



Open Call Community Arts Education Residency 2027

Villa Karo is launching an open call for an exploratory residency bringing together arts education professionals from Finland and West Africa, from 24 February to 4 April 2027 (40 days of co-learning), in Grand-Popo, Benin.

The programme

What happens when art educators from Finland and West Africa spend 40 days learning, creating, questioning and dreaming together?

This residency explores community arts education through a programme combining professional peer learning, cultural exchange and hands-on experimentation with community-based artistic methods.

Together, participants will:

- learn from local schools, artists and communities
- explore music, rhythm, storytelling, visual arts and movement
- investigate the theme of social generosity through artistic practice
- exchange pedagogical approaches from Finland and West Africa
- develop ideas for projects to be implemented in their home communities after the residency

Under the acacia tree, in classrooms, on village paths, through workshops, conversations and shared meals, we'll ask: ***how can art education become more generous, more communal and more connected to the world around us?***

This residency is not about teaching others. It is about learning with others.

Who can apply

8 arts education professionals will be selected (4 based in Finland, 4 in West Africa)

- Educators, artists, museum pedagogues, community art practitioners, facilitators, storytellers, musicians, dancers and cultural workers
- Professionals working with children and young people
- Practitioners with experience or interest in art pedagogy and community-based learning

Practical information

- Working language: English
- Included: accommodation at Villa Karo, daily breakfast and airport transfers
- West African participants receive a 500 € grant to support travel and other costs
- Finland-based participants should budget a minimum of 2000 € for travel and other expenses for the full residency period
- **This programme is supported by the Niilo Helander Foundation**

Timeline

Application deadline: 20 September 2026

Residency: 24 February – 4 April 2027 (40 days)

Application materials and process

- CV
- A short work plan outlining your professional goals for the residency, and what you can contribute to the 40-day residency as a community of co-practice. Please explain how the residency would contribute to your work as an art educator back home, after you return from Villa Karo.
- Portfolio or examples of previous projects (if available)

Apply through the "Community Arts Education" section at apply.villakaro.org

Contact

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