

Pool of Experts as part of the peer review structure

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New arts council structure

- The Finnish Arts and Culture Agency began operations on 1 January 2026
- With the legislative change, the arts council structure will be dismantled and a new peer review structure will come into effect as of 1 July 2026
- The new structure consists of the following:
 - Council of Arts and Culture
 - Pool of Experts
 - Grant Assessment Panels
- The principles of peer reviews and the autonomy of art, as well as of regional equality, will be maintained in decision-making
- Stakeholders and the entire arts sector have been consulted extensively in the restructuring work

Pool of Experts

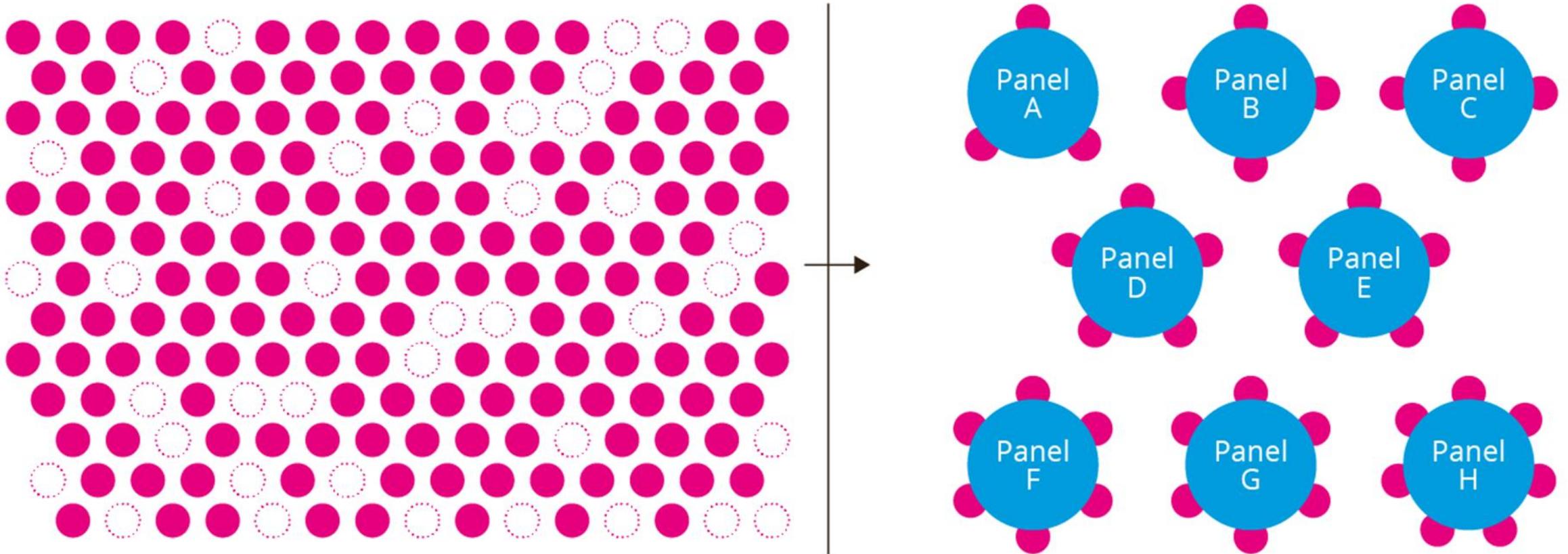
Council of Arts and Culture
appoints the members

Council of Arts and Culture

The Government appoints
the Council of Arts and Culture
· *Makes grant decisions*

Grant Assessment Panels

Applications are evaluated by
Grant Assessment Panels
- *Prepare grant decisions*



Finnish Arts and Culture Agency

· *Assembles Grant Assessment Panels*



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Pool of Experts

- The Council of Arts and Culture will select the members for Pool of Experts after consulting key parties in the arts and culture sector
- Approximately 300 members will be appointed to the Pool of Experts
 - Representatives of different fields of the arts and their sub-genres
 - Regional and operational expertise
 - Thematic areas of expertise
- Members of the Pool of Experts will serve a term of three years, beginning in September 2026
- The Finnish Arts and Culture Agency will assemble Grant Assessment Panels from among the members appointed to the Pool of Experts
- The composition of the Pool of Experts is public information and will be published on the Agency's website

Pool of Experts improves flexibility for reviewing applications

- Members are eligible to apply for a grant from the Finnish Arts and Culture Agency but cannot serve on the Grant Assessment Panel for that call for applications
- Members can influence how many applications they review and how often
- Members will be assigned a varying number of review tasks
 - Each member will be assigned at least one review task per term, most likely more
 - Each member will be assigned a manageable number of applications/application round
- Members have the right to resign from the Pool of Experts in the middle of their term

Grant Assessment Panels

- Grant Assessment Panels will review
 - Grant applications by individuals and present an opinion to the Council of Arts and Culture
 - Grant applications by communities and present an opinion to the Finnish Arts and Culture Agency, which will make the final decision
 - Applications for supplementary artist pensions and present an opinion to the Finnish Arts and Culture Agency, which will make the final decision
- Grant Assessment Panels will also present opinions to the Council of Arts and Culture regarding
 - Recipients of prizes
 - Recipients of the honorary title of Art Academic

Work of Grant Assessment Panels

- Panel members first read applications independently on their own computer by accessing the online application system of the Finnish Arts and Culture Agency
 - The preparation of reviews can be divided among panel members into smaller numbers of applications
- After this, applications will be processed at Grant Assessment Panel meetings
- Collective opinions will be reached within the panels based on the outcome of their meetings
- The Grant Assessment Panel will present a joint opinion on applications
- The meeting language of the Grant Assessment Panels is Finnish
 - The Pool of Experts needs members who are also fluent in Swedish or English
- A meeting fee will be paid for the meetings of the Grant Assessment Panels, plus a small fee for reviewing applications
- The composition of the Grant Assessment Panels will be published on the Finnish Arts and Culture Agency website



Council of Arts and Culture

- All decisions on grants for individuals and prizes will be made within the Council of Arts and Culture based on the opinions of the Grant Assessment Panels
 - Government grants for communities will continue to be civil servant decisions made within the Finnish Arts and Culture Agency
- Decisions made by the Council will be based on peer reviews made within the Grant Assessment Panels and a presentation of their opinions
- The Council will itself take a position on peer review procedures

Appointment of Pool of Experts in practice



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Appointment of the Pool of Experts

- The Finnish Arts and Culture Agency has launched the first round of nominations for the Pool of Experts on 16 March 2026 by sending out requests for nominations to key parties in the arts and culture sector
- Nominations will be accepted between 16 March and 24 April 2026
- The Agency will prepare the composition of the Pool of Experts at a meeting of the Council of Arts and Culture in August 2026
- The Council of Arts and Culture will decide on the composition of the Pool of Experts in September 2026
- Members of the Pool of Experts will serve a term of 3 years

Composition of the Pool of Experts

- Members should represent the different sub-genres and professional groups within each field of the arts, as well as the diversity of the arts and culture sector
- It is hoped that the nominees will represent different age groups, living in different parts of Finland and representing different genders, as well as linguistic and cultural backgrounds
 - The Agency will set a target for how many members of the Pool of Experts reside outside Helsinki Region
- Members with expertise in the following will also be requested:
 - Inclusion, accessibility, special groups
 - Cultural diversity and specific minority groups
 - Entrepreneurship, administrative, economic and production expertise
 - International collaborations, cultural exchanges
 - Arts research, new technologies, publishing channels



How to submit nominations

Direct request for nominations by e-mail

- A link to the nomination form can be found in the letter requesting nominations
- The Finnish Arts and Culture Agency will send nominated individuals a longer form on which to fill in their own information

Open channel for nominations

- In addition to recipients of nomination requests, any community active in the arts may nominate members
- Also, individuals may express their own interest in serving on the Pool of Experts by submitting an online form
- Candidates nominated via the open channel for nominations will also be sent a longer form on which to fill in their own information
- Forms: www.taike.fi
- All nominations will be treated equally regardless of the method through which they were received

Who is receiving a request for nominations?

A total of 293 communities have been sent a request for nominations:

- National artist associations
- Key regional arts and artist communities
- Other arts communities representing professionals
- Parties representing higher education and research in the arts and culture
- Museums with regional responsibility and regional recipients of central government transfers
- Arts information centres and specialised arts museums
- Parties representing production and distribution channels
- Arts and culture parties representing linguistic and cultural minorities
- Parties promoting cultural inclusion and accessibility
- Regional councils

If you are nominated for the Pool of Experts

- You will receive an e-mail with a link to a form, on which you can fill in your details, including artistic expertise (form in FI / SV)
- In addition to your personal details and contact information, you will be asked for addition information, including:
 - Your job title and professional role in the arts and culture sector
 - Your expertise in the arts
 - Previous experience in reviewing grant or funding applications
 - Professional expertise in the region
- Your CV will also be required for filling in the form
- Nominated individuals will be kept informed as the process progresses, and the decision on the composition of the Pool of Experts will be made in September 2026

The screenshot shows a web form for the 'TAIDE- JA KULTTUURIVIRASTO' (Arts and Culture Agency). The form is titled 'Asiantuntijapankki | Ehdokaslomake 2026' (Expert Panel | Candidate Form 2026). The language is set to 'Suomi - suomi'. The form is divided into sections, with the first section titled 'YHTEYSTIEDOT' (Contact Information). Below this section, there are three input fields, each with a red asterisk indicating a required field: '* Etunimi' (First name), '* Sukunimi' (Last name), and '* Katuosoite' (Address). A note above the fields states: 'Huom. lomakkeella pakolliset kentät on merkitty tähdellä *' (Note: Required fields on the form are marked with an asterisk *).