

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Funding program of the Fritz and Trude Fortmann Foundation 2023/24: BIOLUMINESCENCE

Every two years, the non-profit Fritz and Trude Fortmann Foundation for Building Culture and Materials (Bochum/ Berlin) funds research projects that deal with architecture and its materialisation. The current call for proposals for the 2023/ 24 funding year is entitled **BIOLUMINESCENCE**.

The foundation would like to support concepts, research and designs that focus on the ability of biological organisms to develop a self-luminosity controlled by chemical processes and that are to be made usable for practical applications.

Marine animals and insects, but also fungi, algae and bacteria can exhibit a fascinating luminosity. Completely detached from a visible energy supply, they produce a bright, mild light in blue-green tones, completely without external light sources. Since it became possible to create transgenic organisms in the 1990s, bioluminescence has become an important subject of research in biotechnology - but increasingly also in the fine arts, design and architecture. New research on the intensification and amplification of bioluminescent light has expanded the options for integration into design processes: for example, a clean, sustainable and affordable plant-based alternative for light sources could be generated in the future, which could significantly reduce the globally lamented urban "light pollution".

Idea sketches for projects (max. 2 A4 pages) that focus on the topic of bioluminescence and its applications can be sent to the Fortmann Foundation **until 15 May 2023**. The call for proposals is open to architectural, artistic-experimental or material-investigative projects, but also to cultural-scientific-theoretical or media-based works.

The **selection process** for the projects to be funded will take place **in two stages**. Based on the submissions, the Foundation selects participants who are invited to a workshop in Berlin. This workshop is intended to facilitate personal exchange, networking and, if necessary, the formation of new or expanded project groups. The subsequently selected projects are scheduled for a period of two years and will be funded with an amount of **up to EUR 200,000 each**.

#### Important dates:

- Deadline for submission of ideas: **15 May 2023**
- Invitation of the selected applicants
- to a workshop in Berlin: **16 June 2023**
- Workshop in Berlin: **14 July 2023**

### **About the Foundation:**

The Fritz and Trude Fortmann Foundation for Building Culture and Materials is concerned with the relationship between building culture and the conditions of its materialisation. It promotes the development of sustainable building materials and construction methods as well as research into the ecological, functional and atmospheric properties of materials.

The Fritz and Trude Fortmann Foundation was established at the end of 2013 and recognised as a non-profit foundation under civil law with legal capacity. After the board of trustees was constituted, the foundation's content-related and programmatic work began in 2015.

The foundation bears the name of the entrepreneurial couple Fritz and Trude Fortmann. The chemist and the businessman broke new ground in the development of materials for building after the Second World War, in a time of architectural and urban planning awakening. In this spirit, the Foundation's field of action is set around the theme of "Building Culture and Materials" and is continuously expanding.

### **Contact / Enquiries to:**

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### **Application formalities:**

The sketches of ideas must be submitted together with the completed application form (available at [www.fortmann-stiftung.de](http://www.fortmann-stiftung.de)) by e-mail to the secretariat of the Fritz and Trude Fortmann Foundation (info@fortmann-stiftung.de) by 15 May 2023 at the latest.

A full-day workshop is planned for 14 July 2023 in Berlin, where an interdisciplinary exchange is possible and desired.