

**Funding of concepts by the state of Baden-Württemberg
for independent theatre and dance professionals**

(Application deadline: 15 November)

In addition to project funding, which has been available since 1997, the concept funding programme introduced in 2009 is another important funding programme for professional independent theatre in Baden-Württemberg, which should enable dance and theatre professionals to plan the further development of their ongoing artistic work. The aim of the funding of concepts is the sustainable strengthening of qualitatively outstanding independent groups (individual artists, GbRs, associations, GmbHs etc.) in all genres of the performing arts. The funding of concepts promotes excellence and represents the special quality seal of the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg.

The funding is provided by the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts. Every year, 30,000 EUR is awarded to two independent theatres over a period of three years (i.e. a total of 90,000 EUR each) following the evaluation of all the application documents by an independent jury.

The jury consists of

- representatives appointed by the Landesverband Freie Tanz- und Theaterschaffende Baden-Württemberg e.V. (LaFT BW),
- representatives appointed by the Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Kulturinitiativen und soziokulturellen Zentren Baden-Württemberg (State Working Community of Cultural Initiatives and Sociocultural Centers Baden-Württemberg)^{1,2},
- media representatives appointed by the Ministry of Science, Research and Arts, as well as
- representatives of the respective city's cultural office appointed by the Ministry

A representative of the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts without voting rights may attend the jury sessions.

Funding principles

Since 1993, the LaFT BW (Regional Association of Dance and Theatre Professionals Baden-Württemberg) has financially supported outstanding project concepts from the independent dance and theatre scene on behalf of the state with funding made available by the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts of Baden-Württemberg. The projects should stand out for their artistic quality, originality and exemplary character and give impetus to the work of the independent dance and theatre scene in Baden-Württemberg.

The concept funding is granted exclusively for the development of the projects described in the application until they are ready to premiere. Costs for the premiere and subsequent performances are **not** part of the application.

Funding is only available to independent dance and theatre professionals (individual artists, GbRs, associations, GmbHs, etc.) who are based and work in Baden-Württemberg and do not receive

institutional funding from the state of Baden-Württemberg. “Professional” is defined as artists who work primarily in the performing arts on a freelance basis and who make a living mainly from this work (more than 50%). Dress rehearsals open to the public, advance showings and/or premieres of the respective projects must take place in Baden-Württemberg. Deviations from this rule may be approved by the LaFT BW on the basis of a separate application made in advance.

In **co-productions with independent theatres or venues**, the public dress rehearsals, advance showings and/or premieres may also take place at the location of the co-production partner, provided that performances are also planned in Baden-Württemberg in a suitable venue and with a media presence.

Please note that rehearsal fees for self-employed artists are subject to **social security contributions to the Künstlersozialkasse** (social security fund for artists), unless – due to the underlying legal form (GbR, GmbH) – the artists are equal partners of the producing company and therefore independent entrepreneurs. Also, fees for independent stage, costume and make-up artists, playwrights, dramaturges, graphic artists, photographers, layouters, etc. are subject to social security contributions.

Upon submission of the application, the LaFT BW is not responsible for determining who needs to be paid social security contributions; this is the responsibility of the applicant.

Funding guidelines for the funding of concepts

The funding awarded by the state of Baden-Württemberg, and organised and implemented by the LaFT BW, is subject to the following guidelines:

1. The application must be submitted online to the LaFT BW office. The online application forms for the respective funding programmes are available on the LaFT BW website (www.laftbw.de) under the “Funding Programmes” tab. In case of unforeseen circumstances (e.g. system malfunctions, etc.), the office reserves the right to request 14 copies of the application by post.
2. Prerequisite for funding is an application that includes all the required documents (in the case of first-time applicants also a curriculum vitae or short description of previous productions). In addition to the application form, please attach only material which is directly related to the project. Applications can only be processed if they fulfil the above-mentioned priorities. The LaFT BW has to ensure that these requirements are fulfilled.
3. The jury of the LaFT BW decides to whom funding will be awarded. Legal recourse is excluded. The LaFT BW office informs applicants of the decision of the jury without further explanation.
4. The approval of the funding will be communicated in writing and is subject to the budgetary decisions of the state of Baden-Württemberg. Enclosed with the notification of the approval of funds is an shortened application with the financing plan, which must be confirmed with a legally binding signature within 10 days of receipt and returned to the LaFT BW office. The application deadline is binding and stipulated by the LaFT BW. Applications for concept funding can be submitted online from one month prior to the application deadline until the deadline, midnight of 15 November.
5. The independent dance or theatre applicants must be based and work in Baden-Württemberg and must be able to prove that they have worked continuously over a period

of at least three years. Through their previous work they must be able to demonstrate that they have at their disposal a strong organisational structure and a high-calibre artistic team, and that their intention is to continue this cooperation beyond the term of the proposed concept.

6. As evidence of past achievements, a minimum of three years of professional and innovative artistic work that has generated a recognisable public response is required.
7. Prerequisite for the funding is a salient three-year concept that covers the artistic, structural and public-interest-generating goals and measures of the overall project as well as what it intends to achieve in terms of content. The goals and perspectives of the artistic work as well as the chances of their realisation must be recognisable from the submitted concept.
8. The three-year concept must include at least 3 projects, of which at least one must be performed per calendar year. The individual projects should, in accordance with the criteria of the individual project funding, deal primarily with socially relevant topics and be exemplary of independent theatre and contemporary dance due to their specific aesthetics, exemplary experimental nature and special interaction with the audience.
9. Changes to the planned concept must be reported to the LaFT BW without delay and with a good reason. If the planned concept that formed the basis of the application changes completely, the jury of the LaFT BW must decide whether the funding will be continued over the remaining period.
10. Independent groups or their representatives, who receive concept funding, cannot submit individual project applications to the LaFT BW during this funding period.
11. The funding application must be accompanied by a cost and financing plan for the three-year period, in which can be found a conclusive, comprehensible financing concept with regard to future, intended applications for funding with municipalities, the federal government, sponsors, etc. The LaFT BW must be notified in good time regarding any changes to the cost and financing plan.
12. Evidence of how the concept funding was put to use must be submitted to the LaFT BW at the end of each calendar year of the funding period using the appropriate form. Only once proof of the use of funding for the past calendar year has been provided, can the corresponding funds be paid out for the following year.
13. The funding granted by the LaFT BW is subject to the general auxiliary provisions for project funding (ANBest-P) of the state. These provisions are part of the notification of the approval of funds. The payment is made at the beginning of the preparatory phase of the respective projects, provided that the LaFT BW receives the state funds from the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts of Baden-Württemberg in good time. However, the funding will only be paid out in the amount that is earmarked for use over a period of three months. Please inform the LaFT office 14 days before the date of the required funding allocation. The last request for funding in a given calendar year must be made by 31 November, otherwise the funds will lapse.
14. All publications (posters, programme booklets, documentation, press releases) related to the funded project must mention the funding in a prominent position using the following set phrase: "Gefördert durch den Landesverband Freie Tanz- und Theaterschaffende Baden-Württemberg e.V. aus Mitteln des Ministeriums für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kunst". In addition, the state coat of arms of the state of Baden-Württemberg must be printed. File copies of all publications must be submitted together with proof of how the funding was used to the office of the LaFT BW.

15. Together with the proof of how the funding was used, a DVD or CD-ROM of the performance should be made available to the LaFT BW as part of the documentation. For this purpose it is sufficient to provide a simple, unedited video recording of the entire production filmed from the front – without the need for high sound or image quality, but in which the performance is clearly recognisable.

Withdrawal of funding approval

The funding approval can be withdrawn at any time if:

1. the funding recipient violates the funding guidelines for the funding of concepts,
2. the funding recipient can no longer ensure proper management of the project,
3. the funding recipient is more than three months in arrears with proof of use of funds for the first or second calendar year,
4. the funding recipient abandons the fundamental concept for which the funding was awarded without the prior approval of the jury of the LaFT BW.

Data protection information

Legal basis for the processing of personal data including possible legitimate interests in accordance with Art 6. Para. 1 lit. a DSGVO. Please refer to our data protection information.

Baden-Baden, October 2019