

MEDIA ARTS

OPEN CALL

***After the two successful years, here comes a follow-up!
Košice – UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts invites media
artists for a two-month stay in Košice in autumn 2021. The
residency is organized by Creative Industry Košice, a focal point
of the project, and K.A.I.R. – Košice Artist in Residence.***

About Košice

Košice has not necessarily been known for the most prominent names, insane cash flows, or as one of the Top 10 Lonely Planet's places to visit. However, according to some, over the last ten years, there has been a **significant shift in Košice's mindset**, and the city has become open to different ideas and started to define itself as modern and lively. A hundred years ago, there was just a mere speck of the creative centers that represent the city today.

Slovakia's second-largest city builds on a firm foundation for a brighter future. The European Capital of Culture 2013 project **redesigned the city's cultural infrastructure**, spread culture to suburban areas, and created unique spaces for exhibiting. There are diverse bottom-to-up and up-to-bottom locations, emerging galleries displaying works of young artists, many active citizenship initiatives, concerts, and **over 15 cultural centers** that present exciting people and activities. Long gone are the days of being known as the "steel city." With a booming ICT industry and a growing cultural and creative industry, Košice has been slowly transforming into a **progressive center of culture**.

Although we wouldn't dare to guess what the main interests of one-quarter of a million local inhabitants are, one thing is clear. The **creative and cultural scene in Košice is small but pretty solid and motivated**.

In 2017, Košice joined the **prestigious UNESCO Creative Cities Network in the field of Media Arts** to develop this niche industry on a local level. If you are an artist flirting with the idea of visiting Košice – don't miss the opportunity to come here this autumn. The last months of the year tend to be most important for media art and digital culture. The White Night festival is followed by Moon Ride, **Art & Tech Days**, and DAAVS. All these events contribute and mark Košice's commitment to its title of the Creative City of Media Arts.

Creative Industry Košice & K.A.I.R. – Košice Artist in Residence

Creative Industry Košice (CIKE) is a **cultural non-governmental organization** and a focal point of the UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts project, which aims to inspire new generations through the interdisciplinary and innovative language of media arts. The organization started as a daring project Interface – European Capital of Culture 2013 and **has achieved a significant transformation of the city**. One of its key projects was K.A.I.R. – Košice Artist in Residence (KAIR), which started in 2011, developed international activities, and gained new network partners. In 2016, KAIR became an independent association.

KAIR is an **international Artist-in-Residence program for artists** from all over the world and various artistic disciplines and expressions. It is strongly focused on **cooperation between Slovak and foreign artists and art organizations**. Residents can work in Košice's inspiring cultural environment, implement their art projects, collaborate with local artists, and present themselves to the local and European audience.

Residency

in 2021, this residency seeks to create a **platform for a media artist from one of the UNESCO Creative Cities to develop their artistic project**. It is an opportunity to develop a new project or continue working on a project that is already in development by shifting its perspective and embracing the open call's topic – HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY.

The open call is limited to the artists **born, living, or working in a UNESCO Creative City**.

During the residency, the artist will participate in **Open Studios Night** to introduce themselves to the local audience. By the end of the residency program, the artist will host a **public exhibition** and a **final presentation of the work** created during the 60-day long residency period. The exhibition and presentation will be a part of the international festival of media arts, technology, and digital culture – **Art & Tech Days**. The artist will also be given the option to be one of the **speakers at the Art & Tech Conference**.

Topic: Human Responsibility

In 2021, the residency program focuses on **connecting individuals and sharing the responsibility to the world in the time of crisis**. The project aims not only to analyze the current situation but also to look critically at its consequences and the near and distant future. We are all experiencing the very personal and often emotional impact of a global crisis – environmental, economic, social, pandemic, and so on. Many of us are experiencing feelings of fear and anxiety, vulnerability, or environmental sadness.

It is essential to think about the environment in which we live and communicate with other living organisms. Living space for people is constantly expanding. Our way of life is shaped by capitalism and it affects and irreversibly disrupts fragile ecosystems following the beginning of an impending catastrophe. For the daily running of the world, unlimited mobility of people and goods is necessary. We **must take this into account to protect it and the next generation and to be able to adapt to existing and new challenges**.

The year 2020 brought, together with the pandemic, the term “**social distance**.” What does this term mean, what are its consequences? Isn't this just a time for connection, cooperation, and solidarity? We must focus on building and supporting future relations during and after the crisis, looking for new or different forms of political and cultural group activities and coexistence. Especially during the global crisis, emphasis must be placed on protecting the human rights of all citizens. The state of emergency and the preservation of public health can be used as an excuse for the segregation of minorities. That is why we should try to strengthen the position of minorities, improve their self-image and expose the stereotypes that are still present in the thinking of the majority of the population.

Critical questions

- Is the current crisis causing a change in thinking and personal values? Or is it just temporary?
- What are the possible new or different forms of political and cultural group activities and coexistence? And how does the environment in which we live, including other living organisms, fit into this coexistence?
- How could the world slow down in the fight against the virus so that our society and economy respect our fragile ecosystems?
- What are the results and consequences of the process of moving between different places on Earth and beyond?
- How can the protection of human rights be ensured for all citizens? And what can we do to protect this and future generations?

Timeline

- Open call announced: **14 July 2021**
- Deadline for the applications: **20 August 2021** (23:59 CEST)
- Results announced: **30 August 2021**
- Residency in Košice: **1 October – 29 November 2021**

Terms

- Scholarship of **2000 €**
- Covering transportation costs to and from Košice
- Providing accommodation in Košice
- Access to the studio at KAIR
- Budget for technical production (up to 4000 €)
- Opportunity to participate in the art and community life of the city and to promote your own work in Košice

Application

To apply for the residency, please use this [online form](#).

In case you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with us at kosice@cityofmediaarts.sk. If the situation regarding COVID-19 or another *vis major* is unfavorable, the residency will take place in a limited version. It will be agreed upon individually with a selected resident.

The residency program is supported using public funding by [Slovak Arts Council](#).