

OPEN CALL

for
**site-specific
artworks**

at
**Teknologia
-kylä - Oulu**

TRANSLATION FLOWERS COL

TEK.village

Translation Flowers Collective

Official Programme | Kulttuuriohjelmaa



Oulu
2026

About TEK.village

TEK.village - *Occupying and activating Teknologiakyla through site-specific interventions* is an art project that focuses on alternative, transparent, and supportive approaches to art production while holding space for critical conversations, peer to peer exchange and co-learning.

Technology Village is a space that pulses with innovation by day and returns to nature by night. This non-place is characterized by intriguing glass facades, parking lot spaces, green zones, connecting poles, bus stops, community dining areas and a lot of technology companies! It is surrounded by forest and a variety of more-than-human beings: birds, moss, lichen, birch and pine trees, and small critters. This site lends itself to many themes, such as technology, ecology, and community, and the selected artists will be free to explore whatever themes feel most relevant to them.

Translation Flowers Art Collective and Oulu2026 invites process-oriented artists, creatives, and collectives to join *TEK.Village*: an innovative, site-specific art project that will transform Oulu's "Technology Village". Applicants do not need to propose a specific project. Our intent is to give artists the space and time to playfully respond to their site. This isn't just about creating art for a space; it's about creating art **with** a space and turning it into a space of creative exploration and community engagement.

Who are we looking for?

We're looking for artists/collectives, creatives from various disciplines, who are based in Finland.

International applicants are also welcomed but need to be able to fund their travel independently.

Applicant who are:

- + Excited by or willing to explore collaborative, process-oriented work
- + Interested in site-specific practice and public engagement
- + Ready to explore new models of art-making and community building
- + In need of an open and dialogue based environment that supports out of the box ideation

What we offer

- + **Exhibition:** Showcase your work in our culminating pop-up exhibition in September 2026 under the Oulu2026 European Capital of Culture program.
- + **Financial support:** You will receive an Artist grant of 800 euros to cover both your artist fee and your production costs.
- + **Travel support:** Small amount is possible (max 100) only for those outside the Oulu area region to travel to the site. Details will be communicated with the selected participants. Lodging is not included.

For participants outside of Finland we can provide invitation letter to assist in finding mobility grants. Lodging is not included.
- + **Engagement Program:** Participate in our process oriented site specific approach. This is an on/off hybrid participation format with online check in sessions and in-person encounter where we will explore the location.

Engagement program

We want to connect and (un)learn together and explore what it means

- + To work remotely, in displaced environments, with limited resources
- + To navigate how we approach place-based artworks, site-specific interventions that meaningfully engage the people, what methods do we use and bring them into our shared space
- + Share how we collaborate and connect with the audience and spaces
- + Explore what pushes us to continue in the precaritarian system

During this participation we want you to embrace limitations and resourcefulness, proving that meaningful expression can emerge from simplicity, from collective exchange and community support.

Coming from various backgrounds and experiences in the artworld, through this project we want to provide what we felt we are lacking in collaborative process making.

Engagement program

lacking / receiving

- + A space for our doubts in the process making to be heard
- + Provide a listening ear to support us in our ideation process
- + Open our workflow, thought sketches, research to be critically addressed with reflection and without judgment
- + To hold a space for dialogue that can inspire, provide different perspective and points of view and address practical challenges creatively
- + To engage in a dialogue on art labour, needs, collaboration, art-making in precarious work environments
- + Exchange practical hands on approaches, methods, tools that can assist us as we grow and move forward as artist
- + To openly share resources and support as we are individually able
- + Navigate audience approach, community participation, authorship

To achieve this the engagement program is envisioned in a hybrid on/off participation format with monthly peer support check ins and field trip.

Engagement program

workflow

Online sessions

These hour long sessions (*total of 8 for the span of the project*) will be structured based on shared needs and goals.

Filed work expedition

We will organize a field research expedition where we will have a chance to meet in person and explore the Teknologiakylä site together. This will be a hands-on conceptualization through direct engagement with the site, where you will choose location and start the process.

We will implement some site exploration exercises and share with you our individual approaches and methods such as psychogeographical walks, instructional probes. Even though we seek to create a collaborative learning environment that prioritizes collective exchange that breaks traditional hierarchical structures you will have freedom to arrange your workflow timeline. You will be responsible for the production of your work and installation.

English is our main language but Finnish support is available.

Your involvement

Selected participants are expected to engage in the exchange and co-learning sessions. You will be given the freedom to develop your work using your own methodologies.

Whilst we are here to support you, this opportunity will require you to be self-sufficient and to hold yourself accountable. You are responsible for the production of your work its de/installation.

You are expected to:

- + **Engage with the site and audience**
- + **Participate in scheduled check ins** - *Online gathering sessions and a Field work expedition (May 22nd and 23rd).*
- + **Present at a Pop up Exhibition** - The culmination of our shared work will be a pop up exhibition, with a soft opening approach where we intend to foster a dialogue with the audience, allowing them to share interpretations and reflections on your artworks.

** By applying you consent to the dates and terms.*

Application process

The deadline for applications is **11:59 PM 31th of January 2026**.

- + Application [Form](#) is bilingual, in English and Finnish
- + The results will be published by **February 6th 2026**. *The program will start after 20th, in communication with the selected applicants.*
- + Feel free to reach out to us, we're happy to discuss the project, application process or answer your questions. translationflowers@gmail.com

We can't wait to see what emerges when your practice meets our shared vision.

Who are we

TEK.Village is organized and led by a ***Translation Flowers Art Collective***, an all female international artist collective whose work challenges traditional exhibition models while fostering genuine collaboration and environmental consciousness. Through this project they strive to develop a fluid and organic project grounded in mutual support and transparency. We aim to create a project that deals with issues and obstacles we ourselves have faced. Lack of transparency, support, genuine collaboration, sharing and exchange, ecological awareness in art making and respect for different time orientation and labor and workflow. *Find more about us [here](#).*

This project is made possible with the support of the Oulu2026 European Capital of Culture and Valistustalo Foundation.

Oulu2026 culture programme is created and carried out by hundreds of creators from Oulu, Finland and Europe. The programme consists of the plans that have been included since Oulu's application phase and the events and other programmes that have been selected through the open call. The participation of an extensive partner network in the preparation and implementation of the culture programme ensures that new competence becomes rooted in the Oulu2026 area, so that the good operating models created during the process will continue after 2026.

Find out more [here](#).

The Oulu Valistustalo Fund, administered by the City of Oulu's Education and Cultural Services, supports cultural activities in Oulu. These grants are available to individuals and communities working in various fields of art and culture. *Find out more [here](#).*