

CONNECT

Call for applications

Deadline: 11th November 2024

1 Introduction

Since 2014, CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research in Geneva, and the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia have been working together 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 to support and promote the dialogue between artists and scientists within the Laboratory's context.

Arts 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 Art, Science and Technology programme, Pro Helvetia specifically supports activities and projects exploring technological and scientific developments from an artistic perspective in dialogue with researchers. The focus of the programme 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 Description of the Call

Connect is an annual residency programme for artists with a distinct interest in an interdisciplinary approach and a strong motivation for learning more about the modes of scientific thinking and fundamental science. The goal of the residency is to invite Swiss¹ artists to immerse themselves in the Laboratory's community and to engage in close dialogue with scientists, engineers, and staff at CERN.

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 support of a scientific partner, and the curation and mentoring of the 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 development phase in the form of a remote residency to define and produce a new artwork.

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

3 Application criteria

The Connect Call for Applications encourages the participation of Swiss² artists interested in the ideas described above and who meet any of the following criteria:

- Artists from the fields of visual arts, sound art, design, and interactive media and meeting Pro Helvetia's general criteria:
 - A convincing body of work and track record
 - A significant footprint in the Swiss arts scene.
- Artists interested in the cultural significance of scientific research and technology.
- Artists interested in extending their connection with the field of physics and entering into dialogue with scientists, engineers and staff at CERN.
- Artists with a demonstrated ability to work collaboratively and flexibly across disciplinary boundaries.
- Artists questioning the traditional forms of dialogue with other fields of research who are keen to ask innovative questions across disciplines.
- Artists interested in CERN's community and the interaction with its social fabric, its history, and narratives.
- Artists whose work and proposal aim to reflect on new models of social enquiry, the potential synergies between art and science, and to offer challenging methods of exchange and enquiry.

4 Conditions of the residency

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

- A production stipend of CHF 15,000.
- 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 the case of an artist collective, all these costs will be split between the members. A maximum of 2 members of a collective can be hosted at the same time as residents.
- Additionally, parents can apply for financial support of CHF 1,000 per month at most to co-finance childcare. The applicant is asked to provide an approximate budget for all expenses in advance.

5 Expectations from 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 residency period at CERN and be in contact with the scientific partners and the Arts at CERN curatorial team during the second phase of the remote residency.

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- 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 the six months following the residency.
- Support the Arts at CERN curatorial team on the evaluation and report of the residency within the six months following the residency.

6 Application Submission

Artists intending to apply to 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 forms that can be found at <https://arts.cern/call/connect-2024/>

The application form requires 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 consisting of:
 - 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.
 - Project summary (maximum of 300 words)
 - 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.

The selection will be based on an 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 accepting 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 in January 2025.

7 Important dates

Deadline for the application: 11th November 2024 (by 11:59 PM CET, UTC+1).

Announcement of the jury's decision: January 2025.

Residency period: second half of 2025 – the final residency period will be discussed with the team of Arts at CERN.

8 Contact and information

For contact and further information regarding the call, please get in touch with info.arts@cern.ch

swiss arts council
prohelvetia



Arts at CERN

CERN: <https://home.cern>

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

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