

Shift Scholarship Stuttgart funding guideline

Art can stimulate contemplation, provoke discourse and help transform our world to a certain extent. People involved in culture are increasingly looking for methods to make their own working methods more sustainable, more socially just and effective. With this in mind, the “Shift Scholarship Stuttgart” is an invitation to reflect on and further develop artistic practices. The scholarship provides scope for experimentation with the prerequisite that all interaction among the participants is considerate and respectful.

Form and priorities

The scholarships support artists with 1,200 euros per month for a period of three to twelve months for research in one of the following fields of transformation (a combination of fields is also possible):

1. Sustainability
2. Aesthetics of access
3. Social participation

1. An all-round concept of sustainability takes into account social, ecological and economic aspects. For creative processes, this means for instance the confrontation with ecological materials and circular production processes, the endeavour for social and resource-friendly structures or developing fair strategies for regional sharing (material/social/artistic). The reflection on and testing sustainable production and presentation approaches, also with regard to artistic performance, should be part of future artistic practices.

2. Aesthetics of access describes the aesthetical and creative potential of accessibility. It starts with an awareness of various ways of thinking and living, followed by the commitment to create diverse access and participation possibilities for people with disabilities and basically people with different physical and cognitive conditions. From the beginning, this includes cooperation on an equal footing based on different expertise and experience. The scholarship encourages equal artistic collaborations, working together on barrier-free artistic approaches.

3. Social participation in art and culture requires dynamic networks and people committed to the community. Yet not all groups of the population have equal access to art and culture or can participate. Involvement becomes possible when the approach to cultural creation processes is cooperative and understood as an equal co-production of different cultural and social perspectives (or backgrounds). The scholarship is an invitation to artists to work together in developing concepts and procedures for participation. How can responsibilities be shared to warrant the involvement of different groups of people? How do the artists' own practices have an impact on society and open up room for debate?

Eligibility

Applications may be submitted by independent, professional artists or teams with their work priorities in Stuttgart.

Application

The application should include (in a PDF document):

- CV (max. 2 DIN A4 pages)
- Project outline (max. 2 DIN A4 pages) including
 - Goal, content and potential cooperation partners
 - Approach, schedule and desired scholarship duration (max. 12 months)
 - Possible expertise, experience or planned further education measures in the field of transformation
 - Work samples, provided that the people involved in culture have not been supported by the culture promotion of the City of Stuttgart: proof of a public image cultural project (max. 2 pages)

The applications should be sent as a PDF by e-mail to kulturfoerderung@stuttgart.de in either German or English by 28 February. Other forms of applications such as video or audio files may also be accepted according to prior agreement. Sample file name: Surname_First name_Shift.pdf.

Selection process

The scholarship will be awarded by the expert jury of the “Development Drivers” (Entwicklungstreiber) promotion fund in cooperation with the Culture Promotion Department.

Selection criteria can be

- Networking and cooperation (e.g. with interest groups / associations)
- Obtaining expert knowledge from people with “real” experience
- Partnership of equals with regard to artistic co-operation
- Potential for continuous interaction
- Responsible approach
- Systematic and transparent way of working

Realisation

Part of the funding are two workshops with all fellows for an exchange on how to proceed and document the work process during the scholarship funding period. The monthly funding of 1,200 euros will be paid in two instalments at the beginning and upon completion of the scholarship.

Content-wise the work is process-oriented and open-ended, methodically bound by the targets and measures laid down in the application. The process also has an impact on the form of documentation, which is primarily for one’s own, but also for the collective, further development. A public record of results (discussion, lecture, tutorial, performance, think tanks) makes potential transfer effects for third parties possible. Form, date and recipients will be determined during the scholarship.

On the part of the cultural administration, results of the discourse and/or documentation will be included in an evaluation which will be made available to political decision-makers and may be incorporated in future programmes.

Contact

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