

Open Call 2025

The meaning of place

KnowHow

Are you a visual artist and new to Sweden? Do you want to better understand the art industry in Sweden, gain new contacts and future commissions? Konstnärscentrum's project KnowHow is aimed at professional visual artists who want to establish themselves within the Swedish art scene and on the labor market. The purpose of KnowHow is to get to know art commissioners, create new networks and exchanges between artists, and to initiate new artistic collaborations. Therefore, the project is open to all visual artists, regardless of how established you are on the art scene.

Open Call

As part of the project KnowHow, we are looking for artists who want to develop their practice through collaboration with other artists. Based on a specific site or context, you will develop a new work in a group.

Purpose and aim

A key goal of the project is to unite different experiences. The aim is to expand opportunities for public art commissions and to better understand the possibilities and limitations of working in public spaces. The project will also highlight your skills and help you build new networks.

Process

The project is based on peer to peer learning. You are expected to want to collaborate with one or more other participants in a joint or parallel artistic process. You may suggest someone you wish to collaborate with in your application, or you may be paired with one or more other artists to work with.

You will work based on a specific site or context. You may propose a site in your application, or develop one later in dialogue with the mentor.

In addition to your own artistic work and coaching from a mentor, the project includes conducting a site analysis, site visits, identifying and meeting potential future commissioners.

Artistic outcome

The outcome of the project may, for example, be an investigation of a site or an artistic proposal for a specific context, such as a square or a school. Relevant locations, suitable working methods, and forms of presentation are discussed in dialogue with the supervisor during the course of the project. Finally, the result is presented to potential commissioners. However, the project cannot guarantee any further assignments or collaborations with commissioners.

Who can apply?

Applications are open to professional artists with a formal art education or documented professional experience.

We are looking for artists with different backgrounds and expressions who are open to new forms of collaboration. The project also explores new models of mentorship where artists who are new to Sweden work together with already established — in equal and respectful collaborations.

Applicants are expected to participate in physical meetings in the middle of Sweden. Some sessions may be attended digitally.

How do I apply?

In a single document, please include the following:

1. One page motivation letter describing your artistic practice and why you are applying to the Open Call.
2. A curriculum vitae, 1–2 pages.

3. A portfolio with a maximum of 5 pages.

The document should be titled with your first name, last name, and the year 2025. Example: *AnnaAndersson2025*.

Send your application to: knowhow@konstnarscentrum.org
Subject line: "Ansökan Open Call"

How is the selection made?

The aim is to create a diverse group in terms of background, age, and artistic expression. In addition, the will and ability to collaborate is important. The selection committee includes representatives from the board of Konstnarscentrum Öst, the KnowHow project group, and external experts.

Number of participants

9-12 visual artists working in groups of three.

Budget

The artist fee is 40,000 SEK/ participant. This amount includes potential costs for producing an artistic sketch and materials for presentation. In some cases, the project may cover travel costs – please indicate in your application if this applies to you.

Time commitment

The project is during the autumn and consists of independent work, complemented by approximately 20 hours of scheduled group sessions.

Mentor

Åsa Mårtensson is the head mentor. She is the project manager for KnowHow and has worked both with responsibility for public art in a municipal setting and with a national knowledge assignment on public space at Statens konstråd. She currently runs her own business, where she teaches civil servants in public art and designed living environments, and works as an art consultant.

Additional external mentors will also be involved in the project.