



## OPEN CALL

17<sup>th</sup> edition - 5 OCTOBER 2019

Closing date for applications: Wednesday 27 March 2019

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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, thousands of late-night revellers throng the centre of Brussels to experience something really unique.

The 2019 edition will take place during the night of **Saturday 5 October, from 7.00pm until 3.00am.**

## II. THE THEME FOR 2019 : 'BACK TO NATURE'

"There is no planet B", "Save the Climate".

Inspiring slogans chanted by demonstrators at the Climate Marches organised with increasing frequency in Brussels and around the world. These mass gatherings prove that a greater awareness of the climate emergency is taking hold.

In the Anthropocene period - a term that describes the current period, which started when human activities began to have a global impact on climate - natural disasters and climate change are a constant reminder that nature will always have the last word.

Yet, although humans seem powerless against the forces of nature, there is an urgent need to take action and reconnect with nature in the context of sustainable deliberations and processes.

The 2019 NUIT BLANCHE intends to examine the impact of the Anthropocene period on Earth's ecosystem, the need to take account of nature and the role of artists in creating an awareness of climate-related issues.

How can we change the way we live in the world and our relationship with nature when faced with rampant globalisation and urbanisation?

This 17<sup>th</sup> edition will take place from 7 pm to 3 am during the night of Saturday 5 October, in the area around Tour & Taxis, which is both a former symbol of Brussels' industrial bloom and next to one of the largest green spaces in Brussels. Preference will be given to projects linked to this theme.

### III. ROUTE 2019 THURN & TAXIS

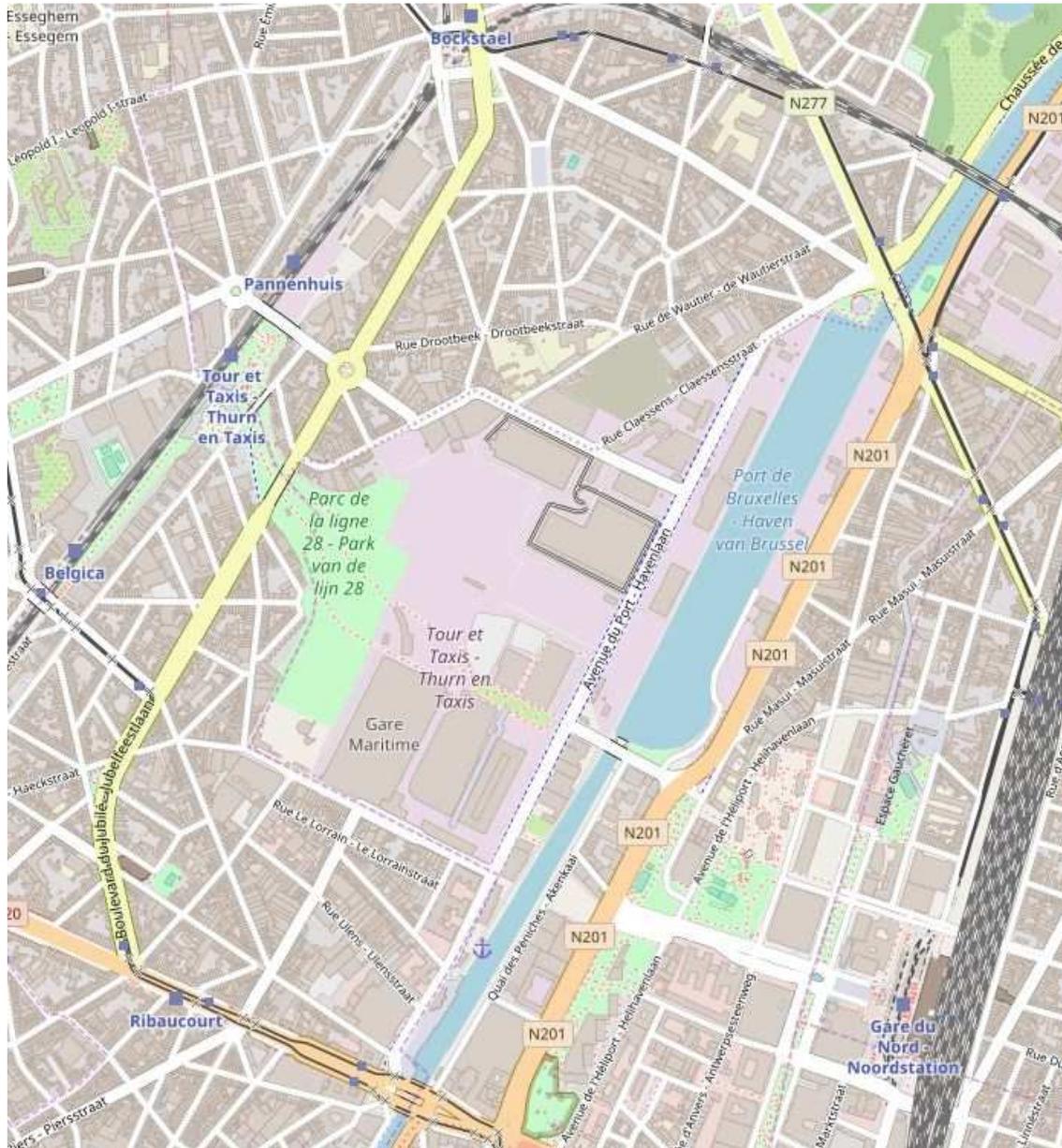
A distinctive feature of NUIT BLANCHE is that it takes place in a different district each year.

With each edition, NUIT BLANCHE intends to explore a district which is closely linked to the chosen theme.

The 2019 edition will take place on and around the site of Tour & Taxis, a symbol of the industrial boom in Brussels, and annexed to one of the largest green spaces in Brussels. Located along the canal, the former industrial site was erected at the dawn of the twentieth century, on swampy land. By 1911, the whole of Brussels' economic life was linked to the transport and storage of merchandise centralized at Thurn & Taxis. As a true multimodal platform, the site served as a customs depot and housed the largest freight station in Europe. Thurn & Taxis has been totally decommissioned at the end of the 80s and has been the subject of ambitious developments that put green spaces in the spotlight. The Thurn & Taxis park was inaugurated in 2014. Another green area, the Béco Park, of more than 2.5 hectares is planned along the canal.

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

The route for the 2019 edition will run more specifically through the following roads or sections of roads(see map) between the l'Avenue du Port, la rue Picard, la rue Dieudonné Lefèvre and Boulevard du Jubilé.



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 the 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.

## IV. WHICH PROJECTS?

This call for projects is open to emerging artists with a professional experience of up to 5 years. Artists are allowed to submit several projects. These can be new creations as well as existing 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 neighbourhood**.

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. Note that audience development activities are also set up around some projects.

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 3 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 50,000 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.

## V. SUPERVISION BY NUIT BLANCHE

NUIT BLANCHE assumes responsibility for obtaining all the necessary authorisations and completing the administrative procedures concerning the use of the public thoroughfare and the other locations. As such, it also assumes responsibility for the premises used meeting safety standards, opening all the water and electricity meters available on the public thoroughfare as well as the related consumption.

The projects must be **technically autonomous**. The NUIT BLANCHE technical director can give his opinion on the project feasibility or any necessary modifications in relation to the chosen site but under no circumstances does he assume the responsibilities that fall to the project technical manager.

NUIT BLANCHE does not manage the setting up and breaking down of projects and nor does it possess technical equipment. The artists must provide their own technical support and equipment needed to realise the project. If it is necessary to hire technical equipment, NUIT BLANCHE may, however, pay directly for the cost of hire of said equipment as well as recruiting the technicians required to use this equipment.

For artists living abroad, NUIT BLANCHE takes care of booking hotel accommodation **but not transport** (plane or train tickets, transport of equipment, etc.).

NUIT BLANCHE organises global communication around the event and circulates information on the various projects, in particular by means of a brochure and a website [www.nuitblanche.brussels](http://www.nuitblanche.brussels). Specific communication and audience development actions around artists and works can also be considered. Artists are requested to fully cooperate in these matters whether they be targeted at the press or general public.

## VI. FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

The financial assistance is capped at EUR 3000,00 (**taxes and charges included**).

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

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 3 nights for 5 persons for project set up/break down)
- Per diem for foreign artists : 30€ Day/Person

**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.

## VII. SELECTION METHOD AND CRITERIA

Projects will be examined by the NUIT BLANCHE team, who will consider to what extent a project is pertinent and appropriate to the philosophy of the event.

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 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.)
- **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 Back to Nature relevant?)
- **Integration of the idea of accessibility for all** (physical accessibility, different levels of interpretation, awareness of different kinds of perception, etc.)

## VIII. APPLICATION FILE & ADMISSIBILITY

Conditions of admissibility of the files:

The project leader must:

- Proof less than 5 years of professional experience in the artistic community
- To be able to invoice his services (via a structure or a Smart, Merveille service, etc.)

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

- The application form, duly completed
- a description of the project based on the model provided
- A detailed technical data sheet based on the model provided
- a plot plan
- A budget drawn up based on the model provided

- Visuals or video links that permit a better understanding of the project
- 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)

### **Incomplete files will not be considered.**

In order to complete your application, you may also add a more detailed presentation of your project but the latter may by no means replace the description of the project based on the model provided.

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 27 March 2019 at the latest** via the website [www.nuitblanche.brussels](http://www.nuitblanche.brussels).

## **IX. 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](http://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.
- 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.)
- 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.).

- To minimise the environmental impact of NUIT BLANCHE, make maximum use of natural, recycled or recyclable materials and limit your power consumptions.

## X. BUDGET INSTRUCTIONS

**Please read carefully these instructions designed to help you to draw up your budget.**

- Under budget items **61410 and 61411** (Payment of third-parties for artistic services and Payment of third-parties for technical services) it is necessary to include the amounts invoiced by service providers and / or suppliers external to your association.
- Item **62** (Remunerations) must include amounts payable to persons employed directly by you under the terms of an employment contract (do not forget to include the gross wages of your employees and to add employer's charges). Please reserve one line per employee (e.g.: if you have 3 actors, give one line per actor) and give the term of the contract (expected number of hours of work).
- The costs and proceeds items in your budget must balance. If the costs exceed the maximum amount granted by NUIT BLANCHE, you must provide proof of your external sources of financing in your budget.
- Insurance : The artist is required to take out the necessary insurance to provide cover for workplace accidents that may occur to his /her personnel in the context of the activity, as well as coverage of all risks that may occur with objects and equipment belonging to him/her or his/her personnel or used by him/her or his/her personnel in the context of the activity. The artist shall have his/her general civil liability covered for sufficient amounts. It will take out insurance against any damage caused to third parties, attributable to him /her or persons under his /her authority, or caused by equipment or property in his/her possession or in the possession of persons under his/her authority.
- NUIT BLANCHE has no technical equipment of its own. The equipment necessary for production and presentation of the project will therefore have to be hired. Do not forget to include these costs in your budget and **provide an estimate of the hire costs for information.**

## XI. DIARY

Closing date for applications: 27 March 2019  
Final selection of projects: Beginning of May 2019

### **Event:**

Set up: 3-4 October 2019  
Nuit Blanche: 5 October 2019  
Break down: 6 October 2019

## XII. CONTACTS / QUESTIONS

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

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If you have any questions regarding accessibility, NUIT BLANCHE for all, please contact:

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