

# Policy Plan 2025–2028

## Stichting Spaceship Ensemble

### Introduction

The Spaceship Ensemble Stichting is the foundation that supports the activities of the The Hague-based Spaceship Ensemble. Officially registered as a stichting by a notary in 2023, the foundation provides the structural and financial framework that allows the ensemble to realize its artistic and educational ambitions.

The Spaceship Ensemble is dedicated to producing innovative concerts and performances of newly created contemporary music by emerging composers, sharing this work with broad and diverse audiences. At the heart of our work lies the close and ongoing collaboration with composers, particularly young and upcoming voices, who contribute new works to our steadily growing repertoire.

Beyond these core commissions, the ensemble is highly versatile, regularly engaging in interdisciplinary projects that combine musical theatre, dance, visual arts, robotics, and multimedia installations. Our integration of technology into artistic practice enables us to continually explore new territories and challenge the conventions of contemporary music performance.

This policy plan outlines our organizational vision and objectives for the period starting in 2025. It serves as a roadmap for our continued development, emphasizing artistic innovation, sustainable growth, inclusive outreach, and meaningful community engagement—locally, nationally, and internationally.

### Mission

Our mission is to contribute meaningfully to the cultural fabric of the Netherlands through the creation and performance of innovative musical works, while also sharing our unique artistic voice internationally.

Central to our practice are experimentation, research, and interdisciplinarity. We actively explore contemporary music in dialogue with electronics, robotics, visual media, and live performance. Through collaborations with composers, artists, and institutions, we strive to make contemporary music more accessible and engaging—inviting new audiences, families, and communities to experience the transformative potential of sound.

Thanks to support from public cultural funds, we are able to realize technically ambitious productions that expand the boundaries of contemporary music practice. These include projects incorporating advanced electronics, robotics, and multimedia installations.

We are committed to broadening the audience for contemporary music and making our work accessible to a wide and diverse public. Through partnerships with local organizations, interdisciplinary collaborations, and family-friendly programming, we develop inclusive outreach strategies that bring our performances into both traditional and unconventional venues.

Our activities are designed to:

- Engage communities across age groups, backgrounds, and experience levels
- Present accessible programs for families, students, and first-time listeners
- Reflect diverse cultural perspectives through our programming and partnerships

## **Vision**

At the heart of our organization is a small, agile core team of founding artists and collaborators who actively shape both the artistic and practical aspects of our projects. This core group—comprising musicians, technologists, and interdisciplinary makers—shares responsibility for creation, curation, and production. We operate according to a fluid, horizontal structure that fosters creativity and collective authorship.

Our collaborative, project-based model allows us to remain flexible, responsive, and scalable depending on the scope and nature of each project. This enables us to develop complex, research-driven work while remaining deeply connected to our community and an expanding international network.

We believe in:

- Collective authorship and shared responsibility
- Flexibility and scalability based on project needs
- Long-term artistic relationships, both locally and internationally
- A balance between local engagement and global connectivity

This evolving structure allows Spaceship Ensemble to serve as a dynamic platform for contemporary music—both rooted in The Hague and open to the world.

## **Organization & Structure**

Spaceship Ensemble is formally registered as a stichting under Dutch law. This legal form ensures that our operations are guided by cultural and social value rather than commercial profit, aligning with the expectations of public funding bodies.

## **Funding**

Our primary sources of income are public cultural funds, including:

- Fonds Podiumkunsten
- Gemeente Den Haag
- Other national, local, and project-based arts subsidies

These funds enable us to fairly compensate artists, invest in long-term artistic research, and develop accessible, high-quality programming for both Dutch and international audiences.

## **Artistic Operations**

Our projects often emerge from long-standing artistic collaborations, shaped by shared aesthetic values and mutual exploration. Depending on the scope of each project, we expand our team by engaging freelance professionals for production, communications, and technical support. These trusted collaborators bring specialized expertise while keeping our overhead low and our productions flexible.

We maintain open communication through regular meetings, collaborative planning sessions, and ongoing feedback loops. Programming decisions are made collectively, balancing our shared artistic vision with the specific contexts in which we perform—whether at Dutch festivals, public installations, or international stages.

## **International Collaboration**

In addition to strong partnerships within the Netherlands (Dag in de Branding, November Music, Gaudeamus Festival, Birds of Paradise Festival, among others), we maintain a growing international network of composers and artists. Current collaborations include composers Daniel Elrich, Thanakarn Schofield, and Piyawat Louilarpprasert. These partnerships are not isolated events, but part of long-term exchanges built on shared artistic goals and cultural dialogue.

Upcoming international activities include performances and workshops in Thailand, further strengthening our cross-cultural collaborations and amplifying Dutch contemporary music abroad.

## **Future Development Priorities**

In the coming years, we aim to:

- Develop new programs that engage wider audiences locally and nationally
- Expand international co-productions and touring activities
- Strengthen our network of composers, makers, and partner institutions
- Build infrastructure for ongoing research in music technology and performance
- Maintain transparency, accountability, and self-evaluation

Our agile and responsive organizational model supports these ambitions, while remaining guided by our belief that contemporary music is a powerful tool for connection, imagination, and cultural transformation.

## **Codes and Commitments**

### **Fair Practice Code**

Spaceship Ensemble adheres to the Fair Practice Code. While maintaining flexibility, our team primarily works on a freelance (zzp) basis, with the following guarantees:

- Fair remuneration in accordance with CAO guidelines, discussed transparently in advance
- Clear written agreements regarding work periods and tasks

- Safe working conditions for all collaborators
- Regular review of honoraria to reflect sector developments
- Creation of paid opportunities for young emerging professionals (composers, performers, designers, etc.)

## **Governance Code**

We follow a governance model that combines artistic and business management, ensuring shared oversight and transparent decision-making. The board meets quarterly to review organizational, financial, and artistic matters together with the management team.

To strengthen our governance, we aim to diversify the board's composition by 2026, adding expertise in areas such as:

- Finance
- Strategy
- Entrepreneurship
- Inclusion
- Cultural participation

The search for new members is ongoing, with final selections expected by early 2026. New members will be phased in gradually to ensure organizational continuity.

## **Diversity and Inclusion Code**

Spaceship Ensemble embraces the Cultural Diversity Code (the 4 Ps). We strive for diversity in staffing, partnerships, and programming. Our community-oriented projects naturally engage diverse participants, fostering inclusion, bridging gaps between amateurs and professionals, and creating early exposure to contemporary art for children.

We commit to:

- Integrating diversity, equity, and inclusion in project design and safeguarding
- Providing professional development opportunities to a diverse group of makers
- Organizing at least two DEI trainings annually for staff and curatorial team

## **Sustainability**

Although no formal sustainability code applies yet, Spaceship Ensemble is committed to environmentally responsible practices:

- Prioritizing train and bus travel
- Reusing and recycling materials for performances and workshops
- Embedding sustainability in production planning and logistics

- Raising environmental awareness through participatory educational projects

## **Foundation Information**

### **Stichting Spaceship Ensemble**

Address: Fultonstraat 44, 2562 XJ, Den Haag, Netherlands

KvK number: 91966701

Bunq Bank

IBAN: NL85 BUNQ 2109 8971 39

## **Board of the Foundation**

The board consists of highly experienced artists and cultural professionals with strong ties to the Dutch and international arts sectors. Meeting biannually with the management team, the board reviews all aspects of the organization's development.

### **Current Board Members:**

- Voorzitter: Ernestine Marie Stoop
- Secretaris/penningmeester: Taibi Malaj
- Bestuurslid: Simone Johanna van Kins

## **Closing Remarks**

With this plan, Spaceship Ensemble seeks to build on its artistic growth, organizational development, and strong community ties. We are committed to shaping a vibrant, inclusive, and future-oriented platform for contemporary music that serves The Hague, the Netherlands, and the international community.