



# Connect – call for applications

Deadline: 8 December 2023

## 1. Introduction

CERN, the European Laboratory for Particle Physics in Geneva, and the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia have worked together since 2014 to foster experimentation through the arts in connection with fundamental science. In 2021, CERN and Pro Helvetia launched Connect, a new collaboration framework that marks the extension of their joint efforts in supporting and promoting the dialogue between artists and scientists.

Arts at CERN, the Laboratory's arts programme, fosters significant exchanges between art and physics. Artists across all creative disciplines are welcome at CERN to experience the way the big questions about our universe are pursued by fundamental research.

In the context of its "Art, Science and Technology" focus, Pro Helvetia specifically supports activities and projects exploring technological and scientific developments from an artistic perspective in dialogue with researchers. The focus is exploring and utilising the potential for mutual inspiration and collaboration.

Connect is a residency and cultural exchange programme for artists working at the intersection of science and artistic research. Connect serves as a global platform for interactions and dialogue between artistic and scientific communities at CERN, in Geneva, Switzerland.

## 2. Description of the call

Connect is the third edition of the Connect's national residency format, aimed at artists from Switzerland interested in the dialogue between art and science. It is part of the Connect collaboration between Arts at CERN and Pro Helvetia.

The Connect residency consists of a fully funded residency that offers support to an artist or artist collective to spend two months at CERN and one month remotely, with the curation and mentoring of the Arts at CERN team.

Artists interested in applying for the Connect residency are invited to submit a project proposal that combines research and production. The scope of this proposal should include a research period of two months at CERN and a development phase in the form of a remote residency to define and produce a new artwork.



### 3. Application criteria

The Connect residency encourages the participation of artists from Switzerland who are interested in the ideas described above and who meet any of the following criteria:

- Artists interested in the cultural significance of scientific research and technology.
- Artists interested in extending their connection with the field of physics and fundamental research, and in entering into dialogue with scientists, engineers, and staff at CERN.
- Artists who push the traditional forms of dialogue with other fields of research, and are keen to ask innovative questions across disciplines.
- Artists interested in the scientific community and its interaction with its social fabric and its history and narratives.
- Artists working in the visual arts disciplines supported by the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia (including design, and interactive media) and who meet Pro Helvetia's general criteria: a convincing body of work and track record, and a significant footprint in the arts scene in Switzerland.

Please note: an artist is considered “Swiss” if they hold Swiss nationality or have their residence in Switzerland.

### 4. Conditions of the residency

Connect awards one artist or artist collective with a funded residency at CERN, Geneva. The grant includes the following support and conditions:

- A stipend of CHF 15,000.
- Travel and living expenses with a fixed budget for the two month residency at CERN, Geneva. The third month of the residency will take place remotely.
- Accommodation in the CERN hostel.
- Travel expenses and living expenses with a fixed budget for the residency period at CERN.
- In the case of an artist collective, all these costs will be split between the members. A maximum of two members of a collective can be hosted at the same time as residents.
- Additionally, parents can apply for financial support of a maximum of CHF 1,000 per month to co-finance childcare. The applicant is asked to provide an approximate budget for all expenses in advance.

### 5. Expectations from the artist/artist collective

The selected artist for the Connect residency will be expected to:

- Engage in research based on the submitted proposal.
- Complete the period of the residency.



- Meet regularly with the CERN scientific partner to discuss the artistic research process and production, in addition to working with other scientists.
- Give one talk and/or workshop during the residency.
- Finalise the artwork resulting from the residency within nine months after the residency.
- Support the Arts at CERN curatorial team on the evaluation and report of the residency within the four months following the residency.

## 6. Application submission

Artists intending to apply for the Connect residency shall submit a proposal adhering to the criteria of the call. The application should be written in English and submitted via the online form that can be found at <https://cern.ch/connect-call-form>

### The application form requires the following elements:

- Personal details: name, address, contact details.
- CV or biography (maximum of 600 words)
- An artist dossier with the most relevant artworks or projects, including a brief statement and the artist's biography.

Please include a link to your portfolio via Dropbox, Google Drive or other platforms. Please make sure that the link is open to everyone and has no expiry date.

- Project proposal consisting of:

- o Project description (maximum of 1200 words)

Please describe the project proposal you intend to undertake during the residency at CERN. The scope of this proposal should include a research period of two months at CERN and a development phase in the form of a remote residency to define and produce a new artwork.

- o Project motivation (maximum of 600 words)

Please describe your motivation to apply for this residency and your interest in the CERN community and context in relation to your practice.

- o Project summary (maximum of 300 words)

The selection will be based on evaluation of the application and the artist's project proposal, reviewed by a jury of cultural experts and scientists. The names of the jurors will be revealed after the call.

Submissions of entry in this competition automatically constitute the acceptance of these terms and conditions. The jury's decision will be final. Only the selected artist or collective will be notified by e-mail.

## 7. Important dates



**Application deadline:** 8 December 2023, 23:59 CET.

**Announcement of the jury's decision:** March 2024. The decision will be published on both Arts at CERN and Pro Helvetia's websites.

The timing of the residency will be discussed with the team of Arts at CERN.

## 8. Contact and information

For contact and further information regarding the call please contact us at [info.arts@cern.ch](mailto:info.arts@cern.ch)

**CERN:** <https://home.cern>

**Arts at CERN:** <https://arts.cern>

**Pro Helvetia:** <https://prohelvetia.ch>