



Stichting Thick Present
Policy Plan 2024-2025

General Information:

Stichting Thick Present
Founded 17-02-2020
KvK 77356527
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Vision and Mission

Thick Present is a cultural platform for critical reflection, radical imagination and new moments of care. It aims to promote art and culture and to organise projects that stimulate critical reflection and radical imagination, proposing better ways of living together in the 21st century.

Activities:

It organizes projects at the intersection of art, activism and social practice. We work with a diverse set of themes, from textile repair, to psychological support of displaced people, to tracing global and local waste streams. What unites them is the attention to structurally overlooked things and the hope to make the world a better place.

Our current portfolio consists of several ongoing projects and a number of satellite projects surrounding them. While these bigger projects run over the course of several years, smaller satellite or pilote projects typically last from 8 to 16 months. Although they can be continues if successful.

Wasteland

A biennial transdisciplinary festival exploring waste ecologies through art, performance, and collective research. It brings public attention to waste, its volumes and impacts and stimulate responsible consumption and waste prevention. The program of its most recent edition taking place in Rotterdam in 2025 consists of an exhibition, participatory artworks, educational programs, workshops, artworks in public space, performances, lectures, walks and bike tours, a summer school and accessible community programming in neighbourhoods. The festival aims to grow its public reach, and organise more collaborative research projects in between its editions. The foundation started to work on this bigger project in 2023, plans to organise the next biannual edition in 2025 and to continue and expand it in the coming years.

In connection to this project, we organize following satellite projects:

Shifting Mountains

A participatory research and nature education project focused on waste streams and closed landfill sites converted to green zones in the Rotterdam region. The project invites people of different generations to exchange memories and knowledge about these post-natural landscapes shaped by waste and creates the space for conversations about them. Through interviews, subjective mapping

and a range of activities on landfill sites, it invites people to collectively explore our relationship with waste and inherited paradoxes of these new green spaces. Activities of this project start in 2025 and can possibly extend into following years, if the funding will be available.

We also organize smaller research & learning activities, collaborations and public presentations themed around waste ecologies in 2024 and 2025.

Wayfinding

A project that provides psychological and adaptation support to refugees. It is based on community psychology principles and a variety of creative methods and consists of a series of psycho-educational workshops, thematic meet-ups, participant-led support group activities and an active support community. The project, which initially started in 2023, runs through 2024-2025, and we plan to continue it in subsequent years.

In thematic connection to this project we also organize

NYTKY

A community project centred around traditional Ukrainian embroidery, its current journeys and new meanings. It brings together heritage education, art therapy and community building. In its framework we organise educational workshop series, designer collaborations, and community embroidery circles at residence locations. The project started in 2023, its main activities take place in 2024, but it continues in the form for community embroidery circles in 2025.

Common Ground

An open psycho-social support group for people with immigrant background who find themselves in precarious situation and experience periods of homelessness. Together we create a safe and supportive space to talk, learn, and reconnect – to regain a sense of control, direction and belonging.

Its biweekly gatherings facilitated by coaches and psychologists combine therapeutic talking circles, psychoeducation, shared meals, and peer stories of survival and recovery. The project also provides practical assistance with taking steps towards positive change, helping people to approach relevant support organisations and new learning and development opportunities.

The foundation also organises related learning mobility activities for participants of this support projects and their teams and facilitators, to grow its expertise in this field.

The project starts as a pilot in 2025, and we will evaluate its success and possible continuation at the end of 2025.

Fundraising

Stichting Thick Present is not structurally subsidized but seeks funding and sponsors on a project-by-project basis.

The foundation raises money through subsidies, sponsorship, donations, gifts, and small scale commercial activities.

The foundation has no profit motive and is dependent on contributions from others.

The equity of the foundation remains limited.

Destination of income

The income of the foundation is spent directly on realization of planned projects, that also have earmarked budgets. Only a small amount is spent on administrative expenses of the foundation .

Destination liquidation balance

In the event of dissolution of the foundation the remaining balance will be allocated to a public benefit organization with a similar purpose as that of the foundation.

Remuneration Policy

The board members receive no remuneration. A team of freelancers is put together for realization of each project.

The tasks of the board members:

Task of the chairman (voorzitter):

- The chairman leads the board meetings. In the absence of the chairman, the secretary replaces him/her and in the absence of secretary one of the other board members fulfills this function.
- The board as well as the chairman and the secretary represent the foundation in and out of court.
- The chairman and other board members ensure compliance with the articles of association and internal rules as well as with effective functioning of the board.

Tasks of the secretary (secretaris):

- The secretary is responsible for the correspondence of the foundation and for taking the minutes of the board meetings.
- Secretary is responsible for other administrative work and for the archive.
- Every year the secretary contributes to the annual report.
- The secretary oversees compliance with the retirement schedule of the board members drawn up by the board and is responsible for passing on changes in the board to the foundation register.

Task description of the treasurer (penningmeester):

- The treasurer is responsible for the financial management of the foundation and annual accounts.
- The treasurer designs the budget for the coming financial year and submits it to the chairman.
- The treasurer is responsible for administering the assets and income of the foundation under the supervision of the board; the treasurer is charged with the collection of the amounts due to the foundation and is authorized to grant discharge on behalf of the foundation.
- Expenditure exceeding an amount of € 1,000 must be approved by the treasurer and another board member.
- The treasurer is responsible for drawing up the annual balance sheet and statement of income and expenses of the foundation within six months of the end of the financial year.
- The treasurer is discharged after approval of the report by the board and by signing the books by external accountant and the chairman.

Financial forecast	2024	2025
<i>Expected income:</i>		
Donations, subsidies, funds and sponsors	80 000	100 000
<i>Expected costs:</i>		
Implementation of projects	€ 80 000	€ 80 000
Administrative costs	€ 200	€ 200
<i>Total costs:</i>	<i>€ 80 200</i>	<i>€ 100 200</i>
Financial income and expenses	€ 0	€ 0
Operating result	€ 0	€ 0

The foundation has no profit motive. This is also described in the articles of association.

Annual reports

The annual reports are available on the web-site.

Board

Vanessa de Gruijter

Function: Chairwoman

Authority: Collective authority (with other director(s), see articles of association)

Marija Pop Trajkova

Function: Secretary

Authority: Collective authority (with other director(s), see articles of association)

Anna Efimovna Eliseeva e/v Joostensz

Function: Treasurer

Authority: Collective authority (with other director(s), see articles of association)