

# Connect

## Call for applications

Deadline: 26 of May 2021

### 1. Introduction

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

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

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

Connect is the collaboration framework agreed between CERN and Pro Helvetia (2021-2024).

### 2. Connect. Description of the Call

Connect residency is a biennial residency programme for artists with a distinct interest in cross-disciplinarian approach, a strong motivation for scientific thinking and fundamental science. The goal of the residency is to invite Swiss artists<sup>1</sup> to immerse themselves in the Laboratory's community and to engage in a close dialogue with scientists, engineers and staff at CERN.

---

<sup>1</sup> An artist will be considered "Swiss" if they hold Swiss nationality or have their residence in Switzerland.

Connect consists of a fully funded residency that offers support to an artist or artistic collective to spend 2 months at CERN and 1 month remotely, with the support of a scientific partner, and the curation and mentoring of Arts at CERN curator and team. Artists interested in applying to the Connect Residency are invited to submit a project proposal that combines research and production. The scope of this proposal will include a research period of two months at CERN and a second developmental phase of remote residency to define and produce a new artwork.

### **3. Criteria and Conditions of the Call**

The Connect Call for Applications encourages the participation of Swiss artists 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 to enter in dialogue with scientists and engineers, and staff at CERN.
- Artists whose research can engage with the dynamics at the Laboratory, in connection with researchers and experiments.
- Artists pushing the traditional forms of dialogue with other fields of research, and keen to ask innovative questions across disciplines.
- Artists interested in the CERN's community and the interaction with its social fabric and its history and narratives.
- Artists whose work and proposal aims to reflect on new models of social enquiry, the potential synergies between art and science, and to offer challenging methods of exchange and enquiry.
- Artists from a discipline supported by Pro Helvetia (visual arts, music, literature, performing arts, design, and interactive media) and meeting the general Pro Helvetia criteria: a convincing body of work and track record, and a significant footprint in the Swiss arts scene.

### **4. The Residency**

Connect grants one artist or collective with a funded residency at CERN, Geneva, that includes the following support and conditions:

- A production stipend of 15000 CHF.
- Living expenses for two months at CERN, Geneva. The third month of the residency will take place remotely.
- Travel costs and accommodation within a fixed budget for the artistic residency period at CERN.

- In case of an artist collective, all these costs will be split between the members. A maximum of 3 members of a collective can be hosted at the same time as residents.

## **5. Expectations of the Artist**

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

- Engage in research based on the proposal submitted for the Connect Call for applications.
- Complete the period of the residency at CERN and to be in contact with the scientific partners and the Arts at CERN curator and team during the second phase of the remote 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.
- Take part of the annual summit of Connect.
- Finalise the artwork resulting from the residency within the six months following the residency.
- Support the Arts at CERN curator and team on the evaluation and report of the residency within the six months following the residency.

## **6. Application Submission**

Artists intending to apply to 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 forms that can be found at <https://arts.cern>

The application should contain the following elements:

- Personal details: name, address, contact details.
- An artist dossier with the most relevant artworks or projects, including a brief statement and the artist's biography.
- Project proposal describing, in detail, the project that the artist intends to undertake during the residency at CERN.
- A video statement (no longer than five minutes), defending the relevance of the intended project.
- If as a Swiss artist you are planning to participate in both open calls for Connect (Connect, and Connect South Africa), the projects shall be different for each submission.

The selection will be based on evaluation of the application and the artist's project proposal, and reviewed by a jury of cultural experts and scientists of a maximum of six members. The name 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. The decision will be published on both Arts at CERN and Pro Helvetia's websites by the end of July 2021. Only the selected artist(s) will be notified by e-mail.

## **7. Current challenges presented by the global pandemic**

The present circumstances of the COVID-19 crisis, the duration and impact of which are still uncertain, have a significant impact on the models of artistic residencies worldwide. These circumstances might prompt us to adopt a residency model that, while maintaining the principle of being based on interactions between artists and scientists, will combine an on-site residency with online exchanges. In such cases, the artist and the scientific partners, as well as the curator of CERN will be in remote contact over a period of up to six months or until the project is completed.

## **8. Key Dates**

Deadline for the application: May 26th, 2021 (at midnight CEST, UTC+2)

Announcement of the jury's decision: By the end of July 2021

The timing of the residency will be discussed with the teams of Arts at CERN with the intention to complete the residency by May 2022, bar exceptional circumstances.

## **9. Contact and Information**

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

CERN: <https://home.cern>

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