

## Funding guidelines “Art & AI”

The following guidelines apply in conjunction with the general “Funding Guidelines of the German Federal Cultural Foundation” ([https://www.kulturstiftung-des-bundes.de/en/about\\_the\\_foundation/general\\_funding\\_guidelines.html](https://www.kulturstiftung-des-bundes.de/en/about_the_foundation/general_funding_guidelines.html)).

The funding programme “Art & AI” of the German Federal Cultural Foundation addresses the growing social influence of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies. To this end, the programme aims to encourage intensive artistic investigation of AI technologies, combined with a deeper reflection on their societal effects.

The funding programme consists of an application-based fund, accompanying workshops and a concluding festival. As part of the fund, the German Federal Cultural Foundation shall support at least ten artistic projects of excellence by cultural institutions and independent groups. The purpose of the accompanying workshops and concluding festival is to promote networking between the funded cultural institutions and independent groups, provide content support in an advisory capacity and initiate knowledge transfer beyond the scope of the projects.

The German Federal Cultural Foundation has allocated up to 3.68 million euros to finance the programme from 2025 to 2028.

### 1. Object of funding

Funding is awarded for the purpose of developing and implementing excellent, innovative, artistic projects that work with AI technologies and reflect on their far-reaching social impact. New projects can receive funding even if they build on existing prototypes. The funded cultural institutions and independent groups are required to offer accompanying formats which provide a forum for public discussion (e.g. in the form of workshops, artist talks, blog contributions, social media formats etc.).

With regard to selecting and applying AI technologies, the proposed projects should ideally take into consideration approaches that serve the common good. Moreover, they should use their awarded funding in an environmentally

conscious and resource-friendly manner when planning, carrying out and following up their projects in accordance with relevant legal regulations.

## **2. Eligibility requirements**

To be eligible for funding, applicants must be cultural institutions or independent groups in any artistic genre or cross-disciplinary combination thereof and have a contemporary orientation. An 'independent group' is defined as a creatively engaged team of at least three natural persons, who have worked together for at least two years, publicly presented joint artistic productions and maintain a joint business address. The legal form of the independent group (e.g. foundation, registered association, body of public or private law, partnership under civil law etc.) has no influence on the funding decision. The proposed projects may be carried out in cooperation with other partners, e.g. national or international cultural organisations, freelance artists, independent groups or research institutes.

Art colleges, academies, universities (or other higher education institutions), archives, libraries and solo artists are not eligible to apply. They may, however, participate as project partners.

## **3. Workshops and concluding festival**

Workshops will be held on a regular basis to enable the German Federal Cultural Foundation to support the funded cultural organisations and independent groups in an advisory capacity and promote networking and knowledge sharing between the participants. These single- or multiple-day meetings will be organised by the German Federal Cultural Foundation and will tentatively take place once a year. The meetings will offer the funded cultural institutions and independent groups an opportunity to present their progress and final project results. Workshop participation is obligatory for the responsible representatives of the funded projects.

## **4. Funding amount**

The German Federal Cultural Foundation shall award up to 240,000 euros per artistic project. Applicants must request at least 100,000 euros to be considered. As a rule, the German Federal Cultural Foundation awards project funding as shortfall financing in the form of a non-repayable grant.

## **5. Own contribution and/or third-party financing**

At least 20% of the total funding amount must be secured at the time of

application with the applicant's own monetary resources or third party financing. Additional monetary self-contributions or third party funding may be added if desired.

## 6. **Application procedure**

Applicants are required to complete and submit the respective online funding application form for this programme, available on the website of the German Federal Cultural Foundation. The following documents must be uploaded together with the online application:

- a) A detailed concept of the project with respect to the object of funding (see No. 1) on max. four DIN A4 pages (7,200 char.). Special attention should be given to the following questions:
  - I. What kind of artistic project are you planning? Concretely describe the key issues, content, form and objective of the project.
  - II. What AI technologies are you planning to use to implement the project? To what extent does your project consider the common good with regard to the use of technology?
  - III. What do you see as the central challenges with regard to implementing your project (max. 1,000 char.)
  - IV. What accompanying formats are you planning for publicly discussing your project and its impact? (max. 1,000 char.)
- b) A brief description of the important milestones you hope to achieve during the course of the project on max. one DIN A4 page (1,800 char. including spaces).
- c) A list of significantly involved artists and important project partners with a brief description of the focus of your activities with reference to the project on max. two DIN A4 pages (3,600 char. including spaces).
- d) Applications submitted by independent groups: a brief description of the focus of your activities in the past two years, as well as any public presentations that are relevant to the project with the name of a corresponding website (URL address) on max. one-half DIN A4 page (900 char. including spaces).
- e) Two-page Cost and Financing Plan listing all planned expenditures and revenues; please use the template provided by the German Federal Cultural

Foundation for this purpose.

- f) Written confirmation of secured financing from the third-party funding provider(s) if such funding is to be included in the Cost and Financing Plan.

#### 7. **Application deadline**

The application deadline is Thursday, 10 April 2025. The sending date of the online form is regarded as the date of submission. Only those documents received prior to the application deadline can be considered for evaluating the fundability of the proposals. Applications which are incomplete or submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

#### 8. **Selection decision**

The Executive Board of the German Federal Cultural Foundation makes the final funding decisions based on the recommendations of an independent jury. The date of the closed-session jury meeting will be announced in advance on the website of the German Federal Cultural Foundation.

#### 9. **Implementation period**

Upon receiving funding notification, the development and implementation of the project can begin immediately and must be concluded no later than 30 June 2028.

#### 10. **Legal basis**

The German Federal Cultural Foundation awards funding in accordance with these funding guidelines, the provisions in §§ 23, 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO) and the relevant administrative regulations (VV).

#### 11. **Payment and accounting**

The approval, payment and accounting of funding, the proof and review of expenditures, as well as possible withdrawal from the funding contract or reclamation of funding are subject to §§ 23 and 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO) and the relevant administrative regulations, insofar as deviations from the general administrative regulations are not explicitly permitted by these funding guidelines. The Federal Audit Office is entitled to conduct audits in accordance with §§ 91, 100 BHO.

#### 12. **Validity of the funding guidelines**

These funding guidelines take effect on 10 December 2024 and are subject to change.