

Urban ReLeaf - Call for Creative Proposals

About the Opportunity

Urban ReLeaf is looking for a creative practitioner to transform citizen-collected climate data into an engaging public artwork, installation or participatory experience in Mannheim. We're offering a €3,500 commission for an artist, designer or collective to bring this data to life through creativity, community engagement and imagination.

Working alongside researchers, local communities and the City of Mannheim, you'll have the opportunity to create a new public work exploring one of the defining challenges facing cities today. The completed artwork will have the opportunity to be exhibited in the entrance hall of Mannheim's Technical Town Hall, allowing it to reach visitors, staff and the wider public.

What we're looking for

We're looking for bold, thoughtful ideas that transform environmental data into something people can experience, question and remember.

We are deliberately leaving the creative approach open, and we're interested in ideas that connect people with place, climate and community.

We welcome creative proposals that respond to Mannheim's Urban ReLeaf activities and themes, including (but not limited to):

- Photography
- Illustration, painting, graphic design, mapping and printmaking
- Sculpture and installation
- Traditional crafts including wood, clay and textiles
- Interactive or participatory experiences

Projects should creatively explore themes such as:

- Urban heat and thermal comfort
- Trees and urban greening
- Climate adaptation
- Citizen science
- Community perspectives on public space



Why This Matters

Mannheim is one of the hottest cities in Germany, with the densely built-up inner city particularly affected by heat stress during the summer months. Through the Urban ReLeaf project, the City of Mannheim is exploring how nature-based solutions and citizen participation can support climate adaptation and improve the quality of public spaces.

Participants have mapped more than 100 urban trees and shared their experiences of heat across Mannheim's public spaces. Together, these citizen-generated datasets reveal how climate change is experienced across the city and now we're looking for a creative response.

Who can apply?

You do not need to be a scientist. We are looking for creativity, curiosity, and an interest in working with people, places, and communities.

We welcome applications from creatives working in any discipline, including:

- Artists
- Designers
- Creative facilitators
- Creative collectives
- Photographers
- Other creative practitioners interested in community engagement, climate, environmental or social justice issues

What support will be available

You will work closely with the Urban ReLeaf team, including city partners, researchers, and community stakeholders throughout the commission.

We will support community engagement activities, help you access project data where appropriate, and provide facilitation or mentoring where needed.

The commissioned work will be publicly presented in Mannheim and promoted through Urban ReLeaf's European network.

What is Urban ReLeaf?

This opportunity forms part of the Urban ReLeaf project, which helps cities become greener, healthier, and more resilient by involving residents in collecting environmental data about their local urban spaces. In Mannheim, citizens have contributed data on:

- Urban trees
- Urban heat and thermal comfort in public spaces

We are now looking for a creative practitioner to transform this information into an engaging public artwork or experience that helps people better understand, discuss, and respond to the challenges of climate change.

Guidelines

The commission

- Budget: €3,500 (inclusive of artist fee, materials, travel, production and all project expenses).
- Delivery period: October to November 2026
- Location: Mannheim

Selection Procedure

Proposals will be assessed in two phases:

- Phase 1 – Submission of proposal and supporting documents
- Phase 2 – Online interview for shortlisted applicants

Criteria Proportion

Community engagement approach – 35%
Communication, quality and creativity of proposal – 25%
Budget feasibility and delivery plan – 20%
Track record (evidence of skills and previous work) – 20%

Key Dates

Call Opens | 04.08.2026
Submission Deadline | 06.09.2026
Interviews | 28.09.-30.09.2026
Commission Awarded | 01.10.2026
Community Engagement Begins | 05.10.2026
Delivery & Activation | 05.10.-01.11.2026
Evaluation & Wrap-up | 02.11.-06.11.2026



How to apply

Please submit your proposal and supporting documents to: Johanna.Doerre@Mannheim.de
Subject line: Urban ReLeaf Creative Proposal – Mannheim

If you have any questions or access requirements, please contact: Johanna Dörre (Johanna.Doerre@Mannheim.de, 49 6212935393)

We are happy to discuss adjustments or support to make the application process accessible.

What we need from you

1. A short proposal (maximum two pages) including:

- Your idea and how you will approach it
- How you will involve the community
- The creative outputs you are proposing
- Any thoughts on legacy or longer-term impact

2. A simple budget breakdown

3. A rough timeline

4. Up to five examples of relevant work

5. A short biography or CV

6. Two references

Additional Notes

Urban ReLeaf values inclusion, sustainability and community participation. We encourage low-carbon, ethical production methods wherever possible.

We will help connect the selected artist with relevant local stakeholders and provide guidance on working with Urban ReLeaf project data.

Successful projects may be showcased across Urban ReLeaf's wider European network.

Your proposal should ideally

- Engage with local communities and Urban ReLeaf participants
- Spark curiosity, conversation and reflection
- Be accessible and engaging for diverse audiences
- Reflect a commitment to climate justice, inclusion and environmental responsibility
- Consider sustainable and ethical production approaches