



Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion  
Department of Culture  
Division I A - Funding for Artists, Projects and Independent Groups

## INFORMATION SHEET

### Work and research grants in early music, new music and sound art 2026

The application deadline is 14 January 2025 at 2pm (CET).  
(For funding as of July 2025)

Please read this information sheet carefully and take note of all formal requirements. Please also note that applications that do not meet the requirements will be excluded from the jury process.

Subject to the availability of funds, the Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion awards work grants to promote early music, new music and sound art in Berlin.

#### Target group

The grants are intended to support the artistic development of outstanding professional artists and curators working in the following areas of new music/sound art or early music: composition, sound art, interpretation, curation, research. Both newcomers and experienced artists can apply.

#### Objectives of funding

The grant programme intends to promote the diversity and quality of works produced in Berlin in the fields of new music/sound art and early music. Funding is available for artists and curators who are intending to further develop their artistic skills or are working on specific projects (e.g. research, preliminary work on a specific topic, development of projects in the field of mediation, documentation and publication). Please note that the production of recordings, booklets etc. cannot be funded. The grants should enable the recipients to concentrate on artistic or curatorial work for the duration of the grant period.

## Requirements and conditions

- Professional artists and curators are eligible to apply.
- At the time of application, the 1st place of residence must be in Berlin and (in case of funding) must be maintained throughout the grant period. Any change of residence must be communicated to the Senate Department for Culture.
- The criteria for selection are primarily quality, creativity and continuity.
- Each applicant can submit one application only. If the same applicant submits several applications, the most recent one will be considered by the jury. Participation in several projects is possible.
- Duos can submit one joint application. Music ensembles of three or more people cannot submit an application. Music ensembles are eligible for “Basisförderung” for early music and new music. A member of a music ensemble can submit an application for his or her own artistic work.
- Non-EU citizens can apply, if their passport or their temporary permit/certificate contains a note from the Business Immigration Service (BIS) of the National Immigration Office (LEA) which permits self-employed or independent artistic work.
- Former grantees can re-apply.
- All grants of the State of Berlin (work grants, research grants and cultural exchange grants) can be combined up to an amount of € 24,000 per year. Should you receive the confirmation of another grant after the application has been submitted, this must be communicated to the Senate Department.
- The grant can also be combined with other grants from domestic and/or foreign funding institutions not mentioned here. (In this case, please double-check whether the other funding body allows parallel funding). Grants already approved for 2025 must be mentioned in the application form. Funding received in the last 3 years must also be listed in the application form.
- Combination with project funding is permitted.

If necessary, please double-check before submitting your application whether this funding will be offset against any transfer benefits (e.g. according to SGB II or housing benefit) you might receive. Unfortunately, the Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion cannot consult on this.

## Exclusion

- Applicants who are enrolled at an university or are holding a professorship at the time of application.
- Applicants from the field of jazz as there is a separate funding programme ([Link](#)).

- Applicants from the field of pop music as Musicboard Berlin GmbH ([Link](#)) is responsible for this.

### **Funding volume**

The work grants amount to €12,000 and the research grants to €8,000 each. The jury can reduce an amount from €12,000 to €8,000. Grants will be paid in monthly instalments of € 2,000 as of July 2025.

### **Jury Process**

This call is subject to the proviso that the necessary funds are available. Expert juries will review the applications and make funding recommendations. Please note that depending on which “sub-dicision” you choose in the application form, one of the following juries will assess your application:

- New Music (sub-divisions new music, sound art, real time music, improvised music). The jury consists of: Matthias Maschat, Steffi Weismann, Michael Zwenzner.
- Early Music (sub-division Early Music). The jury consists of: Mayumi Hirasaki, Natalie Pfeiffer, Doerthe Maria Sandmann.

Please refrain from contacting members of the jury to discuss an application.

The results of the jury process will be communicated to all applicants by email in April/May 2025. The names of the recipients will be published.

### **Funding**

This call for applications is subject to the availability of funds.

### **Application procedure**

Please submit your application and all supporting documents electronically [here](#).

The application form and the description of the project contained therein must be submitted in German. The portfolio and the artistic CV can be submitted in English.

Please make sure to include the link to your website, if applicable.

Only these file formats can be uploaded: .docx, .xlsx, .pdf and MP3. Other formats cannot be read!

**If the formal application requirements set out in this information sheet are not met, the application will be excluded for formal reasons and will not be admitted to the**

jury process. Once the application deadline has passed, no further submissions can be made by e-mail or in the application centre.

Exceeding the specified **maximum number of pages**, characters and/or megabytes will result in formal exclusion from the funding programme, as will incorrectly or incompletely uploaded documents. When submitting your application, please ensure that you upload all correct and necessary documents in a legible format! Missing documents will not be requested by the Senate Department for Culture. Please carefully check your application before submission

It is not necessary to submit a financing plan.

All information given is treated confidentially and used exclusively for the selection and funding process.

**The online application consists of the following documents:**

#### **Online application form**

Please provide a precise and informative description of your projectform under “Projekt-Kurzbeschreibung” (max. 1,900 characters including spaces and paragraphs).

A drop-down menu will open. Please select „Musik“ under „Förderbereich“ and choose between „Alte Musik“ (Early Music) und „Neue Musik“ (New Music) under „Förderprogramm“

The personal data entered on page 1 and any identity documents will not be passed on to the jury.

#### **Attachments**

##### **1. Description of the planned project**

(max. 2 pages, docx-, pdf-file), 2 MB, mandatory

Attention: Exceeding the specified maximum number of pages (incl. cover sheet, photos, attachment!) will result in formal exclusion from the funding programme.

##### **2. Artistic curriculum vitae**

(docx-, pdf-file) max. 2 MB, mandatory

##### **3. Valid proof of residence in Berlin**

(max. 2 MB, mandatory)

The 1st place of residence must be in Berlin at the time of application. Only this address should be given in the online application.

- **in case of German citizenship**

Copy of valid identity card (page 1 and 2)

or

Copy of a valid passport together with a copy of the official registration confirmation (Meldebestätigung)

A copy of your German passport is NOT sufficient if it does not contain your specific registration address.

- **in case of non-German citizenship**

Copy of the valid passport together with a copy of the registration confirmation from the State Office for Citizens and Regulatory Affairs (or: residence permit from the State Office for Immigration)

If you do not have a current registration certificate, you can apply for a registration certificate online: <https://service.berlin.de/dienstleistung/120702/>

Proof of the exact registration address is mandatory; if applying as a duo, both documents must be merged into one file.

#### **4. in case of a joint application as a duo: GbR contract or filled-in form**

(max. 2 MB, pdf file, mandatory)

A work grant is a personal grant. Therefore, only natural persons and GbRs are eligible to apply. Associations or other legal entities are not eligible to apply. The declaration must be signed by all participating applicants - as must the registration address of all group members. If a GbR already exists, please submit a copy of the GbR-contract.

Otherwise please fill in the form which can be downloaded [here](#).

#### **5. non-EU citizens**

(max. 2 MB mandatory, if applicable)

Please also provide a proof that self-employment is permitted (scan of the respective page in your passport). If you have a fictitious certificate, please upload it in full if it contains a corresponding authorization for self-employment.

## **6. Documentation**

(max. 5 MB, optional)

Flyer, photos etc. of previous sound art objects (no music examples), if applicable; please only attach this file, if it is essential for the presentation of your previous work.

## **7. Links to artistic works (concerts, installations, etc.)**

(max. 1 MB, optional)

Please make sure to provide only links to those works which are meaningful in the context of your application and include working hyperlinks.

## **8. Work sample 1 (audio sample or score)**

(max. 6 MB, mandatory)

Please note that for quality reasons, audio samples be at least 6 MB.

## **9. Work sample 2 (audio sample or score)**

(max. 6 MB, optional)

As above, at least 6 MB.

The total volume of your attachments must not exceed 30 MB.

## **Application deadline**

**The application deadline is Tuesday, 14 January 2025 at 2 pm (CET).**

Online applications must be fully submitted by 2pm including all attachments.

Applications cannot be submitted after 2pm, any transmissions that have been started will automatically stop. at 2pm.

We strongly advise you to submit your application in good time and have all necessary attachments ready beforehand.

You can find further information on the online application in our [FAQ section](#).

If you have any technical problems, please contact us immediately by telephone and/or report the problem by e-mail with a screenshot.

## **Exclusion**

Members of the jury are excluded as employees of the Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion and their relatives.

### **Revocation or withdrawal of approval**

The approval of the funding will be withdrawn and the applicant obliged to repay any amounts if they have obtained the funding wrongly, in particular by providing incorrect information, unless they are not responsible for the reason for this.

The grant will be revoked if the funded applicant is no longer in a position to begin or continue the work deemed worthy of funding. In this case, the funding amounts received after the reason for revocation has occurred must be repaid. The repayment claim exists regardless of whether the funding amount has already been used.

### **Please note that the grant is in accordance with EU law**

If the grant can be considered a state aid, the funding is granted in accordance with the requirements of Chapter I and on the basis of Art. 53 of Chapter III of the General Block Exemption Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 (EU OJ L 187/1 of 26 June 2014) in the version of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 2023/1315 of 23 June 2023 (EU Official Journal L167/1 of 30 June 2023) or on the basis of Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid (EU Official Journal L, 2023/2831, 15.12.2023 L).

Companies or sectors are excluded from support in the cases of Art. 1 (2), (3) and (5) GBER.

No individual aid may be granted to a company that has not complied with a recovery order based on an earlier Commission decision declaring aid granted by the same Member State to be unlawful and incompatible with the internal market.

Companies in difficulty pursuant to Art. 1 (4) (c) GBER are excluded from funding. Companies in difficulty are companies to which at least one of the circumstances according to Art. 2 No. 18 a-e GBER applies.

It should be noted that information on any individual aid exceeding EUR 100,000 is generally published in the European Commission's State aid transparency database or on a comprehensive national or regional state aid website within six months of the date on which the aid was granted. Reference is also made to the reporting obligation pursuant to Art. 11 GBER.

## CONTACT

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