



Arts Collaboratory is a programme for the support of and knowledge sharing between independent visual arts organisations in Africa, Asia and Latin-America. It was established in January 2007 by the Dutch foundations [Hivos](http://www.hivos.org) (www.hivos.org) and [DOEN](http://www.doen.nl) (www.doen.nl) to achieve greater impact and synergies by joining forces. The mission of Arts Collaboratory is to promote sustainable, collaborative and open visual arts practices that contribute to social innovation.

Arts Collaboratory - Call for proposals

Long term support for independent visual arts organizations focusing on collaborative arts practices and social innovation

Deadline for submission of concept notes: April 15, 2013

Rationale of Call

In current contemporary arts practice the role of artists and arts' organizations as agents of change is getting more recognized. Artistic practice is further developing and increasingly focusses on researching and addressing societal issues, facilitating relationships and the development of new perspectives. At the same time, and linked to the above, organizational philosophies are changing in and outside the art world. There is an increased development of horizontal platforms and network-organisations that take a more collaborative stand or define themselves as 'relational'.

Hivos and DOEN believe in the potential of artists to question what often might seem unquestionable truths or status quo. Culture can potentially be a driving force or trigger in processes of social innovation. This type of innovation aims at challenging and changing the social interaction of people, and their interaction to their environment. It triggers innovation that does not decide on or define the whole process of change, but is the starting point of it. Equally important is the potential artistic processes have to include and facilitate relations with the people that are affected by this change both in the set-up and process of change. And thus, enlarging the possibility that this change is meaningful and becomes sustainable.

For artists to be able to take this role fully, it is crucial to have high quality artistic capabilities to develop the creative process, include people, connect and innovate artistic languages and finally develop processes and artworks people can relate to, but that also bring new perspectives or thoughts.

This call for proposals invites independent visual arts organisations from Africa, Asia and Latin-America that are active in the promotion of artistic quality, collaborative arts practices and social innovation to propose a programme for support. Organisations that are selected will receive financial support towards their organisation and programme and will participate in the Arts Collaboratory knowledge and exchange platform. Collective applications (by more than 1 organisation) are welcomed.

The procedure of selection for this call for proposals is divided in two phases. Interested organisations should first submit a summary of their proposal according to the enclosed application format to Arts Collaboratory. The Arts Collaboratory Steering Committee will make a pre-selection on the bases of these short proposals. The selected partners will be invited the latest 21May to send in a more extensive proposal. On the bases of further research and collection of second opinions final decisions will be made.

The objectives of Arts Collaboratory are:

- The improvement of the quality of artistic expression and collaborative art practices through independent visual arts organisations;
- The promotion of the development of social innovation and of new forms of engagement with publics through independent visual arts organizations

Future partners are expected to work and perform on both objectives.

Amount of funding

The maximum amount available for this call per organisation is **EUR 125.000 for a maximum period of 28 months**.

You can also apply in a coalition of organisations. In that case we will consider higher amounts

Criteria for this call:

Remarks:

1. every of the below criteria is considered in relation to the specific context the organization is working in.
2. these criteria are programme specific and will be used next to standard assessment criteria of Hivos and DOEN with regards to governance and financial management.

Criteria:

- The organization must be based in Africa, Asia, Latin America
- The organization provides an independent platform for visual artists in its local context, and serves the needs of those in terms of training and/or research, production, platform or presentation.
- The organization promotes high quality art practice.
- The organization has a proven interest and activities in the field of social innovation
- Collaborative attitude: the organization has a wide reach in its context and a collaborative attitude towards other arts platforms, -groups or -organizations in the country/wider region and possibly towards actors in other sectors in society (in application explain both view on collaboration, existing co-operations, broad network).

- The organization has an interest in international cooperation and is willing to take up responsibility in this within the Arts Collaboratory platform. It can connect the international network to the local community and vice versa.

Besides the funding of 10-15 core-partners over a period of 2,5 years (2013 – 2015), Arts Collaboratory will have the possibility to apply for project funds in these years. More information on these possibilities can be found from 15 March 2013 on www.artscollaboratory.org

Time Schedule

when	What
04-03-2013	launch call for proposals
15-04-2013	deadline summary proposals
21-05-2013	invitation for full proposals sent to pre selected organisations, inform not-selected partners
21-06-2013	deadline full proposals
21-08-2013	selection finished; inform (not) selected partners