

Hamburg, 02.07.2025

Triennale Expanded 2026

Open Call | FAQs

Who can apply to the Open Call for Triennial Expanded 2026?

The Open Call is directed at independent artists, photographers, curators, collectives, as well as project spaces and galleries based in Hamburg.

When can I apply?

The application phase begins on 2.7.2025, at 11:00 AM and ends on 15.9.2025, at 11:59 PM.

Where can I find the requirements, funding conditions, and selection criteria?

All relevant information about the call and submission process is available at

<https://2026.phototriennale.de/en/open-call/>

Additionally, two online consultation sessions are offered where further questions can be addressed with the team of the 9th Triennial of Photography Hamburg 2026:

- [July 16, 2025, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM \(CEST\)](#)
- [July 24, 2025, 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM \(CEST\)](#)

Does the project need to be strictly within the field of photography?

The 9th Triennial of Photography Hamburg 2026 is an internationally renowned photography festival. As such, priority is given to photographers and artists with lens-based practices—particularly those who engage with, explore, or critically reflect on the medium of photography in a broad sense. However, interdisciplinary formats and educational projects are also welcome, especially those specifically designed for children and young people.

Who selects the projects to be funded?

A professional jury selects the funded projects. The jury members are:

- Mark Sealy (Artistic Director of the 9th Triennial)
- Bettina Freimann (Project Director of the 9th Triennial)
- Cale Garrido (Curator of the 9th Triennial)
- Hanna Schneider (Head of Film and Photography, Hamburg Ministry of Culture and Media)
- Joanna Warsza (City Curator Hamburg)
- Stephanie Bunk (Curator and Board Member Freundeskreis Photographie)

The jury deliberates confidentially. No written justification for acceptance or rejection is provided.

When will the selected projects be announced?

Applicants will be informed of the selection at the end of September 2025. The official announcement of funded projects will take place in mid-October 2025.

What is the maximum amount of funding?

Funding is up to €5,000, depending on the scope of the project and the number of participating artists, curators, and/or collectives.

Does the funding from Triennial Expanded cover the entire project costs?

Triennial Expanded provides financial support of up to €5,000 for selected projects. Any additional costs for realizing the project or mediation/education program must be covered by the participants themselves. Acquiring further funding is also the responsibility of the applicants. Triennial Expanded handles communication, promotion, and branding measures within the framework of the festival.

Does the project have to relate to the theme of the Triennial?

Yes. Participation requires a clear conceptual connection to the main theme of the 9th Triennial of Photography Hamburg 2026: *Alliance, Infinity, Love – in the Face of the Other*. Submitted projects should relate to the central themes of the 9th Triennial and interpret them in experimental, poetic, bold, or unexpected ways.

Are artists, photographers, curators, or collectives from outside Hamburg eligible to participate?

The Open Call is primarily aimed at individuals and institutions based in Hamburg. Participation by artists, photographers, curators, or collectives not based in Hamburg is only possible if an exhibition venue in Hamburg is available or if there is a close collaboration with a Hamburg-based space, curator, and/or collective. Hamburg-based curators are also apply with projects involving external artists or photographers. Projects without a connection to a Hamburg exhibition venue, curator, or collective will not be accepted.

Is it possible to submit a project without having an exhibition space confirmed?

Yes, submission is possible even if you do not have an exhibition space. However, please note that in such case, the project can only be realized on a limited scale. Triennial Expanded has a small number of its own exhibition venues and can offer mediation support only for selected projects.

Can my project be part of the festival if it opens before the official festival start?

No. Participation and funding are only possible if the project opens or is realized between June 4 – 14, 2026—during the Opening Days. A longer duration beyond this period is acceptable. Projects realized entirely outside of this timeframe are not eligible for funding.

Must all artists be confirmed at the time of application?

No. Initial confirmations should be in place to concretely communicate the project idea. The final list of artists must be submitted by the end of January 2026.

Does the selection of works need to be completed upon submission?

Not necessarily — first works or representative examples should be included in the application. The final overview of works, including image material, must be submitted by the end of January 2026.

Do accompanying events (e.g., guided tours, talks) need to be confirmed at the time of application?

For discursive or primarily mediation-based projects, the planned accompanying events should already be outlined at the time of application as they are an integral part of the concept.

For exhibition projects, information about tours, talks, or other formats can also be submitted later. These will then be included in the official program of the 9th Triennial.

Can projects that are not funded still participate in the 9th Triennial?

The 9th Triennial also functions as a communication platform for projects and events engaging with the medium of photography in Hamburg throughout the entire festival period—from June 5 to September 22, 2026. Projects that are not funded and thus not part of Triennial Expanded can register in a digital event calendar integrated into the website of the 9th Triennial of Photography Hamburg 2026. All registered projects and events will be pre-screened by the Triennial team for eligibility. Registration will open online in spring 2026.