

Principles of the Immediate Action Programme to support professional and freelance artists, laid down due to the impact of the Corona pandemic.

Circular decree emitted by the Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia of March 19, 2020.

## 1. The reason

With its circular decree emitted on March 15, 2020, the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of North Rhine-Westphalia (MAGS) has regulated that a large number of institutions and community centres have to close or stop their services (all bars, clubs, discotheques, theatres, cinemas, museums, community colleges, schools of music and other public and private extra-school education institutes, sports clubs and other recreational facilities as well as – with few exceptions – libraries).

The Ministry has also ordered that all public events are forbidden with immediate effect. This, however, has a severe impact on freelance artists and may threaten their existence.

It is in the interest of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia to support self-employed and freelance artist and enable their continued economic existence and preservation of their artistic skills beyond the public (e.g. research, concept development, exercises, training, rehearsals, etc) until they will be in a position again to obtain and generate income from projects, events or other engagements.

## 2. Rules and Regulations

2.1 The means provided by this Immediate Action Programme are meant to support artist who are professionals and self-employed and who can prove to suffer a loss of earnings resulting from the cancellation of projects, events and other engagements due to the decree as stated above.

This does not entitle to a claim of funding. Instead, the granting authority takes a decision on the grounds of its dutiful assessment and within its budgetary means.

2.2 The artists will be granted a non-refundable allowance amounting to a single payment of up to 2000 Euros in the case of proven loss of revenue.

2.3 Artists have to apply for grants with their district governments (Bezirksregierungen) and submit the following documents:

2.3.1 a proof of membership to the artists' social insurance (Künstlersozialkasse), reference date: March 15, 2020

2.3.2 a fee agreement or contract or legally binding declaration or any other comparable agreement.

2.3.3 a statement describing the loss of revenue and giving reasons/ proof for every single position of cancellation resulting from the decree by the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of North Rhine-Westphalia as mentioned above, see paragraph 1.

2.3.4 a copy of your valid identity card to confirm your residency in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Applications have to be submitted by May 31, 2020. Applications are processed and payments effected by your district governments (Bezirksregierungen) in the order of their arrival.

2.4 Parts of this Immediate Action Programme will be reserved for so-called hardship cases. In this case, the aid is granted as part of a case-by-case review. A hardship case exists if – for example - a person is a professional and self-employed artist but cannot proof membership to the artists' social insurance (Künstlersozialkasse) according to paragraph 2.3.1 above. The artist then has to proof membership in an artists' association or provide any other comparable evidence.

2.5 Any disproportionate administrative burden is to be avoided when examining the requirements for these principles.

### 3. Commencement

This decree comes into effect on the day after announcement.

Düsseldorf, March 19, 2020

The Ministry of Culture and Science of North Rhine-Westphalia