



**Tokyo Biennale 2025 “Social Dive”
Dive into Tokyo, Engage with the People!
Open Call for Artist-in-Residence program**

Application Guideline

Updated: 10th March 2025

“SOCIAL DIVE” AIR OPEN CALL PROGRAM

**To dive into Tokyo (the city)
and engage deeply with society (people).**

Walking through the streets of Tokyo,

What kind of places and people will bring us unknown discoveries and creative experiences?

We are now calling for new “sanpo” art projects to join us in our explorations!

The third edition of the Tokyo Biennale is themed " Shall we ‘Sanpo’?" and explores various ways of “Sanpo” – a concept that embraces walking, wandering around, and discovering new perspectives through movement. The “SOCIAL DIVE” AIR OPEN CALL PROGRAM is now calling for projects from around the world to explore with us this theme of ‘Sanpo’.

The mission is to dive into Tokyo (the city) and engage deeply with society (people). “SOCIAL DIVE” involves artists diving into the different areas of Tokyo as part of an art project aimed at discovering both the unique traditions, as well as new values held by the people who live there.

With the rise of tension and conflict in today’s world, it is our hope that by taking a “sanpo” or walk together that even people who have never met before can get to know each other, develop an interest in the culture of the city, and form a gentle connection. Burnt to the ground twice, once during the Great Kanto Earthquake and once in World War II, Tokyo’s cityscape is made up of the past and present as it continues to develop today. To be able to enjoy a “sanpo” together in this city is a miracle to be cherished.

For this purpose, we need the power of artists with creative ideas and methodologies to build new relationships through “sanpo”.

Walking through the streets of Tokyo, what kind of places and people will bring us unknown discoveries and creative experiences?

We look forward to receiving your new “sanpo” art project ideas that match the originality and social engagement of “SOCIAL DIVE”.

Masato Nakamura
Tokyo Biennale 2025 General Producer

The Statement of Tokyo Biennale 2025

When walking through the streets of Tokyo,
we feel the crowds of people moving quickly towards their destination.
They are indifferent to each other and do not notice the troubles or small sufferings of others. Some may find this distance between people in the city relaxing since facing people head-on takes energy.
Yet, is there not a way to overcome such resignation and easily, gently connect all of us?
Does art not have that power?

The theme of the Tokyo Biennale 2025 is “Shall we ‘sanpo’?”
When walking side by side, even in silence, a gentle connection is born.
Walking slowly without a purpose opens up our perspectives and allows us to see scenery we had not noticed before.
Through this art festival, “art” is made up of all the events that we encounter, as they come to life during the course of a walk.
Together we can creatively change the relationships between the people we walk with, come to notice things we did not know (or already knew), realize what is hindering our mind and body, be able to empathize with others emotionally, and feel that we are not alone, even when we are by ourselves.
Events for anyone, that can be joined as many times as one likes - this new type of biennale where we can take a stroll together with our minds and our bodies is about to begin.

Susumu Namikawa, Min Nishihara, Hiroyuki Hattori
Tokyo Biennale 2025 Co-Directors

Tokyo Biennale 2025 “Social Dive” AIR Open Call Program

Application Deadline

May 2 (Fri.) 2025, 23:59(JST)

Applicants

Artists Residing Outside Japan ※Open to all ages over 18 years old

Application Conditions

- Capability to directly face the “Social Dive” theme and connect deeply with the city of Tokyo itself, its diverse communities, or the intangible cultural values of Japan.
- A plan for a walking project that will bring new experiences to the streets of Tokyo. Also, a plan to exhibit documentaries of research, workshops or dialogue with local residents conducted prior to the exhibition of Tokyo Biennale 2025.
- Must be able to participate as an invited artist and carry out the preparation and development of the exhibition following the notice of their selection.
- Must be able to stay and produce work between September to October 2025 in order to present works for the opening of the Tokyo Biennale (planned for October 17, 2025).
- You can only propose one project

Schedule (Tentative)

- May 2, 2025: Call for Entries closes.
- Early June, 2025: Announcement of results on the official website.
- June-August, 2025: Detailed plan coordination between artists and the Social Dive team of Tokyo Biennale 2025
- September-October 2025: visit to Japan for artists (for art project implementation and artwork creation, PR cooperation, etc. The period of staying will be discussed with the planning team.)
- October-December 2025: Project/artwork exhibition during the Tokyo Biennale 2025.
- Mid-December 2025~ : Cooperation in document production

Support Offered

- Round-trip Travel expenses (Up to 300,000JPY including tax based on efficient and reasonable economy class tickets between Tokyo and your country.) (Maximum 1 person)
- Accommodation in Tokyo

- Coordination of venue for the art program
- Support fee for project development (with a budget limit of 200,000JPY including tax)
- Honorarium 100,000JPY, including tax
- Interpretation and translation support
- Issue of Invitation Letter

Venue Information

Historical buildings, public spaces, idle spaces, commercial facilities, and any other locations found by the participant themselves, which are in the Northeastern area of Tokyo's city center (areas include: Chiyoda City, Taito City, Bunkyo City, and Chuo City).

Submission Materials

*All documents will only be accepted in English or Japanese

- Artist profile photo (up to 1MB)
- A self-introduction statement (Up to 500 words)
- Artist biography, CV, and Portfolio that includes details and images of past works (up to 5 pages/ A4 size/ vertical/ up to 5MB)
- Project Overview Description. A plan explaining your proposed art project in text and with images such as photographs, sketches and diagrams. (1 sheet, A3 size 297 x 420 mm, horizontal format)
- Schedule of the project (1 sheet/ A4 size/ vertical)
- Budget Sheet (1 sheet/ A4 size/ vertical)
- Website URL, Instagram, Facebook, or other reference URL
- Video message URL. Please create a video message that is 2 minutes or less and features the applicant and artwork.

How to Apply

Please prepare the required documents as specified in the application guidelines and submit your application using the following form:

<https://forms.gle/guLUBkqv1Rg14yK57>

* To submit this application form, you will need a Google account.

Selection Results

To be announced in early June, 2025

Selection Committee

Masato Nakamura (Tokyo Biennale 2025 General Producer, Artist, Professor at Tokyo University of the Arts, Department of Painting)

Min Nishihara (Tokyo Biennale 2025 Co-Director, Curator, psychotherapist, Associate Professor at Tokyo University of Arts, Intermedia Art Dept., Director of Akita City Cultural Creation Center)

Hiroyuki Hattori (Tokyo Biennale 2025 Co-Director, Curator, Associate Professor at Tokyo University of the Arts, the Graduate School of Film and New Media Dept., Director of Aomori Contemporary Art Centre)

Terms and Conditions

- The proposal submitted must be your own, and you must hold all moral and intellectual property rights to that work.
- The decision of the selectors and Tokyo Biennale is final. Due to the volume, we cannot offer any feedback on submitted applications.

For more information

<https://socialdive.jp/>

Contact

<https://forms.gle/5cVR9ZZRwoVETPdi6>

Tokyo Biennale Executive Office/ Open Call Program

5th Floor Product Dept. Bld., 1-13-3 Higashikanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan, 101-0031

[MAIL] sd@tokyobiennale.jp

※Inquiries can be made by the [contact form](#) or email only.

*Reception Hours: Weekdays 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM (closed weekends and holidays)
JST(UCT+9)