



Norwegische Botschaft

READER WITH ABSTRACTS

State Support for Visual Arts

Helping Artists during Corona and in Normal Times

– An Online Networking Seminar by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Berlin –

16 & 22 April 2020, 1pm-2.30pm

Contact: Clemens Bomsdorf +49 173 626 3456 clemens.bomsdorf@mfa.no

This is the reader for two Online Networking Seminars held in April.

A warm welcome to this Online Networking Seminar by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Berlin!

We are very glad you accepted our invitation and hope you will have interesting discussions and meetings with your German and Norwegian colleagues.

Early this year we initiated a series of Network Symposiums starting with “Forgotten and (re)discovered female artists: Hannah Ryggen and beyond” on February 5th. Then our plan had been to invite to such meetings with changing speakers and audience several times a year in order to debate interesting topics in the arts and foster cooperation between Germany and Norway. However, as you all know, this is not the right time for meeting in groups.

But nowadays it might be even more important to exchange ideas and collaborate across borders and also to simply establish contacts and keep in touch in order to inspire each other and to be able to work even better together once the situation has normalized.

We therefore have slightly changed our concept from an Network Symposium, held offline, to an Online Networking Seminar and hope it is as use- and fruitful as the meeting in February was. We are planning to bring together small groups of committed players in the international art world online and hopefully soon offline as well again.

That also means we would very much like to stay in touch with you and will invite you to future events, too. As we aim at keeping the groups small and allow participants to deepen connections as well as establish new contacts, we might invite some of you to different future events than others as this allows to bring in new people each time.

To be always up to date on our work, we suggest you subscribe to the Nordic embassies newsletter (www.nordischebotschaften.org/newsletter) and the Facebook page of the Norwegian Embassy (www.facebook.com/norwegische.botschaft).

Please do not hesitate getting in touch with us also in the future when interested in or having questions about the Norwegian cultural scene and cultural policy.

Contact



Clemens Bomsdorf

Kultur- und Pressereferent
Kgl. Norwegische Botschaft
Rauchstraße 1, 10787 Berlin, Deutschland
Mobil: +49 173 626 3456
[www](http://www.nordischebotschaften.org) - [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/norwegische.botschaft) - [Twitter](https://twitter.com/norwegische_botschaft) - [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/norwegische_botschaft)

Content

Contact	2
INTRO.....	4
PARTICIPANTS.....	4
16 April	4
22 April	5
PROGRAMME	5
16 April	5
22 April	6
PARTICIPATING & other relevant INSTITUTIONS - BRIEF INFO & LINKS.....	7
Kulturrådet / Arts Council Norway	7
Norske billedkunstnere NBK / Association of Norwegian Visual Artists	7
Deutscher Künstlerbund.....	8
Berlin Senate Department for Culture and European Affairs	8
BBK Berlin Berufsverband Bildender Künstler*innen Berlin / Visual Artists' Association Berlin	9
BBK Bundesverband Bildender Künstlerinnen und Künstler / German Artists' Association (which LBK Sachsen and LBK NRW are part of, but BBK Berlin is not).....	10
IGBK Internationale Gesellschaft der Bildenden Künste	11
ARTISTS SUPPORT SYSTEMS - BRIEF INFO & LINKS	12
Norwegian grants not related to Corona (examples)	12
Powerpoint by Ken Stebergløkken on Government Grants for Artists	13
Norwegian measurements established to fight the effects of Corona (examples)	15
Powerpoint by Tom Klev on Norwegian measures for the cultural sector during corona	16
German measurements established to fight the effects of Corona (examples)	17
Surveys by BBK Berlin Berufsverband Bildender Künstler*innen Berlin / Visual Artists' Association Berlin	17
Corona aid for visual artists in Saxony.....	18
Corona crisis: assistance for artists and self-employed persons from the cultural and creative industries	19
Further Links on the situation in Germany.....	24

INTRO

It is no news that artists often have a hard time making a living. Therefore public as private players have put up support schemes like scholarships and subsidized studio spaces. Norway is known for having a comparable generous system with state financed grants lasting for up to ten years. It is therefore that artists and artists` institutions in Germany have traditionally been looking north enviously. However, deep knowledge of the Norwegian support system for artists is rare in Germany; understandable given the fact that such systems are national and as support systems often are governed by rules and laws that take some time to read through. One goal of this seminar is informing the German side about the Norwegian support system in "normal times".

And then came the new Covid-19 virus, which led to lockdowns making the income situation of artists even worse. The governments of Norway as well as Germany have reacted fast and strongly, not only when it comes to restricting meetings of people and commercial activities, but also in regards to support the economy as well as cultural world.

Again, it is not easy to get an overview and understanding of the size and current new measures. We therefore want to use this Online Networking Seminar mainly to inform German as Norwegian players about how their governments now want to support artists and how artists` judge the potential effect of these policies.

In this reader you will find information on the current support systems and relevant links (the texts are often an extract of those found on the web) as well as a programme for our meeting and a list of participants and information about the institutions they represent. Please keep in mind that both, the seminar and the reader, cannot give a comprehensive overview, but rather an idea about what is done in Germany and Norway these days.

We hope this Online Networking Seminar will not only give you interesting insights, but also inspire you and bring the German and Norwegian art scene more closely together.

PARTICIPANTS

16 April

1. **Brit Holtebekk**, Head of international section, Kulturrådet/Arts Council Norway,
2. **Tom Klev**, Head of section visual arts, Kulturrådet/Arts Council Norway,
3. **Ken Stebergløkken**, Senior Advisor, Kulturrådet/Arts Council Norway,
4. **Ruben Steinum**, Head of the board of Norske Billedkunstnere NBK/Association of Norwegian Artists,
5. **Nora Gatewood**, Coordinator for the independent arts, Berlin Senate Department for Culture,
6. **Marcel Noack**, board member, Bundesverband Bildender Künstlerinnen und Künstler BBK/German Artists' Association,
7. **Thomas Weis**, managing director, Internationale Gesellschaft der Bildenden Künste IGBK, political scientist,

8. **Kevin Hanschke**, reporter, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung,
9. **Saskia Trebing**, reporter, art magazine Monopol,
10. **Aslaug Nygård**, Counselor, Norwegian Embassy Berlin,
11. **Victoria Benecke**, Cultural and Press Officer, Norwegian Embassy Berlin,
12. **Clemens Bomsdorf**, Cultural and Press Officer, Norwegian Embassy Berlin,

22 April

13. **Brit Holtebekk**, Head of international section, Kulturrådet/Arts Council Norway,
14. **Tom Klev**, Head of section visual arts, Kulturrådet/Arts Council Norway,
15. **Heidi Sill**, Spokesperson of BBK Berlin/Association of Visual Artists in Berlin,
16. **Michael Kress**, Member of the Executive Committee Deutscher Künstlerbund DKB, Hamburg,
17. **Katharina Koch**, director and co-chief curator feminist art space alpha nova & galerie futura, Berlin,
18. **Till Ansgar Baumhauer**, Chairman LBK Sachsen/Association of Visual Artists Saxony,
19. **Doris Frohnäpfel**, Board member Vice Chairwoman BBK NRW/Association of Visual Artists North Rhine-Westphalia, Cologne, former Professor Art Academy Bergen, Norway,
20. **Catherine Hickley**, correspondent The Art Newspaper, contributor The New York Times, Berlin,
21. **Aslaug Nygård**, Counselor, Norwegian Embassy Berlin,
22. **Ida Svingen Mo**, Cultural Officer, Norwegian Embassy Berlin,
23. **Clemens Bomsdorf**, Cultural and Press Officer, Norwegian Embassy Berlin,

PROGRAMME

16 April

- 1.00pm:** Welcome by Aslaug Nygård, Counselor, Norwegian Embassy, Berlin
- 1.05pm:** Brief Introduction to today's programme – Clemens Bomsdorf, Cultural and Press Officer, Norwegian Embassy, Berlin
- 1.10pm:** Kulturrådet in an international perspective – Brit Holtebekk, Head of International Section, Kulturrådet/Arts Council Norway
- 1.15pm:** Supporting artists in normal times – Ken Stebergløkken, Senior Advisor, Kulturrådet/Arts Council Norway
- 1.20pm:** Q&A
- 1.30pm:** Supporting artists in times of Corona – Tom Klev, Head of Section Visual Arts, Kulturrådet/Arts Council Norway, and Ruben Steinum, head of the board, NBK
- 1.45pm:** Q&A
- 2.00pm:** Helping the German Way – Marcel Noack, Board Member BBK & Thomas Weis, IGBK
- 2.10pm:** Helping the Berlin Way – Nora Gatewood, Coordinator, Berlin Senate of Culture

2.15pm: Q&A with the chance to also discuss other topics

2.30pm: session ends (if some want to stay longer and talk more, that's fine of course 😊)

22 April

1.00pm: Welcome by Aslaug Nygård, Counselor, Norwegian Embassy Berlin

1.05pm: Brief Introduction to today's programme – Clemens Bomsdorf, Cultural and Press Officer, Norwegian Embassy, Berlin

1.10pm: Kulturrådet in an international perspective – Brit Holtebekk, Head of International Section, Kulturrådet/Arts Council Norway,

1.15pm: Supporting artists in normal times – Tom Klev, Head of Section Visual Arts, Kulturrådet/Arts Council Norway,

1.25pm: Supporting artists in times of Corona – Tom Klev, Head of Section Visual Arts, Kulturrådet/Arts Council Norway,

1.35pm: Q&A kicked off by Michael Kress, Künstlerbund

1.45pm: How artists in Berlin are affected – Heidi Sill, BBK Berlin

1.55pm: Q&A

2.05pm: The situation in the "Flächenländer" Saxony and North Rhine-Westphalia, Till Ansgar Baumhauer and Doris Frohnappel, BBK Sachsen & NRW

2.15pm: Q&A with the chance to also discuss other topics

2.30pm: session ends (if some want to stay longer and talk more, that's fine of course 😊)

PARTICIPATING & other relevant INSTITUTIONS - BRIEF INFO & LINKS

Kulturrådet / Arts Council Norway

Arts Council Norway supports arts and cultural projects throughout Norway. It conducts developmental work and is an advisor to the central government on cultural affairs.

Arts Council Norway was established in 1965 in order to administer the Norwegian Cultural Fund. Today, Arts Council Norway is in charge of a broad spectrum of administrative tasks and functions within the cultural field, including artists' grants, the Audio and Visual Fund and a number of other funding schemes.

Arts Council Norway is the main governmental operator for the implementation of Norwegian cultural policy. Arts Council Norway functions as an advisory body to the central government and public sector on cultural affairs. The Arts Council is fully financed by the Ministry of Culture.

Arts Council Norway helps to ensure that art and culture are created, documented, preserved and made accessible to the broadest possible audience. The aim is to guarantee an arts and cultural sector in Norway that is vibrant and diverse.

Each year, the Council receives some 20,000 applications for funding. In 2017, the Council will handle around € 139 million in state funds earmarked for arts and culture, which is about 10% of the national cultural budget.

Arts Council Norway also manages government initiatives in the museum sector. The Arts Council has a staff of around 120 people.

<https://www.kulturradet.no/english/vis/-/arts-council-norway-main>

Norske billedkunstnere NBK / Association of Norwegian Visual Artists

The Association of Norwegian Visual Artists (NBK) is a membership organisation committed to *promote and enhance the intellectual, social, legislative and economic interests of professional visual artists.*

As a parent organisation with [14 regional organisations and five discipline-specific, nationwide artists' organisations](#), in addition to the Young Artists' Society (UKS), our 3000 members represent a large percentage of artists within the visual field. Organisational roots date back to 1882 and the first ever national state exhibition [Høstutstillingen](#).

As an artists' union, NBK is the collective voice of visual artists living and working in Norway. NBK has long been recognized by the government as a negotiation and consultative body where questions related to art and artists conditions are concerned.

A main task for NBK is to document the need for public support and regulations of different kinds, and work in favor of different means of solutions to the economic challenges faced by artists. The National Convention is the organization's highest deciding body, and consists of representatives

elected by NBK members. The National Convention decides the current strategic plan – the general issues the board will focus on during a consecutive two year period.

<https://www.norskebilledkunstnere.no/english/>

Deutscher Künstlerbund

As a forum for the avant-garde the Deutscher Künstlerbund (Association of German Artists) was founded in 1903 on the initiative of Harry Graf Kessler, promoter of arts and artists, Lovis Corinth, Max Liebermann, Alfred Lichtwark and Max Slevogt among others in Weimar. After its liquidation by the National Socialists in 1936 it was re-established in 1950 by the artists Willi Baumeister, Karl Hofer, Ewald Matré and Karl Schmidt-Rottluff in Berlin.

Today about 750 renowned visual artists are members of the association. Since its foundation, the Deutscher Künstlerbund – at the beginning still in the position of a pioneer – has competently and dedicatedly assumed politico-cultural duties and responsibilities in our society.

It perceives itself as an association of visual artists, who commit themselves to the protection of their members' interests while respecting each other's work. The members of the Künstlerbund cooperate in national and international governmental committees, boards of curators and panels which play an advisory role in the debating of legislative regulations. In the meantime, many of the initiatives of the Deutscher Künstlerbund have established themselves as a matter of course in the cultural everyday life such as the institution of the social security fund for artists.

The Deutscher Künstlerbund regards itself as a vibrant place of artistic debate and critical discourse. Its project space in Berlin provides an attractive platform for the discussion of current questions and contemporary positions.

The Deutscher Künstlerbund stands up for the continuance of artistic license as an indispensable foundation for further cultural development and for a vigorous position of art and artists in society.

<https://www.kuenstlerbund.de/english/home.html>

Berlin Senate Department for Culture and European Affairs

The Senate of Berlin is the German capital's executive body. The Senate Department for Culture and European Affairs is the ministry in charge of cultural affairs.

According to the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany, the responsibility for legislation relating to cultural affairs and the administration thereof rests with the Länder (this reflects the "cultural sovereignty" of the federal states). In Berlin this is performed by the Senate as the

government of the city-state. The constitution of Berlin stipulates that the “Federal State of Berlin shall protect and promote cultural life” (Article 20).

While this expression of political intent does not of itself necessitate the preservation or establishment of any particular cultural institutions, it does provide a clear mandate for the state’s activities in matters of cultural policy. To this end the state government works together with the [twelve boroughs of Berlin](#) and diverse sponsors and stakeholders within civil society. In light of Berlin’s important role as the capital of Germany and its historical role as the former capital of Prussia, the German Empire, the Weimar Republic and two dictatorships, the [federal government](#) has in recent years emerged as a major player in public sector cultural funding in Berlin.

Art, culture, and the creative community are among Berlin’s key resources. According to estimates, approximately 20,000 professional artists live and work in the German capital. Together with the over 160,000 employees in the cultural and creative economy, they have made Berlin a creative centre of global standing. The sheer diversity of cultural events hosted in Berlin, extending across myriad sectors and genres, is unique in Germany. The large number of major cultural institutions, creative scenes, international figures and organizations based in Berlin have made the city the “place to be” for the contemporary arts at both a national and international level.

<https://www.berlin.de/sen/kultur/en>

BBK Berlin Berufsverband Bildender Künstler*innen Berlin / Visual Artists’ Association Berlin

The bbk berlin currently organizes more than 2,370 visual artists of all genres.

Every artist has interests. Only through unified action can artists push these interests through. The Professional Association of Berlin Visual Artists serves as a platform and an instrument to that end.

bbk berlin represents the general interests of its occupational group from a professional, social and economic standpoint and implements them with respect to the government and its administrative agencies, private and public exhibitors, as well as galleries, museums, art associations and the art trade.

In addition, bbk berlin offers its members the most diverse services in the form of wide-ranging information, advice and support.

The goal of bbk berlin is to create a framework of conditions for all visual artists, making it possible to work independently of obligations to adapt or commercialize and without restrictions on artistic freedom. In the interests of artists, bbk berlin is committed to transparency and having a say on committees that make decisions on art. In addition to the imperative presence at relevant meetings and conferences of important committees, the association mobilizes its members when pressure appears necessary to push through interests.

With more than two thousand professional visual artists in all art areas and artistic positions, the association is one of the largest artist organizations in Germany. It is non-partisan and not linked to government. bbk berlin is financed by the contributions of its members alone and thus maintains its independence as an advocate of visual artist interests.

The facilities established by bbk berlin are combined in two jointly used branch subsidiaries: Educational Project GmbH and the publicly subsidized Cultural Project GmbH. The facilities of bbk berlin serve for the organized sponsorship of visual artists and provide the necessary conditions for the creation of art that do not exist on the open market or are associated with high costs.

Up to four thousand artists from home and abroad use the workshops and studios of bbk berlin, participate in exhibitions and projects for art-on-public-premises, and participate in workshops, seminars and organized events for continuing professional improvement and artistic experience.

https://www.bbk-berlin.de/con/bbk/front_content.php?idart=3831&idartlang=5357&idcat=34&changelang=5

BBK Bundesverband Bildender Künstlerinnen und Künstler / German Artists' Association (which LBK Sachsen and LBK NRW are part of, but BBK Berlin is not)

BBK Bundesverband Bildender Künstlerinnen und Künstler / German Artists' Association

Since 1972, the Bundesverband Bildender Künstlerinnen und Künstler e. V. (Federal Association of Visual Artists) has represented the professional interests of freelance visual artists vis-à-vis federal politics and the administration. It is a non-partisan contact partner for the federal states in transnational matters, for members of the German Bundestag and for committees of the European Union.

The BBK Federal Association is the umbrella organization of the 15 federal BBK associations and their members or member associations. All together the federal associations of all federal states, except bbk berlin, have more than 10,000 visual artists members. It is a strong community of solidarity and lobby for all professional visual artists in Germany, out of which more than 65.000 are members of the Künstlersozialkasse. [see [KSK: Künstlersozialkasse](#); social security system for self-employed artists and publicists]. In its ongoing cultural and educational policy work the BBK Association is engaged in five main topics. [see [pdf: working program](#)]

1. We cooperate closely with other national artists' associations, like Deutscher Künstlerbund and GEDOK, cultural policy actors in civil society and various international associations and therefore intensify the art networks.
2. We observe and analyse the social situation of visual artists and develop strategies to improve the economic situation and social security of artists as well as the cultural-political framework for their artistic production. Since 1994 we run a long-term study, a periodically survey about the economic and social situations of fine artists in Germany. The results of this years survey will be published in a brochure and detailed discussed on a symposium at the Akademie der Künste Berlin on 13.11.2020.
3. We challenge the critical discourse of the art world and advocates the freedom of art and culture and a democratic, tolerant society.
4. We advocate the Fair transfer of knowledge – conservation and publicize of culture heritage.
5. And we are engaged to enlarge the position of musical education.

The BBK Federal Association appreciates the German Governments Corona-support (extra payment for artists, but demands for further short-termed actions as expressed in the collective declaration [[see pdf: declaration](#)] of the associations of visual artists (BBK, Deutscher Künstlerbund, GEDOK, IGKB, Internationales Künstlergremium):

- No Coupling of working expenses with a request of guaranteed minimum pension
- Compensation for short-time work to the artists
- Grant access to guaranteed minimum pension for artists from abroad
- Establish an emergency fund for visual artists now and next year.

To ensure the artistic income we need a sustainable culture-economic stimulus plan is required and accomplished by:

- an obligatory remuneration [[see reader: symposium exhibition remuneration right in Europe](#)]
- a strengthening of copyrights
- a reduced tax for art trading
- support programs to strengthen artistic production and restore the art infrastructure
- mandatory regulation for art-in-architecture for all public funded buildings
- increase and accordingly resuming the purchasing budget sum for contemporary art to municipal and national museum

<https://www.bbk-bundesverband.de/>

LBK Sachsen is the association of artists in the state of Saxony and one of the members of BBK Bundesverband: www.lbk-sachsen.de

BBK Landesverband NRW is the association of artists in the state of North Rhine Westphalia and one of the members of BBK Bundesverband: www.bbk-landesverband-nrw.de

IGBK Internationale Gesellschaft der Bildenden Künste

The [Internationale Gesellschaft der Bildenden Künste \(IGBK\)](#) unites Germany's three most important supra-regional artist associations on the basis of equality: Bundesverband Bildender Künstlerinnen und Künstler (BBK), Deutscher Künstlerbund and Verband der Gemeinschaften der Künstlerinnen und Kunstfördernden (GEDOK). IGBK therefore represents more than 14,000 visual artists in Germany. The association was founded in 1957 as the German National Committee of the International Association of Art (IAA).

IGBK councils visual artists on the possibilities of working opportunities and grants, both in Germany and abroad. Since April 2013 we have been working on www.touring-artists.info, a joint project of IGBK and the International Theatre Institute in Germany (ITI). The website provides information on visas, residence, transport, customs, taxes, social insurance, and copyright related to cross-border mobility for artists working internationally. Currently touring artists provides also sources with reliable and profound information on the current corona situation. We focus on information on the

pandemic`s impacts on working across borders and pool the information along important mobility topics.

IGBK organises symposia and workshops on topics of relevance to artists and is engaged with several organisations and networks. In cooperation with its partners, IGBK attempts to insure that the interests of artists are taken into consideration at relevant political and administrative decision-making levels. IGBK is part of the current Executive Committee of the [International Association of Art \(IAA\) Europe](#) and co-organized among others together with IAA Europe the symposium '[Exhibition Remuneration Right in Europe 2018](#)' November 2018 in Brussels.

Furthermore IGBK is active in Culture Action Europe (CAE) and in the artists mobility network On The Move (OTM). IGBK is a member of the German UNESCO Commission and of the Kunstrat (Fine Arts Council) of Deutscher Kulturrat (German Cultural Council).

The IGBK and its projects are supported by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media and by the Kulturstiftung der Länder.

ARTISTS SUPPORT SYSTEMS - BRIEF INFO & LINKS

Norwegian grants not related to Corona (examples)

Government Grants for Artists serve to secure diverse and innovative arts activity by providing stipends for individual artists. The grants are awarded on the basis of artistic quality and activity.

The following artist grants can be applied for from Arts Council Norway:

Applicants must primarily reside and work in Norway. Applicants must be active professional artists and must have published, exhibited or shown their work in a public context. Students on BA and MA level are not eligible for grants from Statens Kunstnerstipend.

- **Work grant:** 1-5 years
- **Work grant for younger and newly established artists:** 1-3 years
- **Miscellaneous grant:** Lump sum for artistic activity
- **Miscellaneous grant for recently graduated:** Lump sum for establishing artistic activity
- **Grant for established artists:** 10 years (or until recipient reaches 67 years)
- **Grant for senior artists:** 10 years (or until recipient reaches 67 years)

The closing date for applications is usually in the middle of October.

The Committee for Government Grants for Artists, 5 members appointed by the Ministry of Culture, make the final decision on allocation of grants. 24 selection committees, with 123 member appointed by artists' organizations, evaluate the applications. Head of the committee is Trude Gornæs Ugelstad.

Arts Council Norway received 7221 applications for artist's grants in 2017. 894 grants were awarded. <https://www.kulturradet.no/english>



Government Grant for Artists

- | Government Grants for Artists serve to secure diverse and innovative arts activity by providing stipends for individual artists.
- | The grants are awarded on the basis of artistic quality and activity.
- | The Committee for Government Grants for Artists (5 members)
- | 23 selection committees (123 members)
- | 9 200 applications in 2020
- | Ca. 360 mill. NOK



Government Grant for Artists II

- | Miscellaneous grant: Lump sum for artistic activity (Up to 80 000 NOK)
- | Miscellaneous grant for recently graduated artists: Lump sum for establishing artistic activity (Up to 90 000 NOK)
- | Work grant: 1-5 years
- | Work grant for younger and newly established artists: 1-3 years
- | Grant for established artists: 10 years
- | Grant for senior artists: 10 years (or until recipient reaches 67 years)



Government Grant for Artists III

1. Individual artists have the opportunity to immerse themselves in their artistic work based on projects they define themselves. In this way, the grants represent the **basic research resources in art**.
2. Artists can contribute free artistic expressions that strengthen and revitalize democracy.
3. The audience will have access to art that perhaps would not have been created without the opportunity for immersion given through the artist grants.

Norwegian measurements established to fight the effects of Corona (examples)

Arts Council Norway (kulturrådet) will not be demanding repayment of funds that have been used to plan events cancelled as a result of the coronavirus. This will apply until April, or until further restrictions/guidelines from the authorities.

Arts Council Norway has been tasked with managing a new compensation scheme of NOK 300 million (approx.. EUR 27 Mio.) on behalf of the Norwegian Ministry of Culture, directed towards the arts and cultural sector. This temporary scheme is aimed at stakeholders who have had to cancel or postpone events due to restrictions and bans imposed by the healthcare authorities or the government. Cultural institutions receiving subsidies from the government are not included in this scheme. Arts Council Norway is aware of the impacts of the coronavirus (Covid-19) crisis on these institutions and is following the situation closely.

Arts Council Norway is establishing a separate grant scheme for arts- and culture projects in Norway addressing the current situation related to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. The first of what is envisaged to be two calls, guidelines and application status will be finalized during the Council meeting Tuesday 31 March and Wednesday 1 April 2020. The documents will then be made available in Norwegian on the website of the Arts Council. The deadline of the first call is expected to be in the first half of May. The second call is expected to be published this summer.

Grant application evaluation and the payment of grants will continue as usual within the structures of the Arts Council.

Arts Council Norway has established an emergency group that collects input and facts from the artist's organizations and the rest of the sector to find adequate crisis measures. Arts Council Norway forwards these inputs to the Ministry of Culture, for continuous evaluation of the situation.

Several general provisions have also been undertaken: The Norwegian Parliament has adopted a scheme where freelancers and the self-employed will receive temporary income protection. It is equivalent to 80 per cent of their average income over the last three years, up to a specific limit. The compensation occurs from day 17 after the loss of income. The Ministry of Finance has requested the Norwegian Parliament to allow for self-employed persons and freelancers to receive emergency financial, social assistance in anticipation of income compensation

<https://www.kulturradet.no/english/vis/-/corona-virus-covid-19>



Compensation scheme for organisers of cultural events

- | The Ministry of Culture has established a compensation scheme for the art and cultural sector and civil society of 300 mill. NOK (30 mill. €):
 - | Compensation of lost income from tickets and fees
 - | Compensation for added expenses
 - | Compensation for events planned in Norway between 5 March and 30 April
 - | Result of government issued orders or advices
 - | Organizers registered in Norway
 - | Min. 25 000 NOK (2500 €)
 - | Not for organizations under bankruptcy
 - | Not for organizations receiving 60 % or more in public support in 2019

- | Administered by the Arts Council Norway (<https://www.kulturradet.no/sok-stotte/vis-artikkel/-/sok-kompensasjon-til-kulturarrangorer>)



Arts Council Norway

- | Norwegian Cultural Fund: Grant scheme of 30 mill. NOK (3 mill. €) for innovative projects addressing arts and culture related to the pandemic
 - | New content or adaptation of existing productions
 - | Development of work methodics, curatorial concepts and presentation frameworks in light of social distancing / contagion prevention

- | No request for repayment for events cancelled or postponed as a result of the coronavirus (through June)

- | Application processing and payments of grants will continue as usual



General measures with relevance for the cultural field

- | Insured income for self-employed and freelancers from day 17 (80 % of average income over the last three years)
- | Compensation for enterprises with big losses of income
- | Small and medium-sized enterprises – loans and state guarantees up to 50 mill. NOK
- | Loans from Innovation Norway
- | New action plan for entrepreneurs, start-ups etc

German measurements established to fight the effects of Corona (examples)

Surveys by BBK Berlin Berufsverband Bildender Künstler*innen Berlin / Visual Artists' Association Berlin

Just a few weeks after the Corona crisis had started, BBK Berlin made 2 surveys with around 2000 participants each. Please find a summary of the second one below and more material online.

https://www.bbk-berlin.de/con/bbk/front_content.php?idart=6577&refid=199 (first survey, link to results in English at the bottom of the page)

https://www.bbk-berlin.de/con/bbk/front_content.php?idart=6602&refid=199 (second survey, UK version below)

Survey bbk berlin: Soforthilfe II / Emergency Aid II and the artists

Press release of the bbk berlin 07.04.2020

The bbk* berlin survey on the Emergency Aid II for self-employed persons in Berlin was answered by a total of 1,744 artists* in three days. More than 60% of the participants came from the fine arts, followed by music (20%), film and media art (15%) and other art forms.

More than 75% of all participants submitted an application for Emergency Aid II to the Investitionsbank Berlin (IBB), of which almost 90% have already received the Corona grant of € 5,000. The fact that this urgently needed help reached many people in a very short time is a success and proves that Berlin politicians have recognized the plight of the city's artists* and have quickly found a remedy in a major show of strength with the help of the IBB. However, the provision of information on how to apply and the conditions for application could have been better.

More than a third of the participants who stated in the survey that they had not submitted an application stated that they lacked information on the emergency aid programme and wanted to be better informed before submitting an application. However, there was not enough time for this. Almost 15% of the non-applicants were still in the queue until the application stop and were therefore no longer able to apply for the country's Emergency Aid II. 20% of them were unable to apply because of technical problems on the IBB website or uncertainties in connection with ALG II benefits.

The results of the survey show that many people facing the existential threat were not given the chance to benefit from the programme. If the crisis continues, 60% of the non-applicants would need the Corona grant to secure their livelihood. This particularly affects people who are not technologically inclined or who are not well networked. Furthermore, it has been shown that artists* who live and work in Berlin but have not yet been able to register or do not yet have a German tax ID need quick and unbureaucratic support!

Just under 4% of all participants have not applied because they do not expect any financial losses from the pandemic or have sufficient reserves. Only 5% of the participants stated that the federal grant, which only covers operating costs, is also a suitable aid for them. More than one third of those who did not apply did not understand the difference between the federal and state programmes. There is a need for clarification here.

We call on the federal government to change the conditions for grants in the federal programme and to abolish the strict limitation to payments for operating expenses, so that freelancers, solo self-employed and entrepreneurs* up to 5 employees can use the grant to pay themselves a salary to secure their own livelihood, which should be a matter of course.

An alternative would be to set up a special fund for the payment of a basic income.

Corona aid for visual artists in Saxony

The situation of many visual artists* in Saxony has always been extremely precarious. In contrast to the old federal states, where a middle-class group of art patrons and private collectors has been established since the 1950s, which also laid the foundation for a flourishing art trade, there is no comparable art market structure with a relevant group of buyers in the new, eastern federal states, with a few exceptions.

As a result, the majority of the artists* living in Saxony do not live from exhibiting and selling their works, but keep their heads above water with a variety of part-time jobs, ranging from full-time artistic offers at schools to working as a waitress in restaurants.

The Corona pandemic has caused the vast majority of these additional incomes to disappear. The situation for many visual artists* with families and children is aggravated by the fact that the children are at home due to homeschooling and therefore lack the peace and quiet for artistic work.

The measures to contain the economic damage to visual artists due to Corona are partly based on decisions made by the federal government, partly on state initiatives or even municipal subsidies. They range from interest-free loans to one-off grants, which are usually intended to cover fixed professional costs. No reimbursement for lost income is currently planned, even though this would

certainly be of the greatest help to visual artists, since they usually reduce their fixed professional costs to a minimum on their own initiative.

In addition, the Saxon state government is currently working on further aid programs which, on the one hand, are intended to increase the visibility of art in Saxony and also pay out fees here, and, on the other hand, the Cultural Foundation of the Free State of Saxony is developing a scholarship for artists in the context of the corona crisis.

Corona crisis: assistance for artists and self-employed persons from the cultural and creative industries

Artists, companies and self-employed persons from the cultural and creative industries are being hit to the core by the Corona crisis. At this point we give you an overview of emergency aids and more. The list will be updated continuously. However, we would like to point out that the information is not legally binding, but we hope that we can help you here.

+++Breaking news+++ The Soforthilfe has been adjusted. There is now a single federal programme to which one can [apply for Soforthilfe](#). In addition, the Berlin Senate has approved a [new emergency aid package IV](#) amounting to 30 million euros for small and medium-sized companies in the media and cultural sector.

CONTENT:

EMERGENCY MEASURES

EMERGENCY AID

ARTISTS' SOCIAL INSURANCE (KSK)

SERVICES OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

SHORT-TIME WORK

SUSPENSION AND REDUCTION OF TAX PAYMENTS

FAILURE DOCUMENTATION

CREDIT COLLECTION

HANDLING OF SUBSIDIES

SENATE ADMINISTRATION FOR CULTURE AND EUROPE

FEDERAL CULTURAL FOUNDATION

LEGAL ISSUES

OBLIGATION TO FILE FOR INSOLVENCY

CANCELLATION FEES

COMPENSATION FOR QUARANTINE

RENT PROTECTION

CONSULTING ASSISTANCE

FAQ

CONTACT PERSONS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL CREATIVE SECTORS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON THE NETWORK

WHAT ELSE IS PLANNED IN BERLIN

EMERGENCY MEASURES

EMERGENCY AID

(1) There is now a unified federal programme to which one can [apply for Soforthilfe](#). Applicants can receive between 9,000 and 15,000 euros depending on the number of employees. You can also find more information in our [FAQ's on Soforthilfe](#).

(2) Via the Gesellschaft zur Verwertung von Leistungsschutzrechten mbH (GVL), owners of a perception contract from the independent scene can apply for a one-off emergency grant of 250 euros if they have suffered loss of fees due to virus-related event cancellations. The prerequisite is that the applicants have participated in at least one regular distribution of the GVL. Proof of the loss of the event or production (confirmation/cancellation by the organizer or production, proof of loss of earnings) is also required. Those affected should [contact the GVL](#) directly if necessary.

(3) The crowdfunding platform Startnext has launched a crowdfunding aid campaign. Startnext has simplified the guidelines for crowdfunding and suspended the all-or-nothing principle. This means that every cent will now be paid out: [Link](#). Other platforms like [Gofundme](#) have similar models to help corona victims.

(4) The German Orchestra Foundation has set up an emergency aid fund from which musicians can apply for immediate aid of up to 500 euros. There is also the possibility of making donations to support musicians of opera and concert houses. [Further information can be found here](#).

(5) In a two-stage programme, GEMA will provide financial assistance totalling around 40 million euros. The "Schutzschirm LIVE" is primarily aimed at composers and lyricists who are also performers and have run into financial difficulties due to cancellations of events throughout the country. The "Corona-Hilfsfonds" (Corona relief fund) provides financial transitional aid for individual cases of hardship within the framework of social and cultural support. [Further information here](#).

(6) In view of the Corona crisis, ZDF is further expanding its support for the creative industries and is making [liquidity support available to producers](#) with immediate effect. In the case of commissioned productions, producers can apply for advance payments on the next instalment provided for in the contracts. ZDF has set up a fund of up to 15 million euros for this purpose within the framework of the existing budget estimates.

(7) Child supplement: If the income is not enough for the whole family, parents or guardians can receive a child supplement in addition to child benefit. However, the application for the child supplement must be submitted separately to the family fund. [Further information here](#).

ARTISTS' SOCIAL INSURANCE (KSK)

The Artists' Social Insurance Fund (KSK) has taken various measures for insured persons to cushion financial hardship. Among other things, it offers payment facilities, payment deferrals or even reductions in monthly advance payments. [More details can be found here](#).

SERVICES OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

Self-employed persons have the possibility to register as unemployed, provided that they have taken out unemployment insurance. However, those who are registered as unemployed are not allowed to

work - even if there are business orders again. Both at the same time is not possible. Those who do not have unemployment insurance can also apply for basic security (Arbeitslosengeld II), also known as Hartz IV. Further information can be obtained from the [Federal Employment Agency](#).

SHORT-TIME WORK

Companies with at least one employee can apply for short-time work compensation. In the case of short-time work compensation, the Federal Employment Agency pays 60 percent of the lost net wage if a company sends its employees on short-time work. Employers are also to be reimbursed for social security contributions for the lost working hours. Employers can apply for short-time work compensation if at least 10 percent of the workforce is affected by a significant loss of work. The measure is intended to help companies retain employees in the event of a slump in business. Attention: Short-time work compensation is not available for marginally employed persons! Further information can be found on the website of the [Federal Ministry of Finance](#).

SUSPENSION AND REDUCTION OF TAX PAYMENTS

Upon application, current advance payments for income tax or corporation tax may be reduced or suspended. Tax payments due can be deferred and late payment surcharges can be waived. Enforcement measures can also be waived temporarily. Please contact the tax office responsible for you directly. [More information here](#).

FAILURE DOCUMENTATION

The Association of German Writers recommends all artists to document cancelled events so that they can be submitted in case of emergency funding. A sample template for the documentation can be found [here](#).

CREDIT COLLECTION

The Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) is currently providing an aid package that facilitates access to cheap loans for companies (also applies to freelancers and the self-employed). Further information can be found [here](#).

HANDLING OF SUBSIDIES

You are currently implementing a project with the help of subsidies and have to cancel events and/or trips? There is no general rule on how this affects the accounting of the subsidies. We assume that the funding agencies will inform the project sponsors individually in the near future. Numerous associations are currently working to ensure that the current situation does not have a negative impact on the grant recipients and the cultural and creative workers involved. Those are your options currently:

SENATE ADMINISTRATION FOR CULTURE AND EUROPE

For ongoing calls for proposals of the Senate Department for Culture and Europe, project applications can still be submitted online. However, it is currently open whether and when funding

decisions can be made. For all those who have already received funding from the Senate Department for Culture and Europe, there is an [information sheet on how to deal with funded projects](#) affected by Covid-19. In any case there is an obligation to notify the projects. [Further information](#).

FEDERAL CULTURAL FOUNDATION

The Federal Cultural Foundation has published the following article on its website regarding the handling of funding: "In principle, the costs incurred up to the point at which a project is discontinued are eligible for funding, even if planned events cannot take place. However, the project sponsors must make every effort to keep expenses as low as possible after cancellation. If you are able to postpone your events, we will try to make this possible by extending funding periods". [Further information](#).

LEGAL ISSUES

OBLIGATION TO FILE FOR INSOLVENCY

Until 30.09.2020, the Federal Government suspends the obligation for affected companies to file for insolvency. The regular three-week period of the Insolvency Code is thus no longer applicable. [Further information](#).

CANCELLATION FEES

Whether you receive a cancellation fee from the client depends on your individual contract conditions. Agreements made verbally or via SMS/WhatsApp are also valid. When concluding new contracts, make sure that there are regulations on contingency fees. If you have already provided partial services in a project, you are entitled to at least a pro-rata fee. Further important information [can be found here](#).

COMPENSATION FOR QUARANTINE

In the case of an ordered quarantine, compensation is in principle possible. The [Senate Department of Finance provides information](#) on the question of whether freelancers also receive compensation in the event of quarantine.

RENT PROTECTION

Tenants and leaseholders cannot be terminated for the period from 1 April to 30 June 2020 due to non-payment of rent due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The rent remains due for this period; interest on arrears may also be incurred. Rent debts from the period from 1 April to 30 June 2020 must be paid by 30 June 2022, otherwise the tenants may be given notice of termination. In the event of a dispute, tenants must provide credible evidence that the non-payment of rent is due to the effects of the COVID 19 pandemic. [Further information can be obtained from the Federal Ministry of Justice](#).

CONSULTING ASSISTANCE

As of now, you can apply to the Federal Office of Economics and Export Control ([Bundesamt für Wirtschaft und Ausfuhrkontrolle](#)) for consultations which are subsidised up to a consultation value of

4,000.00 euros for Corona-affected small and medium-sized enterprises, including freelancers, without a personal contribution.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON THE NETWORK

- Tips for startups from the [Gründerszene.de](https://www.gruenderszene.de)
- Handout for the support of [independent and freelance cultural workers from ver.di](https://www.ver.di)
- Handouts for artists from [Touring Artists](https://www.touringartists.com)

WHAT ELSE IS PLANNED IN BERLIN

(1) Many small businesses in Berlin are run by people with a history of migration. In order to ensure that they too are specifically informed about the Immediate Action Programme, the Integration Commissioner has launched an information initiative. In cooperation with business associations and clubs, she provides information in various languages about the Emergency Aid II programme. The organisations also offer support in translating and filling out the forms. [More information here](#).

(2) [Berlin \(a\)live is online](#): The new digital platform brings culture into the living room and supports cultural workers due to cancelled gigs, empty facilities, and missing fees. Berlin (a)live is a project of the Senate Department for Culture and Europe and the Berlin agency 3pc.

(3) The Clubcommission has launched a [crowdfunding campaign](#) to preserve Berlin clubs and created www.unitedwestream.berlin. Every day, a different club is streamed from the site. In addition to live broadcasts of DJ sets, live music and performances, United We Stream is also intended to become a platform for discussion rounds, lectures and films on club-cultural topics. In addition, the Club Commission is currently contacting banks and talking to the Cultural Senate in order to avert the impending collapse of large sections of the cultural industry (source: Zeit online, 12.3.2020).

(4) CityLAB Berlin has set up an ideas platform called "[Hack the Crisis](#)", where projects, proposals and challenges can be shared with others and comrades-in-arms can be found for their implementation.

(5) The [Siemens Arts Foundation](#) intends to support freelancers at museums with up to 25,000 euros.

CURRENT NEWS, SURVEYS AND PUBLICATIONS:

You can find them daily on Creative City Berlin [here](#).

LET US KNOW AS SOON AS YOU LEARN ANYTHING NEW

Give ourselves hints on new measures, tips, links and best practice ideas in times of Corona. We have set up a Google Doc for this purpose. The more we collect together, the more informed all scenes are about help and possibilities. [\[This way\]](#)

<https://www.creative-city-berlin.de/en/news/2020/3/24/corona-crisis-assistance-artists-and-self-employed-persons-cultural-and-creative-industries/>

<https://www.berlin.de/sen/web/corona/artikel.912404.en.php>

Further Links on the situation in Germany

Further information in English on German aid can also be found here (scroll down to Germany):

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/feature/are-you-a-freelance-worker-or-a-small-company-in-the-arts-here-s-a-global-list-of-financial-aid-available-to-you-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic>

Overview about support by the federal states in Germany (in German only):

<https://www.theapolis.de/de/news/show/wo-es-jetzt-finanzielle-hilfen-gibt>

Thank you so much for your interest!



Clemens Bomsdorf

Kultur- und Pressereferent

Kgl. Norwegische Botschaft

Rauchstraße 1, 10787 Berlin, Deutschland

Mobil: +49 173 626 3456

[www](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Instagram](#)