

# manifesta°

Press release

3rd of December 2020

## International Announcement of Manifesta 15 Host City in 2024

The announcement of a nomination of a German city to host Manifesta 16 in 2026 is on its way.

### **Manifesta 15 Host City 2024**

On the 27th of November 2020 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, the Board of Manifesta reviewed the leading bids for the future editions of Manifesta. The Bids, presented by Catalan Capital of Barcelona, and ten metropolitan cities in Catalonia, Spain and a city in Germany, were of an astounding high quality.

In light of this and in line with Manifesta's transformation to 'slow down' its practices into long term, more sustainable activities, and to acknowledge the power of a more bottom-up citizen generated energy, Manifesta has taken the decision to accept both of the presented Bids. Manifesta is proud to announce that for Manifesta 15, taking place in 2024, Manifesta's Board has selected the City of Barcelona and ten Metropolitan cities in Catalonia, Spain.

Manifesta, the European Nomadic Biennial, originated in the early 1990s in response to the political, economic, and social changes following the end of the Cold War and the subsequent steps towards European integration. Manifesta has developed into a platform for dialogue between art and society, inviting both cultural and artistic communities to generate new creative experiences with, and for, the context in which it takes place. This means that Manifesta is rethinking existing relations between culture and society, investigating and helping to catalyze positive social and environmental change in Europe through contemporary culture at large in a continuous dialogue with the social sphere of a specific place.

The decision to select Host Cities a long time in advance, in order to understand future strategies, is a manner in which Manifesta can rethink alternative models of cultural institutionalism in a post Covid society. Manifesta strategy continues to be focused on how art and culture can fight polarization and division. The Bid of Barcelona aligns with the mission of Manifesta, as it seeks to build upon the common objective of involving citizens, different entities and groups, in the common task of rethinking our world through artistic creativity and social commitment.

*"This experimental process looks to make Barcelona a laboratory for the creative design of artistic prototypes that drive a new cultural institutionalism. It seeks to explore a structural overhaul of the relationship between contemporary arts and territorial and community*

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*contexts, the systematic incorporation of arts in educational settings that promotes critical thinking and imagination, the democratization of the governance of cultural institutions themselves and the inclusion of artists into productive ecosystems outside the art world.”*  
Quote from Barcelona’s bid

## **Manifesta 15 in 2024 and Manifesta 16 in 2026**

Manifesta is therefore honored to announce that the 15th edition of the biennial will take place in Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain in 2024, whilst for Manifesta 16 in 2026 the organization is in conversation with a German city, for which the final decision will be announced later this month.

Manifesta is delighted that after the nomination of the two Host Cities, conversations about their mutual ambitions have already started and their aligned strategies will be published in the near future.

Today, on the 3rd of December 2020 at 16.30, the Mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau, the Councillor for Culture, Education, Science and Community, Joan Subirats and the Director of Manifesta, Hedwig Fijen will come together to publicly announce their collaboration.

*“Manifesta will be a great field for research, experimentation and action, also tying in the creative network, institutions and the citizens. A process from which to broaden rights to access and participate in culture without discrimination based on origin, gender or class. Barcelona and its Metropolitan Region place their consistent structure of visual arts ecosystem, and the complicity of their public and private institutions and dependent actors thereof at the service of Manifesta 15.”*

Statement by Ada Colau, Mayor of Barcelona

*“To create meaningful relations and to understand how to connect to diverse worlds in a relevant way, Manifesta is focusing on reinventing its community-based approaches while building new ways of embedding its practices within the local context. Therefore, it has become urgent for Manifesta to start its work in Host Cities as early as possible to allow each edition of Manifesta to engage with the existing context and generating more interdisciplinary projects involving both the artistic ecosystem as well citizens. It is an extraordinary position for Manifesta whilst being in transition to know that we have such thorough commitments from a diverse range of European Host Cities for the upcoming six years, starting with Manifesta 14 in Pristina, Kosovo in 2022 until Manifesta 16 in 2026.”*

Statement by Hedwig Fijen, Director of Manifesta

## **For members of the press:**

The press conference may be attended in-person with capacity limited to 13 people (journalists and operators), after registration at <https://barcelona.cat/rodespremsa>. Electronically, the event may be followed through streaming on the website of the Press Service: <https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/premsa>.

Media that wish to ask questions may do so following these instructions:

### CONNECTION INSTRUCTIONS

- Each journalist that wishes to ask a question electronically must confirm it by sending a WhatsApp message stating their name and media to the telephone number +34 667 744 459.
- Before the start of the press conference, they must open the following link on a computer or mobile device and insert a password that they will receive via WhatsApp: <https://meet.jit.si/SalaPremsaAjuntamentBarcelona>
- Once connected, they will have to turn the microphone off with the “microphone” button located at the bottom of the screen and follow the press conference.
- During question time, a moderator shall take questions from each journalist. Upon their turn, each journalist will have to turn their microphone on using the button at the bottom. Once the microphone is activated, they must identify themselves by stating their name and media, and then make the questions straightaway. When the questions have been answered, the journalist shall say or indicate that their turn is over and silence their microphone again. Likewise, journalists that wish to continue making questions using WhatsApp may send them to the telephone number +34 667 744 459. They must identify themselves by stating their name and media.

## **About Manifesta:**

Manifesta, the European Nomadic Biennial, originated in the early 1990s in response to the political, economic, and social changes following the end of the Cold War and the subsequent steps towards European integration. Manifesta has developed into a platform for dialogue between art and society by inviting the cultural and artistic community to produce new creative experiences with, and for, the context in which it takes place. Manifesta rethinks the relations between culture and society investigating and catalyzing positive social change in Europe through contemporary culture in a continuous dialogue with the social sphere of a specific place.

Manifesta was founded, and is still directed, by Dutch art historian Hedwig Fijen. Each new edition is fundraised individually and managed by a permanent team of international specialists.

### Next Manifesta Host Cities

Manifesta 14, Pristina (Kosovo, 2022)

Manifesta 15, Barcelona (Spain, 2024)

Manifesta 16, to be confirmed (2026)

### Previous Manifesta Host Cities

Manifesta 1, Rotterdam (Netherlands, 1996)

Manifesta 2, Luxembourg (Luxembourg, 1998)

Manifesta 3, Ljubljana (Slovenia, 2000)

Manifesta 4, Frankfurt (Germany, 2002)

Manifesta 5, Donostia-San Sebastián (Spain, 2004)

Manifesta 6, Nicosia (Cyprus, 2006 – cancelled)

Manifesta 7, Trentino-Alto Adige (Italy, 2008)

Manifesta 8, Murcia - Cartagena (Spain, 2010)

Manifesta 9, Genk-Limburg (Belgium, 2012)

Manifesta 10, St. Petersburg (Russia, 2014)

Manifesta 11, Zurich (Switzerland, 2016)

Manifesta 12, Palermo (Italy, 2018)

Manifesta 13, Marseille (France, 2020)

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