creation of videos of the introductory texts in sign language should also be included in the financial plan. The office team can offer advice on these matters.

Which exhibition time slots are available?

1. March through May 2026
2. June through August 2026
3. September through November 2026 (opening during Berlin Art Week)
4. December 2026 through February 2027

These dates may be subject to change.

What does active club membership mean? What is the Coordination Committee (KOA)?

Each work group selected by the general assembly must submit an extensive annual report to the general assembly, as well as reporting regularly to the coordinating committee (KOA) that acts with the board as an expanded executive body, especially when changes are made to the project's concept and/or content.

The selected work groups are given one vote in the coordinating committee (KOA), where curatorial and structural matters are discussed and voted on. In the spirit of active membership in the art society, work groups are obliged to participate continually (each member of the coordinating committee is expected to do around 5 hours unpaid work per month). Each group must nominate one member for this task and one deputy. All nGbK meetings (coordinating committee, general assemblies) take

place in German. Spoken translations can be provided during meetings. Further important details about the grass-roots democratic structure of the nGbK and its committees can be found in the society's statutes. The coordinating committee (KOA), which acts as an expanded executive body together with the board, also offers the opportunity to discuss conceptual changes and questions relating to the projects.

Which locations are available for project realization?

The new main location of the nGbK at Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse 11/13 has about 300 m² of gallery space and a room for events with 90 m². The new premises allow the event and exhibition space to be combined, and the office spaces can be used for workshops. The exhibition space can be configured in different ways, allowing small, medium and large variants. Further details are available online via the office team.

What happens once a proposal has been submitted?

The project applications are formally reviewed by the nGbK office. The submitted applications are then made available digitally to all members of the nGbK.

The selection process has two stages. The first round of voting will take place purely online from January 17 to 24, 2025. A selection of up to eight projects in category A and up to two projects each in categories C and N will qualify for the second round. The project submissions from the first round will receive advice on concept and funding before the second submission. The project ideas on this shortlist (without ranking) are then presented to the association members by the working group at the Annual General Meeting and the members can ask questions. The members of the nGbK elect the program at the 167th Annual General Meeting on March 15, 2025 after extensive discussion. There will be no online participation for the second round of voting. The election will only take place physically on site.

Who publishes books produced as part of nGbK projects?

It is possible to produce publications (print or e-book) as part of projects. Publications produced in the context of nGbK projects are published by the nGbK itself. Exceptions may be made only following consultation with the office team and if approved by the coordinating committee. Publications should be in at least two languages, including German (usually German/English, but other language combinations are possible).

How and by whom are projects managed? What rules apply for the use of the available funds?

Rather than being paid out to work group members, project funds are held in a specially created project account and managed by the office team. Funds cannot be spent before the start of the project year (January 1, 2026; possibly January 1, 2027 for projects with external funding). The nGbK receives institutional funding from Berlin's Senate Office for Culture and Social Cohesion, and is thus subject to the subsidy regulations of the City of Berlin. Each work group nominates a financial officer who continually updates the budget and acts as the interface between work group and office team.

What is the deadline for becoming a member with voting rights at the general assembly?

Applications for membership with voting rights should be submitted by March 7, 2025. Members must have paid their membership fees on time in order to vote at the general assembly. If necessary, it will be possible to pay in cash at the general assembly on the day of the vote, if the application for membership has been submitted in time.

Who can I ask if I still have questions?

For questions about the conditions of the open call, the selection procedure, and the internal structures of the nGbK, there is an online information event in German on October 16 and in English on October 17, both at 18:30. Further information on the location on Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse will also be provided during these events. Please register for the information events by

mail to: office@ngbk.de.

From October 19, additional information can also be requested by email. From October 24, there will be a telephone consultation hour for queries every Thursday from 14:00 to 15:00 on 030 6165130.

What does the nGbK do against discrimination?

We seek to be a non-discriminatory workplace, to foster respectful interaction between staff and artists, and to include the broadest possible range of lives and experiences. We encourage especially those with experience of structural and intersectional discrimination to submit project applications, including BIPOC, FLINTA people, people with personal/family histories of migration, neurodiverse people, and people disadvantaged on account of actual or attributed social or educational status. The exhibition space and the website allow barrier-free access. In cases of discrimination, members can contact the nGbK's confidential team.

Forgotten anything? Checklists

Only complete and correctly submitted project applications will be accepted by the online form.

The following information is required for the entry:

Checklist for Category A / one-year projects:

The following information and documents must be provided and submitted for a project application in this category:

- Submission** with the following information:
 - Selection *Submission for Category A / One-Year*
 - Names of the work group members, plus contact details (email address, phone number) for at least one group member
 - Title of the project
 - Type of curatorial format (exhibition, event series, publication, etc.)
 - Preferred time slot

- Short description of the project (max. 1,800 characters including spaces)
 - Upload of one image (max. 1 MB), jpg, landscape format
- 2. Conceptual description of the project** (max. 5,400 characters, including spaces)
 - including a short description of ideas for contextualising the project with supporting events and reasons for realising the project at the nGbK, with pictures and a list of contacted artists. If a publication is planned: publication concept — documentation or extension of the proposed project, type of publication, structure, selected authors, communication strategy, target group.

All of those named in the application must already have been contacted and, if possible, have agreed to being named.

- Upload images/sketches (up to 7 files; gif, jpg, png, each 2 MB; pdf, max. 10 MB)
- 3. Information on the work group** (max. 1,800 characters, including spaces)
 - brief introduction of the members including an assessment of their experience in producing the format applied for.
 - 4. Schedule** (max. 1,500 characters, including spaces)
 - taking into account the exhibition time slots defined by the office team.
 - 5. Financial plan** with all arising costs of the project (one project financial plan, one publication financial plan, if applicable; current financial plan template of nGbK must be used, download and upload of financial plans via application tool).
 - In the submitted financial plan, the project should be fully covered by nGbK funds. The project must be costed with a total budget between €13,000 and max. €74,999. If a publication is planned, a separate financial plan for the publication is to be submitted (costs for the publication must be included in the total budget).

Category C / Projects with external funding:

The following information and documents must be provided and submitted for a project application in this category:

1. **Submission** with the following information:
 - Selection *Submission for Category C/External Funding*
 - Names of the five work group members, plus contact details (email address, phone number) for at least one group member
 - Title of the project
 - Type of curatorial format (exhibition, event series, publication, etc.)
 - Names of potential participants already contacted
 - Short description of the project (max. 3,500 characters including spaces), including possible project partners and planned sources of external funding, if applicable
 - Upload of one image (max. 1 MB), jpg, landscape format
2. **Conceptual description of the project** (max. 10,500 characters, including spaces)
 - including a short description of the format, potential project partners and sources of external funding, schedule, list of contacted artists, rough outline of required budget, presentation of potential participants (work group and other contributors), and reasons for realising the project at nGbK
 - Upload images/sketches (up to 7 files; gif, jpg, png, each 2 MB; pdf, max. 10 MB)

All of those named in the application must already have been contacted and, if possible, have agreed to being named.

The application should also mention any discussions with potential cooperation partners that have already taken place, and which partners have already confirmed their willingness to cooperate if funding is granted.

- Financial plan with all arising costs of the project (one project financial plan, one publication financial plan, if applicable; current financial plan template of nGbK must be used, download and upload of financial plans via application tool).

Kategorie N / External funding neighborhoods:

The following information and documents must be provided and submitted for a project application in this category:

1. **Submission** with the following information:
 - Selection *Submission for Category N/External Funding Neighborhoods*
 - Names of the five work group members, plus contact details (email address, phone number) for at least one group member
 - Title of the project
 - Type of curatorial format (exhibition, event series, open air exhibition, etc.)
 - Names of prospective participants already contacted
 - Short description of the project (max. 3,500 characters including spaces), including possible project partners
 - Planned sources of external funding
 - Upload images/sketches (up to 7 files; gif, jpg, png, each 2 MB; pdf, max. 10 MB)
2. **Conceptual description of the project** (max. 10,500 characters, including spaces)
 - including a short description of the format, potential project partners and sources of external funding, schedule, list of contacted artists, rough outline of required budget, presentation of potential participants (work group and other contributors), and reasons for realising the project at nGbK

All of those named in the application must already have been contacted and, if possible, have agreed to being named.

The application should also mention any discussions with potential cooperation partners that have already taken place, and which partners have already confirmed their willingness to cooperate if funding is granted.

- Upload of images/sketches (up to 7 images, max. 1 MB per image, jpg)
- Financial plan with all arising costs of the project (one project financial plan, one publication financial plan, if applicable; current financial plan template of nGbK must be used, download and upload of financial plans via application tool).