

## **Guidelines for the International competition to select a Director for the Canòdrom Barcelona Contemporary Arts Centre**

The *Canòdrom Barcelona Contemporary Arts Centre* is a new facility specializing in the visual arts, created as a consequence of the agreements signed in the *Protocol of Cooperation between the Generalitat de Catalunya (Government of Catalonia) and Barcelona City Council for the setting up of museological and cultural facilities in the capital of Catalonia*, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May, 2009. These two authorities will jointly form a Consortium for the purpose of constituting the new Centre and putting it into operation. The new Centre will be part of the Public System of Visual Arts Centres in Catalonia.

The *Canòdrom Barcelona Contemporary Arts Centre* is a project whose aims are to engage with the diverse forms of artistic creation, to engender knowledge and dialogue and to situate Barcelona and Catalonia on the map of international Arts centres in the context of an increasingly global culture. It will develop the social dimension of arts, embracing a culture of proximity and projection within the communal urban and social space, as a form of public intervention, while working to generate new publics. Its differential specificity will be a focus on research and training in contemporary curatorial practices and thought in all its diversity of expression and formulation. The new Centre will articulate two physical spaces in Barcelona, the old Canòdrom dog track and the La Capella arts centre. The project designed and implemented by the new Director will further the basic lines of development defined in the objectives of the *Canòdrom Barcelona Contemporary Arts Centre*, as detailed in Annex 1 below.

### **GUIDELINES**

#### **Tasks and responsibilities**

- Artistic direction and technical management of the Centre.
- Drawing up of the contract of arts centre, exhibition detailing the lines, the programme of activities and budgeting.
- Evaluation of progress in fulfilling the operational objectives of the Centre in the form of an annual report.
  
- Management of the designated facilities: the Canòdrom and La Capella, including:
  - Direction of the administration of the Canòdrom and implementation of the procedures and goals agreed by the Consortium.
  - The obtaining of funding for the Centre's activities in the form of sponsorship and patronage from other centres and private institutions.
  - Monitoring of the adaptation of the Canòdrom premises to accommodate the programme of uses as a visual arts facility.
  - Supervision of the proper delivery of the services contracted for the Canòdrom Barcelona Contemporary Arts Centre.
  - The management of all personnel and the drawing up of an appropriate organigram.
  - The creation and development of networks of work, research, cooperation and co-production at all levels.
  - The nurturing of cooperation with other contemporary arts centres, venues and residences in this country and internationally.
  - The development and maintenance of a positive and effective relationship with the media.
  - Institutional representation of the Centre at all events and functions designated by the board of management of the Consortium.

## Requirements and qualifications

Candidates for the management of the *Canòdrom Barcelona Contemporary Arts Centre* must:

- Be a EU citizen. Where this is not the case, the appointment will be subject to the candidate obtaining legal residence in Spain;
- Have a university degree or equivalent academic qualification;
- Have specialized knowledge and expertise in the visual arts and contemporary culture and thought, as well as proven experience in the curating of exhibitions and in artistic and cultural management;
- Have a proven capacity for leadership, communication and negotiation, and for planning, achievement of priority goals, decision-making and mediation in the resolution of conflicts;
- Have a good knowledge of the co-official languages of Catalonia (Catalan and Spanish) and of English. Special consideration will be given to candidates with a knowledge of Catalan and other languages. In the event that the chosen candidate is not proficient in the co-official languages of Catalonia, he or she must undertake to learn and demonstrate reasonable fluency in these languages within a period of one year, as explicitly stated in the contract.

\* Special consideration will be given to scientific work, publications and research in the field of contemporary arts practices.

\* Familiarity with the Catalan arts scene and knowledge and experience of contemporary arts practices at the international level will be considered an advantage.

\* We especially appreciate the ability to motivate and inspire the team work. We will consider proposals involving the creation of working committees and advisory committees collegiate

## Presentation of applications

All candidates must submit the following documents:

- A curriculum vitae (max. 5 pages) and evidence of the relevant qualifications and expertise.
- A statement of intent (max. 10 pages) outlining the candidate's proposed project for the Canòdrom Barcelona Contemporary Arts Centre for the next three years.

These documents may be submitted in Spanish, Catalan or English, and should be addressed to the Consell Nacional de la Cultura i de les Arts (Portal de Santa Madrona, 6-8, 08001 Barcelona, Spain) in a sealed envelope, marked on the front Convocatòria de direcció del Canòdrom. Centre d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona, no later than 15 October 2009. The documents should be delivered to the Registre General of the Departament de Cultura i Mitjans de Comunicació of the Generalitat de Catalunya (*Rambla de Santa Mònica*, 8. 08002 Barcelona). If the documents are submitted by mail, they should be sent by recorded delivery, with the date of sending stamped by the Post Office.

## Evaluation and selection process

The suitability of candidates for the tasks and responsibilities outlined above will be assessed on the strength of their proposed project, their curriculum vitae and,

especially, the following capabilities:

- Orientation and strategic planning.
- Executive leadership.
- Planning and organization of work.
- The creation of work networks within the arts sector and other relevant disciplines.
- A sound knowledge of contemporary arts practices.
- The potential of the proposed project to generate discourse and engage new publics.
- The ability to develop new formats within curatorial practice.

The merits of each of the candidates will be assessed in the first instance by a panel of seven experts whose composition will be made public on the expiry of the deadline for submission of applications. This panel will be appointed by the Consell Nacional de la Cultura i de les Arts and the Executive Committee of the Consell de la Cultura de Barcelona.

The panel will then call for interview those candidates it considers most suitable, and in the light of the candidate interviews will submit a nomination to the Departament de Cultura i Mitjans de Comunicació of the Generalitat de Catalunya by way of the Consell Nacional de la Cultura i les Arts and the Institut de Cultura de Barcelona, by way of the Consell de la Cultura de Barcelona, for subsequent appointment and ratification by the members of the Consortium of the *Canòdrom Barcelona Contemporary Arts Centre*.

#### Contract and incompatibilities

The candidate appointed to direct the *Canòdrom Barcelona Contemporary Arts Centre* will sign a contract for a period of three years, with the possibility of extension for a further two years.

The salary will be 66,000€ gross per year.

The employer/employee relationship will be governed by contract and such legislation as may be applicable.

The post of Director of the *Canòdrom* is subject to the terms of incompatibility of public authority employees.

#### Confidentiality

The confidentiality of the candidates taking part in this selection process, including all of their personal and professional details, is hereby guaranteed, and only the name of the candidate chosen for appointment will be made public.

#### Additional information

For further information please consult the website of the Consell Nacional de la Cultura i de les Arts ([www.cultura.gencat.cat/conca](http://www.cultura.gencat.cat/conca)) and the website [www.bcn.cat/canalcultura](http://www.bcn.cat/canalcultura). Potential candidates may also request additional information about the Canòdrom Barcelona Contemporary Arts Centre by writing to: [info.conca@gencat.cat](mailto:info.conca@gencat.cat)

## **Annex 1**

### **The Canòdrom. Barcelona Contemporary Arts Centre**

#### **Basic terms of reference for the definition of objectives**

1. In the context of present-day society, the Canòdrom, as the new Barcelona Contemporary Arts Centre, will be a place for the generation of knowledge and dialogue on the basis of discussion and exchange.
2. The Canòdrom will have a multifunctional character. It will be an exhibition space, but also a venue for ephemeral event, with rooms for meetings and workshops and seminars for discussion and research.
3. The Canòdrom will be integrated into the public system of visual arts provision in Catalonia, by way of the network of Arts centres.
4. The Canòdrom will articulate as part of its structure the La Capella Arts centre, which it will manage and schedule as part of its brief to support emergent creative talents.
5. The Canòdrom programme will be coordinated with those of the rest of the city of Barcelona visual arts infrastructure: MACBA, Fundació Tàpies, Fundació Miró, Hangar, the Fàbriques de creació creativity incubators, Arts Santa Mònica, etc.
6. The new arts centre will orient its programme as part of a global culture and enhance the presence of Barcelona and Catalonia on the world arts scene.
7. The Canòdrom will be a specialized facility of national and international interest, with the prestige and standards that ensure sufficient resources to meet the challenges and demands placed on it, with its own production capacity and as part of the Catalan network, under the auspices of Barcelona City Council, the Generalitat de Catalunya and such other public authorities as may join the Consortium.
8. A space for arts is a space of freedom, and as such the Canòdrom will open up to new forms of creation and expression in areas beyond the strict scope of the visual arts — performing arts, film, music, sound , new technologies, architecture, etc — and will host projects that draw on other disciplines. It will also be a critical space, open to dissent and antagonisms.
9. The new contemporary arts centre will prioritize a diversity of languages and experimentation, forging links between generations. It will promote the creation, production and dissemination of new formats beyond that of the traditional exhibition.
10. The Canòdrom will be sensitive to the social dimension of arts and will promote actions and activities which facilitate public access to contemporary arts practices and to an understanding of and experimentation with these.
11. The Canòdrom will foster a culture of proximity, articulating closely with the place and the district to which it belongs and taking an active role in education and training and community cultural action as part of its public vocation and projection of the urban space. It will empower the communal social space by way of a range of programmes and activities with the participation of local people, organizations, groups, schools and associations, as a form of public intervention.

12. The new Barcelona arts centre will promote specific training in curatorial practices, with a special emphasis on contemporary arts and thought. The centre's research work will seek to generate knowledge on the basis of this specificity of theory and practice in order to make the Canòdrom a genuine laboratory of ideas.

13. The strategic importance of the Canòdrom's work of discussion, reflection, dissemination and training means that it will need an archive of its own, with facilities for documentation and publication. Priority will be given here to the virtual dimension of this archive. These functions will be linked to the fostering of ongoing theoretical debate about the visual arts and the arts institution, in collaboration with the universities.

14. The Canòdrom is conceived as a whole that include the building and the public space formerly occupied by the dog track. The programme of exhibitions and activities will be designed to make full use of the building and its physical conditions and location. The Centre will also seek to ensure consistency in the use of the neighbouring public space.

15. The Canòdrom will actively encourage the participation of the arts sector (artists, critics, curators, agents, etc) and will apply codes of good practice in all its actuations.