

What is outside?

International open art competition

for site-specific art works in and around Berlin Underground stations on the U5 line between Tierpark and Hönow.

Call for Submissions

Short Description 3

Part 1 Procedure 4

- 1.1 Competition organiser 4
- 1.2 Object of the art competition 5
- 1.3 Type of procedure 6
- 1.4 Principles and guidelines 6
- 1.5 Entitlement to participate, admission applicability 6
- 1.6 Competition jury, specialist appraisers and preliminary judging 6
- 1.7 Budget and time frame 7
- 1.8 Publication of call documents 7
- 1.9 Queries 7
- 1.10 Submission 7
- 1.11 List of call documents 8
- 1.12 Required submissions and format specifications 8
- 1.13 Important technical data and information 9
- 1.14 Judging and selection procedure 9
- 1.15 Property and copyright 9
- 1.16 Liability 10
- 1.17 Competition exhibition 10
- 1.18 Summary of dates and deadlines 10

Part 2 Competition task 10

- 2.1 Aims and task 10
- 2.2 Requirements and exclusion criteria 11
- 2.3 Check list 11

Part 3 Appendices 11

Imprint 11

Short Description

Aim

The call for submissions to the international open art competition „What is outside?“ is part of the long-standing nGbK project „Art in the Underground“. The call aims to realise site-specific art works in and around Berlin Underground stations on the U5 line. The work should consider questions of social urban development, city-wide contexts and themes of „What is outside?“.

Situation

Berlin is a magnet for people and investment. Population is expanding, real estate value is rising, residents are being displaced. Higher rents, evictions or changes in social surroundings caused by tourism are forcing more and more Berliners to the „outside“, to the periphery of the city and of society. Protests against this gentrification and demands for new social housing dominate public perception.

Places

The U5 Underground line runs above ground from *Hönow*, just outside Berlin in Brandenburg, through the East German housing estates built between 1977 und 1990 in *Hellersdorf*, past the future location of the International Garden Exhibition (IGA) in *Wuhletal* and through the single family homes of *Biesdorf*. The high rise estates are owned by local housing cooperatives and by national and international real estate companies.

The line continues underground through *Lichtenberg* and *Friedrichshain*, districts affected by the processes of upgrading and displacement (new high class homes to buy, tourism etc), then under *Karl-Marx-Allee* to the city's eastern centre at *Alexanderplatz*. An extension of the line called „Chancellor's Underground“ is currently under construction and will continue under *Unter den Linden* to *Bundestag*, the political heart of the so-called Berlin Republic, and to the *Main Railway Station* (see Appendices 2 to 9).

Project proposals:

The projects should take a station between *Tierpark* and *Hönow* as a starting-point, be presented there and relate to that station's surroundings. The competition organiser recommends the stations at *Hellersdorf*, *Cottbusser Platz*, *Neue Grottkauer Straße* and *Kaulsdorf Nord*.

The work should consider questions of social urban development, city-wide contexts and themes of „What is outside?“. The competition organiser welcomes diverse formats ranging from singular, installational to interventional and participatory work, from individual artists to groups, from short to long stays on site, from reacting to specific moments to developing relationships with places and people.

Project Base and the „Art in the Underground“ group

The nGbK „Art in the Underground“ project group is responsible for the realisation of the art works. The group will run a Project Base near the Underground station *Kaulsdorf Nord* in Hellersdorf. All submitted proposals will be exhibited here. This Base can be used by the selected artists as an office and production space. The group plans to contextualise and discuss the selected work with neighbours, residents and the Berlin art public here.

Part 1 Procedure

1.1 Competition organiser

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The Governing Mayor of Berlin, Senate Chancellery / Cultural Affairs funds the project. It is supported by Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe (BVG, Berlin's main public transport operator), Wall AG and Berliner Fenster. The announcement and the entire procedure will be carried out subject to the allocation of funding to nGbK by the State of Berlin. nGbK can and, if necessary, may have to adapt the procedure in line with changing conditions.

The call documents can be sent by the competition organiser by post within Germany upon receipt of a stamped (to the value of € 1,45), self-addressed envelope. It is also available as a PDF file on the Internet at www.ngbk.de (under “Competition”).

1.2 Object of the art competition

The object of the competition is a call for ideas for site-specific art work in and around Berlin Underground stations on the U5 line between Tierpark and Hönöw about social urban development, the urban theme of being “outside” and its contextualisation city-wide, to be realised in 2014 and/or 2015.

By titling this traditional competition „What is outside?“, the neue Gesellschaft für bildende Kunst (nGbK) seeks to reposition „Art in the Underground“ and address urban, cultural and social practice in an „outside-space“. The nGbK is looking to connect to places who some see as being „in the middle of nowhere“ and hardly part of Berlin.

Sub-urbanisation is well under way: in the front a new housing development, at the back a wasteland, in-between warehouses, road and rail routes, then shopping centres next to business parks and right at the back housing estates across decades and carpets of single family homes, kept apart by a bit of woodland. Suburbia is becoming “complete” as a place. Planners call what results a “polycentric total place” or an “in-between city” (“Zwischenstadt”, Thomas Sieverts). Back-offices, airports, leisure industry facilities, logistic hubs, villas and detached housing spread themselves out further than their city’s boundaries can confine them.

Parallel to this urban transformation, resident initiatives like „Kotti & Co“ in nGbK’s neighbourhood point out that many people don’t leave the inner city voluntarily. Where have those people gone who can no longer afford to live round Kottbusser Tor? Some have to, others want to move „outside“, because it is cheaper or because it is more green. „Outside“ is spacial, for example in relation to the city’s core, as well as social, in relation to the core of society. The „outside“ intrinsically questions the „inside“.

A journey from *Kottbusser Tor*¹ in Kreuzberg to *Cottbusser Platz* station in Hellersdorf takes us across half the city. Just before reaching Heller Mitte, the commercial centre built in 1997 in the middle of one of GDR’s last big housing estates, a former school is being reused as an embattled refugee home - „what is outside?“

The recent sale of numerous housing estates - in Hellersdorf too - to the big real estate company „Deutsche Wohnen“ and the sale of shopping centres to real estate funds shows that city outskirts are very much part of speculative urban development. Rents which currently appear reasonable are still subject to market rules. Buildings are objects of speculation and income return exaggerations. Nevertheless, the post-GDR exodus of higher income groups to the city centre or to greenfield family homes beyond the outskirts, for example in Brandenburg, continues today. The resulting changes in population structure can be seen in the increasing density of welfare organisations in comparison to actual shops (and shop redundancy).

¹ Kottbusser Tor is written with a K instead of a C (like the Sorbian town of Cottbuss or „Chó’sebuz“ which it refers to) due to a premature acceptance of a planned grammatical reform in the 1920’s. See Alexander Seefeldt, Robert Schwandl: Berliner U-Bahn-Linien. U5. Von Ost nach West, Berlin 2013, page 118.

1.3 Type of procedure

The art competition is organised as an international open, single-phase realisation competition for professional artists and groups of artists. The procedure will remain anonymous until completion. The competition language can be either German or English.

1.4 Principles and guidelines

The procedure will be implemented in accordance with the Guidelines for Planning Competitions (RPW 2013) – insofar as these are applicable.

Consent: with their participation or involvement in the competition, all participants, judges and visitors automatically declare their consent with the participation conditions. Statements of all kinds concerning the contents and procedure before and during the competition period – including the publishing of results – may only be made by the competition organiser or in consultation with the competition organiser.

Anonymity: competition entries that are made public during the art competition period violate the condition of anonymity stipulated in § 1 Para. 4 and § 6 Para. 2 of RPW 2013 and these entries will be excluded from judging.

1.5 Entitlement to participate, admission applicability

Professional artists and collaborations of artists with non-artists are entitled to participate; proof of artistic practice and exhibition activity is to be provided for judging purposes, see 1.12. This proof is to be submitted together with the form and the participant's declaration.

1.6 Competition selectors, specialist appraisers and preliminary judging

The competition selectors are chosen by the organisers and may only be natural persons who are independent of the competition participants. The members of the selectors must carry out their duties personally, independently and solely in accordance with subject-related considerations respecting anonymity. The preliminary selectors meeting took place in April 2014.

The selectors consists of the following members:

Judges with voting rights:

Jochen Becker (critic, curator, tutor)

Katharina Blaas (curator)

Eva Hertzsch (artist)

Folke Köbberling (artist)

Andromachi Marinou-Strohm (artist)

Dejan Markovic (artist)

Adam Page (artist)

Karin Scheel (curator, Galerie M)

Birgit Schlieps (artist, architect, tutor)

Representative of the competition organiser:

Uwe Jonas (artist, curator)

1.7 Budget and time frame

A maximum of **ten works** will be selected by the jury.

A maximum of four works will be realised in 2014 und a maximum of six works in 2015.

In 2014 the complete budget for realising the up to four selected works is 64.000,00 € (sixty-four thousand Euro) incl. VAT. Competition participants should calculate per art work a maximum of 10.000 Euro (incl. VAT) for artist's fee, material, production and travel costs.

In 2015 the complete budget for realising the up to six selected works is 64.000,00 € (sixty-four thousand Euro) incl. VAT.

The realisation of the selected works for 2015 depends on the project being funded from State of Berlin's „Art in Urban Space“ in 2015.

The competition organiser will endeavour to provide advice and support within its means with regard to implementation issues.

1.8 Publication of competition announcement documents

The competition announcement documents will be made available from **09.05.2014** on the website www.ngbk.de and on www.kunst-im-untergrund.de in the download area.

1.9 Queries

Queries may be submitted up to **15.06.2014** solely in writing – by e-mail to draussen@ngbk.de

1.10 Submission of works

Submissions can be:

- submitted in person: on **27.06.2014** between 1 pm and 4 pm in the Project Base, Cecilienplatz 5, 12619 Berlin (near Kaulsdorf Nord station)
- sent by e-mail to: ausschreibungen@ngbk.de (PDF with Participant's Declaration Form and PDF with submission idea separately!)
- sent by post: nGbK, Reference "Kunst im Untergrund", Oranienstraße 25, 10999 Berlin, Germany (no customs, postage or delivery costs accepted by recipient).

The last date of receipt at the nGbK office is 27.06.2014 (receipt NOT date posted)

Identification of works

To ensure anonymity, the participants must mark all parts of their competition work with an (arbitrarily selected) identification number and no other marking. **This number must consist of six different digits and must be noted on the top right-hand corner of every item.**

If anonymity is not adhered to, the work will be excluded from judging. Photographs of completed artworks that have been shown in public or in exhibitions should not be used to illustrate the participant's artistic working method, as anonymity will not be preserved in this case.

Competition participants undertake to submit a work that has been produced solely for this competition.

Submitter's declaration: The submitter's declaration (see Appendices) is to be signed and submitted together with the proof of entitlement to participate/ admission applicability in a closed, non-transparent envelope marked with the identification code. This envelope is to be submitted together with the competition work.

In the case of submission by e-mail, the submission idea and the declaration form are to be submitted as separate PDFs.

By signing the submitter's declaration, competition participants confirm that they are the intellectual property owners for their competition works, that they agree to participate in the subsequent course of the project on the basis of the competition announcement and that they are able and entitled to carry out their project.

1.11 List of competition documents

These call pages along with the Appendices listed in Part 3

1.12 Required submissions and format specifications

- Representation of the idea not larger than DIN A2 format (not folded). Concept and realisation proposal should be communicated precisely, comprehensibly and with visual clarity, for example with drawings, drawn or painted sketches, collages, photos, model photos, digital collages etc.
- Written explanation which describes the intention of the work and includes information about material, presentation formats, possible locations, time needed on site etc. This text should not be longer than two DIN A4 pages (minimum font size Times New Roman 11 points). All necessary technical aspects should be defined here.
- Cost estimate: Competition participants should calculate per art work a maximum of 10.000 Euro (incl. VAT) for artist's fee, material, production and travel costs. Important notice: the selectors will choose work for realisation in 2014 and in 2015. The realisation of work in 2015 will only be possible if funding is made available in 2015 (see 1.7).
- Time schedule (time frame in 2014 and/or in 2015)
- Documentation of previous work relevant to the submission.

- Submitter's Declaration Form completed and signed. It can be downloaded at www.ngbk.de. Please fill in submitter's address, biographical details and information about material and format.
- List of submitted material

The selectors will not look at slides, catalogues (only photocopies of relevant pages), CDs, DVDs or VHS-Kassetten and original art works. These cannot be returned.

Each participant may only make one submission for one idea.

1.13 Important technical data and information

- Normal operations on the underground railway should not be impeded during the realisation of works or during the presentation period.
- The artworks must not obstruct passenger flow in other areas of the stations and entrances.
- Distractions in the field of vision of the train operator must be avoided, for example no mirrors, no movable parts etc.
- Audio installations may not interfere with train announcements etc.
- Light projections must be adaptable to the existing situation at the chosen site.
- Only BVG and Wall AG employees have access to the tracks.
- The selected artists should be prepared to make compromises on the locations they choose for their work, depending on authorisation requirements.
- 220 Volt electricity is generally available.
- A permit is necessary to film and take photographs in stations. It can be obtained by consulting with nGbK.

See Appendice 10 for information about a selection of possible formats for realisation in Underground stations and trains.

1.14 Judging and selection procedure

The organiser will check the competition submissions formally on receipt and inform the selectors. The ultimate, binding selection of the work will be made solely the selectors. The selection criteria relate to the task description and the aims identified by the organiser in this call. The selectors decide on the eligibility of submissions, evaluate them and recommend up to 10 ideas for realisation.

1.15 Property and copyright

The submitted material can be collected from the Project Base in October 2014 (date to be announced in September at www.kunst-im-untergrund.de). After this date, the submissions will be destroyed. Submissions can also be returned by post if a stamped, self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage is included.

Copyright and the right to publish designs is retained by the submitter. However, the competition organiser has the right to first publishing and is entitled to publish components of competition works free of charge under the submitter's name. (this may be done in the form of photographs or on the Internet). Use for promotional purposes and publications by third-parties are excluded from this and require a special agreement. The copyright holder and year of creation are to be named in every instance of publication.

1.16 Liability

Liability: The competition organiser is only liable for damage to or loss of submitted works in the case of demonstrably culpable behaviour.

1.17 Competition exhibition

After the procedure has been completed, all submitted works will be available for viewing at the Project Base at Cecilienplatz 5, 12619 Berlin (expected date announcement in July 2014 at www.kunst-im-untergrund.de)

1.18 Summary of dates and deadlines

- Publishing of call documents	09.05.2014
- Group tour round locations and info meeting, Kaulsdorf Nord at Project Base, Cecilienplatz 5, 12619 Berlin	01.06.2014 at 3 p.m.
- Replies to written queries	18.06.2014
- Submission of works until	27.06.2014
- Selection days	07. and 08.07.2014
- Viewing of all submitted designs	see 1.17

Realisation periods:

Year 2014

from August to December 2014

Year 2015

from April 2015 (see 1.14)

Part 2 Competition task

2.1 Aim and task

The call seeks proposals for the realisation of site-specific, communicative art work about social urban development, the urban theme of being "outside" and its contextualisation city-wide. The projects should take a station between Tierpark and Hönnow as a starting-point, be presented there and relate to that station's surroundings. The competition organiser recommends the stations at Hellersdorf, Cottbusser Platz, Neue Grottkauer Straße and Kaulsdorf Nord.

2.2 Requirements and exclusion criteria

The artistic concept must be suitable for implementation without adversely affecting the safety of transport operations in Berlin underground stations and it must also fulfil the content-related and formal conditions of the call as described here. The submissions required as per section 1.12 are to be provided by the competition participants in each phase of the competition. The format specifications and limitations described in section 1.12 and 1.13 should be adhered to. Incomplete competition works and works that do not fulfil the format limitations can be excluded from the competition procedure.

2.3. Check list

Please check that you submit all of the following:

- Visual representation of the idea and concept
- Written explanation (max. two DIN A 4 pages)
- Cost estimate
- Time schedule
- documentation of relevant previous work
- Submitter's declaration form (see Appendice 1 "Submitters_declaration_form.pdf")
- Index of submitted material

Please remember to mark all submitted material with a identification code (see 1.10)

Part 3 Appendices at www.ngbk.de (see Competition)

- 3.1 Append1_Form_Submitters_Declaration.pdf
- 3.2 Append2_U5_Tierpark_to_Hoenow.pdf
- 3.3 Append3_DescriptionU5+StationsHoenowtoKaulsdorfNord.pdf
- 3.4 Append4_New_Mitte_Helle_Mitte.pdf
- 3.5. Append5_Exterior_Design_Hellersdorf.pdf
- 3.6 Append6_Who_owns_Hellersdorf.pdf
- 3.7 Append7_Meeting_places_Hellersdorf.pdf
- 3.8 Append8_Multicultural_coexistence_in_hellersdorf.pdf
- 3.9 Append9_Selection_formats_Underground_stations_and_trains.pdf
- 3.10 Append10_Map_Berlin_Underground_and_local_railway.pdf
- 3.11 Append11_Links_und_Literature.pdf

Imprint

Competition organiser: neue Gesellschaft für bildende Kunst e.V.

Berlin, April 2014