OPEN CALL

Projects 2028



Submission until November, 29 2026

ngbk

Open call for the 2028 program at the nGbK

Deadline:
Sunday, November 29, 2026, 23:59; all submissions using the form at: www.ngbk.de

Curatorial work in collective structures

Founded in 1969 on a grassroots democratic model, neue Gesellschaft für bildende Kunst is an art association 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-stage open call for curatorial projects invites members of the nGbK, and those interested in a membership, to submit proposals in one of three categories (see below) online by November 29, 2026 at 23:59. The nGbK's program for 2028 will be selected from the projects submitted by a vote at the 172th general assembly on February 6, 2027.

The call is open to all formats. Projects in the field of visual arts, as well as those with an interdisciplinary character, may be submitted. In addition to group exhibitions, solo exhibitions are of great interest and are often combined with events and other presentation formats, such as performance series or festivals. For accompanying events, applicants should outline initial ideas for an awareness concept, which will then be further developed and implemented in collaboration with the nGbK's awareness team. Alongside a preliminary event program, plans should also include (traditional) educational or engagement formats—such as guided tours or public discussions—tailored to various target audiences. The nGbK team will provide support for these formats.

To help shape a vibrant and inclusive association, applicants should also consider—and, where necessary, budget for—formats that invite members to actively participate in the project's thematic discourses and artistic inquiries. The goal is for projects to be realized through a broad exchange with interested members, rather than solely through interaction with the nGbK's governing bodies.

Note: Artists who are part of a curatorial team are expected not to exhibit their own work (though the nGbK's governing bodies may decide otherwise in individual cases).

The selected projects must ensure a continual annual program for the nGbK location on Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse. The dates scheduled by the office team allow for a maximum exhibition duration of 8 weeks and must be taken into account.

Further questions regarding the requirements for project submissions to the nGbK, as well as about active membership in the association, can be found in the FAQs at the end of this document or will gladly be answered during the online consultation sessions.

Generally, 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 funded by nGbK

Workgroups in this category may consist of experienced project organizers and of persons wishing to gain initial experience with project implementation.

- Realization period: February 2028–December 2028
- Subject to funding from the SenKultGZ in 2028, project costs amounting to 74,999.00 euros (excluding potential budget cuts) are covered by the nGbK. Of these project funds, 55,000 euros are to be allocated by the working group (AG). The project funds will be available starting in January 2028 and are intended to fully finance the project. Standard applications for third-party funding (e.g., from the German Federal Cultural Foundation, the Capital Cultural Fund, or the SenKultGZ) are not envisioned for these projects; however, travel grants (e.g., from embassies) or artist grants (e.g., from the Outset Foundation or the Mondriaan Stichting) are not excluded.
- At the Karl-Liebknecht-Straße location, an exhibition with an accompanying program is to take place during the specified project period. For other format ideas or if you have any questions, we ask the applying groups to attend one of the consultation sessions in advance. Additional locations are possible, e.g. the station urbaner kulturen/nGbK Hellersdorf or locations by other cooperation partners.

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.

Category C: projects with external funding

This category is designed to facilitate the preparation of a larger-scale project by workgroups with previous curatorial experience, providing initial financial support while additional project-specific external funding is applied for.

- Realization period: from 2028
- Applications for third-party funding (e.g., from the German Federal Cultural Foundation, the Capital Cultural Fund, or the SenKultGZ) will be submitted by the office team in cooperation with the workgroups. For the submission of such project proposals, up to 20,000 euros (excluding potential budget cuts) are available as nGbK funds for the year 2028 (subject to funding from the SenKultGZ).
- Once third-party funding has been secured, the project is scheduled to take place until 2029 in the nGbK exhibition space at its location on Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse or at the station urbaner kulturen/nGbK Hellersdorf. Additional locations by other cooperation partners are possible.
- Those applying for this funding must have proven curatorial experience, documented in the form of up to three reference projects by at least one of those applying.

Category N: external funding, local neighborhood

This category is designed to facilitate the preparation of a project by workgroups with a focus on curatorial practice or art mediation centered on community building, providing initial financial support while additional project-specific external funding is applied for. The project will be implemented once such external funding has been successfully acquired. Through experimental formats, the projects will specifically engage with the nGbK's location within a densely populated residential area—complete with its own infrastructure (schools, kindergartens, associations)—situated not far from the urban hub of Alexanderplatz.

- Realization period: from 2028
- Applications for third-party funding (e.g., from the German Federal Cultural Foundation, the Capital Cultural Fund, or the SenKultGZ) will be submitted by the office team in cooperation with the workgroups. For the submission of such project proposals, up to 4,500 euros (excluding potential budget cuts) are available as nGbK funds for the year 2028 (subject to funding from the SenKultGZ).
- Once third-party funding has been secured, the project is scheduled to take place until 2029 at an outdoor location around nGbK's space on Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse. The specific urban space of the historical city center between the Marienkirche and Nikolaikirche can be used as an anchor for art-based curatorial projects. A partnership exists between the nGbK and Museum Nikolaikirche/Stiftung Stadtmuseum Berlin for this purpose.
- Those applying for this funding must have proven experience in curating and mediation, documented in the form of up to three reference projects by at least one of those applying.

Important dates and deadlines

Monday, November 9, 2026, 9:00–10:00
→ Zoom consultation session in German
For onboarding, please register by emailing office@ngbk.de; the Zoom link will be sent out subsequently.

Monday, November 16, 2025, 17:00–18:00
→ Zoom consultation session in English
For onboarding, please register by emailing office@ngbk.de; the Zoom link will be sent out subsequently.

Monday, November 23, 2026, 17:00–18:00
→ Zoom consultation session in German
For onboarding, please register by emailing office@ngbk.de; the Zoom link will be sent out subsequently.

Friday, November 27, 2026, 9:00–10:00
→ Zoom consultation session, Last-Minute FAQs on submission, in German and English
Please register by emailing office@ngbk.de; the Zoom link will be sent out subsequently.

Sunday, November 29, 2026, 23:59
Initial submission deadline for project applications via the form on the website: www.ngbk.de

Saturday, December 7, 2026, 12:00
Project applications can be viewed online by nGbK members

Monday, December 11 –
Friday, December 20, 2026
First round of voting on projects submitted (online only, for members, at www.ngbk.de) — the office team is available to answer questions. Up to twelve projects will be selected in Format A, up to three projects in Format C, and up to three projects in Format N. A minimum of twelve projects will enter the second round of voting.

Monday, December 21, 2026
Announcement of results as an unranked shortlist by mail to nGbK members and on the website

Monday, January 18, 2027
Second submission deadline for revised shortlisted project proposals via the input mask

Saturday, January 30, 2027
Deadline for payment (receipt) of the membership fee in order to participate in the general meeting as a voting member

Saturday, February 6, 2027, from 9:00
172th nGbK general assembly with project election; brief presentation of the shortlisted projects by applicants, who will also answer questions from nGbK members; discussion with awareness team and clearly defined speaking times

Monday, February 8, 2027
Publication of the results on the nGbK website

June 2027
New workgroups officially founded; work by group members on coordinating committee/board (KOA) begins.

Q&A

Who can submit a project?
The nGbK realizes projects proposed by its members in workgroups of at least five people. Workgroup members may have a curatorial, artistic, art-historical, sociological, political-activist, or otherwise art-related background. Members of the curatorial team—provided they are not already members of the nGbk—must join the association by January 30, 2027 (deadline for the receipt of the membership fee) in order for the project to be put to a vote at the general meeting. For the purpose of project implementation and association work, at least three members of the working group are based 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 decisionmaker but by collective processes: exhibitions, interventions, research projects, event series, and publications are developed by the members in interdisciplinary workgroups and realized in collaboration with the office team.
Projects are realized by workgroups of at least five nGbK members. Workgroup members are contractually obligated to prepare, organize and communicate the project in close and constant cooperation with the nGbK's office team. They receive support from the office staff with financial controlling, public relations, the production of presentations, publications, etc., and, where necessary, with the acquisition of external funds. Each workgroup nominates spokespersons for various tasks, who are able to make decisions at short notice. The financial plan should include fees for workgroup members for the following tasks: finances, communications/press, production, mediation, archive, and, where applicable, publication/editing.
The nGbK is committed to sustainability and the highest possible degree of barrier-free accessibility. We aim for socially and ecologically conscious practices 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 and transport, can be addressed to the office team.
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. The office team administers additional services that facilitate accessible access, such as exhibition introductions in German Sign Language or texts in easy language.

What does active membership of the art association mean? What is the coordinating committee (KOA)?
The selected workgroups are given one vote in the coordinating committee (KOA), the extended board of nGbK. The coordination committee discusses and votes on the association's curatorial and structural matters. As part of their membership in the association, workgroups are obliged to participate continually (around three to five hours unsalaried work per month). Each group must nominate one member for this task and one stand-in. All nGbK meetings (coordinating committee, general assemblies) take place in German. Spoken translations can be provided during meetings. Further important details about the grassroots democratic structure of the nGbK and its committees can be found in the association's statutes. The coordinating committee (KOA), that acts with the chair as an expanded executive board, reserves the right to discuss conceptual questions regarding the projects and to offer a curatorial "look over the shoulder." All projects will be presented at the KOA well in advance of their actual realization.

Which locations are available for project realization?
The main location of the nGbK at Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse 11/13 has roughly 270m2 of gallery space and a room for events with 85m2. These premises offer barrier-free access and allow the event and exhibition space to be combined, while an additional studio space can be used for workshops. The exhibition space can be configured in different ways (variants A and B). In addition, the station urbaner kulturen/ nGbK Hellersdorf (Auerbacher Ring 46) offers 80m2 of exhibition space. This space is on the ground floor, but does not offer barrier-free access. Further details are available online and via the office team.

What does the nGbK mean by a solo exhibition?
Solo exhibitions may be retrospectives or curatorial experiments focusing on individual artists previously overlooked by art historians or ignored for political reasons, as in the case of the recent shows *Hosen Haben Röcke an* (2021) on the Erfurt women artists group, *REALITY CHECK: WILD CUBE AND GROUND CONTROL* (2017) on Lois Weinberger, the memorial exhibition *Félix González-Torres* (1957–1996) (1996), or *Mediale Anagramme* on Valie Export (2003).

What role does mediation play in the realization of a project?
When planning projects, it is important to consider the following questions: Which audiences does the project seek to reached and involve? To what extent does the exhibition concept take the audience at the specific location into account? Which audience and which networks does the project aim to address? Are there ideas or strategies for actively involving visitors or to address them in a more targeted manner? What is the connection between the project's subject—as well as the selected artists—to Berlin society?

What happens once a proposal has been submitted? (selection procedure)
The project proposals are checked for formal correctness by the nGbK office team, before being made available in digital form to all members of the nGbK. The selection process takes place in two stages. During December 11–20, 2026, the first stage takes place online. Up to twelve projects in Category A, and up to three projects each in Categories C and N are shortlisted for the second round. Before the final vote, these proposals are reviewed in terms of their concept and financial plan and amended if necessary, after which the projects on the unranked shortlist are presented at the general assembly by representatives of the workgroups, with nGbK members able to ask questions. At the 172th general assembly on February 6, 2027, following extensive discussion, the nGbK membership will vote for the 2028 program. This second round of voting takes place in person at the general assembly only, with no online option. A prerequisite for participation is confirmed membership (receipt of the membership fee by January 30, 2027).

How are books published as part of nGbK projects?
It is possible to produce publications like catalogues or readers (print or e-book) as part of projects. Publications produced in the context of nGbK projects are published by the nGbK itself. By agreement, deviations from this are possible within the framework of distribution or publishing partnerships. The publications are at least bilingual, including German as one language (usually German/English, but other language combinations are possible). Publications in other languages should be noted accordingly in the financial plan and project schedule. Publication are to be finished before the exhibition opens, only appearing later in justified exceptional cases, but always before the end of the financial year.

How and by whom are project budgets managed? What rules apply for the use of the available funds?
Rather than being paid out to workgroup members, project funds are held in a specially created project account and managed by the office team. The project funds (amounting to 55,000 euros) can be scheduled from the start of the calendar year (January 2, 2028—or, in the case of third-party funded projects, potentially from January 2, 2029), depending on the implementation period. 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 workgroup nominates one of its members to serve as a representative in the budget-controlling process (for allocatable project funds) managed by the administrative office.

What is the deadline for becoming a member with voting rights to select projects at the general assembly?
All members of the nGbK can take part in the two-stage selection procedure. In order to be eligible to vote online and at the general assembly, the nGbK membership fee for 2026 and 2027, respectively, must have been paid. New members joining from 2027 should pay their membership fees before January 30, 2027 (deadline of payment receipt), in order to be able to participate in the general assembly as a voting member. Timely payment of the membership fee is a prerequisite for the right to vote at the general assembly.

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, please register for the online consultations. Additionally, you can reach us by email at assistenz@ngbk.de.

What does the nGbK do against discrimination?

With its Code of Conduct, the nGbK has committed itself to a discrimination-free working environment that encompasses diverse life experiences and backgrounds. We particularly encourage those with experience of structural and intersectional discrimination to submit project applications, including BIPoC, LGBTQI* 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. Members can report cases of discrimination confidentially to the nGbK's confidential reporting team. The nGbK has a complaints structure and is currently working with an external advisory service.

The following information is required when filling out the online form:

Category A: One-year projects, funded by the nGbK

For a project proposal in this category, the following information and documents must be provided:

1. **Fill out the following information:**

- □ Selection *"Submission for Category A: One-Year Project"*
- □ Names of the work group members (at least five people), plus contact details (email address, phone number) for at least one group member
- □ Title of the project
- □ Type of curatorial format (exhibition, event series with publication, etc.)
- □ Names of those already contacted for participation
- □ Preferred timeslot for realization
- □ Short description of the project (max. 1,800 characters including spaces)
- □ Upload picture (max 1 MB), jpeg, landscape format

2. **Project concept** (max. 5,400 characters incl. spaces)

- □ The conceptual outline should take the following questions into account: What is the relevance of the project? Which discourses does it engage in? How does the project situate itself within the context of the nGbK? Which artists will be featured? Which new perspectives are developed? Which audience does the show aim to reach—and how?
- □ 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 mentioned by name should have been contacted before the proposal is submitted and if possible they should have consented to being named in the proposal.
- □ It is recommended to submit a visualization of the exhibition concept and the works/artists involved: Upload images/sketches (max. 7 files, max. 1 MB per file, jpeg/PDF)

3. **Information on the work group** (max. 1,800 characters, including spaces)

- □ Brief introduction of all work group members (at least five people) including an assessment of their curatorial experience

4. **Schedule** (max. 1,500 characters, including spaces)

- □ Must take into account the predefined exhibition timeslots in the nGbK exhibition space

5. **Financial plan** with all arising costs of the project (one financial plan for the project and where applicable a separate financial plan for the publication; the current nGbK financial plan template must be used, stating the relevant itemized costs; financial plans can be downloaded and uploaded using the 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 must be included in overall budget).

Category C: External funding

For a project proposal in this category, the following information and documents must be provided:

1. **Fill out the following information:**

- ☐ Selection *"Submission for Category C: External funding"*
- ☐ Names of the work group members (at least five people), plus contact details (email address, phone number) for at least one group member
- ☐ Title of the project
- ☐ Type of curatorial format (exhibition, symposium, publication, etc.)
- ☐ Names of those already contacted for participation
- ☐ Short description of the project (max. 3,500 characters including spaces) where applicable naming potential cooperation partners and planned applications for third-party funding.
- ☐ Upload picture (max. 1 MB), jpeg, landscape format.

2. **Project concept (max. 10,500 characters incl. spaces)**

- ☐ The conceptual outline should take the following questions into account: What is the relevance of the project? Which discourses does it engage in? How does the project situate itself within the context of the nGbK? Which artists will be featured? Which new perspectives are developed? Which audience does the show aim to reach — and how?
- ☐ All of those mentioned by name should have been contacted before the proposal is submitted and if possible they should have consented to being named in the proposal.
- ☐ In addition, the concept should name potential cooperation partners with whom talks have already taken place and which of these have already confirmed their participation should funding be approved.
- ☐ It is recommended to submit a visualization of the exhibition concept and the works/artists involved: Upload images/sketches (max. 7 files, max. 1 MB per file, jpeg/PDF)

3. **Information on the work group** (max. 1,800 characters incl. spaces)

- ☐ Brief introduction of all work group members (at least five people) including previous curatorial reference projects

4. **Schedule (max. 1,500 characters incl. spaces)**

- ☐ Must take into account planned funding applications and the predefined exhibition timeslots in the nGbK exhibition space.

5. **Financial plan** with all arising costs of the project (one financial plan for the project and where applicable a separate financial plan for the publication; the current nGbK financial plan template must be used, stating the relevant itemized costs; financial plans can be downloaded and uploaded using the application tool).

- ☐ When applying for a project with external funding, it is recommended to take part in one of the Zoom consultations.

Category N: External funding, local neighborhood

For a project proposal in this category, the following information and documents must be provided:

1. **Fill out the following information:**

- □ Selection *"Submission for Category N: External funding, local neighborhood"*
- □ 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 (performances, events, open-air exhibitions, etc.)
- □ Names of those already considered for participation
- □ Short description of the project (max. 3,500 characters including spaces) where applicable naming potential cooperation partners
- □ Planned applications for third-party funding
- □ Upload picture (max. 1 MB), jpeg, horizontal format.

2. **Project concept** (max. 10,500 characters incl. spaces)

- □ The conceptual outline should take the following questions into account: What is the relevance of the project? Which discourses does it engage in? How does the project situate itself within the context of the nGbK? Which artists will be featured? Which new perspectives are developed? Which audience does the show aim to reach — and how?
- □ All of those mentioned by name should have been contacted before the proposal is submitted and if possible they should have consented to being named in the proposal.
- □ In addition, the concept should name potential cooperation partners with whom talks have already taken place and which of these have already confirmed their participation should funding be approved.
- □ It is recommended to submit a visualization of the exhibition concept and the works/artists involved: Upload images/sketches (max. 7 files, max. 1 MB per file, jpeg/PDF)

3. **Information on the work group (max. 1.800 characters incl. spaces)**

- □ Brief introduction of all work group members (at least five people) including reference projects indicating previous curatorial/mediation experience

4. **Schedule (max. 1.500 characters incl. spaces)**

- □ Must take into account planned funding applications and the predefined exhibition timeslots in the nGbK exhibition space

5. **Financial plan** with all arising costs of the project (one financial plan for the project and where applicable a separate financial plan for the publication; the current nGbK financial plan template must be used, stating the relevant itemized costs; financial plans can be downloaded and uploaded using the application tool).

- □ When applying for a neighborhood project, it is recommended to take part in one of the Zoom consultations.