

NEXT
LEVEL



F A R I Q 2022/2023

CALL 2022

In a public call for the start of the project, the Goethe-Institut invites Neighborhood initiatives, resistance committees, cultural cafes, civic, formal and informal initiatives and organizations, as well as individuals from Khartoum, to submit their project ideas for the revitalization of their neighborhood or a public place. To present their project ideas for the revitalization of their neighborhood or a public place **in a written pre-selection and subsequent pitch.**

A four-headed jury consisting of a project staff member, (landscape) architect*, a cultural actor and a member of the Studio Urban collective will select the four most innovative project ideas that aim at revitalizing a public space through design public space by designing, reworking and creating spaces for discourse and cultural life. cultural life. The funding for each project is around 8,000.

BACKGROUND

Over the past 30 years, public space in Sudan has not been a place for the general public. Discourse and cultural expression shifted to private space. Reclaiming public spaces, reusing and redefining them is part of urban development initiatives and neighborhood committees. During the revolution, opinions were ""taken to the streets"" to act as catalysts for change; this process of change and transformation is ongoing.

Many formal and informal networks have driven transformation and provided services, space for exchange and discourse, and challenge to the status quo as resistance to undesirable political or social developments. Most prominent among these are the Resistance Committees and the Neighborhood Committees, w. Less visibly, a number of cultural cafés that provide small oases for cultural-activist life and lively discourse. Student networks and

grassroots civic organizations have played an equally important role. Other spaces and networks are constantly developing-not just in Khartoum and not just in urban centers. Cultural cities such as Madani, Al-Obeid, Port Sudan, Kosti and Atbara also need to be considered.

Despite the commitment of neighborhood committees, their resources are severely limited. Although public spaces and squares exist and are places of gathering, the most visible are sometimes planned or spontaneously organized small speeches on specific topics, around which crowds of people form to listen and join in the discussion. - However, these places are not further equipped and designed. Due to the lack of equipment, the public spaces are unattractive, especially for women, young people and children, and are mainly used by men.

The NEXT LEVEL - Fariq project aims to give the neighborhoods the opportunity to make these public spaces more attractive and to make them a place of gathering for families and the wider society, especially marginalized parts. The project will support the initiative and creative ideas of the residents and the committees related to the valorization and revitalization of the public space in their neighborhood.

Networking such spaces and places, research projects, and conversations about challenges and needs address neighborhood needs, create a network of independent civic spaces, and support communities in making long-term changes to public places and spaces. Where possible, the history of these places can also play a role in this process, and can be reappraised and made accessible to the public.

Some initiatives are already strongly connected to art networks. Others do not yet take advantage of this catalyst. Street art festivals should be held to continue to stimulate dialogue and also engage the broader neighborhood public. Using public space for temporary street art events that are family and women friendly will redefine, reclaim, and open up these public spaces for reuse for public purposes by other entities and initiatives as well. The use of public space as a stage for theater and performance is intended to reinforce the idea of democratization and freedom of public debate on socio-political issues. The temporary transformation of these public spaces, which is intended to leave behind graffiti murals, green spaces and awareness of the space and its multiple uses of the for public public use, and is intended to reinforce long-term uses.

2023

Up to four project ideas will be further developed and promoted through workshops, exchange and mentorship. In the first half of 2023, a five-day training on project development and project management and a three-day training on cultural outreach and community engagement will take place, with a total of up to 8 participants. In the second half of 2023, the implementation of the projects will take place. For this purpose, the selected project initiatives will be paid the awarded funding amounts in several installments and they thus have the opportunity to redesign the public spaces according to their interests and desires, in addition and they will be accompanied in the implementation where necessary.

In order to promote the networking of the project initiators and to initiate an exchange of experiences, an observation with alumni*ae of the project "Neighborhood Initiatives" in Tunis is aimed at. The exchange will take place in the form of a three-day visit to Tunis by up to

eight participants (two people per funded project initiative). Against the background of this three-day observation, the participants will have the opportunity to visit the newly created places in Tunis and the surrounding area and to get to know the initiatives on site. If, however, due to security, travel or visa restrictions, a visit is not possible, this exchange will take place digitally.

In addition, the selected projects will be brought together with the one project partner Studio Urban to conduct research on the history of the respective street, public space or square. According to the current state of affairs, the art tech company organization Studio Urban, due to its multidisciplinary research approach aimed at the transmission of knowledge through the use of various technologies, art, image and audio media, as well as its team of architects, researchers, designers, artists and archivists, meets the B this and that conditions as a project partner (www.studiourbands.com) . A call for proposals will nevertheless be issued. The projects can present the research results through maps, images, texts or other visual material t and thus work up the historical context of the site and its public significance. The processing of the historical contexts should - if possible -- be an integral part of the revitalized places. For each of the selected initiatives, a public presentation will be visibly displayed in the public space, making the context accessible to a wide audience. The conception will be worked out by the supported neighborhood committees, cultural cafés or other initiatives in cooperation with the project partner Studio Urban. The production of the presentations, which can be an exhibit, a podcast, a talk, photographic material or maps, is the responsibility of the project partner Studio Urban, who will be paid an independent budget for the production in each case.

The first project run will conclude with a two-day street art festival at the end of 2023 in Khartoum. Here, the newly designed public spaces are to be individually coordinated with temporary stages for theater, speakers and public debates, murals, musicians, visualization of history and context. At each redesigned location, a part of the event will be implemented. The Street Art Festival will be curated by the four selected project partners and an advisory committee of two artists from different art fields. This allows the initiators* to revive the public space in a self-organized way and to carry out an event according to their ideas. The competence to curate the Street Art Festival was imparted to them during the Cultural Outreach training.

Also, during the Street Art Festival, the elaborated presentations on the history of the respective public places should be presented and introduced to the civil society. For this purpose, research results can also be discussed on the erected stages and thus the historical relevance of the respective place can be made accessible to a broad audience and negotiated.