



# HEIDELBERG'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

## Heidelberg launches solidarity programme for freelance artists

The city of [Heidelberg](#) (Germany) a UNESCO Creative City of Literature, has launched 'Solo Fantastico', an initiative to draw public's attention to the city's diverse freelance scene of artists and to help lessen the burden of their financial losses induced by the COVID-19 crisis.

Launched in collaboration with the city's theatre, the local Department of Cultural Affairs and the regional newspaper Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung (RNZ), the project aims to support affected independent artists from all creative fields, who continue to face economic difficulties and challenges to perform and display their creative segments in public.

Building on its experience in inter-generational and cross-cutting projects, the city has invited writers, dancers, fine artists, musicians, actors, and designers, amongst others, to portray in a one-minute video their work and situation during the pandemic period, as well as share their hopes for the future. With the aim of compensating their reduced income resulting from the cancellation of cultural events, each artist who contributes a video also receives a financial aid of 500 euros, funded by both the Theater and the City.

Since 15 April, each day a new video from a local artist is published on the dedicated [YouTube channel](#), together with an article introducing the 'artist of the day' in the regional newspaper.

In so doing, 'Solo Fantastico' aims to place more than 80 regional professional artists in the limelight and highlight the richness and significance of the creative scene during these trying times.

**For more information, please visit:**

- <https://www.heidelberg.de/hd,Len/300652.html>
  - <https://www.theaterheidelberg.de/solo-fantastico-solidaritaetsaktion-mit-lokalen-kuenstlerinnen/> (in German)
-