

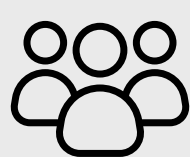
Practical tools for

Creative Climate Action

In Art We Trust – Collaboration Checklist



60-90 min



1-4 participants

Tool description and purpose

A practical tool for meaningful partnerships between artists and public authorities
This checklist-based tool supports fair, respectful, and effective collaboration between public authorities, intermediaries, and artists working on impactful projects. It is rooted in the recognition that art and culture offer unique ways of addressing complex challenges—and that this potential can only be realized if artistic freedom and cultural logic are preserved.

When to use?

- Planning to commission artists or creative professionals for projects with societal impact.
- Designing collaborative models between the public sector and cultural actors.
- Building partnerships that require clarity around roles, expectations, and creative autonomy.
- Supporting mutual understanding in cross-sector cooperation (e.g., green transition, social inclusion, democracy).

How to use?

- Use the checklist during the planning and onboarding phases of a project.
- Review the list jointly with artists or intermediaries at the beginning of collaboration.
- Refer back to the checklist if tensions or misunderstandings arise later.
- Use it as a contract briefing tool, discussion opener, or reflection guide.

Benefits of using this tool

- Clarifies expectations on both sides before a project begins.
- Builds trust by emphasizing shared principles.
- Helps funders avoid over-instrumentalizing art.
- Empowers artists to protect their role and rights.
- Enables sustainable and transformative collaboration.



1. Defend your autonomy: Politely but firmly define your role and boundaries.



2. Educate your collaborators on how art “works”
— not just as content, but as a practice, a space, and a method.



3. Be clear about ownership and use of your work from the outset.



4. Build alliances with other artists to share experience and strengthen your collective position.



5. Stay open, but stay rooted in your values and vision
— social transformation happens best through authenticity, not appeasement.



6. Gain process understanding. Public funds and practice follow certain rules and laws. And they may not be perfect, but they are not negotiable either.



7. Learn to see the difference between grants and assignments.
And what is expected of you depending on whether it is one or the other.

Fill-in Checklist

Collaboration Checklist For Creative Professionals

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**”Transformation happens not through
control, but through trust in culture’s unique
power to connect, question, and imagine.”**

Kristina Francis, J.W. McConnell Family Foundation