



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

15th edition - 7 OCTOBER 2017

Closing date for applications: Sunday 19 MARCH 2017

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An initiative of the Alderman for Culture of the City of Brussels

I. NUIT BLANCHE

As a cultural, artistic and popular event, NUIT BLANCHE invites everyone to reclaim the city for just one night. It is a night to get together, to share unusual and creative aspects of the contemporary artistic scene in a warm and festive atmosphere that encourages discovery and wonder. Installations, multimedia projections, performances and interactive shows are everywhere, into the early hours.

Nuit Blanche is a concept first launched by the City of Paris in 2002, and has been adopted by a dozen European cities (Madrid, Amsterdam, Riga, and others). Nuit Blanche Brussels has been bringing the streets of the capital to life since 2003, and has established a reputation throughout Europe over the years.

Organised by the City of Brussels, NUIT BLANCHE Brussels aims to be a real artistic laboratory. Every year on the first Saturday in October, it showcases the public space and dozens of sites in the capital by means of contemporary artistic creation. Cultural venues, shop windows, school playgrounds, car parks, churches, stations, fountains, streets and squares are all potential locations.

In offering a series of artistic works closely related to the sites in which they are presented, NUIT BLANCHE sheds new light on familiar places as well as extending an invitation to discover locations that the public usually has little or no chance to see.

Above all, this event aims to give the general public the opportunity to see Brussels in a different way and to increase their awareness of new artistic forms.

Every year, nearly 100,000 late-night revellers throng the centre of Brussels to experience something really unique.

II. ROUTE 2016

A distinctive feature of NUIT BLANCHE is that it takes place in a different district each year. The 2017 edition will take place during the night of **Saturday 7 October, from 7.00pm until 3.00am**, around the Royal Park and the 'Libertés' district (formerly Notre-Dame-aux-Neiges).

The projects must be proposed for locations located within the limits of the defined route.

You can download a detailed plan from the website www.nuitblanchebrussels.be

The NUIT BLANCHE organisation will obtain the necessary authorisation for the use of these sites. You are therefore requested **NOT TO CONTACT DIRECTLY** the owners and managers of these sites.

NUIT BLANCHE will organize visits to the locations after the pre-selection. The pre-selected candidates will then get the chance to clarify their project and budget before the final selection takes place.

Itinerant projects are also welcome.

III. THE THEME FOR 2017: « POWER GAMES-JEUX DE POUVOIR-MACHTSSPEL »

With this 15th edition, NUIT BLANCHE intends once again to explore a theme which is closely linked to the district in question. The theme this time will be "POWER GAMES".

Flanked by the Palais de la Nation, the 16 Rue de la Loi, the Flemish Parliament and various offices of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, the surroundings of Brussels Park are a concentration of numerous decision-making centres. But they also house other incarnations of power and counter-power: royalty, religion, finance, business circles, lobbies and even the media.

Following Brexit and, more recently, the American elections, the unpredictability of the popular vote and the democratic process have been continuously analysed and dissected.

However, the exercise of power is not only limited to the political sphere. From intimidation to seduction, via manipulation, power relations and influence peddling govern our daily lives, whether at work or in the family environment.

It is these multiple expressions of power, both publicly and privately, which will be explored in the forthcoming edition of NUIT BLANCHE.

Preference will be given to projects linked to this theme.

IV. WHICH PROJECTS?

Mixing installations, multimedia projections, performances, fun and interactive projects, the programme brings together works of great diversity in terms of nature and scale and is **open to all artistic disciplines**, provided the projects are **contemporary in nature**. NUIT BLANCHE gives preference to hybrid,

multidisciplinary and innovative forms that do not adopt a purely face-to-face relationship with the public.

The Nuit BLANCHE program mainly comprises **projects that are presented outside**. These projects must therefore be suitable for autumnal weather conditions and be able to withstand possible bad weather.

For **new creations** and for obvious organisational reasons, NUIT BLANCHE generally gives preference to artists based in Belgium.

NUIT BLANCHE will also always favour projects that have **a direct connection with the history, architecture or nature of the chosen location**.

NUIT BLANCHE is also open to artistic projects that favour interaction with the social fabric of the neighbourhoods in question (integration / participation of local residents or institutions such as youth clubs, associations, retirement homes, public welfare centres, etc.). For projects of this kind that generally involve working in situ, we favour proposals from artists already rooted in the local community in some way.

NUIT BLANCHE intends to accommodate all audiences by encouraging accessibility of venues and projects. NUIT BLANCHE is therefore developing an accessibility programme called "NUIT BLANCHE for all", and is committed to providing better services for all audiences with specific needs. Preference will be given to projects which reflect on accessibility.

The projects must be of a nature that allows them to be seen by a lot of people throughout the night (from 7 pm to 5 am) or at least on several occasions at regular intervals in the course of the night (with a maximum break of 30 minutes between sessions).

As a rule, we usually favour ongoing projects that can be viewed by at least 50 people at a time (the event attracts nearly 100,000 people in under 10 hours!). For practical reasons, performances **must not be any longer than 30 minutes** and must be presented **at least 4 times** in the course of the night (between 7 pm and minimum 1 or 2 am).

For open air activities and in general, we try and limit to a minimum any nuisance to the neighbourhood and to limit the duration of any obstruction caused at the site or on the public thoroughfare. Projects that require more than 2 days to set up and 1 day to break down are not generally accepted.

The call for projects is addressed to **budding as well as established artists**. **Artists are allowed to submit different projects**

V. FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

For outdoor projects, the financial assistance is generally **between EUR 2,500.00** and maximum **EUR 20,000 (taxes and charges included)**.

For indoor locations, the financial assistance is generally **between EUR 1,000.00** and maximum **EUR 7,000 (taxes and charges included)**.

The NUIT BLANCHE financial assistance will be calculated on basis of the legitimacy of the declared production costs.

The NUIT BLANCHE financial assistance is intended to cover the costs of:

- Payment of the artists and assignment of rights of performance / dissemination of the work
- Hire of any technical equipment needed to produce the project
- Set up and break down costs

The acquisition of materials or costumes specific to the project cannot be funded at more than 30% of the actual costs, except if this concerns disposable materials.

The NUIT BLANCHE contribution does not therefore cover the purchase of materials or technical equipment that could be used subsequently by the artist.

Payment will be made within one month following the presentation or performance, on submission of an invoice (the artist must be able to produce an invoice, either as a self-employed person or through a third-party association).

It is possible to agree an advance payment for projects being performed for the first time.

Extra expenses directly borne by NUIT BLANCHE

- Bringing premises into compliance with safety standards
- Consumption of water, gas and electricity
- The opening of the water, gas and electricity meters on the public thoroughfare
- Authors' rights (SABAM, SACD, etc.) due for exploitation of work on the evening of NUIT BLANCHE
- Guarding of the installations on the evening of the event
- Staff for the reception of the public

- For foreign artists only, accommodation costs for the artist (maximum of 1 night for 2 persons for site research and maximum of 3 nights for 5 persons for project set up/break down)
- Per diem : 30€ Day/Person

Costs other than those mentioned in the list will not be covered by NUIT BLANCHE.

NUIT BLANCHE will not therefore pay any financial contribution towards the cost of international transport. Foreign teams must submit any request for financial support to their respective institutions and/or diplomatic representations.

VI. SELECTION METHOD AND CRITERIA

Projects will be initially examined by the NUIT BLANCHE team, who will consider to what extent a project is pertinent and appropriate to the philosophy of the event before submitting it to a selection committee made up of various professionals of the artistic sector as well as of representatives of the City of Brussels Culture Department. This committee will meet at the end of April 2017.

In view of the large number of dossiers received each year, please note that the presence of visual elements (videos) will be a decisive factor in the first stage of the selection process.

The artists that will have been pre-selected by the committee will have to provide further technical and financial details in a second phase. A visit to the location, in presence of the technical director of NUIT BLANCHE, will be organised if necessary.

The selection decision will be made on the basis of this last submission, and the decision will be final.

Projects will be assessed on the basis of the following general criteria:

- **Artistic quality** (innovative nature of the project, quality of the artistic production, quality of the scenery / set design, etc.)
- **Site suitability / reappropriation of the space** (highlighting or transformation of the site, relationship to the history / architecture of the site, respect for local residents, respect for urban environment, etc.)
- ***Integration of the idea of accessibility for all*** (*physical accessibility, different levels of interpretation, awareness of different kinds of perception, etc.*)

- **Duration/ Viewing capacity** (the projects selected must be visible throughout a large part of the evening and must be accessible to a large number of people at the same time)
- **Technical feasibility** (realistic nature of the proposal, set up and break down time, technical implications, respect for safety standards, suitability for weather conditions, etc.)
- **Budget** (how realistic is the expenditure in terms of technics and staff, etc.)
- **Theme suitability** (is the link with the theme Power Games relevant?)

VII. APPLICATION FILE

To qualify for consideration, files must include the following elements:

- A brief presentation on the career and the artistic approach of the artist or the group (texts, photos, audio or video links to previous projects).
- The application form, duly completed
- An outline of the project, containing a maximum of 2,250 characters (outlines of more than 2,250 characters will not be read!)
- Visuals or video links that permit a better understanding of the project.
- A detailed technical data sheet of the project
- A budget drawn up based on the model that can be downloaded from www.nuitblanchebrussels.be

Incomplete files will not be considered.

NB: Please make sure that you use current formats (.doc, .pdf, .xls, .jpg) for sending your files! Unreadable documents will be automatically regarded as missing, and your dossier will be regarded as incomplete.

Dossiers must be submitted **by Wednesday 19 March 2017 at the latest** via the website www.nuitblanchebrussels.be.

VIII. OPTIMISE YOUR CHANCES OF SELECTION

- To give you an idea of whether or not your project is in keeping with the spirit of NUIT BLANCHE, consult our archives at www.nuitblanchebrussels.be
- Pay attention to your visual elements (videos and photos)! They will be a decisive factor for the decisions made in the preselection phase.
- In describing your project, make sure to be as clear and concise as possible. Specify the events of the project by briefly describing the visual and / or sonic atmosphere of the project and by specifying what the public sees, hears or does while the project is presented. Describe the intention / philosophy behind the project. If relevant, precise how your project is linked to **the theme “Power Games” or the chosen location** (highlighting or transformation of the site, relationship to history / architecture of the site). If you plan to work with **local social fabric** or local residents, please explain what this interaction involves.
- In your technical data sheet, indicate as precisely as possible your equipment and technical support requirements, especially for set up, break down, the security and support for your project (cherry picker, scaffolding, safety net, technicians, volunteers for set up / break down, guarding, etc.) so that we can assess the implications for NUIT BLANCHE and the related costs.
- Projects must be designed or adapted for outdoor locations and / or sites that are without any technical or scenic infrastructure. Please take this into account (influence of public lighting, traffic, etc.).
- For outdoor projects, ensure that your projects are suitable for autumnal weather conditions and that they can withstand possible bad weather (strong winds, heavy rain, etc.).
- The NUIT BLANCHE audience changes over the course of the night, from families in the early evening to a younger and livelier audience after 11 pm. Remember this when developing your projects and timetables. For more intimate projects also remember that there will be a lot of people present (sound effects, visibility, etc.).
- NUIT BLANCHE aims to be an event which is accessible to all. Make sure you propose a project which can be adaptable depending on the specific needs of certain audiences (adaptations which allow everyone to benefit fully from your project).
- To minimise the environmental impact of NUIT BLANCHE, make maximum use of natural, recycled or recyclable materials and limit your power consumptions.

IX. DIARY

Closing date for applications:	19 March 2017
Preselection and site assignment:	End of April 2017
Final selection of projects:	End of May 2017

Event:

Set up:	5-6 October 2017
Nuit Blanche:	7 October 2017
Break down:	8 October 2017

X. CONTACTS / QUESTIONS

For all questions regarding NUIT BLANCHE or this **call for proposals**, contact:

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