

AGREEMENT

between

**the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia,
the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia and
the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania
on the Establishment of the Baltic Culture Fund**

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania,

hereinafter referred to as the "Parties",

seeking to promote cultural cooperation between the three Baltic States - Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania;

strengthening the internationalization of Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian culture and promotion of the Baltic dimension;

in the spirit of the Agreement on Baltic parliamentary and governmental cooperation between the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania signed on 13 June 1994, and the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Culture between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, signed on 8 July 1994,

have reached the following agreement

Article 1

The Objective of the Agreement

1.1. The Parties agree to establish the Baltic Culture Fund (hereinafter referred to as the "Fund").

1.2. Each Party contributes €100,000 annually to the Fund, with the total annual budget consisting of €300,000.

Article 2

The Objective of the Fund

2.1. The objective of the Fund is to promote cultural cooperation between the three Baltic States within and beyond the Baltic States – Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania – and to strengthen the internationalization of Lithuanian, Estonian and Latvian culture through joint cultural events.

2.2. The Fund supports professional events in the fields of architecture, visual art, design, literature, music, performing arts, libraries, museums and archives.

2.3. The Fund provides grants for the new (non-recurrent) cultural events (hereinafter referred to as the “project”) first and foremost outside the three Baltic States – Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania – including concerts, exhibitions, festivals, performances, international events with a Baltic focus, showcases and forums that promote the internationalization of culture. Events inside the three Baltic States can be supported if they have a very distinct international dimension with a Baltic focus.

Article 3

The Allocation of Grants

3.1. Only a legal person registered in Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania is eligible to apply for funding.

3.2. A project must include no less than one partner who is a legal person from each Baltic State.

3.3. A project must have a lead organization that submits the application for funding and is responsible for its implementation.

3.4. The allocation of the grants is limited to between €25,000 and €100,000.

3.5. The Fund does not provide grants for investments in fixed assets.

3.6. The grants are not available for projects that have commenced and/or been completed before the decision on the application has been made. This means that the applied for projects can not start before three months after the application deadline.

3.7. Grants are distributed once a year.

3.8. The Parties shall act according to the legislation applicable in the territories of their states.

Article 4

Management of the Fund

4.1 The processing of applications takes place and the Fund is managed in rotation between the three Baltic States in alphabetical order (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) (hereinafter referred to as “the lead country”) based on a three-year cycle. Processing of applications and resolving any disputes that may occur in connection with that is subjected to the law/jurisdiction of the lead country at that time when the grant was distributed. The lead country receives the Fund as a programme added to the lead country’s Cultural Endowment (hereinafter referred to as “the Cultural Endowment”):

4.1.1. in Estonia – the Cultural Endowment of Estonia (Eesti Kultuurkapital);

4.1.2. in Latvia – the State Culture Capital Foundation (Valsts kultūrkapitāla fonds);

4.1.3. in Lithuania – the Lithuanian Council for Culture (Lietuvos kultūros taryba).

4.2. The Cultural Endowment of the lead country distributes the support to the lead organization of the awarded project.

4.3. The applications received by the Fund are assessed by a 6-member Expert Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”), appointed for a three-year period, and includes experts in various fields of cultural competences. Each of the three Baltic States will be represented by two members on the Committee, one appointed by the Ministry of Culture and the other appointed by the Cultural Endowment.

4.4. The Cultural Endowments shall formulate and adopt the rules of procedure of the Committee, the detailed criteria for eligible projects, eligible applicants, distributing support and reporting by 1 January 2019.

4.5. The evaluation report of the Fund must be prepared by the Cultural Endowment of the lead country at the end of every three-year cycle, presented to the Baltic Assembly and published on the website of the Fund.

4.6. The expenses related to the administration of the Fund will be covered by the lead country for a three-year period. The costs related to each country’s participation in the Fund’s meetings will be covered by the countries themselves.

4.7. The working language of the Fund is English.

4.8. The Fund shall start operations on 1 January 2019.

Article 5
Final Provisions

5.1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature and shall remain in force for an indefinite period of time, unless written notice to terminate is given up to the expiration of the succeeding period of three years.

5.2. This Agreement may be amended by a written agreement of the Parties to this Agreement. Amendments shall enter into force in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 5(1) of this Agreement.

5.3. Any divergence of interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be resolved by negotiations between the Parties to this Agreement.

Done in Riga on 8 July 2018 in three (3) original versions in English.

On behalf of
the Ministry of Culture
of the Republic of Estonia

On behalf of
the Ministry of Culture
of the Republic of Latvia

On behalf of
the Ministry of Culture
of the Republic of Lithuania