

Call for Artists and Creators: Bring Local Heat Stories to Life

We invite artists, designers, performers, and other creatives from Utrecht to creatively visualize the experience of heat in neighborhoods with little greenery. With a commission of €2,500, you will collaborate with residents of Utrecht to create a public artwork or experience that brings urban climate data to life through social engagement and imagination.

Why this call?

Climate change affects everyone, but not equally. In Kanaleneiland, Rivierenwijk, Ondiep, and Zuilen, residents have collected data on temperature, humidity, and their personal experiences of local heat. We want to creatively express these stories and data to amplify the community's voice, encourage dialogue, and hopefully inspire action.

Urban ReLeaf: Green Neighborhood, Cool Neighborhood

Citizens of Utrecht, the Utrecht Nature and Environmental Federation (NMU), the municipality of Utrecht, and the province of Utrecht are working together to keep cities and towns livable and safe during hot summers, droughts, and heavy rainfall. Through the project *Green Neighborhood, Cool Neighborhood*, residents measure heat and explore how greening contributes to cooling the city, especially on extremely hot days. Because a green neighborhood is a cool neighborhood.

In 2024 and 2025, “heat heroes” from the neighborhoods Kanaleneiland, Rivierenwijk, Ondiep, and Zuilen measured temperature and humidity during the summer months using sensors. They also indicated when they experienced extreme heat or when a place felt cool and pleasant. At several of these locations, additional data was collected about the heat experience. And because heat can be experienced differently by everyone, we also gathered background information about the residents.

Green Neighborhood, Cool Neighborhood is part of the European research program *Urban ReLeaf*. Through this initiative, we contribute to better local data, stronger collaboration between residents and governments, and fair climate action in the city.

Read more at samenmetenutrecht.nl/koele-buurt

Who are we looking for?

You don't need to be a researcher or technician. We're looking for an artist or creator with experience in community art or participatory art, who:

- Has an affinity with urban climate and data
- Has experience with co-creation (e.g. artwork, video, podcast, visualization, installation, performance such as dance or music)
- Is available in February, March or April 2026 to lead workshops with participants from Green Neighborhood, Cool Neighborhood and other interested residents of Utrecht
- Can exhibit their work in the summer of 2026 at Bibliotheek Neude
- Can make the impact of heat tangible together with residents
- And is a resident of the city of Utrecht

What do we offer?

- Support from Urban ReLeaf, Green Neighborhood, Cool Neighborhood, the municipality and province of Utrecht
- Access to data collected by residents
- Facilitative guidance for engaging the community and organizing workshops (if needed)
- Exhibition opportunities at Utrecht Library
- Promotion through Urban ReLeaf's European networks

How to apply

You can apply via <https://forms.office.com/e/dWXuPz9BvA?origin=lprLink>.

In the online application form, describe your creative idea, your experience and motivation, how you plan to involve the community, and what is needed to realize the project. You can also upload files such as a sketch or examples of previous work.

Contact or more information

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Esther van Leeuwen at esther.van.leeuwen@provincie-utrecht.nl or +31 6 18580944.

Guidelines

- The fee is €2,500. This amount includes your artist fee and all costs such as production, materials, and travel expenses
- Bibliotheek Neude in Utrecht offers a space for exhibition
- Application deadline: December 14, 2025
- Selection announcement: January 15, 2026
- A workshop, creative session, or moment to co-create the work with a group of residents will be scheduled in agreement during February, March, or April 2026.
- The exhibition or performance will take place in the summer of 2026.

Selection Procedure

Submit your idea no later than Sunday, December 14, 2025 via

<https://forms.office.com/e/dWXuPz9BvA?origin=lprLink>

In your application, describe your idea, what is needed to realize it, and your motivation to participate. Between January 5–9, 2026, conversations will be held with the creators of the three selected ideas to discuss implementation. Applicants whose ideas are not selected will be informed during this week.

On Thursday, January 15, 2026, the final selection will be announced.

Criteria*

Creativity and originality – 20%

- How innovative and inspiring is the idea?
- Does it present data or insights about heat (experience) in a surprising way?
- Does it connect to themes of heat or climate, data, and local insights (citizen science)?

Impact and social relevance – 20%

- To what extent does the idea contribute to awareness, dialogue, or change among residents or policymakers?
- Does it spark curiosity and connection among a broad audience?
- Is there attention to climate justice and inclusion?

Community involvement – 20%

- How are local residents actively involved in the project?
- Is there a focus on collaboration and participation?

Feasibility – 20%

- Is the plan realistic within the available budget and timeframe?
- Can the idea be executed in Bibliotheek Neude in Utrecht?
- Are the required resources and steps clearly described?

Experience and motivation – 20%

- Does the applicant have relevant experience working with communities or leading workshops?
- What is your motivation to participate?
- Are examples of previous work or projects provided?

**Note: Urban ReLeaf places great value on inclusion and sustainability. Preference is given to involving local people who contributed to the data collection. The project should be accessible and engaging for a wide audience, and take sustainable and ethical production approaches into account.*

Implementation Procedure

After selection, we will schedule one or more moments where you will work together with residents from Green Neighborhood, Cool Neighborhood and other interested individuals to realize your idea. This includes choosing a suitable location and organizing a gathering. You will be given access to relevant data collected by residents, which you can use in developing your concept.

Workshops will take place in February, March, and/or April 2026. Where needed, we offer support in engaging the community and setting up these sessions.

Leading up to summer, we will explore the possibilities for an exhibition at Bibliotheek Neude in Utrecht. This exhibition will be scheduled in consultation, preferably after mid-June, during the summer of 2026.

Finally, successful projects may gain international visibility through Urban ReLeaf's European networks, extending the impact beyond local boundaries.