



NRW PROJECT FUNDING **TRANSCULTURAL IMPULSES 2026**



Please also refer to our
application guidelines.

From 2026, Transcultural Impulses will be a module of the NRW Project Funding program; however, the specific funding conditions will remain unchanged. Applications will continue to be submitted using the application form available here and not via Kultur.web.

What is being funded?

We support all forms of theatre, dance and performance work in the independent performing arts. This also includes formats and contents of urban dance and theatre art.

The programme funds projects in which cultural diversity is a theme. Diversity can also be reflected in your way of working in the project, e.g. when many different artists are involved in important decisions in the rehearsals. The jury also considers the casting of PoC artists (PoC = People of Colour), artists with a history of migration and/or with experience of discrimination. As the programme is about cultural diversity, we are referring to discrimination that is perceived in the context of cultural diversity.

You can find examples of how diversity occurs as a topic or as a structural approach **in the projects that have been funded in recent years.**

Who can apply?

Professional artists working in the independent performing arts in NRW can submit an application. Artists who are at the beginning phase of establishing themselves in NRW are particularly eligible. This does not refer to age or basic professional experience, but rather to being firmly based in the federal state. It goes without saying that up-and-coming artists who are at the beginning of their professionalisation and have little or no experience in applying for funding are also eligible to apply. In this case, please make use of our counselling service.

This funding programme is primarily aimed at People of Colour artists, and all artists with a history of migration, especially with experience of discrimination. Here we mean discrimination that is perceived in the context of cultural diversity. All professional artists working in the independent performing arts in NRW can submit an application. Artists who are at the start of their professionalisation and have little or no experience in applying for funding are also eligible to apply. In this case, please make use of our advisory service.

However, artists who are not part of this group can also submit an application under certain conditions (more on this under "Funding criteria of the jury").

Please note the other formal criteria in the **funding guidelines.**

Funding opportunities

1. A new project is being developed

Projects that fulfil the following criteria are eligible for funding. Not all of them have to be fulfilled at the same time.

- Projects and productions in which the following artists are involved in important positions:
 - Artists with a history of migration
 - Artists who identify as People of Colour
 - Artists with experience of discrimination in the context of cultural diversity
- Projects in which diversity is incorporated into the rehearsals and the concept as a matter of course
- Projects aimed at increasing diversity in theatres and ensembles)
- Projects that demonstrate sustainability in their focus on diversity. This means that long-term changes are being initiated.

2. An earlier project is being resumed in order to develop it further in a diversity-orientated way.

- Building new networks, co-operations, collaborations.
- Measures to reduce discrimination are implemented in new performances.
- The wider diffusion of the project to win over new audiences, like groups unfamiliar with theatre, by sending invitations and announcements to organisations or sharing them via certain platforms.
- In the spirit of constructive, sustainable work, actors already working in networks can consolidate and further expand them through renewed cooperation.

The programme supports professional artistic productions in the independent performing arts. Collaboration with amateurs within a professional framework is possible. The project must have a public closure in NRW within the realisation period (premiere/showing/presentation). Educational programmes and workshops can be part of the project, but must be related to the artistic presentation.

Digital approaches are also eligible for funding.

Things that are not eligible for funding:

The following will not be eligible for funding: symposia, conferences, festivals, concerts, purely film projects, purely literary projects, purely cultural education(workshop projects, social and therapeutic work, supporting events or accompanying projects that lack an independent performance aspect, and projects as part of study and training programmes.

Funding criteria: diversity guide

The basic prerequisite for funding is cooperation with a suitable expert as a **diversity guide**. The tasks of the diversity guide include, in particular, taking a critical look at discriminatory content, communication and structures and naming these.

Further fields of activity include:

- Advising artistic decisions / outside eye
- Communication, e.g. making the project accessible to a specific audience
- Internal communication with the team
- External communication, e.g. im Rahmen von Netzwerktätigkeiten
- Gaining e.g. network partners and new audiences
- A guide can provide linguistic support and mediation for applicants and artists with insufficient knowledge of German.

The position can also be filled by two people. The division of tasks and the corresponding remuneration do not have to be equal.

The Funding Criteria of the Jury with its Diverse Membership

The decisive factor for the jury's funding decisions is first and foremost artistic quality in combination with content (theme, cast, audience), that reduces discrimination and promotes cultural diversity.

The jury will also take the following aspects into account when recommending funding:

- The visibility of the project through an adequate publicity campaign
- The geographical distribution of the beneficiaries within NRW
- Opportunities for the participating artists to get involved in the project

There must be a clear and structure-changing approach to productions by participants who can be regarded as belonging to the majority society. It is not enough to fill individual positions with diversity on a one-off basis. One convincing approach, for example, might be a prolonged cooperation with under-represented professional artists and an even distribution of decision-making positions.

Transcultural impulses in rural areas

So far, a diverse range of artistic activities has mainly been on offer in the large cities. However, diversity in the performing arts should also be on show in rural locations. To change this, in this funding programme we particularly encourage projects to apply that are created and presented in a rural (event) location. Rural locations are defined by the „**Gebietskulisse Ländlicher Raum NRW**“. It is also possible to apply for funding for projects that are created and shown in urban locations and these are not generally of secondary importance. However, the jury is encouraged to look explicitly at applications that relate to rural areas.

To find suitable rehearsals and venues, we recommend the **Spielstättendatenbank** (venue database) of the NRW Landesbüro Freie Darstellende Künste (NRW State Office for Independent Performing Arts) and a search among the organisations supported by the state project „**Dritte Orte**“ (Third Places).

It is also possible to apply for projects that are created and shown in urban venues and are not fundamentally of secondary importance. However, the jury is also being encouraged to look explicitly at applications that relate to rural areas.

The jury is scheduled to meet in January 2026.

Application deadline

The application form, the expenditure and financing plan form and any attachments must be submitted in digital form by Saturday, **15th November 2025 (23:59)** by email to transkultur@nrw-lfdk.de and with an original signature (no digital or scanned signature) by post to the regional office.

NRW Landesbüro Freie Darstellende Künste e.V.
Transkulturelle Impulse 2026
Deutsche Straße 10
44339 Dortmund

Counselling services

We can offer detailed advice on the application process and throughout the course of the project. This is available by telephone, email and video conference.

All consultations can also be held in English and, by prior arrangement, in other languages such as Turkish, Ukrainian, Arabic etc.

Please also refer to our application guidelines.

Contacting the team at the NRW Landesbüro Freie Darstellende Künste:

Questions regarding content

Kristin Naujokat (Project head)

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Tuesdays between 11.00 and 13.00, and Thursdays from 11.00 to 13.00

Mail: k.naujokat@nrw-lfdk.de

Formalities, billing, notifications of changes

Julia Knies

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Tuesdays between 13.00 and 15.00, and Wednesdays from 9.00 to 12.00

Mail: transkultur@nrw-lfdk.de

Further information on the counselling service can be found [on our website](#).