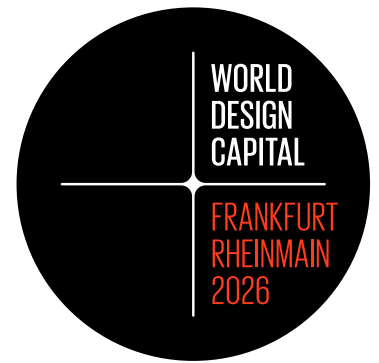


Let's design together!



Open Call 2024 Submission of Project Ideas

We invite you or your team, your institution or your company to submit your own project idea to the Open Call 2024. Together, we aim to bring about a sustained transformation of the Frankfurt RheinMain region. According to our motto “Let us design how we want to live”, this is an invitation to actively participate in shaping our co-existence and our democracy.

Submission of Project Ideas

Who can submit a proposal?

You are invited to participate as long as your project takes place in the Frankfurt RheinMain region in 2026.

When does it start?

From 20 June 2024, we will launch the submission forms for the Open Call 2024 online www.wdc2026.org. You can submit one or several project ideas until 31 October 2024.

Who will select the project ideas?

The WDC 2026 programme team will review all submissions. We will select contributions along with a panel of experts from various fields to be included in the programme. At the same time, we offer support on request with the application process and we connect applicants with similar ideas and encourage you to join forces. By the end of 2024, we will develop a comprehensive programme that includes your project ideas as well as further formats that we are developing ourselves.

What happens next?

We will send a confirmation of receipt to all submitters. At the end of 2024 we will notify all participants and provide information on the next steps. We are currently developing the exact framework conditions for funding and implementing the projects with our sponsors and partners. From the beginning of 2025, we will publish the programme and offer further networking and meeting encounters.

Why should I submit a project idea?

Design for Democracy. Atmospheres for a better life is an invitation to take an active role in designing the spaces we inhabit and in participating in liberal democracy. The WDC 2026 is a lively platform that connects people and strengthens design ideas. You can join us in a co-creative process.

The selected project ideas ...

... will gain visibility.

The selected project ideas will be visible via the website, social media and other WDC 2026 communication channels. They will also be provided with a WDC 2026 logo that can be used for communication purposes.

... will benefit from networking.

The selected project ideas and the people involved will become part of a wider community, allowing them to network with one another, support each other and help the projects grow.

... will receive support.

We and our sponsors and partners will continue to support the selected project ideas in 2025, for example, through special workshop formats. The exact framework conditions for funding and implementation are currently being developed.

Checklist

What do I need to consider when submitting?

WDC 2026 is about shaping our living environments and strengthening our democracy. Although we would love to accept and support every project idea, they must all be submitted to us in the same way. If you can answer all of the following questions positively, you are ready to submit:

- Does my project relate to design *and* democracy, the two main focuses of WDC 2026?

WDC 2026 focuses on the two thematic priorities of design and democracy, which we connect. Your project idea must also address and connect both themes. By *Design for Democracy*, we mean responsible design to facilitate, expand, preserve and intensify life - designing good, participatory solutions for all the challenges arising from the changes in our society, environment, technology and economy.

For us, design is synonymous with shaping, designing, and creativity. It means more than just developing beautiful products or graphics. Design has the power to shape collective processes, develop inclusive solutions and bring about social change.

For us, democracy is more than just a form of government; democratic freedom affects our lives as a whole. It is the promise that we can improve things together. It means more than just voting or being elected. The German Basic Law also provides the framework that ensures democratic equality. Democracy enables us to create a fair and diverse society together.

- Can I assign my project idea to one of the following fields of action?

Work #Workplaces #NewWork #CareWork

Construction & Housing #CircularEconomy #BuildingTransformation #AffordableHousing

Education #EducationalSpaces #DesignEducation #LifelongLearning

Health #NewHealth #Biodiversity #LivingEnvironment

Industry #ChangingLocation #IndustrialNation #Craftsmanship

Consumption #ThirdPlaces #Recycling #MaterialDepot

Culture & Media #CulturalSpaces #CultureForAll #Mediation

Mobility #MobilityTurnaround #MobilityHub #Traffic #Accessibility

Public Space #Exchange #SafeSpace #Neighbourhood

Sport #Movement #Community #TeamSpirit

Our everyday life is made up of many puzzle pieces: places, people, tasks, experiences and problems. We have identified ten fields of action in which we can concretely design how we want to live. Your project idea should be linked to at least one of these fields – either because it takes place within such a field or it directly responds to it. We are delighted if it connects several fields. To make the assignment easier for you and to provide orientation, we have listed some relevant keywords for each field of action:

Does my project idea initiate long-term, positive change?

WDC 2026 is open to everyone. We aim to promote social togetherness and have a lasting positive impact beyond 2026. For your project, this could mean making changes in your immediate neighbourhood, but also in your city, your school, or the entire region. If your project continues after your participation in WDC 2026, we will be delighted to see it thrive alongside you.

Is my project idea sustainable and can I implement it sustainably?

With WDC 2026, we want to initiate sustainable, positive changes in the region that will have a lasting impact. Sustainability encompasses three important areas: environment, society and economy. Environment means protecting nature, producing less waste and using energy sparingly. Society means that all people are treated fairly and have equal opportunities. Economy means that businesses are successful without harming the environment or people, ensuring that future generations can also live well. To fully implement these areas, we are developing a comprehensive programme for 2026. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>) help make sustainability understandable and manageable. Your project idea should also adhere to these principles.

Will my project take place in 2026?

Your project must take place in 2026 – this can also be a prototype, a pilot project, a one-off event or an insight into a realisation after 2026. If you want to test something in 2025 or your project needs a long lead time, that's possible. Your project can also continue after 2026.

Does my project take place in Frankfurt RheinMain?

Your project must take place in the Frankfurt RheinMain region.

Questions & Contact

Do not hesitate to reach out to us with any queries. Some questions may already be answered in the FAQ on our website: <https://wdc2026.org/faq>. In addition, we can support you through our online consultation hour, which takes place every Monday at 17:00 (CET). This consultation hour is open to everyone and provides an opportunity to ask your own questions and connect with others. You can register here: <https://wdc2026.org/registration-consultation-hour>

World Design Capital Frankfurt RheinMain 2026 is organised by Design FRM gGmbH.

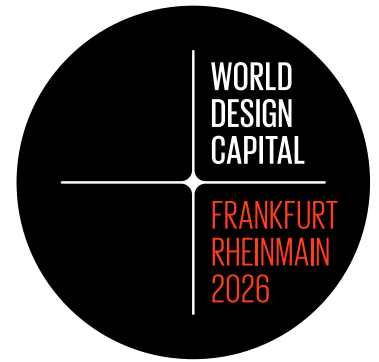
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Status: 20 June 2024

Let's design together!



World Design Capital Frankfurt RheinMain 2026
Design for Democracy. Atmospheres for a better life

General Information on the Open Call 2024

The Open Call 2024 of the World Design Capital 2026 comprises five ways for everyone to participate:

- **Submit**
- **Co-design**
- **Team up**
- **Host**
- **Support**

Participation in the Open Call 2024 is open to all interested parties.

Participation in the Open Call 2024 is possible from 20 June to 31 October 2024 on the WDC 2026 website www.wdc2026.org. Each participating person can submit one or more entries using the online forms provided there.

The aim of the Open Call 2024 is to develop the basic programme for WDC 2026, which will be completed by the end of 2024.

A project is considered to be the design, planning and execution of both analog and digital formats. This includes, but is not limited to, events (such as exhibitions, symposia, workshops, etc.), concrete implementations in public spaces, websites and applications.

All projects must address the two focal themes of design and democracy.

All projects must be realised in at least one of the ten fields of action of WDC 2026. These are:

Work	Construction & Housing	Education	
Health	Industry	Consumption	Culture & Media
Mobility	Public Space	Sport	

All projects must be sustainable – from economic, ecological and social perspectives.

All projects must take place in 2026.

All projects must take place in the Frankfurt RheinMain region. Partner, tour or satellite projects may also take place in other regions.

Projects can be submitted exclusively in German or English. Submissions can only be considered if the forms are submitted on time and fully completed.

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Questions & Contact

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General information on the Open Calls

Design FRM gGmbH is a non-profit limited liability company established to support the Frankfurt RheinMain region's application for the title of World Design Capital 2026 (WDC 2026). In 2023, the World Design Organization (WDO) awarded the title of World Design Capital 2026 to the Frankfurt RheinMain region. More information can be found on the website www.wdc2026.org.

The Open Calls are invitations from Design FRM gGmbH to participate in WDC 2026.

The Open Calls are based on the vision of the WDC 2026 application titled *Design for Democracy. Atmospheres for a better life*. This vision can be viewed on demand via [→ e-mail](#).

The sponsors of World Design Capital Frankfurt RheinMain 2026 are the City of Frankfurt, under the direction of the Department of Culture and Science and the Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain, as well as the State of Hesse, represented by Minister President Boris Rhein. The application is based on an initiative of the Werkbundakademie Darmstadt from 2014 to 2020.

World Design Organization® (WDO) is a globally recognised non-governmental organization (NGO) with consultative status at the United Nations. It has set itself the goal of promoting the discipline of (industrial) design and utilizing its power to enhance the economic, social, cultural and environmental quality of our lives. Founded in 1957, WDO provides services to over 200 member organizations around the world and supports hundreds of thousands of designers through its programmes and initiatives that champion “design for a better world”.

Commitment

We stand firmly against fascism, racism, anti-Semitism and all forms of extremism. Our commitment is to promote diversity, inclusion and equal opportunities for all, as well as to strengthen democratic structures in accordance with the principles of the German Basic Law. Together, we create a respectful and just environment, regardless of origin, religion, political conviction, social status, or sexual orientation.

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