

ORGANISATION OVERVIEW

Novo Kulturno Naselje is an organization dedicated to the development of the local community through artistic, educational, and social programs. Its main mission is to establish a cultural center in Novo Naselje, contributing to the decentralization of culture and accessibility of artistic content. Activities include organizing festivals such as *21114 Film Fest* and *Dobro došli na Naselje*, artistic residencies, workshops, and inclusive programs. Through projects like *Art Kwart – Start* and international collaborations (*Magic Carpets*, *Building Solidarity Infrastructures*), the organization creates space for interaction between artists and the audience. A special focus is placed on engaged art, innovative forms of expression, and fostering a sense of community.



RESIDENCY TOPIC

The residency explores the delicate balance between the private and the public, focusing on the moments when personal experiences, emotions, and stories transition from being unspoken to becoming shared. It seeks to address the tension within intimacy—what we withhold, why we remain silent, and what happens when that silence is broken in a collective space. By engaging with local communities and inhabiting private living spaces, the project examines how personal environments shape our understanding of closeness, fear, and connection. It challenges conventional notions of artistic spaces by transforming homes into sites of dialogue, performance, and creative exchange. In doing so, it confronts the societal reluctance to verbalize deeply personal experiences and opens a space for communal reflection and transformation.

This residency is not only about artistic creation but also about uncovering hidden narratives that reside within the everyday, testing the limits of what can and should be shared, and ultimately fostering a sense of collective intimacy through the unspoken.

[FULL CONCEPT READ HERE](#)

LOCATION

The residency takes place in Novi Sad, Serbia, within the neighborhood of Novo Naselje, originally built as a housing development in the socialist era. What makes this residency unique is its choice of location: private apartments and homes (and other private spaces tbd), which will temporarily transform into artistic hubs, conversation spaces, and performance sites. Instead of conventional venues, the project situates artistic exploration within personal living spaces, emphasizing their potential as arenas for shared experiences. While the primary sites are residential homes and other private spaces, the residency will also connect with key public locations in Novo Naselje, including community centers, informal gathering spots, and open green areas, ensuring a dialogue between the private and the public. This interplay challenges the traditional boundaries of art presentation and audience participation, making the residency deeply embedded in the everyday life of the neighborhood.

COMMUNITY

The residency engages the diverse and tightly-knit community of Novo Naselje, Novi Sad. This neighborhood is home to a mix of long-term residents, young families, and individuals of various socio-economic backgrounds, creating a rich tapestry of lived experiences.

Key Community Characteristics:

Age range - The community includes elderly residents who have lived in Novo Naselje since its formation, young adults and families, and an active cultural youth scene. This intergenerational dynamic brings a variety of perspectives on the theme of shared intimacy and unspoken silence.

Spoken languages - The primary language is Serbian, but many residents, particularly younger generations, also speak English.

Availability - Residents are generally open to participation, especially when engaged through trusted local networks. The project might work within their daily schedules, arranging meetings in ways that respect their routines and comfort levels.

Gender representation - The residency aims for an inclusive approach, ensuring participation across all gender identities, reflecting the neighborhood's social fabric.

Community size - Novo Naselje has around 40,000 residents, but the project will focus on smaller, intimate groups of participants who are willing to open their homes and stories to artistic exploration.

?Why This Community

The community is chosen because of its openness to participatory projects and the way its residential setting naturally aligns with the residency's core theme—the intersection of private and public spaces, and the tension between what is shared and what remains unspoken. Through the residency, the project will invite residents to reflect on their own experiences of silence, intimacy, and collective memory, turning their homes into temporary sites of artistic expression, dialogue, and shared vulnerability.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The artist will be encouraged to spend time in residents' private spaces, engaging in dialogues, interviews, and observations that uncover personal and collective narratives around the theme of unspoken silence. These may include storytelling circles, performative exercises, and visual or sound-based explorations where participants actively contribute to the development of artistic works. The residency will culminate in a series of site-specific artistic interventions, inviting both participants and the wider community to engage with the final works in intimate and immersive ways.

CONTINUITY OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This is not our first time working with this community. The continuity of engagement exists not only within the community itself but also on a project level, as this residency is part of a broader trilogy exploration connected to the *DCC – Decentralized Cultural Center initiative.

Previous projects have focused on the intersection of private and public spaces. Each phase has built upon the last, deepening the relationship with the community and expanding the ways in which artistic interventions can serve as a mirror, catalyst, and meeting point for shared experiences.

This residency continues that trajectory, maintaining and evolving the dialogue with the community while offering a new lens through which to re-examine, articulate, and transform the unspoken silence within shared spaces.

*DCC brings artistic and cultural productions and programs into undiscovered public spaces—both indoor and outdoor—as well as entrepreneurial businesses, educational institutions, and private spaces, actively involving citizens in the production and organization of cultural programs.

TIMELINE

The residency is planned to take place in September 2025, as part of the “Dobro Došli na Naselje” Festival.

Residency should last 30 days. TBD with chosen artist(s).

ARTIST PROFILES

The ideal artist for this residency should be open-minded and adaptable, with a strong curiosity for exploration. Flexibility is key, as the project will evolve through interaction with the community and real-life circumstances.

A sociable personality is essential—someone who genuinely enjoys engaging with people, having conversations, and spending time within the community. The ability to navigate unpredictable social dynamics with ease will be highly valued.

While the artist's specific field of art is not the primary focus, they should be willing to adjust their artistic approach in response to the environment, embracing the collaborative and process-oriented nature of community work.

Additionally, the artist should be comfortable with self-initiated research, investigative thinking, and forming organic connections. A sense of empathy, active listening skills, and the ability to create space for shared storytelling and expression will further enrich the residency experience.

RESIDENCY CONDITIONS

The residency provides the following conditions for the selected artist(s):

- **Fee:** 1,200 EUR
- **Daily Allowance:** 25 EUR per day
- **Accommodation:** A private flat will be provided for the duration of the residency
- **Travel Costs:** Covered (details to be arranged based on the artist's location and travel requirements)

FINAL EVENT

The final event will take place as part of the "Dobro došli na Naselje" festival, a long-standing community festival dedicated to celebrating and strengthening the cultural identity of Novo Naselje. This festival transforms the neighborhood into a dynamic artistic space, bringing together local and international artists, residents, and cultural practitioners. Through various artistic interventions, performances, workshops, and discussions, the festival nurtures a participatory approach to art and community-building.

As a culminating moment of the residency, the final event will be a site-specific public presentation shaped by the artist's research and engagement with the community. Rather than a fixed format, it will remain open to adaptation—whether as an intimate installation in a private space, a performative intervention in the neighborhood, or a participatory experience that engages the audience directly. The event will take place in locations relevant to the project, reflecting the organic and evolving nature of the residency.

By embedding the final presentation within the festival, we aim to foster meaningful encounters between the artist, the community, and the wider public. Aligned with the residency theme "Collective Intimacy – The Unspoken Silence," this event will provide a shared space where the unseen and unspoken layers of communal life are revealed and explored through artistic expression.

Novo kulturno naselje (NKN)

[Instagram](#)

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