

# OPEN CALL

"Art and Planning" of the  
Landesgartenschau Neuss 2026 GmbH

**Are you a professional artist or interdisciplinary collective looking for an opportunity to create a new green public space in Neuss? If so, please send us an application by September 19, 2024!**

## **ART, OPEN SPACES AND RESEARCHING TRACES**

On the occasion of the Landesgartenschau (state garden show) Neuss 2026, the former horse racetrack in the heart of the city of Neuss is undergoing a mayor transformation. In addition to landscape architects, urban planners and gardening experts, artists are to be involved closely in the creation and design process of the new Neusser Bürgerpark, a vibrant park for all citizens of Neuss.

Bearing the title "Art, Open Spaces and Researching Traces", there are going to be three different tasks that offer an opportunity for how you can contribute artistic ideas to the new spatial design of the park: a landmark "Anchor point on the Rhine River", an architectural sculpture "Totalisator" and a garden sculpture "Place of Religions".

Through the application process, three artists or interdisciplinary collectives will be chosen for each of the three tasks to develop and submit an artistic concept sketch in exchange for a fee. The goal is to realize three temporary artworks for the Landesgartenschau (state garden show) Neuss 2026 GmbH.

### **Setting**

Neuss is a city of art. Over the decades a remarkable collection of art has grown within the public space.

The former horse racetrack in Neuss is the central location for the Landesgartenschau (state garden show) 2026 and the future Neusser Bürgerpark. With its historical significance, the park offers an exceptional setting for artistic research and creation.

Underground, invisible traces of the former course of the Rhine from early Roman times are going right through the park, visible historical relics from 150 years of equestrian sport and contemporary park infrastructure for sports and games already characterize the Neuss Citizens' Park today. But the surrounding urban landscape, from the historic city center to the active harbor, the adjacent residential areas and the nearby Rhine dike, are also exciting fields of research for artistic idea generation. Moreover, local groups provide diverse inspiration for artistic art works. Noteworthy among them are the traditional Neusser-Bürger-Schützen-Verein e.V., the association Grünes Herz - Bürgerpark Neuss

## Tasks

The fundamental requirement for the artists involved in the context of the Landesgartenschau (state garden show) Neuss 2026 GmbH is a particularly thorough site-specific, theme-specific and audience-specific approach.

The existing condition, including historic relics and structures, the existing vegetation with its biotopes and the integration into the larger urban landscape, set the framework for artistic engagement and participation.

### **Task 1: Landmark "Anchor Point on the Rhine River"**

The goal is to create a temporary artistic installation on the dike of the Rhine River. The so called "Anchor Point on the Rhine River", which is to be newly established, should be developed artistically as a place of arrival with an inviting atmosphere to stay and connect with others, serving as a landmark that fosters identity. There is also the opportunity to outline approaches for involving local groups in the concept development and subsequent use.

### **Task 2: Architectural sculpture "Totalisator"**

The aim is to carry out a temporary artistic redesign of the former Totalisator on the horse racetrack in Neuss. The existing racecourse-specific architectural structures should be artistically reworked and accentuated, marking one of the main entrances to the Landesgartenschau (state garden show) Neuss 2026. At the same time, the temporary use of the former Totalisator as a place of action for local artists' initiatives and the association Grünes Herz - Bürgerpark Neuss e.V. should remain possible.

### **Task 3: Garden Sculpture "Place of Religions"**

The goal is to implement an artistic landscape-design intervention on the grounds of the Neusser Bürgerpark in direct proximity to the area of activity of the Neusser Bürger-Schützen-Verein e.V. The "Place of Religions" should experience a tangible spatial design at its designated location. The approximately 500 square-meter garden, enclosed by hedges and trees, should stand as an experiential space through its artistic and landscape design. However, it should also be used during the mayor celebrations of world religions as a place for encounters, communication and togetherness.

The artworks are planned to be created temporarily for the duration of the Landesgartenschau (state garden show) Neuss 2026. In the interest of sustainability, artists may propose ideas for how their works could be permanently implemented in the Neusser Bürgerpark.

## Financial Framework

Participation in the application process is not remunerated. However, the nine artists or interdisciplinary collectives who are actually invited in the second phase will each receive a compensation of 1,000.00 Euros net for developing their concept sketches.

For the subsequent realization of the artistic ideas, the Landesgartenschau (state garden show) Neuss 2026 GmbH has a total budget of up to 300,000.00 Euros net available, including the artist fees. The allocation for the three tasks is as follows:

- Task 1: Landmark "Anchor Point on the Rhine River": up to 200,000.00 Euros net
- Task 2: Architectural sculpture "Totalisator": up to 50,000.00 Euros net
- Task 3: Garden sculpture "Place of Religions": up to 50,000.00 Euros net

## Application Process

Applying is very simple. Write a motivation letter indicating which of the three tasks you wish to apply for and explain why you want to invest your creative energy in the Landesgartenschau (state garden show) Neuss 2026. If you are interested in applying for all three tasks, please indicate the respective prioritization in your motivation letter. Then, prepare a CV that highlights your artistic education or comparable proof of professionalism, such as exhibition lists. The CV should also clearly demonstrate your experience with public art projects, exhibitions, festivals, or other formats. You should include three recent references from the last 10 years to illustrate this experience.

## Selection

The selection process will be based on the motivation letter, detailed CV, and the three submitted reference projects, as well as predetermined selection criteria. The selection will be made by an interdisciplinary committee during a selection meeting.

## Criteria

The criteria serve as a guideline for the selection committee in evaluating the submitted applications.

1. Originality in the expression of motivation to create an artistic work in the context of one of the three task areas as part of the Landesgartenschau (state garden show) Neuss 2026.
2. Clear presentation of practical experience in the CV related to "art in public space" with a site-specific, theme-specific, and audience-specific approach. Ideally, experience in connection with landscape design, architecture or urban planning.
3. The artistic quality and expressiveness of the references. References may include sculptural installations or conceptual and performative works.

## Committee

The interdisciplinary selection committee consists of five members, each contributing different expertise in art and planning to the decision-making process.

1. Annette Nothnagel, Managing Director Landesgartenschau Neuss 2026 GmbH
2. Katja Aßmann, Freelance Curator from Berlin
3. Kay von Keitz, Freelance Author and Curator from Cologne
4. Ursula Achternkamp, Freelance Artist from Rheine
5. Michael Ziege, Chairman of the Culture Committee Neuss and Board Member of Grünes Herz - Bürgerpark Neuss e.V.

## Dates

Open Call Publication: August 19, 2024

Application Deadline: September 19, 2024

Selection Committee Meeting: October 2, 2024

Notification of Applicants: Early October 2024

Invitation of the nine Selected Artists: Early October 2024

Kickoff Workshop on Site: October 10, 2024

Workshop Process for Concept Sketches: October 11 to November 25, 2024

Submission Deadline for Concept Sketches: November 25, 2024

Selection Committee Meeting: Early December 2024

Implementation of the three Selected Concept Sketches: December 2024 to April 2026

Opening of the Landesgartenschau Neuss 2026: April 2026

## Contact Information

Apply with the requested documents directly via email to:

Landesgartenschau Neuss 2026 GmbH  
opencall@landesgartenschau-neuss.de

## **Application Documents**

The application documents must be submitted digitally to the Landesgartenschau Neuss 2026 GmbH by September 19, 2024, 24:00.

The motivation letter (in German or English), CV (max. 1 page per artist), and the three reference projects (max. 8 pages total) must be combined into a single PDF file (max. 10 MB) and attached to the email sent to [opencall@landesgartenschau-neuss.de](mailto:opencall@landesgartenschau-neuss.de).

Unfortunately, additional submissions after the deadline are not possible. The final decision will be made by the selection committee in October 2024. Following this, the Landesgartenschau Neuss 2026 GmbH will inform all applicants of the outcome of the selection process.

### **Overview Application Documents**

- motivation letter (max. 2 pages DIN A4)
- CV (max. 1 page DIN A4 per artist)
- three reference projects, no older than 10 years (max. 8 pages DIN A4)

All documents should be compiled into a single PDF file (max. 10 MB).

**Do you have any further questions? Feel free to check our FAQs on the website of the Landesgartenschau Neuss 2026 GmbH or reach out for consultation via email**

[opencall@landesgartenschau-neuss.de](mailto:opencall@landesgartenschau-neuss.de)  
[www.landesgartenschau-neuss.de](http://www.landesgartenschau-neuss.de)