We are the culture - open call

The application round is open: 02.09.2024 - 31.08.2025

Step 1/3 Applying to the Oulu2026 Cultural Programme

Program Name (Mandatory)

What is the proposed name of your program? This will be used when communicating about the program.

Public Summary of the Program (Mandatory)

Number of characters: 0 of max 300

Provide a brief public description of the program. This text will be used, for example, on the oulu2026.eu website.

Location within the Oulu2026 region (Mandatory)

In which municipalities does your program take place? The program must take place in one of the municipalities within the Oulu2026 region. You can also select multiple municipalities if the program spans across several areas.

☐ Alavieska
☐ Haapajärvi

☐ Haapavesi
☐ Hailuoto
☐ Hyrynsalmi
☐ Ii
☐ Kajaani
☐ Kalajoki
☐ Kemi
☐ Kempele
☐ Kuhmo
☐ Kuusamo
☐ Kärsämäki
☐ Liminka
☐ Lumijoki
☐ Muhos
☐ Nivala
☐ Oulainen
☐ Oulu
☐ Paltamo
☐ Pielavesi
☐ Pudasjärvi
☐ Puolanka
☐ Pyhäjoki
☐ Pyhäjärvi
☐ Pyhäntä
☐ Raahe
☐ Ranua
☐ Ristijärvi
☐ Sievi
☐ Siikajoki
☐ Siikalatva
☐ Sotkamo
☐ Suomussalmi
☐ Taivalkoski
☐ Tornio
☐ Tyrnävä
☐ Utajärvi
☐ Vaala
☐ Ylivieska

Specific Event Location (e.g. district or residential area)

Number of characters: 0 of max 1000

If you know the specific location of the program, specify the district or residential area where it will be held. You can also provide the exact address. We are interested in content from the entire area, also outside city centres!

Program timing in 2026 (Mandatory)

Number of characters: 0 of max 500

When will your organise your program? The program must take place during the year 2026. Please provide the specific event time and date for the part of the program accessible to the public.

Program partners (Mandatory)

Number of characters: 0 of max 1000

Describe the key individuals or entities involved in implementing the program. The applicant is responsible for program execution and communication.

Detailed Program Description (Mandatory)

Number of characters: 0 of max 3000

Describe the central content of the program. What will happen during the program, and what is its goal? If the program consists of multiple events or components, list them here.

Novelty of the Program (Mandatory)

Number of characters: 0 of max 3000

Oulu2026 seeks programs designed specifically for the year 2026. Novelty can mean that the program is being implemented for the first time or that it introduces a new dimension compared to previous executions, such as new audiences, themes, or approaches. Describe the program's novelty.

Primary Target Audience for the Program (Mandatory)

Describe the target audience or audiences as precisely as possible. The target audience can be, for example, children and families, youth, adults, seniors, groups with different linguistic and cultural backgrounds, minority groups, or underrepresented groups.

Commitment to Social and Ecological Sustainability (Mandatory)

Oulu2026 programs must be implemented in a socially and ecologically sustainable manner. Social sustainability means that people of all backgrounds can participate without fear of discrimination. Ecological sustainability involves minimizing environmental impact in event

organization.

○ Yes, I commit to these principles

Clear the answer

Step 2/3 Applying for Targeted Funding

Are you applying for a targeted grant from the Oulu Cultural Foundation for the program implementation? **(Mandatory)**

○ yes
○ no - you can proceed to the phase 3

Clear the answer

> The question below can only be answered under specific circumstances depending on what you answered the question: "Are you applying for a targeted grant from the Oulu Cultural Foundation for the program implementation?"

Program Theme

The Oulu2026 cultural programme seeks additional content related to specific themes. You can also specify "other" if your program focuses on a different theme.

☐ living cultural heritage
☐ Culture for seniors
☐ Neighborhood or village events
☐ Sustainable lifestyle
☐ Cultural well-being
☐ Children's culture
☐ Physical activity or sports
☐ Maritime themes
☐ Youth culture
☐ Food culture
☐ Minority cultures
☐ Other, please specify?

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Accessibility Considerations

Number of characters: 0 of max 3000

In the Oulu2026 culture programme, accessibility and equality are essential. Accessibility encompasses various aspects, including physical accessibility in the built environment, sensory accessibility, communication accessibility, financial accessibility, and regional availability. Please

assess how your program addresses accessibility from the different perspectives.

Fostering Community and Inclusion

Number of characters: 0 of max 3000

Inclusion refers to the experience of meaningfulness and participation in activities that are important to oneself. Community spirit arises from interaction, shared experiences, and collaborative activities. Describe how your program promotes community and inclusion, for example, in planning, implementation, or interaction with the audience.

Languages of the Program

Participants in events may have diverse language backgrounds. Describe the languages in which people can access information about the program, experience it, and participate.

☐ Finnish
☐ Swedish
☐ English
☐ Northern Sámi
☐ Aanaar Sámi
☐ Skolt Sámi
☐ Arabic
☐ Chinese
☐ Farsi, Persian
☐ Somali
☐ Russian
☐ sign language
☐ Other, which?

Program Communication

Number of characters: 0 of max 3000

How do you promote your program? The Oulu2026 program organizers are responsible for communication and marketing. The Oulu Cultural Foundation provides communication guidelines, materials, and an event calendar on oulu2026.eu website where program organizers can input event details. Explain how people receive information about the program and where it is marketed.

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European Dimension

Number of characters: 0 of max 3000

Is there a European dimension to your program? European aspects can be integrated into the program in various ways. It may involve international collaboration, participation of partners from other countries, themes related to shared European history, or promoting cultural diversity and dialogue across cultures. This way we promote sense of belonging and shared European identity. Describe how the European dimension is reflected in your program.

The question below can only be answered under specific circumstances depending on what you answered the question: "Are you applying for a targeted grant from the Oulu Cultural Foundation for the program implementation?"

Are You Applying for Grants for Sámi Artists?

If you are applying for grants specifically for Sámi artists, please respond "yes", and additional questions will appear on the form.

○ yes
○ no
Clear the answer

The question below can only be answered under specific circumstances depending on what you answered the question: "Are You Applying for Grants for Sámi Artists?"

☐ **Mikäli vastasit yllä "kyllä", napsauta tästä täyttääksesi lisäkysymykset**

The question below can only be answered under specific circumstances depending on what you answered the question: "Mikäli vastasit yllä "kyllä", napsauta tästä täyttääksesi lisäkysymykset"

Grant applications of Sámi artists are reviewed by a separate expert group. Briefly describe your background and connections to Sámi culture.

Number of characters: 0 of max 3000

If your project has valid reasons to be partially implemented outside the Oulu2026 area (e.g. in Sápmi), provide further details here.

Number of characters: 0 of max 3000

> The question below can only be answered under specific circumstances depending on what you answered the question: "Are you applying for a targeted grant from the Oulu Cultural Foundation for the program implementation?"

Applying for a Targeted Grant and Budget Estimate

In this program application, the following targeted funding amounts are mainly available:
€500
€1,000
€1,500
€2,000 for program implementation.

You may apply for a targeted grant between €2,500 and €8,000 if it is justified by the program's duration, quality, scope, regional coverage, number of participants, or international collaboration. Please note that applying for larger targeted funding requires more detailed justification below.

Additionally, in this round of applications, one to two larger-scale projects worth €20.000 each may be selected. The goal of a larger-scale project is to promote cultural climate change in a significant and comprehensive way. A larger-scale project is a tailored initiative for a specific target group fostering inclusion, community spirit, or accessibility. Applications will be evaluated based on program content and scope relative to the existing Oulu2026 Cultural Programme. If you are applying for a targeted grant of €20,000, a more detailed project plan and budget estimate must be attached to the application (see follow-up questions below).

Please select the amount of targeted funding you are applying for from the dropdown menu below:

Options: 500 €, 1 000 €, 1 500 €, 2 000 €, 2 500 €, 3 000 €, 3 500 €, 4 000 €, 4 500 €, 5 000 €, 5 500 €, 6 000 €, 6 500 €, 7 000 €, 7 500 €, 8 000 €, 20 000 € (larger-scale project)

> The question below can only be answered under specific circumstances depending on what you answered the question: "Applying for a Targeted Grant and Budget Estimate"

On what basis are you applying for a grant between €2.500 - €8.000?

Number of characters: 0 of max 3000

Provide reasons for seeking a larger grant based on program duration, quality, scope, regional coverage, participant numbers, or international collaboration.

> The question below can only be answered under specific circumstances depending on what you answered the question: "Are you applying for a targeted grant from the Oulu Cultural Foundation for the program implementation?"

What are the program's expenses?

Estimate the costs of implementing the program. On each line, write the expense category (e.g., service purchases, material purchases, travel expenses, salaries, and fees) and in the second column of the line, add the estimated cost in euros. The form will automatically calculate the total expenses.

Total:

Add new row

> The question below can only be answered under specific circumstances depending on what you answered the question: "Are you applying for a targeted grant from the Oulu Cultural Foundation for the program implementation?"

What are the program's revenues?

Estimate the sources of income for implementing the program. On each line, write the income category (e.g., other grants, ticket sales, ancillary sales, other self-financing, corporate partnerships) and in the second column of the line, add the estimated income in euros. The form will automatically calculate the total income.

Potential targeted funding from the Oulu Cultural Foundation

Total:

Add new row

> The question below can only be answered under specific circumstances depending on what you answered the question: "Applying for a Targeted Grant and Budget Estimate"

Attachments - Project Plan of a Larger-scale Project

The project plan is a more detailed description of the implementation of the larger-scale project. In the plan, describe the target group for which the project is tailored, how you will reach this target group, and what actions are included in the plan.
Additionally, the plan may include, for example, a description of the project's background and starting points, objectives, project organisation, resources, outcomes, risks, timeline,

communication, marketing, and documentation.
Only PDF files are accepted. You may attach one file with a maximum size of 10 MB.

Drag and drop or click to add file.

Attachments – Budget Estimate of a Larger-scale Project

Accepted file formats: pdf, xls, xlsx, doc, docx, and rtf.
You may attach one file with a maximum size of 10 MB.

Drag and drop or click to add file.

Step 3/3 Lastly

Feedback

Feel free to provide feedback on the open call or the application form.

Newsletter Subsripction

Would you like to subscribe to the Oulu2026 newsletter? You'll receive updates related to the European Capital of Culture approximately 1–2 times per month.

○ yes
○ no
Clear the answer