



# OPEN CALL

## DIE BLAUE NACHT | THE BLUE NIGHT ART COMPETITION 2027

So Close  
to the Sun

PREVIEW ART PROJECTS: Friday, 23 April 2027, 8 pm – midnight  
THE BLUE NIGHT: Saturday, 24 April 2027, 7 pm – midnight  
APPLICATION DEADLINE: 31 July 2026  
CONTACT: [blaue.nacht@stadt.nuernberg.de](mailto:blaue.nacht@stadt.nuernberg.de)

# 1. What It's About

The Blue Night transforms Nuremberg's city centre into a stage for art, culture and encounter since 2000 – drawing around 110,000 visitors, with over 200 programme events, and more than 50 participating institutions.

Since 2005, the Blue Night Art Competition has invited artists to realise site-specific projects in the courtyards, indoor locations and squares of Nuremberg's inner city. We are looking for art that inhabits space, engages audiences, and holds its own across two nights. Applications are open to individuals and groups working in any artistic discipline – installations, light art, performance, interactive and participatory work, media art. Flat works and small-scale sculpture are not suitable for the exhibition venues.

## THE THEME FOR 2027:

Icarus takes flight – and falls. The myth speaks of hubris, longing, self-overestimation, and the price of daring to begin. For 2027, we invite artists to bring this ancient story into dialogue with the questions of our present: Where are we flying too close to the sun right now? Which utopias lift us – and which send us plummeting?

The story of Icarus and his father Daedalus, escaping their captivity on wings made of wax, has gained new urgency in our age of scientific and technological transformation. Technological progress unfolds through the interplay of problem and innovation – a dynamic that has grown steadily faster and more intense since industrialisation. Never has humanity reached for the sun more fervently, and warnings against the hubris of “higher, faster, further” are getting louder.

In times of radical technological acceleration, compounding crises, and painful social transformation, Icarus can serve as a cautionary figure – but also as a luminous symbol and a projection surface. His myth is both an invitation to surpass oneself and a reminder not to go too far in the end. We may hope for success, but there is an undeniable beauty in failure, too.

The associative range for this call is deliberately broad – from Greek mythology to Romanticism to space exploration, from dramatic collapse to collective departure. Climate change, demographics, artificial intelligence, political polarization and personal limits: Icarus is everywhere.

The Blue Night 2027 opens the space between utopia and hubris wide.



# GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR YOUR APPLICATION

Please take the following specifics of the event into careful consideration:

- Visitor flow: We expect around 10,000 visitors with tickets across 8 to 10 art venues – your project must function during a rush
- Duration: The project must be continuously accessible for 4 to 5 hours on Friday and Saturday. Performances may need to be repeated.
- Presence: Artists are required to be present at their project on both Friday and Saturday during the event.
- Darkness: Sunset on 23/24 April falls around 8:30 pm; full darkness only sets in around 9 pm. Light-based works must account for this conceptually or address it spatially (e.g. through blackout).
- Formats: Works presented in the manner of a white cube exhibition like paintings and sculptures cannot be considered.

## COMPETITION 2. PROCEDURE

The competition is open. In autumn 2026, a jury will select up to 10 projects for realisation in 2027. Jury decisions are final and will not be substantiated.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

- Artistic quality and conceptual originality
- Engagement with the theme in regards to artistic interpretation, not illustration
- Suitability for the specific venue and the conditions of the event
- Plausibility and adherence to the budget

# 3. APPLICATION

## DOCUMENTS TO SUBMIT

- Brief project concept (2 pages max.)
- Detailed cost breakdown (materials, personnel, technical equipment, transport, accommodation, performance rights where applicable)
- Information on install and de-install
- CV (1 page max.) and website/social media accounts
- Full contact details (email, mobile number, address)

Applications must be submitted digitally only, by **31 July 2026**, to: **blaue.nacht@stadt.nuernberg.de**. All applications will be acknowledged by email.

Applicants may indicate one or more preferred exhibition venues. Final placement decision rests with the jury.

**Venue list:** An up-to-date list of all exhibition venues is available at [go.nuernberg.de/kunstwettbewerb](https://www.go.nuernberg.de/kunstwettbewerb) and will be added to on an ongoing basis.

**Site visits:** Tours of the venues will take place mid-May 2026. Please let us know in advance if you are interested.

## COPY RIGHT

Artworks remain the property of the artists. The City of Nuremberg is entitled to use photographs and videos of the works for public relations and documentation purposes.

## ARTIST'S FEE

Selected artists and collectives will receive a flat fee of €1,500 (plus VAT where applicable). The fee covers concept development, preparation, install, de-install, and attendance at the exhibition venue during the Preview and The Blue Night. It is not increased based on the number of participants.

# FEE, 4. COST REIMBURSEMENT AND ACCOUNTING

In addition to the fee, expenses of up to €4,500 (incl. VAT) will be reimbursed upon submission of receipts. This sum covers all project-related expenditure: technical equipment, transport, accommodation, travel, install and de-install staff, barriers, performance rights, and similar costs.

### Not eligible for reimbursement:

- Equipment for long-term use (projectors, laptops, etc.) exceeding €300 net. Hire costs may be claimed.
- Meals
- Documentation expenses

Planning should take sustainability (reusability of materials) and cost efficiency (hiring rather than purchasing, where possible) into account.

An advance of up to €750 is available upon request.

## MATERIAL EXPENSES

Within two months of the project's completion, a full financial statement including all receipts and the budget plan must be submitted. Original receipts must be retained

## ACCOUNTING

for five years.

## BUDGET CALCULATION

The cost breakdown is an integral part of the application. Following confirmation by the jury, it may be adjusted for the specific venue. The agreed budget is then binding. Additional sponsorship secured by the artist can be added to the art project's budget after consultation with the organizers.

# ADVICE & CONTACT

PROJECT LEADS  
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Projektbüro Kultur Nürnberg