



## **Guidelines for the Call for Project Proposals: ArtPower Belarus. Safeguarding the Belarusian Civic Space Through Culture and Arts**

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## Types of Support and Timelines

	Track 1: Organizational development grants	Track 2: Creative project grants (mini)	Track 2: Creative project grants (midi)	Track 3: Grants for projects under special circumstances
Minimum grant amount	€ 10 000	€ 3 000	€ 10 000	€ 1 000
Maximum grant amount	€ 40 000	€ 10 000	€ 40 000	€ 10 000
Possibility to increase the budget up to 60 000 EUR	<p>The project is implemented in partnership between two or more organizations;</p> <p>The project's activities are implemented in two or more countries.</p>	X	<p>The project is implemented in partnership</p> <p>The project's activities are implemented in two or more countries;</p> <p>The total project budget exceeds € 60 000</p>	X
Additional required supporting documentation	Organizational Development Assessment and Plan	X	X	Evidence of urgency of request
Request for mentoring	<a href="mailto:info@artpowergrants.org">info@artpowergrants.org</a> with a subject line "Mentoring for Track 1"	X	X	X
Deadline to request mentoring	15.07.2025 (1st call)	X	X	X
Start of submission of applications	10.06.2025	10.06.2025	10.06.2025	August 2025
Deadline for submission of applications	29.07.2025 23:59 (Minsk time)	15.07.2025 23:59 (Minsk time)	15.07.2025 23:59 (Minsk time)	On a rolling basis
Announcement of results	Not later than 10.09.2025	Not later than 10.09.2025	Not later than 10.09.2025	On a rolling basis
Project start date	Not earlier than 01.10.2025	Not earlier than 01.10.2025	Not earlier than 01.10.2025	Not earlier than 01.10.2025
Project duration	3–12 months	1–6 months	3–12 months	1–12 months

## Introduction and general information

The Call for project proposals is a core component of the program ArtPower Belarus: Safeguarding the Belarusian Civic Space Through Culture and Arts, funded by the European Union and implemented by the Danish Cultural Institute in partnership with the Belarusian Council for Culture.

The program aims to support independent Belarusian culture and art initiatives by strengthening their role and capacities as democratic change-makers.

**As part of the call, special attention will be given to projects that align with the following priorities:**

*1. Fostering the integrity of Belarus's cultural space:*

- Projects created by authors who live in Belarus or are oriented toward a Belarusian audience within the country, even under current challenging conditions.
- Initiatives involving authors and experts from Belarus, even if the main part of the project is implemented abroad.
- Projects that hold exceptional value for Belarusian culture.

*2. Enhancing the quality and visibility of cultural products, improving working conditions for cultural actors, and fostering their integration into the European space:*

- Educational programs and initiatives aimed at developing professional skills in the cultural sector, as well as research projects.
- Development of professional and cross-sectoral networks, international cooperation, and knowledge exchange.
- Educational projects aimed at children and youth, or implemented by them.
- Advocacy and information campaigns, as well as new forms of promoting Belarusian culture.
- Innovative products that contribute to the development of the cultural sector.

*3. Development of institutions and infrastructure:*

- Support for projects that strengthen independent cultural institutions and contribute to the sustainable development of the sector.

## Eligibility

### Who can apply?

The call is open to cultural and artistic actors, including individuals as well as civil society organizations and initiatives (both registered and unregistered) operating in the field of culture in Belarus or abroad, whose activities are primarily carried out in Belarus or aimed at audiences in Belarus, hereinafter referred to as the Applicant.

**Specifically, this includes:**

**1. Private individuals** — artists and cultural professionals whose activities are largely conducted in Belarus or for an audience in Belarus.

- 18 years and older at the moment of application and;
- Professionally active in the Belarusian cultural and / or creative sector;
- Individual Applicants must have a bank account in a European country or in a safe country of the Eastern Partnership.

**2. Civil society organizations and initiatives** in the field of culture — both registered (in Belarus, EU countries, or Eastern Partnership countries) and unregistered — are eligible if:

- Their main activities are carried out in the cultural and/or creative sector in Belarus or in other countries: EU member states (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden) or Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine), and are aimed at supporting Belarusian citizens or civil society;
- The organization (or its fiscal partner) must have a bank account in a European country or in a safe Eastern Neighbourhood country, as well as a financial management system in place that ensures proper accountability and control of funds.

**Applications can be submitted individually or in partnership.**

In the case of a partnership, one natural or legal person must act as the lead Applicant. The lead Applicant and their partners may participate in other projects as partners.

Please note: supporting documentation (CVs, portfolios, etc.) must be submitted with the application.

**Funding Conditions and Limitations**

- The total grant amount allocated to an Applicant may not exceed 60,000 EUR across all three funding tracks and submission periods.
- Only proposals that fall within the overall objective of the call, address the needs of the specified support tracks, and meet the requirements of the call will be eligible for funding. Please see the section Objectives of the Call below.
- An organization/initiative can submit no more than two project proposals within one track per call. Besides that, an Applicant can be a co-applicant in several projects submitted within the same track.
- In cases where the Applicant has an ongoing project under this program, new applications can only be submitted after the approval of the final report for the current project.

**The following types of activities are not eligible for support:**

- Activities already funded by another grant;

- Projects implemented outside Belarus, the European Union member states, or the Eastern Partnership countries;
- Activities that discriminate against individuals or groups of people on grounds of their sex, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, religious beliefs or lack of them, or their ethnic origin, and activities that include hate speech or incitement to violence.

## **Objectives of the Call**

The financial support scheme is divided into three support tracks, each addressing distinct needs within the Belarusian cultural sector:

*Track 1. Organizational development grant*

*Track 2. Creative project grants*

*Track 3. Grants for projects under special circumstances*

## **Track 1. Organizational development grants**

### **Objectives and priorities**

Objective: To strengthen the capacity of public organizations to create a viable infrastructure for independent culture.

#### **Priorities:**

- Infrastructure or service organizations (hubs, production centers, galleries, art residencies, media resources, educational centres, studios, etc.)
- Education, networking, and cross-sectoral cooperation;
- Activities in Belarus or efforts that contribute to strengthening the integrity of the Belarusian cultural field and fostering collaboration between cultural actors and audiences on both sides of the border;
- Projects of exclusive value for Belarusian culture.

#### **Eligible applicants:**

- Registered organizations or unregistered organizations with a fiscal partner (unregistered organizations without fiscal partnership will not be eligible to receive support);
- Applicants that have completed the Organizational Development Assessment and Plan;
- Applicants that have included a capacity building component into their application;
- Applicants that included activities, which correlate with the results of the Organizational Development Assessment and Plan.

#### **Eligible activities:**

- Implementing organizational changes (development of and implementing procedures, internal policies, public relations, communications, building partnerships, security).

- Development of communication tools (including corporate websites and social media accounts).
- Measures to improve the expertise and performance of the employees, volunteers, and members, as well as measures to recruit new members or volunteers.
- Support for organizing meetings, strategic sessions, and mentoring.
- Internships, training to improve the functioning of the organization, its operational capacity, preventing and resolving conflicts.
- Purchase of equipment (limitations apply), rent of premises, organizational audits.
- Core organizational support (staff, premises, equipment, ICT, and communication tools, etc.) to cultural organizations for initiatives inside Belarus or abroad.

### **Please note**

The following types of activities will not be supported under this track:

- Creative projects (films, concerts, exhibitions) that do not contribute to the development of the organization.
- One-time events or public activities that do not strengthen organizational capacity.
- Direct financial assistance to individuals not related to organizational development.

### **Evaluation**

Each application in this track is assessed according to the following criteria. Maximum score – 100 points.

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Max points</i>
Compliance and relevance	10
Impact on audience and culture	15
Quality of project activities	10
Monitoring and outcomes evaluation	5
Sustainability	5
Budget	10
Communication and dissemination	10
Project team	15
Partnership	10
Risk assessment	10

## **Track 2. Midi grants for creative projects**

### **Objectives & priorities**

#### **Objectives:**

- to maintain the creation of cultural products in support of freedom of expression and towards a vibrant and diverse Belarusian culture accessible to everyone (through education, research, policy studies and international collaboration).
- to promote commonality of Belarusian national and cultural life amid the fragmentation of the country's information space and against the background of the dominance of aggressive Russian propaganda.
- to preserve and foster the Belarusian national cultural heritage as part of the European cultural heritage.

#### **Priorities:**

- Advocacy and informational campaigns, as well as new forms of promoting Belarusian culture;
- Education, networking, and cross-sectoral cooperation;
- Activities in Belarus or efforts that contribute to strengthening the integrity of the Belarusian cultural field and fostering collaboration between cultural actors and audiences on both sides of the border;
- Educational projects aimed at children and youth or implemented by them;
- Projects of exclusive value for Belarusian culture.

### **Eligible applicants**

#### **For natural persons:**

- Of legal age (18 years) while applying;
- Professionally active in the cultural sector.

#### **For organisations:**

- Conducting main activities in the cultural sector.

#### **Eligible activities:**

- Support to cross-sector and innovative art and cultural projects.
- Testing different models of cooperation and co-creation.
- Development of solutions allowing the participation of vulnerable groups in cultural life.
- Development and dissemination of educational and outreach materials.
- Development and dissemination of public policy documents.
- Projects with innovative elements and sustainable solutions (for example social or technological innovations in and through arts and culture).
- Advocacy campaigns, information campaigns when possible inside Belarus and internationally.

- Support for information dissemination channels and audience development activities.
- Educational projects in culture.
- Development of cultural communities and networks.
- Workshops, laboratories, hackathons, festivals, performances, concerts, etc.
- Films and film series production and dissemination.
- Publishing books and recording music albums.
- Projects that include artist mobility for work, study, research, co-production, or participation in a residency or exchange program of culture and art professionals and stimulation of building their professional networks.

## **Grant amount and duration**

### **MINI projects**

#### **Evaluation**

Each application in this track is assessed according to the following criteria.  
Maximum score – 70 points.

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Max points</i>
Compliance and relevance	10
Impact on audience and culture	5
Quality of project activities	5
Monitoring and outcomes evaluation	5
Budget	10
Communication and dissemination	10
Project team	10
Partnership	5
Risk assessment	10

### **MIDI projects**

#### **Evaluation**

Each application in this track is assessed according to the following criteria.  
Maximum score – 100 points.

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Max points</i>
Compliance and relevance	10
Impact on audience and culture	15
Quality of project activities	10
Monitoring and outcomes evaluation	5
Sustainability	5



Budget	10
Communication and dissemination	15
Project team	15
Partnership	5
Risk assessment	10

## Track 3: Grants for projects in special circumstances

### Objectives and priorities

To support repressed cultural figures in their efforts to restore the ability to work in changing conditions, as well as urgent support for cultural projects that are at risk of collapse due to special circumstances, such as:

1. Repressed creators released from prison (with documented confirmation of repression no later than the previous calendar year);
2. Loss of physical ability to work (within the last year);
3. Authors who were forced to emigrate within the last 12 months;
4. Loss of funding during project implementation (no later than 3 months prior to submission);
5. Urgent projects and mobilities that cannot be financed through other sources and cannot be postponed without significant losses;
6. Other special, documented circumstances.

**Please note:** At the application stage, you are required to provide appropriate supporting documentation

### Evaluation

Each project submitted under this track will be evaluated based on the urgency and relevancy of the activities described, as well as the submitted supporting documentation.

### How to apply

After reading these guidelines and confirming that your project idea is relevant and eligible for support under the conditions laid down by these guidelines, please proceed to the electronic grant system via the [link](#) in order to register and fill in the relevant application form.

Application forms are available in Belarusian and English. You can review them, as well as download all the necessary attachments that must be submitted along with the application, on the website of the Belarusian Council for Culture via the [link](#).

To complete the application form in the system, you need to select the relevant support track and enter the requested information according to the instructions or accompanying questions in the system.

Mind the application deadline and make sure that the application form and all relevant attachments are submitted before the deadline. After submitting the application electronically, the Applicant will receive an automatic confirmation of receipt.

## **List of supporting documents**

Depending on the track for which you are submitting an application, some of the following supporting documents may need to be submitted along with the application form. Most templates are available [here](#).

- Detailed project budget – use the template available via the [link](#).
- [Partner mandate](#) / [Cooperation agreement](#) – if the project involves partnerships or cooperation.
- [Organizational Development Assessment and Plan](#).
- Strategic development plan of the organization (if available) or a brief overview of the organization's future plans, and other documents demonstrating the Applicant's organizational capacity.
- Organization registration documents.
- [Declaration of Applicant](#)
- CV (resume).
- Portfolio.
- Proof of repression (official documents, media publications, statements from human rights organizations).
- Proof of forced emigration (if applicable).
- Documentation of loss of funding (if applicable).
- Letters of support (to justify urgency).

## **Financial support mechanisms**

### **Input-Based Reimbursement (Standard Grants)**

Most projects will receive funding through reimbursement of eligible costs upon submission of financial reports. Please see below more details on the eligibility of costs.

#### **Eligible costs:**

- Costs must be necessary for project implementation;
- Costs must be incurred during the project period;
- Costs must be identifiable and verifiable (supporting documentation such as receipts, invoices, contract agreements, bank statements, etc.), and compliant with applicable tax and social legislation.

Project expenses must correspond to the planned types of activities specified in the application budget. Examples include personnel, travel, equipment, and subcontracting costs.

Funding is provided only according to the approved project budget. Any unforeseen expenses incurred during implementation must be agreed upon in advance with the ArtPower Belarus management team.

Expense verification will be carried out for every project at the time of interim or final report by financial controller at the Danish Cultural Institute or Belarusian Council for Culture.

## **Ineligible costs**

The following costs cannot be covered by the grant issued under this Call

- costs financed by other programs or donors;
- fees, taxes, including VAT, unless they are non-recoverable under national tax legislation;
- debts and debt servicing (interest payments);
- provisions for losses or potential future liabilities;
- purchase of land or buildings;
- currency exchange losses;
- loans to third parties;
- fines, penalties, and legal expenses related to organizational activities.

## **Outcome-Based Contracting (OBC)**

In some cases, approved Applicants might be offered an Outcome-based contract. Under this type of contract, payments are tied to achieving predefined outcomes.

Please note that OBCs have different reporting requirements and budget verification procedures, which will be discussed in detail before contracting.

## **Co-financing**

Grants can cover up to 100% of eligible costs. Co-financing is not required but encouraged where Applicants can contribute additional resources.

## **Project visibility**

For projects implemented outside Belarus, visibility requirements will be mandatory, unless agreed otherwise in the contract. All public mentions of the supported project and its products must include acknowledgment of support from the European Union under program ArtPower Belarus.

## **Security**

To ensure safe use of the electronic grant system and maintain confidentiality of information, it is important to follow these rules:

### **1. Personal data and grant applications protection**

- Official communication only: All messages from the grantor will be sent exclusively through the official application portal.
- Do not share personal information: Never share your login credentials, personal data, or financial details via email or phone. It would be best if

you create a separate email for registration on the application portal. Do not use .ru and .by email accounts.

- Beware of suspicious emails: Be cautious of emails claiming to be from the grantor that ask you to click links, download files, or provide information.
- Check the source: If you receive a suspicious message, verify it directly by logging into the application portal.
- Report suspicious activity: If you suspect phishing, report it immediately through the portal or official support channels.

## **2. Data preservation**

- Do not store login credentials on shared devices.
- It is recommended to use a separate email address dedicated solely to registering in the system.

## **3. Access via computer only**

- Registration and work with project proposals must be conducted exclusively on computer devices.

## **4. Use the Incognito mode in browser**

- Open the electronic grant system only in your browser's incognito mode. This helps minimize the storage of cached data and automatic credential recording.

## **5. Mandatory use VPN**

- If your project is located in Belarus or part of your team works inside the country, connecting via a VPN is a mandatory condition.

## **6. Other security considerations**

- Any other security considerations will be discussed and agreed upon with successful Applicants.

## **Applicant support**

Online information sessions will be organized, during which Applicants' questions related to this project call will be addressed. Follow updates on [byculture.org/artpower\\_belarus](https://byculture.org/artpower_belarus) and consult the Questions and Answers (Q&A) section, where frequently asked questions will be published. In addition, Applicants may send their questions via email to: [info@artpowergrants.org](mailto:info@artpowergrants.org).

## Evaluation and selection of project proposals

Every Applicant will be subject to a verification process.

Each of the submitted project proposals will be reviewed for compliance with the following eligibility criteria:

1. Provision of the requested information and supporting documentation, including, but not limited to:
  - Personal data;
  - Education;
  - Work experience;
  - Any other relevant supporting documentation.
2. Applicants must possess the professional competencies as well as the relevant qualifications required to complete the proposed project.
3. Applicant must submit an application through the electronic grant system with all of the indicated required attachments.

Each project proposal will be evaluated by at least two independent Assessors according to the evaluation grid. The criteria and scores applied by the Evaluation Committee to evaluate eligible project proposals are indicated in the section for each Track.

To be considered for funding by the selection committee, Track 1 and 2 proposals must reach a minimum quality threshold of 65%. Track 3 will follow a simplified selection procedure.

The Selection Committee reserves the right to:

- provide recommendations for improvement to leading candidates;
- suggest budget revisions;
- recommend the type of funding.

Based on the results of the Selection Committee's review of the applications, pre-approved projects may be returned for revision. The final decision to support such a project will be made after the Applicant has made appropriate changes to the application or budget.

The decision to support a submitted project is preliminary until the grant agreement is signed with the Applicant. The final decision depends on:

- on the Applicant's timely communication;
- submission of all information required to sign the grant agreement;
- and the completeness and reliability of such information.

У випадку, калі Заяўнік не падасць інфармацыі своєчасова, не адкажа Failure to provide timely and complete information and to respond to questions without prior notice, or providing incomplete or unreliable information, may result in reversal of the decision to support the project, with funds being redirected to another project.

Applicants will be informed of the selection results within two weeks after the Selection Committee meeting.

## **Exclusion criteria**

### **Disqualification from participation**

An Applicant (including project leaders and partners) will be disqualified from participating in the call for proposals if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Is bankrupt, undergoing insolvency proceedings, or in the process of liquidation, with assets under liquidation;
- Has been found by a final court ruling or administrative decision to have failed to meet obligations regarding the payment of taxes or social security contributions, under the laws of the country in which the organization is registered, where an authorized representative resides, or the country where the grant is to be implemented;
- Has been found by a final court ruling or administrative decision to have committed serious professional misconduct that violates applicable laws, regulations, or ethical standards of the Applicant's profession, or is engaged in any unlawful activity that affects their professional integrity;
- Has demonstrated significant shortcomings in fulfilling essential obligations under a contract, grant agreement, or grant decision funded by the European Union;
- Has a personal or professional connection (e.g., a family member or colleague) with members of the selection or evaluation committee.

### **Rejection of grant award**

An Applicant will not be awarded a grant if:

- They fall under one or more of the exclusion criteria listed in section 6.1;
- They have misrepresented or withheld information required as a condition for participating in the procedure;
- They were involved in the preparation of the call for proposals.

## **Data protection and use of project results**

To participate in the call, the Applicant must provide their personal information to the programme management team.

Within the framework of the ArtPower Belarus program, the data you submit will be processed — for example, your name, email address, phone number, date of birth, CV, and other relevant information.

Such data will be processed in accordance with EU Regulation No. 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by EU institutions and bodies, and on the free movement of such data, as well as with the Personal Data Regulation (GDPR).

All requested application data will be used exclusively for the purpose of evaluation, in line with the specifics of the call for proposals, and will not be resold to third parties.

