

LWL-Fonds für Professionelle Künste des Landschaftsverbandes Westfalen-Lippe (LWL)

Funding guidelines

Objective

The independent scene is an important part of the multifaceted cultural landscape in Westphalia-Lippe and, thanks to its mobility, brings artistic diversity, innovation and a spirit of experimentation to rural regions as well as cities.

The independent scene encompasses all independently producing artists, cultural creators, ensembles and independently run institutions from all disciplines and fields. It works professionally, independently in terms of content, methodology and structure, is self-organised and non-commercial. The following guidelines have been established for funding, which are applied by the LWL administration when approving project funding:

I. Funding criteria:

The funding provided by the LWL-Fonds für Professionelle Künste is intended to underline the function and position of the Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe (LWL) as a regionally influential cultural institution in Westphalia-Lippe. The grants are intended to enable projects that could not be realised without the help of the LWL. With the two programme lines of the LWL-Fonds für Professionelle Künste, the LWL aims to provide independent professional artists, ensembles, groups and collectives with sustainable support for their work:

a) Revival funding

Funding is available for artistic projects and productions that have already been set up or carried out by the independent scene in Westphalia-Lippe.

b) Multi-year project funding

New projects and initiatives are supported in their production and implementation over a period of up to three years.

Natural persons and legal entities with their place of residence or business in Westphalia-Lippe are eligible to apply. Municipalities, municipal associations, other corporations and institutions under public law are excluded. This also includes institutions run by the LWL.

General funding criteria:

- Artistic quality
- The artistic project enriches the cultural scene in the Westphalia-Lippe region.
- Fair payment for the artists and cultural workers involved: The current recommendations on minimum fees, such as those of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, must be applied.

Supplementary to a) Revival funding

- Development of new networks and venues: The project will also be shown at new venues in Westphalia-Lippe, not just at the previous venue.
- It is not possible to fund new projects and productions.

II. Funding amounts:

Project funding is generally provided at a rate of 90% of eligible expenses, taking into account the total expenses of the submitted applications and the available budgetary resources. The remaining maximum of 10% can be provided as own funds, taking into account civic engagement* or through third-party contributions. The funded measures are limited in time (maximum three years), with approvals being granted for each financial year. Longer follow-up funding should be avoided.

The amount of funding is as follows

- a) Revival funding: up to a maximum of €15,000 per financial year and measure
- b) Multi-year project funding: up to a maximum of €20,000 per financial year and measure

Funding for investment measures as part of the submitted project ideas is possible. Funding for the same project by the LWL-Kulturfonds is excluded.

III. General information:

Funding is only available upon application, which must be submitted digitally to the LWL Cultural Department by 30 September of the previous year. Consultations on qualification are offered. There is no legal entitlement to funding. Projects must not have already begun or been completed at the time of application. By submitting an application to the LWL, applicants accept that they may begin the project early at their own risk, without this giving rise to any legal entitlement to funding.

Funding is granted in the form of a fixed amount. The prerequisite for approval is that the financing of the project is secured, except for the amount of funding applied for from the LWL, and that the project can be implemented in a timely manner.

** The applicable guidelines for taking civic engagement into account in the context of grants within the remit of the Ministerium für Kultur und Wissenschaft (MBL NRW.) must be observed.*

As of August 2026