

OPEN CALL GUIDELINES - Artistic Research Residencies

AT A GLANCE

Who can apply: Artists worldwide (all disciplines)

Residency: On-site, 2 weeks-2 months

Period: between August 2026 and May 2027

Fee: €4,000 (€2,000 artist fee + €2,000 production budget)

Travel & accommodation: Covered up to €2,000 (1 person)

Outcome: Artwork + Residency Report

Exhibition: October 2027, BLMK Cottbus (Germany)

Application deadline: 7 June 2026, 12:00 (GMT+1)

Working language: English

1. WHO CAN APPLY

This open call is addressed to artists working in any field, including (but not limited to):

- Visual arts
- Performing arts
- Sound, video, and media art
- Installation and spatial practices
- Artistic research
- Interdisciplinary and experimental practices
- Heritage research
- Theatre

Applicants must:

- Be able to work independently and in close dialogue with an archival institution
- Demonstrate a strong interest in archives, memory, knowledge production, and/or institutional critique
- Be available for an on-site residency during the proposed period
- Be willing to collaborate closely with the host archive and the project team

Artists based anywhere in the world are eligible. The project particularly welcomes applications from artists working in politically sensitive, marginalized, or underrepresented contexts.

2. WHAT THE RESIDENCY INCLUDES

Selected artists will undertake an artistic research residency in dialogue with one host archive and its specific questions.

The residency offers:

- Access to archival materials, spaces, and expertise

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- Curatorial and institutional support
- Time and resources for artistic research and production

3. WHAT IS EXPECTED FROM ARTISTS

Artistic Outcome

Residents must develop an artistic research project and are expected to produce one artwork addressing the project's themes. The work will be presented in a group exhibition at the Brandenburgisches Landesmuseum für Moderne Kunst (BLMK) in Cottbus, Germany, from October to December 2027.

Possible thematic approaches include:

- Vulnerability, censorship, or loss in archives (past, present, or emerging)
- Strategies to make archives less extractable, deletable, or controllable
- Artistic approaches to safeguarding memory
- Alternative forms of archiving and knowledge transmission
- Tensions between visibility, access, protection, and secrecy

All artworks will be documented in the exhibition catalogue and in project publications. If an artwork cannot be produced, excerpts from the Residency Report may be used instead.

Residency Report

At the end of the project, all residents must submit a Residency Report.

The report must include:

- The original research question and project description
- Information about the host archive and the motivation for selecting it
- A description of the working process and materials used
- Reflections on the current state of archives
- Documentation (e.g. photos, videos, audio, texts, diary entries, transcripts)
- Format and length: Flexible, to be agreed with the project team
- **Submission deadline for the report: 30 June 2027, 12:00 (GMT+1)**

The final payment will be issued only after the report has been received and approved by the project team.

4. PRACTICAL FRAMEWORK & LOGISTICS

The final artwork (or Residency Report) must be delivered to **Cottbus by early October 2027**. All works must be transportable by the artist (via post, plane, or car). No additional logistics or shipping costs beyond personal transport can be covered.

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5. RESIDENCY DETAILS

Format: On-site, in-person residency (mandatory)

Duration: Minimum 2 weeks, maximum 2 months

Residency period: August 2026 – May 2027

Preparation and follow-up activities may take place remotely and may include:

- Artistic research
- Online meetings and exchanges
- Post-residency development

Specific dates will be agreed individually, taking into account:

- Availability of the host archive
- Artist availability
- Travel and accommodation budget limits

Accommodation will be arranged in consultation with the project team and host archive. Travel and accommodation costs are covered for one person only.

6. FINANCIAL CONDITIONS & PAYMENT

What the project offers:

- €2,000 artist fee
- €2,000 production budget
- Travel and accommodation costs up to €2,000
- Full access to the selected archive

Artists are responsible for all legal and tax obligations in their country of residence.

Payment Process

The total payment of €4,000 is made in two instalments: €2,000 at the start of the residency and €2,000 one month after the residency ends, upon receipt of the Residency Report. Travel costs are booked exclusively by the project team in agreement with the artist and the archive. No additional financial support is available beyond the amounts listed.

7. HOW TO APPLY

Applicants must:

- Read and accept the terms and conditions
- Review the archive profiles and select one archive only
- Submit the application via the online form
- Provide:
 - Project description

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- Timeline
- Preliminary budget
- CV (required)
- Portfolio (optional)

Applications must be submitted in English.

8. SELECTION PROCESS & TIMELINE

The jury consists of one representative of the selected archive with a deciding vote, one representative of BLMK, one representative of Gerador, and one representative of the FILE NOT FOUND project team on behalf of the Goethe-Institut.

Selection criteria:

- Quality and clarity of the project proposal
- Feasibility and timeline
- Logistical considerations
- Relevance to the chosen archive

Timeline:

- **08 May 2026:** Open call launches
- **07 June 2026:** Application deadline
- **17-18 June 2026:** Jury meetings
- **19 June 2026:** First responses
- **22 June - 6 July 2026:** Interviews
- **15 July 2026:** Final selections
- **August 2026 - May 2027:** Residency period
- **30 June 2027:** Residency Report deadline

9. DATA PROTECTION

Personal data will be processed exclusively for the purposes of this open call and project implementation, in accordance with applicable data protection laws. Applicants may request access, correction, or deletion of their personal data at any time.

10. ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS

By submitting an application, applicants accept all terms and conditions outlined above. The organizers reserve the right not to select any application and are not obliged to provide individual feedback.

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