

# **CRI**

## **Contributions to Reinventing Imaginations**

### **Call for Projects from the Bourges 2028 Association**

#### **Project Guidelines**

#### **CRI for School Pupils 2026–2027**

## PREAMBULE

Bourges 2028 has launched the **CRI – Contributions to Reinventing Imaginations**, a call that is once a cry of joy, a cry of warning, and a powerful collective energy bringing everyone together around the shared project that Bourges 2028 represents. These contributions will enable everyone to take an active part, foster innovation across local areas, open up new pathways for creative beyond major metropolitan centres, and help reimagine our region in response to today's challenges. We invite everyone to contribute to something that is not fixed, something that must be built together – something Bourges 2028 makes possible.

**The CRI for School Pupils is organised in partnership with the DSDEN of the Cher département and is open to all primary and secondary schools (*écoles, collèges, lycées*) in the département.** Projects must spark school pupils' interest and curiosity regarding the 2028 European Capital of Culture year and leave a lasting impact for the future of the region.

Projects submitted must fully reflect the values of Bourges 2028:

- **Respect and give priority to living beings, people and nature**, in order to encourage the profound changes needed to preserve the habitability of the planet by shifting paradigms. Bourges aims to become the **first low-carbon** European Capital of Culture, responding collectively to ecological challenges.
- Make small and medium-sized towns places where everyone matters and feels important, where people can shape their own lives, **in human-scale towns**.
- **Make citizen participation** a driver of regional development, for urban and rural living, strengthening democracy and making it more accessible.
- Giving pride of place to **youth and celebration, promoting gender equality and diversity**, so that Bourges 2028 is welcoming, festive and dynamic.
- Highlight **the arts, creativity, research and innovation**, so that Bourges 2028 is contemporary and forward-looking artistic space.
- Promote a **European dimension** (cooperation, twinning, European themes, etc.).

**Projects must align with the three pillars of arts and cultural education (EAC): learning, encountering, practising.**

## PARTICIPATION CONDITIONS

### Who can apply?

The CRI for School Pupils 2026 is open to educational institutions in the Cher *département*: nursery schools, primary schools, secondary schools and sixth-form colleges, whether public or private under contract.

Projects must be carried out by one or more classes, under the guidance of their teacher(s). Only one project per institution will be accepted.

The project must involve an artist, and may optionally be carried out with the support of a cultural organisation. An artist or cultural organisation may participate in only one CRI for School Pupils project.

The artist co-develops the project with the teaching team, from its conception to the final presentation (design, implementation, budgeting, communication, etc.).

The same project may not be submitted by the artist or cultural organisation to another Bourges 2028 CRI call for projects. School projects must be submitted specifically under the CRI for School Pupils call for projects.

All stages of the project must primarily take place during school time, though depending on the type of project, certain elements (especially final presentations) may occur during extracurricular or after-school time.

The project must be an artistic creation co-developed by school pupils and the artist (and a cultural organisation) during the 2026–2027 school year. However, the project must remain visible or showcased in 2028 (e.g., within the school, on a website, in public spaces).

A provisional project budget must be submitted and fully completed (balanced between projected expenses and revenue). The jury will pay particular attention to detailed presentation of the project, partner artist remuneration, and other sources of funding.

Each project must be validated by the school inspector (IEN) or the head of the school, according to the usual procedures linked to the ADAGE platform.

## Project themes

Projects must be artistic or cultural in nature and align with the values and objectives of Bourges 2028 (see preamble), as well as the EAC charter.

All artistic disciplines are permitted and may be combined, including: Music, Dance, Theatre, Street Arts, Circus Arts, Performance, Sculpture, Painting, Installation, Drawing, Photography, Digital Art, Heritage, Literature, Poetry, Comics, Video, Film, Food, and Crafts.

Each project must address one or more of the following themes:

- Ecological transition
- Art in rural spaces
- Spaces of democracy
- Music and celebration
- Renewed heritage
- Sustainable food practices
- Crafts and Design
- Artificial intelligence and digital art
- Youth challenges
- Cultural rights
- Cultural diversity
- Health and culture
- Culture and inclusion

## TIMELINE AND APPLICATION PROCESS

### Timeline and applications

The call for projects will be conducted according to the following schedule:

- 15 March: applications open on ADAGE
- 30 April: application deadline
- May: project review and jury deliberations
- 15 June: announcement of the winners.

Applications must be submitted by the school via the online form available on the ADAGE application of the French Ministry of Education.

Only one application per year and per institution is allowed.

## PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

- Projects will be reviewed by a jury made up of representatives from the Bourges 2028 Association, the Departmental Directorate of National Education and civil society.
- The jury has final authority in selecting projects.
- Schools will be informed of the results through the ADAGE platform, and a notification email will be sent automatically to the email addresses provided during application.

## CONTRACTUAL TERMS

### For all applicants to the CRI

In all cases, the project leader is responsible for the project they organise and implement. They must: mobilise partners (artistic, technical, financial, etc.), complete all required procedures, and will be solely responsible in the event of failure to meet their obligations. They must also ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, particularly labour law.

### For developers of funded projects

The winners of the CRI for School Pupils, chosen by the Jury, will receive financial support from Bourges 2028.

Projects cannot combine this funding with other funding provided by the Bourges 2028 Association: financial support for a CRI for School Pupils project may not be provided in addition to another CRI project by the artist or cultural organisation.

The amount awarded may vary according to the project and its impact.

**The amount awarded will be 80% of the projected project budget, up to a maximum of €2,000 per project.**

The number of funded projects depends on the available annual budget.

Funding cannot be used to purchase equipment or investment materials.

The sum deliberated by the jury and awarded to the project will be a single, fixed amount, regardless of the duration or repeatability of the project.

Bourges 2028's support and involvement in the project will be limited to financial support in accordance with the jury's deliberations. Bourges 2028 cannot be held responsible for the implementation of the project. Bourges 2028 will not be involved in the artistic design or implementation of the project. No technical or human resources will be provided by Bourges 2028 for the implementation of the project.

Once the jury decision has been made, Bourges 2028 will not increase funding even if the project budget changes.

Financial support will be formalised through a co-production agreement, and the grant will be paid upon signature of the contract and submission of an invoice.

Payment will be made to the account of the school cooperative, the socio-educational centre or the Maison des Lycéens, or to the artist associated with the project.

## COMMITMENTS OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

### Selected schools commit to:

- signing a co-production contract with the Bourges 2028 Association
- notifying the association of any changes to the project schedule or project
- completing the project as submitted
- submitting a detailed artistic and financial report by 15 July 2027. A blank document to fill in will be made available to schools. Failure to do so may result in the repayment of all or part of the aid granted.

### Required documents:

- a letter attesting to the partnership, signed by the school and the cultural partner or artist
- Participating artist's CV
- Bank details (RIB) and SIRET number of the school cooperative and the associated artist (or the socio-educational centre or the Maison des Lycéens)

to be sent to [eac@bourges2028.org](mailto:eac@bourges2028.org)

## CONTACT

For any questions regarding the CRI for School Pupils, you can contact:

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