



DREAMING
NEW WORLDS

DREAMING NEW WORLDS 2026

Codes of Conduct

OPEN CALL FOR COLLECTIVES

Program	Dreaming New Worlds
Year	2026
Theme	Codes of Conduct
Grant per Collective	€3,000
Number of Grants	4 – one collective per node
Application Deadline	May 19th 2026
Program Dates	June – December 2026
Who Can Apply	Multidisciplinary collectives based in at least one of the four nodes

About Dreaming New Worlds

Dreaming New Worlds is a Pan-African art and technology initiative launched in 2023 to foster cross-disciplinary collaboration between artists, scientists, and creative technologists. The project supports practitioners interested in:

- African centered criticality and conceptual rigor
- Indigenous knowledge systems, art and technologies
- The contemporary landscape of art, science, and digital humanities

In 2026, the project expands from Lagos, (Nigeria), drawing in ideas, strategies, and lessons from nodes across the African continent to facilitate cross-disciplinary knowledge transfer.

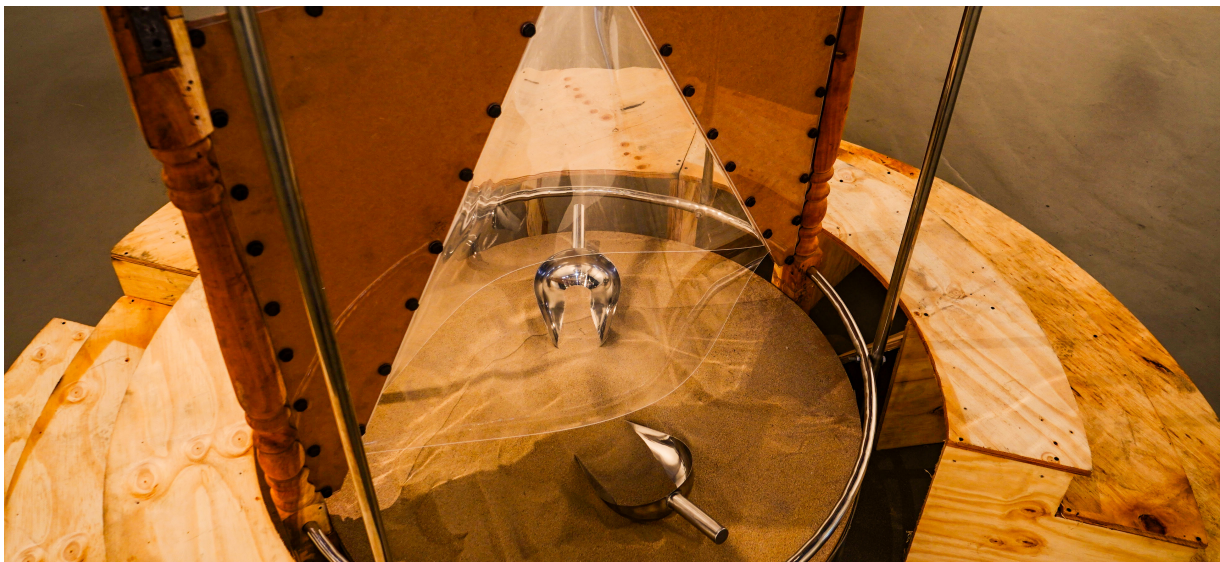


Sands of Time by Nigerian Collective Ala Praxis, 2025, (Tiwani Contemporary Lagos - Lagos, Nigeria)

2026 Theme: Codes of Conduct

Codes dictate behaviour, outcomes, and innovations within digital and analogue systems. In this project, the programmer is the leader, the designer, and the dreamer of new worlds.

This year's theme explores the dynamics in which technology is reshaping leadership, belonging, and organization in African technological societies. The theme aims to support the development and prototyping of ideas around ownership and agency while cradling the digital and the analogue as it manifests in Africa. The project seeks to create utopic expressions with Africa at the center.



Sands of Time by Nigerian Collective Ala Praxis, 2025, (Tiwani Contemporary Lagos - Lagos, Nigeria)

Conceptual Questions

- What utopian ideals of leadership, belonging, and organization do Africans dream of and desire?
- How are we engaging with these ideals in the advent of new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, quantum technologies, and robotics?
- How are we receiving and engaging with these technologies, and what is the consequence on our ideas of morality and community?

Material Questions

- How are Africans pushing the use cases of deep tech on the continent?
- What new ways can coding (in its different styles), Artificial Intelligence, and its backbone be explored ethically on the continent?

The Four Nodes

The program is structured across four Pan-African nodes. Each node is focused on its sub theme but is free to be influenced by ideas from others. All work contributes to the overarching theme of Codes of Conduct.

Node	Countries	Sub-Theme
Node 1	Kenya, Tanzania, Togo	Ethics of Power
Node 2	Nigeria, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso	Building Distributed Networks
Node 3	South Africa, Ghana, Cote d' Ivoire	Feminist & Ecological Governance
Node 4	Namibia, Angola, Rwanda	Techno-Political Futures



The Breathing City by MatriAér Lab, 2026, (Center for Contemporary Art Lagos - Lagos, Nigeria)



The City Responds: Taruwa City by Sarauniya Ènè, 2026, (Center for Contemporary Art Lagos - Lagos, Nigeria)

What We Are Looking For

Each node will select one multidisciplinary collective to receive a grant of €3,000. This collective will use the grant to research, develop, and produce a small to medium-sized prototype that responds to the node's sub-theme.

Collective Composition

Collectives must be genuinely cross-disciplinary. Each collective should include at minimum:

- An artist or creative practitioner
- A technologist, scientist or engineer
- A researcher, thinker, or policy worker

Collectives may include additional members beyond these three roles. We actively encourage collaboration across institutions, cities, countries (within the node) and disciplines. At least one collective member should be able to speak English Language.

The Prototype

The collective's primary output is a functional prototype – a small to medium-scale system, tool, platform, or artwork that:

- Demonstrates how codes (ethical, cultural, or technological) shape behaviour or outcomes
- Is testable, iterable, and legible as a system – not only an artwork or concept
- Is grounded in its regional context while speaking to Pan-African and global conversations
- Embeds ethical leadership as a design and governance concern



Initiate by Chronoverse, 2024, (Old Nigerian Printing Press - Lagos Nigeria)

Program Structure

Accepted collectives will participate in the following program components:

1. Pan - African Fellows Cohort

Accepted collectives join a cohort of Pan-African fellows across all four nodes. They participate in shared online programming, knowledge exchange, and cross - node dialogue throughout the year.

2. Dreaming New Worlds Labs

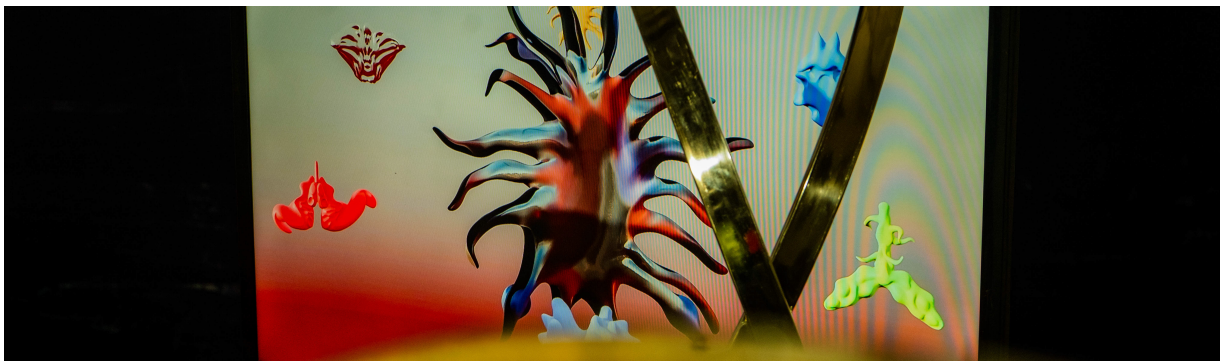
A month-long intensive Lab taking place simultaneously across all nodes (July 2026) The Lab brings in specialist facilitators to support the development of prototypes and build the capacity of collectives in coding, ethical AI, creative leadership, and policy.

3. Public Programs

Public-facing programs to sensitize and develop the community around the ideas and works of each collective. These can include film screenings, panel discussions, workshops, artist talks, and civic roundtables. The collective will design and execute at least one public program in their home country.

4. Legacy Output

A digital platform, a digital atlas, capturing processes, prototypes, discussions, and content that remains accessible beyond the project timeline– usable for research, education, and future collaborations.



Pidgin Choreography by Alexandra Martens Serrano, 2024, (Old Nigerian Printing Press - Lagos Nigeria)



Know Thy Self by The Source Code, 2024, (Old Nigerian Printing Press - Lagos Nigeria)

What Success Looks Like

Dreaming New Worlds measures success by its capacity to produce functional cultural propositions that can be tested, debated, and carried forward. Selected collectives are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:



Initiate by Chronoverse, 2024, (Old Nigerian Printing Press - Lagos Nigeria)

- Functional Output: At least one operational prototype or system demonstrating how codes shape behavior or outcomes
- Cross-Disciplinary Co-creation: Art as a genuine mediator between technology, ethics, and policy
- Knowledge Circulation: Active exchange of ideas between nodes, evidenced through documentation and shared workshops
- Ethical Leadership Embedded in the Inquiry: Leadership framed as a design and governance problem
- Community Engagement: Labs, panels, and workshops that involve local communities and allow non-specialists to engage meaningfully
- Pathway to Global Exhibition: Research and incubation prototypes that can travel to international platforms
- Capacity Building: Participants gain technical skills, collaborative methodologies, and systems-thinking frameworks
- Living Documentation: A digital archive that remains accessible and useful beyond the project

Eligibility

Who Can Apply

- Multidisciplinary collectives of 2 or more members
- At least one member must be based in the node's region at the time of application
- Collectives must include practitioners working across at least two disciplines (art, technology, research, policy, etc.)
- Applications are welcome from collectives at any career stage
- We strongly encourage applications from women, voices on the margins, and practitioners from under-represented communities
- Open to commit to building out their prototype intensively over a month through June/July 2026

What Is Not Eligible

- Individual applications (not a collective)
- Collectives with no connection to the relevant node region
- Purely commercial projects with no research or cultural dimension
- Projects already fully funded and completed



Projection Mapping Workshop with Femi Fala 2026, (Center for Contemporary Art Lagos - Lagos, Nigeria)



Projection Mapping Workshop with Femi Fala 2026, (Center for Contemporary Art Lagos - Lagos, Nigeria)

Grant & Support

Each selected collective

- A project grant of up to €3,000 to support prototype development
- Access to the Dreaming New Worlds Lab (a month-long facilitated program, primarily in-person at local nodes, with some online cross-nodal sessions)
- Opportunities for mentorship from specialists across art, technology, ethics, and policy
- Potential visibility through nodal presentations and related public-facing activities
- Consideration for showcasing at international festivals, where applicable
- Documentation and archiving of the work on the Dreaming New Worlds digital platform



The Breathing City by MatriAér Lab, 2026, (Center for Contemporary Art Lagos - Lagos, Nigeria)



The City Responds: Taruwa City by Sarauniya Ènè, 2026, (Center for Contemporary Art Lagos - Lagos, Nigeria)

Research Travel Grants

To support collectives in deepening their research and strengthening their prototypes and connection between African countries, each collective may apply for up to two (2) research travel trips within their node region during the program period.

Travel grants are not automatic – they must be applied for separately and are subject to approval. This should cost a maximum of €3000, so collectives should factor this into their budget planning.

What Travel Can Be Used For

- Field research directly connected to the prototype or research inquiry in the sister country
- Connecting with communities, practitioners, or institutions relevant to the project
- Site visits, technical investigations, or knowledge-gathering that cannot be done remotely
- Cross-node exchanges with other DNW collectives (subject to separate approval)

Travel Application Requirements

Each travel request must be submitted in writing to your node's curatorial contact. The following must be clearly explained:

Required Information	What to Include
Purpose	A clear explanation of why the trip is necessary and what research question or prototype challenge it addresses. An example: How will the destination help the traveler reimagine leadership through the lens of empathy, intuition, or communalism (e.g. Ubuntu or Ifa logic)?
Participants	The name(s) and role(s) of collective members who will travel, and the justification for each person's involvement
Connections	Who the collective hopes to meet, interview, collaborate with, or learn from – and why those connections are critical to the work State how the travel experiences– interviews, reflections, prototypes or speculative ideas– will be documented for the online Digital Atlas, the project's living archive.
Prototype Impact	A specific explanation of how the trip will advance the prototype, research direction, or conceptual development of the project. Identify specific technical or conceptual skills the traveler intends to acquire from the destination, such as biomimetic sculpting, data storytelling, or decentralized governance models, etc.
Itinerary	Proposed travel dates, destination(s), and a brief outline of planned activities.
Budget	An itemized cost estimate covering transport, accommodation, and any associated research costs.



DREAMING
NEW WORLDS

Important Notes on Travel

- Maximum of two (2) approved trips per collective for the duration of the program
- Travel must take place within the collective's node region unless otherwise approved
- Travel requests must be submitted at least three (3) weeks before the proposed departure date. Travel can take place until November 2026
- Travel costs are drawn from a separate €3,000 budget – plan your budget accordingly
- A short travel report (500 words max) must be submitted within two weeks of returning, documenting findings and how the trip informed the work
- Approvals are at the discretion of the node's curatorial contact in consultation with the DNW core team
- Motivations will be assessed based on relevance to the project prototype being built, reciprocity with the destination (exchange of knowledge and engagement), impact on the overarching Dreaming New Worlds project goals.
- Ultimately, the motivation must reflect the project's shift from who leads to how we lead together. It should present travel not merely as a solo research trip, but as a vital link in a synchronized, multi-nodal network designed to solve Africa's social, ecological, and economic challenges through art and science.

Reporting & Accountability

Selected collectives are expected to maintain open and regular communication with their node contact and to document their process throughout the program. The following reporting obligations apply:

- Check-in at least monthly (written or virtual) with the Dreaming New Worlds contact person
- A mid-point progress report (due end of July 2026) covering prototype development, key decisions, challenges, and next steps
- A final (including financial) report submitted alongside the prototype (due September 2026), including reflections on process, collaboration, and outcomes
- Travel reports within two weeks of any approved research trip
- Contribution of documentation (images, video, text, code) to the DNW digital platform throughout the program

Failure to meet reporting requirements may result in the suspension of grant disbursements. The DNW team is committed to being a supportive partner in this process – reporting is intended to be a tool for reflection and accountability, not an administrative burden.

Intellectual Property & Attribution

Dreaming New Worlds respects the creative and intellectual ownership of all collectives. The following principles apply:

- Collectives retain ownership of their prototypes, artworks, and research outputs
- Dreaming New Worlds and its node partners are granted a non-exclusive right to document, exhibit, and publish the work for non-commercial program purposes, with full attribution
- Any third-party collaborations, community data, or indigenous knowledge incorporated into the work must be handled with explicit consent and appropriate attribution
- Collectives must clearly acknowledge Dreaming New Worlds, the Goethe-Institut and their node institutions and partners in all public presentations, publications, and communications related to the funded work
- Open-source and open-access approaches to code and documentation are encouraged but not mandatory

Code of Conduct & Safeguarding

Dreaming New Worlds is committed to creating a safe, equitable, and respectful environment for all participants. By accepting a grant, collectives agree to uphold the following:

- Treat all collaborators, community members, and program participants with dignity and respect
- Actively work against discrimination of any form
- Handle any community data, personal information, or sensitive knowledge responsibly and with informed consent
- Disclose any conflicts of interest to the DNW team promptly
- Engage with communities in an ethical, reciprocal, and non-extractive manner

Any serious breach of these principles may result in termination of the grant. The DNW team will handle concerns confidentially and fairly. A full Code of Conduct document will be shared with selected collectives at onboarding.

Language

Applications may be submitted in English. Where possible, node partners will provide support for applicants in their local language. All official program communications will be in English, with key documents translated into French and Portuguese where resources allow.

Key Dates

Date	Milestone
April 2026	Open Call published and distributed across nodes
May 19th 2026	Application deadline
June 2026	Collective selection announced; onboarding begins
July 2026	Dreaming New Worlds Labs – month-long intensive
July 2026	Prototype presentations
September 2026	Prototype platforming and showcase at festivalTBD

How to Apply

- Applications are submitted online to: dnw@goethe.de
- Please use the subject line **Dreaming New Worlds 2026_ Node (Indicate Node) _ (Indicate local country)**
- Please prepare the following as a single PDF document:

Required Application Materials

1. Collective Profile – Names, disciplines, and a short biography for each collective member (max 150 words per member)
2. Project Concept – A description of your proposed prototype or research direction, including how it responds to your node's sub-theme and the overarching theme of Codes of Conduct (max 600 words)
3. Public program concepts and budgets. This is not a separate fund and should be accounted for as part of the grant expense.
4. Cross-Disciplinary Statement – An explanation of how the collective's different disciplines will work together, and how art will function as a mediator in your process (max 300 words)
5. Ethical Considerations – A brief reflection on the ethical dimensions of your proposed project and how you plan to address them (max 300 words)
6. Budget Outline – A preliminary breakdown of how the €3,000 grant would be used
7. Work Samples – Up to 5 examples of previous work by collective members (links or files)
8. Travel Motivation document with max €3,000 budget breakdown

Selection Criteria

- Strength and originality of the project concept in relation to the theme
- Quality of cross-disciplinary collaboration and collective composition
- Feasibility of producing a functional prototype within the timeline and budget
- Depth of engagement with ethical and governance questions
- Relevance to and rootedness in the node's regional context
- Potential for community engagement and public impact

Applications will be reviewed by a selection panel including representatives from the Dreaming New Worlds team, Goethe-Institut representatives, and local node partners.

Contact & Questions

For questions about the Open Call, please contact:

Email: dnw@goethe.de

Website: [Dreaming New Worlds - Goethe -Institut Nigeria
https://www.goethe.de/ins/ng/en/kul/sup/co9.html](https://www.goethe.de/ins/ng/en/kul/sup/co9.html)



DREAMING
NEW WORLDS