

Call for proposals

**Deadline: 6pm on Thursday
December 15th 2016**



About W139

W139 is an artist-led production and presentation institution in the centre of Amsterdam. Operating since 1979 as the beating heart of experimental artistic practices, W139 provides room for risk in the ever-broadening field of contemporary art and culture.

Artists are the engine of the institution, its program and its vision. This means that each individual's initiative and perseverance are practical tools and vital for the collective and cumulative strength of W139.

Since its inauguration, W139 has gone through a number of changes as a result of continuous introspection, shifting with the times. Therefore in 2013 W139 developed an alternative system for running its major art space in the centre of Amsterdam. The basis of the decision-making and artistic vision is now shared between its collaborative community consisting of invited artist groups and the W139 team. This has created a vibrant and supportive environment for development, discussion and criticality.

The ongoing program consists of shows by self-organised (inter)national artist groups. Everyone takes on an active role in taking forward W139's main areas of attention: moving beyond self-promotion, making sensitive, sensory and inclusive spaces and undertaking explorations that move off the beaten track.

Call for proposals

Our open call seeks to provide an opportunity for Dutch and international artists interested in developing an exhibition free from preconceived thematic guidance. We are looking for artists who are willing to work in close collaboration with their peers to take full responsibility in the advancement of ideas and their implementation.

A proposal can be submitted by artists who are still in the process of initiating a group, or by an existing group represented by one or two members. We welcome submissions of all artistic disciplines, as long as they are artist-led and site-specific.

If you want to submit a project, please note that it will run for a maximum of four weeks - and that it will take place between February and the end of May 2017.

Submission deadline: 15th of December 2016, 6PM

Time frame: February - May 2017

Project period: 4 weeks

The proposals will be reviewed by a panel of artists currently involved in W139's practice as well as members from the W139 team. The following criteria serve as guidelines for reviewing submissions:

- The project's artistic quality, focus and urgency in today's international art context.
- Projects that are artist-led and site-specific
- The feasibility of the project both in terms of finance and organisation
- The project's investigative and exploratory nature - we are not looking for 'ready-made' projects

Submission guidelines

We want to emphasize that we are looking for proposals rather than fully developed and detailed projects. Still the following elements have to be included in your submission (in no particular order):

- A project proposal that clearly conveys your intention (max. 500 words)
- Short and recent CV's or bio's of the initiators and possibly all participating artists
- Visual material (max. 10 images)
- Estimated work budget

Please send your proposal in Dutch or English as one collated PDF (8MB max).

If there is video material accompanying/explaining your project – the video should not be longer than 2 minutes and has to be accessible via Vimeo or YouTube, or another online source. A direct link is desired, with a working password if necessary.

In case of a specific preference, please indicate the desired month(s) you would like to present your project.

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Submissions can be sent to proposals@w139.nl, no later than 6pm on Thursday December 15th 2016, with 'Open Call W139' in the subject line. Response can be expected before January 2017.

Support

As for budget and facilities, we will be able to provide a maximum of €10.000 (excl. VAT) to support your project. You will be given the opportunity to work with 500 square meters of exhibition space situated right in the centre of Amsterdam. Next to the capacity of the exhibition space, we have additional 'backstage' space on site. This includes an artist apartment, suitable to accommodate multiple artists and a workshop/studio to finish or store works-in-progress. We will also provide a range of AV equipment, tools and our beloved W-van.

The W139 team will guide and support you in both the running up towards the exhibition, as well as being a critical and practical sounding board throughout the entire process.

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For more information, please contact info@w139.nl

W139

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