

## **OPEN CALL for DIT SPACES!**

W1555 DO IT YOURSELF SOCIAL SPACES (DIT) are freshly renovated spaces on Wolphaerstraat.

With a monthly rent of €340 + utility costs 150-200, an area of 49m<sup>2</sup>, ground floor, high, open spaces with large windows to the street, lend themselves perfectly to a wide range of public, cultural, educational and social activities, such as exhibitions, performances, film screenings and workshops.

Artists, activists, educators, or any initiatives, cultural organizations, or collectives interested in making a social impact in Charlois are invited to apply. Applicants can request a space, more than one space, or share the space with other organizations/people by a joint application. We are particularly interested in projects that are Rotterdam or Charlois based and are actively open to the public. The contracts are for a minimum of one year and a maximum of two years with the possibility to extend. To apply, please send a project proposal including the introduction of your initiative and its founders, documentation of past activities, a project description with the definition of your aim and vision supported with an action plan showing how you are structuring the space and programmes, and a financial plan of 1 year in a single pdf format with maximum 10 pages by January 15, 2022 to [w1555.mog@gmail.com](mailto:w1555.mog@gmail.com). For more information please see <https://www.w1555.org/> or contact us at [w1555.mog@gmail.com](mailto:w1555.mog@gmail.com).

### **What is W1555?**

W1555 is a housing association, self-run by residents, which manages 46 homes on Wolphaertstraat from number 15 to 55. Our current community of residents was formed between 2004-2019 in the form of Stichting NAC. As the agreement between the NAC Foundation and the owner of the housing association Woonstad came to an end, the residents as a group of residents embarked on the adventure of managing the houses themselves and offering them as affordable housing for artists and people who work in the cultural sector.

With this purpose, we established W1555 and gradually took over the management duties and responsibilities of NAC Foundation.

Due to the much needed renovation of the houses, in collaboration with owner housing corporation Woonstad, we will soon be able to offer 2 new spaces to rent out as non-profit social spaces.

As Vereniging W1555 we aim to contribute to the development of Oud-Charlois as a fresh and innovative district, where art, culture and education are committed to a sustainable vision of living and working together, as well as contributing to raising the next generation and supporting our community.

### **Who are is W1555?**

Vereniging W1555 is a Rotterdam housing association with associated legal capacity. The resident group consists of approximately 75 people with diverse backgrounds, qualities and interests, but as a collective we share the same vision on how we want to live together, based on everyone's social norms and values and existing ideas about affordable housing, diversity, tolerance, ecological awareness and access to education and culture. As a diverse community, we believe that our immediate living environment already has social potential to transform challenges into a pleasant, safe and productive living/working environment. Where people live, work and learn together, where they share their experiences with each other, where children grow up in an inspiring community and where everyone contributes in their own way to maintaining a friendly and open environment.

As an association, we strive for a sustainable and affordable place for makers who care for the environment, and for each other and our neighbors. With this call we are aiming to integrate public creative/artistic workspaces to Wolphaertstraat. The most current residents

have a background in craft, art, culture and education.

## **Inclusive and diverse**

We want to reach the different communities in Charlois and the rest of Rotterdam. We want our DIT spaces to be accessible to all residents of Charlois, by making them sustainable, accessible and open to meeting.

With this call, we invite various and diverse parties to participate in this development and thereby join our community.

## **What is the culture group?**

The culture group consists of a number of residents / members of Vereniging W1555. They are responsible for artistic and cultural activities linked to the DIT spaces. The culture group is responsible for recruiting new tenants so that a reliable tenant is found and no vacancy occurs; vacancy is cost-threatening for the association. At the end of this Call, the culture group will present the selected DIT tenants to the members. They ensure a good relationship between DIT tenants and residents and provide feedback to the association where necessary. They are responsible for the well-being of the place and ensure a lasting good relationship with the neighbors and the association as a whole.

## **What is a DIT space?**

DIT rooms serve as a place for gathering, presentation, holding workshops or exchanging ideas. They not only offer residents a platform to come together, but also act as a social connection for the area. This functions on a small scale, for example with neighbors or local residents, but can also attract international visitors or interested parties. Organizing workshops and transferring specific artistic skills creates contacts, strengthens mutual ties and can provide concrete opportunities to earn an income and bring up the rent.

With an inclusive attitude, we give the different communities in Charlois a platform and reach and involve the rest of Rotterdam in our activities. The social spaces released after the renovation play a crucial role in achieving this goal.

These spaces, and their management, will shape our role within the Charlois community. We want our DIT spaces to be accessible to everyone. We do this by making them sustainable and available and by opening them up to involvement and own initiative.

We want the two new DIT spaces that will become available to be working together with other parties. These can be already existing or newly formed collectives, organizations or initiatives. Our vision and goals for these spaces are focused on art, and culture in all its diversity, including educational activities. For example, arts education, workshops and skills sharing; or artistic programming, such as exhibitions, performances, film screenings; and social activities consisting of daily exchanges between local residents, an open kitchen and, for example, street parties or flea markets.

## **What are the rules and expectations?**

We charge a fixed rent per DIT space that becomes available at Wolphaertstraat from numbers 49 to 52. The fixed monthly rent for the 49 m<sup>2</sup> space is € 340.00 + utility costs 150-200. The tenants must pay the monthly rent and follow the procedures below:

a- A user agreement will be prepared, to be signed by both parties, to ensure the delivery of the monthly rent, payment of one month deposit and to make sure that the House Rules of the DIT spaces are followed, and any damages are recoverable.

b- These spaces must be structured for non commercial use and self sustained through their activities. Within the regulations of the Woonstad Social Housing agreement, only %10 of the

rented DIT space will be allowed for commercial use.

c- Between the association and the DIT tenant are specific agreements made in a lease. Mutual notice period is at least 3 months.

d- Every year there is at least 1 consultation between the DIT tenant and the DIT group, with the course of the proceedings and relationship with the association and its residents and users is discussed.

e- The rental agreements for these spaces will be for a minimum of 1 year and a maximum of 2 years.

### **Who can apply?**

For the four new DIT spaces that will become available after the renovation, we want to collaborate with new/old initiatives, collectives or organisations. We believe the DIT spaces can be essential to share our mission of:

- Offering spaces to makers where they can develop their artistic, cultural and educational activities, and therefore contribute to the city's cultural field;

- Offering education in terms of arts and culture to different local target audiences, with a special focus on children and less privileged groups;

- Exerting a very important social role in the neighbourhood in terms of social cohesion;

- Creating bridges with existing cultural institutions within the city and actively contributing to the city's cultural scenario;

- Bringing local and non-local audiences to create a more diverse social atmosphere together.

To achieve this aim in the selection, we will prioritize the collectives, organizations, initiatives that are:

- \*Rotterdam or Charlois based,

- \* Being run by and for a diverse and inclusive group of people and considering a diverse and inclusive target group including minorities, refugees, immigrants, gay communities.

- \*non-profit

- \*autonomous

- \* Organizing public gatherings and open to the public.

Culture team of W1555 follows a points system that ensures the selection of projects that fit the above descriptions.

The four DIT spaces can respond to the need of four different parties or a single space can also be shared by two parties that team up for the open call as long as the agreements are stated clearly. This way, more small-sized initiatives will be brought to the street and these spaces can make use of one another's network.

Alternatively, in need of a bigger space, two or more of these DIT spaces can be combined together to respond to the need of a single initiative or organization that proposes a sufficient and solid financial and organizational plan. In such a case, financial resources (such as a sponsor, gained funding or a bank statement with at least 6 months of the rent budget) should be provided with official documents to minimize the expectation risks. With this scenario we are looking for non-profit cultural organizations or institutions that can partner

with the W1555 to program these spaces with maximum openness to the local communities of Charlois Rotterdam.

### **How to apply?**

Submit your proposal to [w1555.mog@gmail.com](mailto:w1555.mog@gmail.com) by January 15, 2022, including the following documents

- introduction of the initiative
- introduction of the initiators
- what your project proposal is, with the definition of your goal and vision supported by an action plan
- Which target groups do you serve and how do you reach them, both at an urban and local level
- Tell us clearly about the diversity and inclusiveness of your project
- documentation of previous activities
- financial annual overview last year
- a financial budget of 1 year.
- if present; proof of a legal form from KVK in one pdf format with up to 10 pages before December 16th to [w1555.mog@gmail.com](mailto:w1555.mog@gmail.com)

For more information, visit <https://www.w1555.org/> or contact us at [w1555.mog@gmail.com](mailto:w1555.mog@gmail.com).

### **Selection procedure**

The selection will be made in two steps:

- The first round is the submission of the online application which will be processed by the culture team in collaboration with all residents of W1555
- In the second round, selected candidates are invited to meet and present their projects, giving an overview of how they envision the space

# Back (garden side) of block A,B,C and D

