



**Turku 800 Programme Call**

# **Applicant Guide 2026**



A Publication by Turku 2029 Foundation





# Join us in creating Turku 800 anniversary year!

Finland's oldest city, Turku, will be 800 years old in 2029. The year will become a common celebration for all Finns, inspiring new firsts and strengthening city-living. During the anniversary year, everyone resident in Turku will be Hero of the Day – everyone is invited to join in and experience a shared, year long birthday party together!

Are you preparing a project, campaign or event related to the anniversary? If your submitted project meets the requirements for inclusion in the programme, it can be selected for inclusion in the Turku 800 program. You can propose your project by filling in the application form online.

The projects selected for the Turku 800 programme and their implementers will be part of this historic, unique anniversary event as well as its community of creators. The projects will be given the right to use the anniversary programme logo in their own communications and will later become part of the anniversary communications.

In addition to being accepted into the anniversary programme, it is also possible to apply for a grant for the project if the latter cannot be implemented with the creator's own or other funding.

The goal is to create an inspiring, impressive, and overall balanced and diverse programme. We are looking for projects that celebrate Turku's 800th year in many different ways: with larger, unique experiences and small-scale joint activities in various parts of Turku, but also with projects that will strengthen Turku for the future.

Could you be one of the creators of the anniversary year?

**Suvi Innilä**  
*Programme Manager*

**Salla Mistola**  
*Project Manager*

The Turku 2029 Foundation is coordinating preparations for the anniversary year on behalf of the City of Turku.

## When can I apply?

The programme call for the anniversary year will start on 6 March 2026 and continue until 1 December 2028. In connection with the programme application, it is also possible to apply for a grant until 12 June 2026. The application system contains two separate application forms:

1. Turku 800 Program Application
2. Turku 800 Program and Grant Application

A second, and potentially targeted call for grant aid will be launched during 2027. For example, applicants whose project idea was not included in the first application can apply for grant aid. The second application round will be announced later and may have different terms and criteria than this grant application. For this reason, always remember to familiarise yourself with the details of each application process at hand.

### Application deadlines:

**Programme application period** 6 March 2026 – 1 December 2028

**Grant application period** 6 March – 12 June 2026 (until 4 p.m.)

In addition, **anniversary deeds** and gifts to Turku can be submitted to the anniversary programme in 2027–2029. In 2028–2029, a call for **small grants** will also be launched to promote city residents' anniversary year activities, such as events and residents' events. Private individuals or working groups formed by them can also participate in these application rounds. This guide does not apply to these later application forms, but only to the program application and the 2026 grant application.

## Who can apply?

Projects whose main responsible party is a legal entity can participate in the program application and the 2026 grant application. These include, among others, associations, foundations, companies, cooperatives, municipalities, the state or government agencies. Self-employed persons (sole traders) are not eligible for this particular application round. **Commercial corporate collaboration** (including product rights) **will be assigned its own path**, and negotiations with interested companies will be initiated in spring 2026.

If you have a great idea, but no suitable supporting community as the main responsible party, contact the Turku 800 team at **800@turku.fi**. Perhaps we can find a suitable partner for you to implement your idea! On our website **www.turku.fi/juhlavuosi**, you will also find the opportunity to submit your own idea or initiative for the use of others.

## How do I apply to join a programme? How do I apply for grant aid?

[Applications for the programme are made through an electronic application system.](#) A separate application form for project proposals applying for grants is available in the same application system. The requirements for entering a programme and receiving grant aid differ, and there are also differences in responsibilities.

Decisions on acceptance into a programme are made as applications are received. The decision on joining a programme is reported by email. The decision process for receiving a grant is longer and in most cases includes negotiations between the applicant and the Turku 800 team. A prerequisite for processing a grant application is that the project is included in the programme.

Please answer all questions regarding your application carefully. It is advisable to start preparing your application well in advance, and you should not leave delivery of your application until the last minute, as applications received late will not be processed. The application must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. on the last day of application.

If you have any difficulties filling in the form, you can come to the foundation office to fill it in with assistance. Contact the Turku 800 team and make an appointment in advance!

## How do I complete my application?

You can fill in the form after registering. With your ID, you will be able to monitor the status of your project and report any changes made to it.



Photo: Vill Media Oy

## What kind of project can be included in the programme?

In order for a project to be included in the programme, it must meet the Turku 800 requirements for inclusion. These are:

- 1) The main responsible party for the project is a legal entity whose statutory obligations have been properly fulfilled.
- 2) The main responsible party for the project must not have any payment default entries and their operations must be financially balanced.
- 3) The project is unique to the anniversary, meaning it is not a basic activity repeated at other times.
- 4) The project represents a first in some way and at some level; it could be, for example, a new way of thinking and doing things.
- 5) In addition to its firstness, the project must implement at least one of the other main themes of the anniversary year or one of its sub-themes. Read more about the anniversary year's themes on page 6 of this guide.
- 6) The project is in line with the values and principles of the anniversary year. The values of the anniversary year are innovative, curious, shared, inspiring, joyful, multi-voiced and unashamedly old.
  - The Turku 2029 Foundation publishes a Sustainable Development Guide for projects approved for the programme, which includes recommendations and instructions related to sustainable development themes.
- 7) The project will be mainly implemented or culminate in 2029.
- 8) The project will be realised in Turku or have a strong connection with Turku.
- 9) The project complies with laws, regulations and good practices.
- 10) The project implementer commits to the principles of equality and non-discrimination, and to acting transparently, honestly and fairly in the implementation of the project. The project or its communications may not contain any racist, xenophobic or otherwise discriminatory messages.

## What kind of project can receive a grant?

In order for a project to receive a grant to support its implementation, it must first be selected for the anniversary programme. In addition to this, the project must meet the requirements and evaluation criteria for receiving a grant:

- 1) The project involves collaboration with at least one other actor.
- 2) The project will implement the themes and goals of the anniversary year in a special way.
- 3) The project is accessible and open to various target groups.
- 4) The project is particularly important for the overall programme of the anniversary year from the perspective of, e.g. the target groups it reaches or its impact.
- 5) The project implementer has sufficient and appropriate experience in carrying out comparable projects.
- 6) The project plan is realistic, credible and of high quality.

Grants are discretionary. Awarding of the grant is influenced by the balanced whole of the anniversary programme, i.e. the decisions take into account, e.g. the regions, target groups, forms of activity and sectors. To achieve a balanced overall whole, the Turku 2029 Foundation may organise a second grant call in 2027, potentially targeted.

As a rule, the grant must be partial financing, i.e. the grant cannot cover all costs of the project. The cost estimate and actual costs must also include other funding, which may be the community's own funding, other external funding, ticket or sponsorship revenue, and so on.

The minimum grant amount for the spring 2026 grant application is EUR 2,000.

Grants are not awarded for basic community activities, individual investments or exclusively for marketing costs (marketing costs are possible as part of the project). The Turku 2029 Foundation complies with the Russia sanctions imposed by the EU, the UN, and the Finnish authorities.

## How will my application be processed?

Once you have submitted your application, its processing will begin immediately. First, we will check whether the requirements for joining the program are met, and if necessary, we will ask you for additional information. Please monitor your email and respond to requests for updates within the requested timeframe through the application system. The assessment is made based on the requirements and assessment criteria stated in in this Applicant Guide.

After the assessment, the project manager will take a decision on inclusion in the programme. You will be informed immediately after the decision is made, even if you have also applied for a grant for your project. At the same time, you will receive information about the next steps, such as communications and the use of the Turku 800 programme code.

If you have also applied for a grant for your project, the next step will be to assess the conditions for receiving a grant and the fulfilment of the evaluation criteria. In addition, we will assess how your project proposal contributes to the implementation of a balanced programme. After this, your application will be processed by the Turku 2029 Foundation's working committee. The working committee makes decisions on grants of less than EUR 50,000 and issues a statement on grants of more than EUR 50,000. The foundation's board makes decisions on grants of over EUR 50,000. If deemed necessary during the evaluation, an external expert may also be requested to assess your application. This may be the case with, for example, scientific applications.

The awarding of a grant is generally preceded by negotiations between the project and the Turku 800 team. After the decision, an agreement is made with the projects receiving the grant, which includes more detailed information about the implementation of the project, mutual obligations, and communications-related details.



## Anniversary Main Themes:

1. A main theme, New Firsts, makes being first a call for action and inspires new first-time achievements in the areas of remarkable things, innovations, bold experiments, new creations and new ways of thinking in, for example, the areas of urban culture, art, science, education and business.
2. The other main theme of the jubilee year is strengthening urbanity. With this, Turku wants to reinforce urbanism and teamwork, and thus the city's sustainability. We will also start a discussion about future urbanism with other cities.

### Anniversary Sub-themes:

- **A City for Everyone:** Let's strengthen and celebrate working together as well as taking responsibility for our own city, urban space, and fellow citizens. Let's strengthen the experience of Turku residents so that everyone can feel like they belong to the city.
- **A City of Nature:** Let's strengthen and celebrate Turku's climate goals, biodiversity and the city's relationship with nature. Let's strengthen the maritime experience in the city and among its residents and

visitors, as well as celebrate and cherish the archipelago.

- **A City of Know-how:** Let's strengthen and celebrate city dwellers as future creators who know their roots, as well as Turku's art and culture, science and thirst for knowledge, diverse expertise and education, as well as vibrant bilingualism and strong internationality – in general, culture.
- **A City of Joy:** Let's affirm and celebrate positivity and joy in a city where the word 'no' has traditionally come first in everyday language. Let's celebrate Finnish urban culture and the 800th anniversary through urban culture, through old and new phenomena: from art to food culture, from exercise to exploring your own city.
- **A City of Oases:** Let's affirm and celebrate the city's small and large, personal and shared oases, from parks to libraries, from riverbanks to terraces, from the local forest to your own yard or balcony. Let's develop the city into a space for active urbanism and jointly promote its comfort and functionality.



## Claim for rectification

If you are dissatisfied with the decision you have received, you have the option to seek correction. The request for rectification must be submitted to the Turku 2029 Foundation within 14 days of notification receipt. When using standard electronic notification, the party concerned is deemed to have received notice of the decision on the third day following dispatch of the message. The claim for rectification will be processed by the foundation's board.

Submit your claim for rectification to **800@turku.fi**. The claim for rectification must state the decision for which rectification is requested, what type of rectification is requested, and on what basis rectification is requested. In addition, the claim for rectification should include the official name and contact information of the entity, as well as the date of notification of the original decision. The rectification decision will be delivered by email. The claim for rectification must be accompanied by the decision for which rectification is sought. If your claim for rectification includes any other matter that you are appealing against, please submit it as an attachment to your claim. Previously submitted materials, such as the project application, do not need to be submitted.

If you have any difficulties in making a claim for rectification, please contact the Turku 800 team.

## Communications

The first part of the programme as well as the grant recipients and amounts will be announced in October-November 2026. After this, the programme will be published together with the programme projects on pre-agreed dates. The anniversary year's programme code and project communications-related instructions will be delivered to the projects well in advance of the first programme announcement.

The anniversary programme will be reported mainly on the anniversary website and social media channels from the first programme announcement onwards. In addition, the anniversary programme will appear on a general level and as highlights in the channels for communications of the City of Turku and its partners.

Projects approved for the anniversary programme may use the anniversary programme logo in accordance with the graphics-related instructions. Projects may publicly announce that they are part of the anniversary programme after the first programme announcement. However, you can disclose your membership in the programme when, for example, negotiating partnerships or applying for other funding. If the project needs to publish its project before October 2026 or the project has already started before applying to the programme, the project must contact the anniversary team.

Interested projects accepted into the programme will be offered communications training before the anniversary year.

## Conditions for the programme partner and grantee

If the main responsible party acts in a manner contrary to the values and principles of the anniversary, violates other conditions for acceptance into the programme or special conditions for receiving a grant, or acts contrary to laws, regulations, and good practices, the project may be removed from the anniversary year programme, and/or the grant awarded may not be paid and/or the grant aid already paid may be recovered.

The programme partner and grant recipient must provide the Turku 2029 Foundation with truthful information about the implementation and progress of the project. When requested, the programme partner and grant recipient must clarify the details of the project implementation to the Turku 2029 Foundation in, for example, writing. This also applies to details related to the finances of the main responsible party.

By participating in the application, i.e. by sending an electronic form to the Turku 2029 Foundation, you agree to the disclosure of the information in the form if the decision you receive is positive. The Turku 2029 Foundation is obliged to provide the information in the form upon request, excluding personal data or business secrets and comparable information. Only statistical information will be disclosed regarding negative decisions. Information regarding the project content of negative decisions shall not be public.

The programme partner and grant recipient must act in accordance with the principles of sustainable development, taking into account the principles of ecological sustainability, economic sustainability, social sustainability and cultural sustainability. To support this goal, the Turku 2029 Foundation is publishing a Sustainable Development Guide, which introduces the topic and related guidelines 1–4 and recommendations in more detail.

The conditions for using the grant are specified in detail in the decision letter or written agreement. Please follow the terms and conditions carefully, and if they are unclear or you have any other questions regarding them, please contact the programme manager.

Grants are to be paid to the recipient's account in 1–4 installments. Payment instalments are agreed upon in the contract and are influenced by factors such as the size of the grant and the project schedule. The final installment will only be paid after the settlement.

The grant is generally valid from 2027 to 2029. The period of use is recorded in more detail in the decision letter or agreed upon in the contract. The duration of use is affected by the project implementation time. In the same context, the deadlines for completing the project have also been recorded.

The grant recipient must clarify their obligation to tender their procurement in accordance with the applicable procurement legislation.

The recipient of the grant must comply with EU sanctions regulations (restrictive measures against Russia and Belarus).

The use of the grant must be managed from a bank account controlled by the main responsible party. This means that the grant or part thereof must not be transferred to the account of another organisation or individual without an invoice, which is included as part of the accounting.

The Turku 2029 Foundation recommends signing a written agreement between the partners implementing the project.

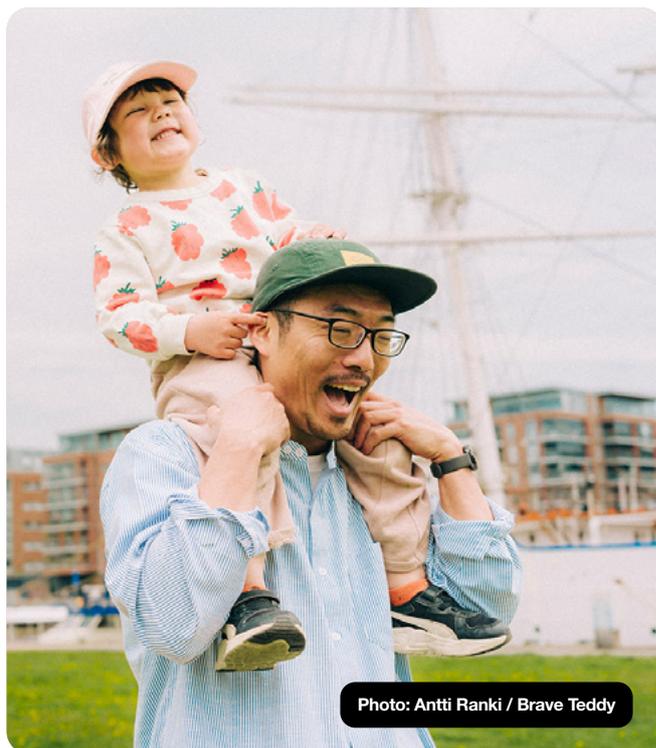


Photo: Antti Ranki / Brave Teddy

## Final survey and report writing

All programme projects for the anniversary year must respond to a final survey at the end of the project. Programme projects that have received grant aid must also explain how the grant aid they received was used. Instructions on the survey and investigation will be provided separately. The survey will be done using an electronic questionnaire, using the same IDs used to complete the application. The survey asks questions about, among other things, the impact of the project, number of participants, creators and audiences, and the financial performance. If necessary, the Turku 2029 Foundation may request financial statement information and project-related documents from grant recipients.

The information from the final survey and reports will be used as summaries and statistics to assess the impact of the anniversary year and for general reporting.

Project financial monitoring by cost centre is recommended if the project involves a grant from the Turku 2029 Foundation.

## Programme partners' own business cooperation

Programme projects shall have the opportunity to sign their own corporate cooperation agreements. However, only programme projects rather than corporate partners of programme projects have the right to use the anniversary logo. The Turku 800 anniversary is implementing its own corporate collaboration, in which these partners will be corporate collaboration partners for the entire anniversary year. These corporate partners have the opportunity to have a signature project, which is generally selected from among the programme projects receiving a grant. However, the role of the signature project and the details of the whole are always agreed upon separately.



## Where can I get information?

Open applications and other current issues related to the anniversary year programme will be reported in 2026 on the anniversary website at [www.turku.fi/800](http://www.turku.fi/800). Communications will later be moved to the anniversary's own website. In matters related to your application, you will be contacted through the application system and using the contact information you provided in your application: Do make sure that it is correct and up-to-date, and please remember to update it if necessary.

You can also contact the Turku 800 team yourself as follows:

### Programme and programme application round

#### Salla Mistola

*Programme Manager*

Tel. 044 758 6040

salla.mistola@turku.fi

### Communications

#### Maija Wilska

*Communications Manager*

Tel. 044 753 1052

maija.wilska@turku.fi

**Now,  
forever,  
Turku.**

