## Advisory letter regarding fund for experimental research between art and science





To the Minister of Education, Culture and Science Mr R.H. Dijkgraaf

Amsterdam, 8 November 2022

Dear Mr Dijkgraaf,

This joint advisory letter from the Society of Arts and The Young Academy, both part of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), is a plea for a national fund for experimental research at the interface of art and science (AxS¹ for short). In practice, AxS funding applications still too often fall between the cracks in application procedures of existing funds for culture or science due to their specificities and transdisciplinary nature. When we refer to AxS, we mean all possible crossovers between artistic and academic research.

We envisage a pilot AxS fund with a lean modus operandi and a budget of 11 million euros for three years, shaped partly along the lines of the Innovatielabs #2 programme, coordinated by The Creative Industries Fund NL on behalf of the six state cultural funds and possibly embedded in the National Science Agenda's 'Art: research and innovation in the 21st century' route.

 $<sup>^{1}</sup>$  We explicitly choose the x-sign to emphasise that in our view, cooperation should be more than the sum of its parts.

This advisory letter elaborates on the trends in education and in the arts and sciences field that point to a growing urgency for the AxS pilot fund for both preserving and taking forward existing AxS knowledge and experience.

We trust this advisory letter will contribute to the innovative capacity of the Netherlands and hope it will inspire you and result in a willingness to act. We will be happy to come and explain the advice.

Kind regards,

on behalf of the boards of the Society of Arts and The Young Academy

Liesbeth Bik, president of the Society of Arts Marie José van Tol, president of The Young Academy

#### Introduction

For decades now, the boundaries between artistic and academic research have been blurring. By artistic research, we mean research carried out by artists across the entire spectrum of the arts – whether or not linked to practice-based research at art colleges or art institutes and doctoral research at universities – in order to arrive at new knowledge and insights, conceptual frameworks or specific works such as a musical composition, installation art, sculpture, choreography, painting, photo series, film, design, haute couture, literature, poetry, community art and so on. By academic research, we mean the entirety of fundamental ('gaining knowledge of underlying phenomena') and applied ('gaining knowledge aimed at a specific practical goal') research.<sup>2</sup>

As early as 2004, the Boekman Foundation, in collaboration with the KNAW, published a special issue on the blurring of boundaries between art and science. Then editor-in-chief Joke Hermsen summed it up in the editorial commentary: 'Despite the far-reaching specialisation of scientists and artists, the Renaissance homo universalis seems to have suddenly reincarnated in multiple'.<sup>3</sup> Many articles and columns in the issue describe the relationship between art and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 2019. Van Engelshoven, I.K. *Nieuwsgierig en betrokken - de waarde van wetenschap*. Science letter from the Minister of Education, Culture and Science. 2019Z01399

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 1989. *KNAW. Wetenschap & Kunst. Verslag van een dialoog*. Issue in honour of the 190th anniversary of the KNAW.

science, ranging from a union as an 'inextricable tangle' (Rob Zwijnenberg) to a 'fundamental correlation' (François Stienen) and all forms in between.

Describing AxS is not easy, nor is demonstrating its added value, but the reflections on the relationship between art and science over the centuries by writers, artists, scientists and philosophers, as well as the many imaginative examples provided by, for instance, author Peter de Jaeger that have been collected in his book *Kunst & Wetenschap. Over zingende wormen en andere moderne projecten,* 4 show that a large, broad, comprehensive, experimental and therefore potentially innovative field of knowledge lies here.

In 2014, the Society of Arts was established by the KNAW to promote cross-fertilisation between art and science. In that role, in collaboration with The Young Academy, it is exploring the issue of how to improve the conditions for AxS in the Netherlands, because despite the splendid examples and reflections on AxS, it is difficult for practitioners to obtain funding.

In fact, funds for the Creative Industries Top Sector are not the solution to the issue addressed in this advisory letter. Those funds are intended for economic growth. Artists and scientists do not always operate within the realm of economic growth. It is precisely their autonomous position that can lead to high-profile work; work that can incite change. That requires time and space. A dedicated AxS fund could result in the Netherlands creating fertile ground for this form of fundamental knowledge development.

#### Trends in education

In the second half of the 20th century, interdisciplinarity became an increasingly common mode of action within the fields of art and science. Now, in the 21st century, we are seeing a more fundamental interdisciplinarity – or transdisciplinarity – between art and science. We see this blurring of boundaries in higher education. Demarcations between disciplines are disappearing and increasingly a thematic or demand-driven approach is being adopted<sup>5</sup>, often involving complex social issues.

Students opting for higher education in the arts learn a monodisciplinary art subject in the bachelor's phase, after which there is an opportunity for an interdisciplinary research programme in the master's phase. The *Sectoragenda Hbo Kunstonderwijs 2021-2025* (*Sector* 

<sup>4 2020.</sup> Jaeger, P. *Kunst & Wetenschap. Over zingende wormen en andere moderne projecten.* Fontaine Uitgevers. Amsterdam

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://www.awti.nl/documenten/adviezen/2022/02/22/advies-grenzeloos-onderzoeken

Agenda for Higher Education in the Arts 2021-2025)<sup>6</sup> underlines these developments and commits to further reinforcing research ambitions 'by strengthening the research culture in education, by the further development of the third cycle and the knowledge networks, and of course by strategic cooperation in research'.

The growth in the number of institutions offering inter- and transdisciplinary research programmes increases the number of potential AxS researchers, so opportunities in the field should grow accordingly.

Post-graduate art institutes such as the Jan van Eyck Academie and the Rijksakademie for visual arts offer artists the opportunity to do more in-depth research. For example, the Jan van Eyk Academie focuses specifically on exploring the meaning of art, design and other creative practices in relation to the climate crisis, environmental degradation and its many impacts. The Rijksakademie's internationally renowned residency programme invests in progressive art based on their vision that artists play an essential role in an open and innovative society.

In turn, universities are working on AxS in various ways. In 2001, the Faculty of Arts was founded as an agreement between Leiden University and the University of the Arts The Hague (since 2008 the ACPA) where composers, performing artists, visual artists and graphic and other designers can perform research in and on the basis of their artistic practice, culminating in a PhD. Together with the Royal Academy of Art The Hague (KABK) and the Royal Conservatoire (KC), the ACPA has developed a platform for research in and with the arts. Since then, many consortia have been active in such a way, such as GRASP<sup>9</sup> in Groningen, RASL<sup>10</sup> in Rotterdam, ARIAS<sup>11</sup> in Amsterdam, The New Utrecht School<sup>12</sup> and Merian<sup>13</sup> in Maastricht.

6 Sectoragenda Hbo Kunstonderwijs 2021-2025 including facts and figures. 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> About • Jan van Eyck Academie

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Rijksakademie – Rijksakademie, History, Contact

<sup>9</sup> GRASP (Groningen Research Arts and Society Platform)

<sup>10</sup> RASL (Rotterdam Arts and Sciences Lab)

<sup>11 &</sup>lt;a href="https://arias.amsterdam/">https://arias.amsterdam/</a> ARIAS (Platform for Research through the Arts and Sciences)

<sup>12</sup> https://www.uu.nl/en/research/the-new-utrecht-school

<sup>13</sup> MERIAN (Maastricht Experimental Research in and through the Arts Network)

All artists and scientists trained in the above institutes and consortia are professionals who can enrich both art and science with a diversity of knowledge and methods. To retain those talents for AxS, it is desirable that they have access to resources that enable them to pursue their careers in a sustainable manner.

These pioneers of AxS have a desire for a radical transdisciplinarity that goes beyond the binary system as well as current funding structures. This advisory letter aims to pave the way for this.

#### **Schemes**

NWO's schemes, including the National Science Agenda (NWA), Taskforce for Applied Research SIA, the Creative Industry Top Sector and the European Creative Europe programme, impose requirements that AxS research submitters usually cannot meet. The most common obstacles are lack of affiliation of the artist to an institution, lack of budget for the start-up phase, and asymmetric funding of the art element in relation to the scientific element (or vice versa) in the research project. Furthermore, most of these schemes require matching of the allocated funds.

A quick scan (see Appendix 1) was performed to underpin this advisory letter, identifying the schemes that are in principle suitable for AxS. We examined the presence/absence of the above obstacles. Obviously, there are complexities at many levels for each fund and case.

There are aspects in the NWA's Art route that give cause for thought, but the most advanced scheme for an AxS application is currently Innovatielabs #2 of The Creative Industries Fund NL. Indeed, the Innovatielabs programme is open to 'a collaboration of at least three parties consisting of professional creators, institutions and other parties in the cultural and creative disciplines, but the programme is also open to knowledge institutions, private, public, semi-public and civil society organisations, whether or not from other fields of work'. <sup>14</sup> The fund also has a budget for the start-up phase in which the parties have the opportunity to make a research proposal and to align their methods. The amount to be applied for, minimum one hundred thousand euros and maximum three hundred thousand euros, is a good guideline for AxS projects. Also, the fact that matching the grant is not required allows artists and scientists not affiliated to an institution to apply. However, the problem with Innovatielabs is that it is intended for strengthening the creative field and not specifically for AxS research.

<sup>14</sup> Open call Innovatielabs #2 (innovatielabs.org)

For the 'areas for improvement' in the NWA, please refer to the evaluation *Excellentie door verbinding (Excellence through connection)*<sup>15</sup>. The advice in the evaluation may pave the way for AxS.

In short, there are opportunities, but the issue remains that AxS projects only partly fit into existing schemes and the infrastructure is not yet fully equipped.

#### Outline of an AxS fund

A transparent AxS access point with a substantial budget can be a start of a flourishing AxS knowledge domain in the Netherlands in which motivated, versatile, critical and creative artists and scientists are challenged to conduct joint research and produce new work. In the interviews with artists and scientists conducted by the Society of Arts in the run-up to this advisory letter (see Appendix 2), the following key elements for an AxS fund were mentioned. The fund should be based on the following starting points:

- AxS research is eligible if it is fundamental/autonomous and/or strongly focused on major societal challenges;
- cooperation is based on the principle of equality of contributions from the various disciplines;
- funding should be realistic with respect to the actual cost of human effort and equipment use for both art and science;
- the parties see the differences in needs, perspectives and working methods as a source of meaning and inspiration;
- there is space for experimentation and preliminary exploration;
- an emphatic effort is made to create a process and an outcome that is more than the sum of its parts, with results that could never have been achieved by the individual parties;
- the outcomes and/or creations are recognised and valued within the participants' individual disciplines;
- research applications are assessed by artists and scientists with expertise in AxS.

When setting up this fund, an entirely new programme is an option, but also a scheme organised by an existing fund or a combination scheme between several parties, such as the state cultural

<sup>15</sup> Excellentie door verbinding. Externe evaluatie Nationale Wetenschapsagenda. Independent evaluation of the 2018-2021 programme of the National Science Agenda (NWA). Central government.

funds, NWO/NWA and Taskforce for Applied Research SIA, which were consulted for this advisory letter. A proposal for setting up a possible AxS fund is described in Appendix 3.

#### Conclusion

Experimental research at the interface of art and science (AxS for short) can often lead to high-profile work; work that can incite change. A dedicated AxS fund would create fertile ground for this form of fundamental knowledge development.

This advisory letter is a plea by the Society of Arts and The Young Academy for a national AxS fund. We see a rapprochement between art and science that has been going on for decades. In higher education for the arts, especially the master's phase, third phase and in postgraduate art institutions, art is linked to society, including to scientific research, both fundamental and applied. A new type of professional is entering the labour market as a result, and some of them wish to continue in AxS research. The high-quality and innovative work of these professionals shows the need for continued development of the field. These professionals are entitled to a transparent AxS access point where they can apply for grants. An access point specialising in AxS funding, assessment, allocation and monitoring. We see that – despite existing schemes – AxS applications still too often fall between the cracks. Therefore, in this advisory letter to the Minister of Education, Culture and Science, we advocate the establishment of a national AxS fund. First as a three-year pilot with a budget of 11 million euros in cooperation with, for instance, the state cultural funds, NWO and Taskforce for Applied Research SIA. To open the debate, the advisory letter provides an outline of an AxS fund.

In their survey, the Society of Arts and The Young Academy have encountered much enthusiasm, drive and visions for the future of AxS and expect these to foreshadow the fertile ground on which AxS will begin to develop into a mature field of knowledge that further enhances the innovative capacity of the Netherlands.

'Only when knowing embraces experimentation and does not shy away from engaging with creating, i.e. with art, is it ready for its major leaps forward (...)' wrote poet and writer Wilbert Cornelissen in 2004 in the previously cited Boekman issue 58/59.

This advisory letter was prepared by a joint AxS working committee of the Society of Arts, The Young Academy and members of the KNAW consisting of: Micha Hamel, composer, poet and researcher, chairman, Dr Frans Snik, astronomer, Leiden University, Dr Marjolijn Bol, Associate Professor of art history, Utrecht University, Emeritus Prof. Kitty Zijlmans, Contemporary Art

History/World Art Studies, Leiden University, Prof. Nadine Akkerman, Professor of early modern English literature and culture, Leiden University, Dr Koert van Mensvoort, philosopher, artist, technologist and founder of Next Nature Network. The committee was supported by secretary Annelies ten Have.

The advisory letter has been coordinated with NWO and the Creative Industries Fund NL. We thank all stakeholders for their input and in particular the Council for Culture, the directors of the state cultural funds and Taskforce for Applied Research SIA.

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# Appendix 1 Quick scan of schemes

# State cultural funds

# Creative Industries Fund NL

Scheme	Purpose of scheme	2022 Budget	Maximum amount to be requested	Matching	Start-up grant	Applicants
Innovatielabs #2	For boosting the	€5,000,000	Minimum of	Not	€10,000	A collaboration of at
	development of		€100,000, maximum	compulsory,		least three parties
	applicable knowledge		of €300,000.	but an		consisting of
	and new working			advantage.		professional
	methods that help the					creators,
	cultural and creative					institutions and
	sector become more					other parties in the
	agile and resilient in					cultural and
	the longer term. This					creative disciplines,
	fund is on behalf of all					but the programme
	state cultural funds and					is also open to
	CLICKNL.					knowledge
						institutions, private,
						public, semi-public
						and civil society
						organisations,

						whether or not from other fields of work.
Design scheme	For projects that contribute to the quality, development or strengthening of the field of design.  Examples include artistic research, product development and reflection and	€1,400,000	No minimum/maximum.	Required.	€7,500	Professional designers, creators, observers, design agencies or cultural institutions within design.

Architecture	For projects that	€1,250,000	No	Required.	€7,500	Professional
scheme	contribute to the		minimum/maximum.			architects, agencies,
	quality, development					observers,
	or strengthening of the					publishers,
	field of architecture in					producers or
	a broad sense.					cultural institutions
	Examples include					working within the
	design research,					field of architecture.
	reflection and debate					
	and design capability					
	regarding major					
	societal challenges.					
Digital Culture	For projects that relate	€1,350,000	No	Required.	€7,500	Professional
scheme	to digital technology,		minimum/maximum.			creators, observers,
	new media or games					design agencies or
	and contribute to the					cultural institutions
	quality, development					working within the
	or strengthening of the					field of digital
	field of digital culture.					culture.

Experiment	For small-scale,	€350,000	€10,000	-	€0	Professional
scheme	experiment-driven					designers,
	projects in design,					architects, creators
	architecture, digital					and design agencies
	culture and crossovers					working in the fields
	between them.					of design,
						architecture, digital
						culture and
						crossovers between
						them.
Fresh	To support special	€0	-	-	-	-
Perspectives	forms of collaboration					
	between a designer,					
	creator or studio and a					
	party with a strong					
	social or knowledge					
	position. (This is not a					
	long-term grant)					

# Mondriaan Fund

Scheme	Purpose of scheme	2022 Budget	Maximum amount to be requested	Matching	Start-up grant*	Applicants
Information and	Point of contact for	€0	-	-	-	-
referral desk on	interdisciplinary					
behalf of the state	applications; explores					
cultural funds.	opportunities within					
	existing fund schemes.					

# Other state cultural funds

Foundation for Literature	see Innovatielabs #2
Performing Arts Fund	see Innovatielabs #2
Film Fund	see Innovatielabs #2
Cultural Participation Fund	see Innovatielabs #2

# Taskforce for Applied Research SIA

Scheme	Purpose of scheme	2022 Budget	Maximum amount to be requested	Matching	Start-up grant	Applicants
All funding schemes.	In principle, all instruments are open to research from the arts and creative sector and therefore to collaboration with non-arts lecturers and researchers and with fields other than arts and/or creative industries. There are several exceptions such as schemes specifically aimed at the green, educational or health domain.	€63,850,000	The maximum amount to be requested depends on the specific scheme.	Required.	-	
KIEM GoCi	For reinforcing and accelerating innovation. A collaboration of Taskforce	€1,700,000	€40,000	Required.	-	Researchers authorised by the Executive Board at

for Applied Research SIA	a university of
and CLICKNL.	applied sciences
	and universities
	based in the
	Kingdom of the
	Netherlands,
	university medical
	centres, KNAW
	and NWO
	institutes, the
	Netherlands
	Cancer Institute,
	the Max Planck
	Institute for
	Psycholinguistics
	in Nijmegen, NCB
	Naturalis,
	Advanced
	Research Centre
	for
	NanoLithography
	(ARCNL) and the

		Princess Máxima
		Centre. Persons on
		zero-hours or
		fixed-term
		employment
		contracts (other
		than a tenure
		track) are
		excluded from
		submission.

## NWO

Scheme	Purpose of scheme	2022 Budget	Maximum amount to be requested	Matching	Start-up grant	Applicants
National Science	The route plays a role in	see ORC scheme.	-	-	-	Consortia of
Agenda, 'Art: research in the	organising and connecting					knowledge
21st century'	the field of art to relevant					institutions,
route.	research. A key focus for					businesses,
	the steering committee is					civil society
	increasing the likelihood of					partners,
	success of research					international
	applications from the Arts					collaborations.
	route. For example, by					
	connecting existing					
	initiatives, placing themes					
	on the agenda and					
	activating the network. The					
	route can play a significant					
	role in the emancipation of					
	research within and					
	towards the arts and the					
	role of artists in it.					

NWA-ORC. Research on Routes by Consortia 2022 (ORC).	The aim of the NWA-ORC 2022   call for proposals is to stimulate research conducted by knowledge-chain-wide and interdisciplinary consortia, in which researchers collaborate with relevant societal (public and/or private) partners and, where relevant, citizens.	€106,300,000	Minimum of €500,000, maximum of €10,000,000.	Required.	-	Consortia of knowledge institutions, businesses, civil society partners, international collaborations.

## **KNAW**

Scheme	Purpose of scheme	2022 Budget	Maximum amount to be requested	Matching	Start-up grant	Applicants
Mingler	For a start-up collaboration	€40,000	€10,000	-	-	Duos of artists
Scholarship	between artists and					(collectives)
	scientists.					and scientists.

# Council for Culture

Development	Development institutions offer artists	€8,687,000	Minimum of	-	-	Institutions
institutions (BIS).	space to reinvent genres and		€300,000,			whose core
	disciplines, to renew themselves, to		maximum of			activity is to
	fail, to succeed. The development		€800,000.			facilitate,
	institutions are a new category in the					guide and
	basic cultural infrastructure (BIS); the					develop
	development capability of the sector is					talented or
	greatly enhanced by them. The scheme					innovative
	allows for a much-needed broadening					creators
	of the basic cultural infrastructure to					and/or
	include genres that were not					develop –
	represented in recent cultural plan					through
	periods. In this way, the basic cultural					research – the
	infrastructure better connects with					disciplines of
	contemporary culture and reaches a					performing
	wider, more diverse audience.					arts, visual
	This broadening is also hugely					arts, film,
	important for the future: the					literature or
	development institutions are, after all,					design, or a
	part of the chain, forming the broad					combination
	base that supplies the top. The					thereof.
	development institutions article allows					
	for up to 15 institutions and has a					
	grant ceiling of €8,687,000 per year.					

# EU

Scheme	Purpose of scheme	2022 Budget	Maximum amount	Matching	Start-up	Applicants
			to be requested		grant	
Creative Europe,	The Culture strand	The Creative	The maximum	As above	As above	As above
Culture strand.	encourages cooperation	Europe 2021-	amount to be			
	and exchanges among	2027	requested varies per			
	cultural organisations and	programme has	call. More			
	artists within Europe and	a budget of	information can be			
	beyond. Funding for	€2.44 billion. <sup>16</sup>	found on the			
	cooperation projects,		website of <u>Creative</u>			
	networks, platforms,		Europe.			
	circulation of literary					
	works, mobility for artists					
	and professionals, Pan					
	European Cultural					
	Entities.					

 $<sup>^{16}\,</sup> https://culture.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/about-the-creative-europe-programme$ 

Creative Europe,	The Media strand of the	The Creative	As above	As above	As above	As above
Media stand.	Creative Europe	Europe 2021-				
	programme supports the	2027				
	European film and	programme has				
	audiovisual industries to	a budget of				
	develop, distribute and	€2.44 billion.				
	promote European works,					
	taking into account today's					
	digital environment.					
Creative Europe,	The cross-sector	The Creative	As above	As above	As above	As above
Cross Sectoral	component aims to	Europe 2021-				
Strand.	promote cooperation	2027				
	between different cultural	programme has				
	and creative sectors in	a budget of				
	order to address shared	€2.44 billion.				
	challenges they face and					
	find innovative new					
	solutions. This is achieved,					
	for example, through					
	policy cooperation, the					
	services provided by the					
	Creative Europe desks,					

and the Creative		
Innovation Lab. <sup>17</sup>		

<sup>17</sup> https://culture.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/cross-sectoral-strand

# Appendix 2 List of people interviewed in the run-up to the advisory letter

Name	organisation	position
Michel van der Aa	composer	independent artist
Martje van Ankeren	Association of	coordinator of the Association of
	Universities of	Universities of Applied Sciences
	Applied Sciences	research team
Kristel Baele	Council for Culture	president
Gijs Bakker	conceptual designer	independent artist
Joris van Ballegooijen	Creative Industries	head of grants
	Fund NL	
Lisa Becking	Wageningen	marine biologist
	University &	
	Research	
Bero Beyer	Netherlands Film	director
	Fund	
Henk Borgdorff	Leiden University	emeritus professor of Theory of
		Research in the Arts
Adriaan Geuze	West8	landscape architect, founder
Stan Gielen	NWO	former president

Tabo Goudswaard	Social Creative Council	founder
Francine Houben	Mecanoo	founder and creative director
Peter de Jaeger	writer	independent
Janneke van Kersen	NWO	Creative Industries Top Sector coordinator
Marieke Ladru	Creative Industries	Talent development programme
	Fund NL	leader
Marcel Levi	NWO	president
Cynthia Liem	Delft University of	assistant professor, multimedia
	Technology (TU	computing
	Delft)	
Eelco van der Lingen	Mondriaan Fund	director
Ana Maria Gomez Lopez	visual artist	independent artist
Claron McFadden	soprano	independent artist
Roel Meeuwesse	ACTI	secretary
Rapti Miedema	Mondriaan Fund	head of heritage & pilots bureau
Daniel Oberski	Utrecht	professor of social sciences/methods
	University/UMCU	and statistics and data science &
		biostatistics

Tiziano Perez	Foundation for Literature	director
Glenn de Randamie (Typhoon)	singer	independent artist
Jeroen de Ridder	The Young Academy	former president
Erik Rietveld	University of Amsterdam/RAAAF	Socrates Professor, senior researcher in philosophy/ILLC/brain and cognition and co-founder of RAAAF
Ronald Rietveld	RAAAF	architect, independent artist
Ineke Sluiter	KNAW/Leiden University	former president of the KNAW (June 2020-June 2022), professor of Greek language and literature
Dennis Stam	Performing Arts Fund	former deputy director Performing Arts Fund/MT member Heritage and Arts, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
Behnam Taebi	Delft University of Technology	professor of Energy and Climate Ethics, as well as scientific director of the Safety & Security Institute, Delft University of Technology

Iris van der Tuin	Utrecht University	professor of Theory of Cultural Inquiry
Bert Verveld	Amsterdam University of the Arts (AHK)	chair of the Executive Board
Barbara Visser	visual artist	independent artist
Johannes van der Vos	Taskforce for Applied Research SIA	programme manager
Jakob van der Waarden	Council for Culture	director
Gwyneth Wentink	harpist	independent artist
Liesbeth van Zoonen	Erasmus University Rotterdam	scientific director of the Centre for BOLD Cities, professor of Sociology and dean of the Erasmus Graduate School of Social Sciences and the Humanities

# Appendix 3 Proposal to set up an AxS fund

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Developing and facilitating AxS, developing existing AxS knowledge and experience that contributes sustainably to both the arts and science.

### Fund duration

3 years.

## Budget

 $\[ \in \]$ 11,000,000, of which  $\[ \in \]$ 10,000,000 is earmarked directly for the financial support of projects. The remaining  $\[ \in \]$ 1,000,000 is earmarked for communication and management costs.

# Applying

Three application rounds.

## Amount to be applied for

Maximum €300,000 (duration to be determined).

# Matching

Not obligatory.

## Start-up grant for exploration

€10,000.

### What research does the fund focus on?

1. fundamental research: autonomous collaborations that spring from the scientist's and artist's fascination to develop new knowledge, knowledge products or expressive works.

2. applied/practice-based research: collaborations aimed at knowledge development that provide a framework for action or possible solutions for complex problems (e.g. Sustainable Development Goals).

### Publication of 'results'/process

In existing cultural and scientific institutions.

# Who can apply?

Applications should be submitted jointly by scientists with an appointment at a university or research institute in collaboration with artists (creators) or artist collectives from across the arts.

### What are the assessment criteria for granting?

For the fundamental strand:

- a. The research question was formulated jointly and encompasses the relevant knowledge, imagination and skills of both applicants.
- b. The role of the artist(s) and researcher(s) in the process and content is clear and balanced, and the way the different needs, perspectives and methods of art and science come together in the project is properly described.
- c. A clear description of the activities the applicants plan to undertake and what they wish to achieve. The project proposal must be reflected in an appropriate form that does justice to the nature and content of the collaboration, e.g. a publication, essay, theoretical concept/framework, performance, exhibition, film, photography, choreography, design, installation, prototype, as well as scientific insights, expressions and follow-up research.

For the applied strand:

Same as above supplemented by

d. Expected contribution to a social issue or application in a work field or work practice.