

Guidelines for the Literature Department

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1. Basic principles

Cultural Strategy 2020–2023, Part II, p. 9, Funding Criteria

The specific requirements can vary greatly depending on the artistic discipline and the funding source, so most disciplines have their own criteria. These are set out in the guidelines of the Department of the Mayor and the Department of Culture and are listed on the corresponding website: www.stadt-zuerich.ch/kultur under “Förderung”.

The following formal criteria must be cumulatively met in order for a funding application to be considered:

- The projects must take place in Zurich, be produced in Zurich or have a specific connection to the city of Zurich.
- The projects must be publicly accessible to all interested parties.
- The projects must be sufficiently documented in the application.
- Projects must document a balance of budget and funding.
- The projects are not self-supporting and cannot be realised without public funding.
- The projects must document the statutory social contributions and fairly calculate remuneration and fees in the budget.
- The projects must meet any additional criteria that is specific to the discipline.
- The projects must belong to one or more artistic disciplines funded by the Department of Culture.
- The event or project to be funded must be planned for the future.
- Applications must be complete and submitted on time.

If a project meets these formal criteria, the content of the application will be reviewed. In contrast to the formal criteria, the content-related criteria do not have to be cumulatively met.

The assessment is based on the following main content-related criteria:

- Quality: relevance of content, aesthetic relevance, originality, innovation, consistency
 - Feasibility: ability to implement ideas and potential to do so in artistic and production-specific terms
 - Networking and appeal: evidence of appearances in performance venues, collaboration
 - Societal relevance: potential for wider dissemination among audience and media
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Funding applications are assessed on the basis of the aims and criteria issued by the city council in the current cultural strategy [1], as well as these guidelines.

The responsibilities and composition of the expert commissions as well as the application procedures are regulated in the Regulations for the expert commissions involved in cultural funding.

The Department of Culture will only accept applications in electronic form. The relevant digital forms can be found at www.stadt-zuerich.ch/kultur. The forms provide information on the documents that must be submitted with the application and the form they must be submitted in. The applications must be written in German.

[1] available as a PDF at www.stadt-zuerich.ch/kultur or from Stadt Zürich Kultur, Postfach, 8022 Zürich, Phone: +41 44 412 31 24

2. Types of grant

2.1 Working year grants

Funding area

Stadt Zürich Kultur supports Zurich-based authors in all literary genres (poetry, novels, drama, essays, children's and young people's books, graphic novels) as well as translators who already have a literary publication behind them, with their work on a new literary text. A maximum of four working year grants are available.

Eligible persons

Authors and translators who have a close biographical connection to the city of Zurich and have already published a literary work. Self-published publications and publications by publishing houses that require a financial contribution from the writer do not meet the criterion.

The place of citizenship (Bürgerrecht) alone is not sufficient as a connection to the city of Zurich.

Grant amount

CHF 48,000 per working year grant

Social security

In the case of cultural practitioners who receive a grant from the City of Zurich and pay 6 per cent of this into a tied pension provision, upon application, the City of Zurich will pay the same contribution towards an occupational pension scheme in addition to the grant. In this case, the cultural practitioner's contribution will be deducted from the grant and transferred directly to the relevant pension account alongside the state contribution (see fact sheet on social security).

Submission deadline

1. August

2.2 Prizes

Funding area

Stadt Zürich Kultur supports Zurich authors and translators who have a close biographical connection to the city of Zurich and are able to present a new literary publication in the calendar year in question. The literature commission assesses all new publications known to it for this purpose. Prizes can also be given to individuals, projects or initiatives that have made a special contribution to the promotion of literature.

Eligible persons

See funding area

Exclusion criteria

Self-published publications and publications by publishing houses that require a financial contribution from the writers will not be considered.

Grant amount

Between CHF 5,000 and CHF 20,000

Submission deadlines

Funding is provided through the nomination procedure. The head of department decides following the recommendation of the expert commission. No application procedure takes place.

2.3 Printing cost allowances

2.3.1 Printing cost allowance for fiction

Funding area

Stadt Zürich Kultur supports the literary work of Zurich-based authors by contributing to the printing costs of first publications.

Exclusion criteria

No applications for printing cost allowances will be accepted from self-published authors or publishing houses that require a financial contribution from the writers.

Eligible persons

Applications can only be submitted by publishing houses.

Grant amount

Usually a maximum of CHF 5,000 per book

Submission deadlines

Applications can be submitted throughout the year, but no later than six weeks before printing.

2.3.2 Printing cost allowance for non-fiction

2.3.3 Funding area

Stadt Zürich Kultur supports the publication of "Turicensia", i.e. non-fiction books that deal exclusively or to a substantial degree with important aspects of the city of Zurich's history up to the present day, via a printing cost allowance.

Exclusion criteria

No grants are provided for the printing of dissertations or reprints.

Eligible persons

Applications can only be submitted by publishing houses.

Grant amount

Usually a maximum of CHF 10,000 per non-fiction book

Submission deadlines

Applications can be submitted throughout the year, but no later than six weeks before printing.

No appraisal is carried out by an expert commission in this funding area. The Department of Culture makes an assessment and decides directly.

2.4 Event allowance

Funding area

Stadt Zürich Kultur supports literary events in the city of Zurich which, through their nature and scope, contribute significantly to the literary life of the city.

Eligible persons

See funding area.

Exclusion criteria

Generally, individual readings are not supported. Institutions that are already subsidised by the city are not eligible to receive additional support for individual events.

Grant amount

On request

Submission deadlines

Applications can be submitted throughout the year, but no later than six weeks before the start of the event.

No appraisal is carried out by an expert commission in this funding area. The Department of Culture makes an assessment and decides directly.

These guidelines shall enter into force on 1 January 2023.

Zurich, 14 December 2022

Corine Mauch, Mayor