

## **OPEN CALL**

Exhibition projects for autumn 2023 on the topics OPEN – FREE – COMMON – SHARING

Due to renovation work and the resulting closure of the event spaces in 2023, Kunsthalle Exnergasse (KEX), together with the sectors WUK Musik, performing arts, and KinderKultur, is developing a new cross-disciplinary, collaborative programme for the renovated Projektraum (project space)<sup>1</sup> in the WUK Werkstätten und Kulturhaus Vienna. The chosen title VERSUCHSANSTALT (“experimental station”) is based on the eponymous lettering on the building, a reminiscence of the building complex’s history.<sup>2</sup>

For autumn 2023, we are looking for two exhibition projects that explore the terms “open – free – common – sharing” in their broader sense. Here, too, reference is made to the spatial and socio-historical context, the so-called “OPEN” culture and workshops house.<sup>3</sup>

What does “open” mean, actually? Is open open to all? Does open access always entail free and collective access, too? How transparent is open or free? Open borders, open hostility, open source, open sharing, open access, open knowledge, being open to someone, open culture, sharing culture... Despite the term “open”, in practice it is usually accompanied by access restrictions or hurdles, both in the analogue and digital realms.

VERSUCHSANSTALT is an attempt to break down barriers – or at least to address and make them visible. Working with the term “open” implies openness towards content-related, thematic, or artistic approaches.

Two exhibition projects selected by the artistic advisory board will be implemented by KEX in cooperation with the applicants.

The spaces in between, free spaces in the exhibition will be used for collaborations and experimental interludes from the sectors WUK music, performing arts, and KinderKultur, whereby the applicants are also welcome to propose their own ideas.

Dates for the exhibition projects:

Two exhibitions of approx. four weeks each in the period October, November, December 2023.

### **Formalities:**

#### **Online application**

**The link will be provided on this website from February 1, 2023.**

**Submission timeframe: 1.2. – 15.2.2023**

**Deadline: February 15.2.2023, 24:00 (CET, UTC+1)**

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<sup>1</sup> The daylight-flooded, approximately 250 m<sup>2</sup> project space has retained its special atmosphere as an early industrial workshop.

<sup>2</sup> Historical outline: Built in 1855 as a locomotive and machine factory, today’s WUK building was home to the Technological Trades Museum (TGM) from 1884 until the late 1970s, a technical college with adjoining experimental stations and research institutes as well as a public collection of technological artefacts.

<sup>3</sup> The WUK association, founded in 1979, is called the “Verein zur Schaffung offener Kultur- und Werkstättenhäuser” – in English, the “Association for the Creation of Open Culture and Workshop Houses”.