



# OPEN CALL

Exhibitions at the Library Hall  
Round Tower 2026

**BIBLIO  
TEKS  
SALEN**

Udstillinger, koncerter  
& events i Rundetaarn

# ROUND TOWER SEEKS EXHIBITIONS FOR 2026

The Round Tower was built to elevate human insight and perspective. The tower is a unique historical and architectural landmark, one of Denmark's most visited cultural institutions, and houses Europe's oldest observatory building

In the Library Hall, located halfway up the tower above Trinitatis Church, both exhibitions, concerts, and events are held. The cultural program of the Library Hall should reflect the entire building complex's world of history, church, and astronomy, brought to life through contemporary and relevant content in art, science, adventure, and architecture

## Open call 2026

With this Open Call, the Round Tower invites artists, designers, architects, communicators, and researchers in history, natural sciences, and humanities, as well as interdisciplinary collaborations, to apply for an exhibition period in the Library Hall in 2026. Exhibitors' work or interests should align with the context of the building complex and the year's theme.

### Light as the Central Theme for 2026 Exhibitions

In 2026, the Round Tower aims for the exhibitions to contribute to marking the 350th anniversary of the renowned astronomer Ole Rømer's groundbreaking discovery of the speed of light. He referred to the hesitation of light as "Mora Luminis."

The Round Tower seeks to present a strong and varied program of high-quality exhibitions. Last year, we received over 200 applications, and in this application round, we are looking for 4 projects that can explore and contextualize Ole Rømer's discovery and work. "LIGHT" will be the overarching theme for the exhibitions in Rømer Year 2026. The theme can be interpreted both literally and metaphorically. Exhibitions may focus on scientific, historical, or astronomical aspects, but literary, philosophical, and religious approaches are also welcome. The theme may also address contemporary and future issues and research.

In a large pool of applicants, having experience with investigative or research-based practice within the mentioned context may be advantageous for artists and designers.

### Historical Background for the Theme

In the oldest scientific journal, *Journal des Sçavans*, it was reported in 1676 how Rømer's observations of Jupiter's moon led to the determination of the speed of light.

Ole Rømer is one of the most famous astronomers who has led the Round Tower's astronomical observatory. At the same time, he was also the churchwarden for Trinitatis Church and chief librarian for the royal university library, which was then located in the Library Hall. He is also behind the planet machine in the Snail Staircase. Ole Rømer is the only person who has had a simultaneous major role in all three functions of the Trinitatis complex.

### Who Can Apply?

The Round Tower accepts exhibition applications from artists, designers, researchers, historians, communicators, etc., and encourages collaborations across media, genres,

and formats. We encourage applicants to pay attention to the visual presentation and communication in the exhibition.

The Round Tower also curates a cultural program in connection with each exhibition, including lectures/talks, concerts, performances, and family activities. Exhibitors should be prepared to collaborate with the Round Tower on the program associated with the exhibition.

### **The Round Tower Offers**

The Library Hall is a bright, 900 square meter exhibition space that is well-frequented and offers many possibilities. We support with a setup team for all installation days and provide consultation with the program manager and exhibition technician during the development of the exhibition. Additionally, selected exhibitors will receive the following:

- An exhibition fee of DKK 50,000. Payment will be made immediately after the exhibition opens and is contingent upon the exhibition taking place.
- A contribution of DKK 25,000 to be used for materials and production of the exhibition, payable in connection with the contract signing about a year before the exhibition period. An additional subsidy for transportation can also be agreed upon.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

### **REQUIREMENTS AND SELECTION**

**The application must include the following:**

- A brief (1 page) project description and information about the team, up to 1 page, including a few lines on how the theme "LIGHT" will be interpreted or communicated in the exhibition.
- A CV for each participating exhibitor, up to 1 page, including contact person details.
- Up to 5 pages of visual documentation of previous works or projects that support the exhibitor's experience and relevance to the visual expression or content of the exhibition.

**The selection process will emphasize:**

- Relevant concept, team composition, and professional quality.
- Communication approach and spatial understanding.
- Experience with exhibition production and CV.

A smaller number of applicants will be invited to the second round, where they will prepare a more detailed project description with visual material and present it at a meeting. A fee will be provided for the final preparation and presentation of the exhibition project.

### **PROCESS**

The application should be submitted as a single PDF file. Visual illustrations should also be included in the same PDF to limit the file size. Physical materials are not accepted and will not be returned.

Applications should be submitted via the form on the website by November 24 at 11:59 PM.

Exhibitors will receive an email confirmation of receipt.

Applications selected to proceed will be notified by mid-December 2024 and invited to a detailed discussion about the exhibition idea in mid-January 2025.

If no invitation is received for a discussion by mid-December 2024, the application is no longer under consideration. Official rejections will be sent in mid-January; unfortunately, individual feedback for rejections is not possible.

See the exhibition conditions specified below, as well as the floor plan of the Library Hall.

For further information, contact Program Director Ditte Marie Lund – [dml@rundetaarn.dk](mailto:dml@rundetaarn.dk)

## Attachments

### EXHIBITION CONDITIONS – updated Aug. 2024

#### TERMS AND GUIDELINES

The terms apply to exhibitions from 2026 onward. The Open Call invitation with a deadline of November 24 at 11:59 PM applies to applicants who can exhibit in 2026.

- The application deadline is once a year, in 2024 on November 24 at 11:59 PM.
- The exhibition period in 2026 will last 5–10 weeks, depending on the number of selected exhibitions. Four days are allocated for setup and one day for dismantling.
- The Round Tower's visitors must have access to the exhibitions, and no separate admission fee may be charged.

#### The Round Tower offers:

- An exhibition fee of DKK 50,000. Payment will be made immediately after the exhibition opens and is conditional on the exhibition being held.
- A contribution of DKK 25,000 for materials and production of the exhibition, payable in connection with the contract signing about a year before the exhibition period. An additional subsidy for transportation may also be agreed upon.
- The Round Tower will invite to setup meetings but will not cover transportation and accommodation costs. The exhibitor is responsible for their own transport, food, and accommodation during the setup week.
- The opening reception will be organized by the exhibitor in collaboration with the Round Tower as the host. Both the exhibitor and host may have guest lists. Invitations will be prepared by mutual agreement. The Round Tower will organize and cover the costs of the opening reception and provide service and staff.
- The Round Tower has a technical package available, and assistance with its use can be provided. If additional technical equipment is required, it must be arranged and paid for by the exhibitor and agreed upon with the Round Tower.

#### SETUP, SPACE, AND INSURANCE

- The Round Tower will assist with setting up the exhibition according to the exhibitor's instructions and with the help of the exhibitor. Scope, timing, and details are to be agreed upon with Program Director Ditte Marie Lund. Movers must be hired at the exhibitor's expense for special transport tasks.

- The Round Tower will install lighting according to the exhibitor's wishes. If special lighting is required that is not owned by the Round Tower, it must be arranged and paid for by the exhibitor.
- The Round Tower has 45 movable walls, which may not be painted in any color other than the existing white.
- The fire authorities consider the space to be a gathering area for a maximum of 150 people, and the exhibition may be required to close by the fire inspector if regulations are not followed. The Round Tower requires a setup plan with a material description to be submitted at least one month before opening. Fire authority requirements must be followed
- The Round Tower has an electric cart for transporting works and materials, but note that there may be limitations on the maximum weight and size of the works
- The Round Tower can arrange other activities in the Library Hall (e.g., concerts, children's events, or receptions). It may occur that the exhibition must close earlier on such days. It is required that 80 chairs are permanently set up and that the stage area/apse is available during the exhibition period. There must be space to expand the number of chairs to 150
- It is the exhibitor's responsibility to ensure that the works are securely fastened or placed so that they do not pose a safety risk to visitors. This must be approved by the Round Tower. The Round Tower's liability insurance only covers Round Tower staff.
- The works are covered by the Round Tower's insurance. During opening hours, a member of the Round Tower staff will be present in the exhibition space, but this person is not responsible for supervising the exhibited items. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to ensure supervision and security of the works if deemed necessary. The exhibition space is permanently secured with an alarm outside opening hours.
- It is not possible to store exhibition materials and packaging at the Round Tower during the exhibition period

## **PR, GRAPHICS AND PROMOTION**

- The Round Tower handles the promotion of the exhibition, and PR & communication for the exhibition is a collaboration between the exhibitor and the host. The Round Tower will issue a press release and requests that all PR materials prepared by the exhibitor be sent for prior approval.
- Activities, including exhibitions, are marketed to the Round Tower's visitors according to a fixed design template. The Round Tower prepares and covers the cost of a graphics package, including promotional materials such as flyers and posters in the tower's public areas. The materials will be sent to the exhibitor for prior approval.
- The Round Tower, in collaboration with the exhibitor, will also prepare an introductory text for the exhibition. Any funding support may be mentioned in this introductory text, on the website, and in the press release, but not on printed materials.
- Costs for special graphics and mounting within the exhibition are to be covered by the exhibitor
- As soon as the exhibitor can describe the exhibition briefly with a title and image, the exhibition will be announced on [rundetaarn.dk](http://rundetaarn.dk). The site will be updated regularly with events, participating artists, and funding support; please inform the Round Tower of updates.
- All communication is coordinated with the Round Tower's Head of Communications Rosa Lembcke - [rl@rundetaarn.dk](mailto:rl@rundetaarn.dk)

## ART SALES

- Sales of art and merchandise are possible. The Round Tower is not a gallery, and the exhibitor may sell exhibited works without involving the Round Tower. It is also possible to sell the exhibited works with a 10% commission fee, where the Round Tower handles sales registration and collects payment on-site. The Round Tower cannot handle shipping of sold artworks.
- If the exhibitor wishes to sell postcards, posters, etc., this must be agreed with the Round Tower, and the selection must be determined collaboratively. The Round Tower will sell the items during the exhibition period for a 25% commission on the sale price. The fee does not cover losses. Items must be received in good time. Items received on the opening day cannot be guaranteed to be displayed on the same day.

Upon board approval, an exhibition agreement will be made at a meeting between the exhibitor and the Round Tower's director and program manager, including conditions for cancellation. The exhibition concept and description, which form the basis for the board's approval, must not be altered without agreement with the Round Tower. The exhibition agreement between the Round Tower and the exhibitor includes details regarding time periods, setup and dismantling days, division of labor between the exhibitor and the Round Tower, marketing, sales facilitation, shop sales, lighting, etc.

If an exhibitor receives support from commercial interests and sponsors, the Round Tower and its logo may not be used in advertising without the Round Tower's consent. Any form of commercial and foundation support must be disclosed to the Round Tower.

The Round Tower, built 1642 by King Christian IV of Denmark, is one of the most iconic edifices in Denmark and a landmark of Copenhagen. Originally erected to accommodate the university observatory, today the Round Tower also houses a rich programme of events for all ages, comprising exhibitions of contemporary art, modern craft and design and history as well as talks and concerts.

