



'Swiss Memorial for the Victims of National Socialism' A place of remembrance in the city of Bern

Competition programme



Source: Stadtgrün Bern

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1. The main points in brief

1.1 Background

The Federal Council is committed to ensuring that the victims of National Socialist persecution and the Holocaust are not forgotten. In April 2023, it therefore approved CHF 2.5 million for the realisation of a memorial to the victims of National Socialism. The place of remembrance is to be established in the city of Bern and will be accessible to all. The Federal Council instructed the FDFA to initiate the steps necessary for its realisation.

Bern City Council decided to make the Casinoterrasse available as the site for the memorial. The Casinoterrasse is a picturesque, high-quality urban site that is steeped in history. Its central location, impressive views and its wide variety of possible uses make it a popular public space.



City map (source: Stadtgrün Bern)

In establishing this memorial, the federal government, together with the City of Bern, is sending out a strong message against genocide, antisemitism and racism, and for democracy the rule of law, freedom and basic individual rights. The memorial is also intended to promote discussion and debate and to have an impact beyond the country's borders.

1.2 Procedure

In order to identify a project that can satisfy the various demands of the task, a single-stage selective project competition procedure is being organised. For this, applicants are sought from the fields of art, architecture/landscape architecture and history, who will develop their entries working in multidisciplinary teams.

The pre-qualification stage will take place between July and October 2025. The entries will then be worked up and submitted in March 2026. Following the subsequent evaluation, the results will be published in May 2026. The memorial is due to be built in 2027.

1.3 Objective of the procedure

The objective of the procedure is to select an entry that commemorates the victims of National Socialism, that encourages people to engage with the history of Switzerland during the National Socialist era, and in view of the mass crimes committed under the National Socialist regime, that questions the meaning of historic responsibility in the present day. A contemporary and aesthetically effective design is expected that encourages people to reflect on and emotionally engage with the topic in a variety of ways.

2. Provisions of the procedure

2.1 Organiser and support with the procedure

Organiser Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA
Contracting authority Peace and Human Rights Division
Bundesgasse 32
3003 Bern

Nicolas de Torrenté
memorial.bern@eda.admin.ch

Procedure support reflecta ag
Zieglerstrasse 29
3007 Bern

Roger Eberhard
roger.eberhard@reflecta.ch
+41 31 387 37 60

2.2 Type of procedure

Type of procedure The procedure is a single-stage selective project competition for professional individuals and teams from the fields of visual arts, landscape architecture / architecture, and history / history education and mediation.

Procedure provisions The procedure is a single-stage selective project competition in accordance with Art. 22 of the Federal Act on Public Procurement of 21 June 2019 (PPA; SR 172.056.1) in conjunction with Art. 13 ff. of the Federal Ordinance on Public Procurement of 12 February 2020 (PPO; SR 172.056.11), and bearing in mind the directives of the Federal Department of Finance (FDF) on contests and study contracts for planning and building work for members of the Coordination Conference for Public Sector Construction and Property Services (KBOB), to which the Federal Administration belongs, of 24 November 2020 (FDF directives). The project competition is also subject to the GATT/WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA, SR 0.632.231.422).

Applications to enter the competition will take part in a preliminary, non-anonymous pre-qualification phase, in which the jury will select up to 12 participating teams according to the defined eligibility criteria.

No compensation will be paid for participation in the prequalification procedure.

If the competition objectives are not achieved in accordance with section 1.3 or failure to meet the requirements set out in chapter 4, the jury may have one or more of the shortlisted projects reworked. This optional revision stage will be compensated separately. The projects will be ranked after the revision stage.

No compensation will be paid for participation in the pre-qualification procedure.

By participating in the competition, all participants accept the competition programme, the answers to the questions and the decisions of the jury in matters of discretion. The language of the proceedings and the language used in subsequent

business transactions is German. However, competition entries may be submitted in German, French, Italian or English. The competition programme is also available in German, French and English, with the German version taking precedence in the event of discrepancies or ambiguities.

- . *Publication* The competition will be announced on the information system for public procurement in Switzerland, www.simap.ch. The call for proposals will also be announced in specialist media and on platforms in the fields of art, architecture and history.

2.3 Timetable and deadlines

<i>Pre qualification</i>	From 11 July 2025	Call for proposals published on simap Registration and documents available to download
	27 August 2025	Submission of written questions pre-qualification
	5 September 2025	Sending of answers to all questions
	10 October 2025	Submission deadline for applications to enter competition
	13 October 2025	Opening of the offers received
	14-24 October	Preliminary review and evaluation of the offers
	30 October 2025	Jury meeting for prequalification
	3 November 2025	Announcement of the result of pre-qualification stage
<i>Competition</i>	28 November 2025	Submission of written questions project phase
	5 December 2025	Sending of answers to all questions
	9 March 2026	Submission deadline for project entries Preliminary review of project submissions
	27 April 2026	Project presentation in Bern
	May 2026	Judging and publication of jury's decision
	May 2026	Public exhibition/press release
<i>Realisation</i>	Q2 2026	Conclusion of contract and start of project development
	2027	Realisation and commissioning

2.4 Jury/assessment body

The contracting authority is deploying the following jury/assessment body to evaluate the results of the project competition:

<i>Judges</i>	Tim Enderlin	Ambassador, Head of the Peace and Human Rights Division, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA
	Carine Bachmann	Director of the Federal Office of Culture FOC
	Marieke Kruit	Mayor of Bern
	Alec von Graffenried	Member of Bern City Council
	Ralph Friedländer	President of the Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities SIG
	Gregor Spuhler	Head of the Archives of Contemporary History at ETH Zurich
	Nicolas de Torrenté (alternate member)	Project head, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

<i>Expert judges</i>	Madeleine Schuppli (Chair)	Curator, author, lecturer
	Pascal Hufschmid	Director of the Musée international de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge; art historian
	Peter Gautschi	Prof. PH Luzern; expert in public history, educational media and mediation of history
	Brigitte Sion	Anthropologist/museums expert, member of the advisory boards of several memorials
	Christina Späti	Professor at the University of Fribourg, historian
	Nicole Schweizer	Curator of contemporary art, Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts Lausanne
	Bernhard Aebi	Aebi & Vincent Architekten Bern, architect BSA FSAI SIA
	Tobias Würsch	Deputy head of Stadtgrün Bern, landscape architect
	Melik Ohanian	Artist
	Stefan Burger (alternate member)	Artist
<i>Experts (without voting rights)</i>	Valérie Arato Salzer	Head of culture, Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities
	Fabienne Meyer	University of Fribourg, Department of Contemporary History
	Christophe Patthey	Portfolio manager, Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics FOBL
	Ziu Bruckmann	Project manager, historic garden conservation, Stadtgrün Bern
	Jean-Daniel Gross	Heritage curator, City of Bern
	The jury/assessment panel may involve other experts to advise on specific questions where necessary.	
<i>Preliminary examination</i>	Roger Eberhard	reflecta ag
	Azra Malkic	reflecta ag
	Consultation of the above-mentioned experts	

2.5 Eligibility

<i>Eligibility</i>	<p>The following are eligible to take part in the procedure: professionals and companies that are resident or based in Switzerland, or in a contracting state to the GATT/WTO Agreement on Government Procurement in the following disciplines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Visual arts – Scenography – Curation – Art mediation – Museology – Landscape architecture – Architecture
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- History
- History education
- Public history
- and other related disciplines

The deadline for proof of eligibility is the submission deadline for the competition documents.

Team formation The task requires a multidisciplinary approach involving various disciplines. In order to participate, a team of people is therefore required that comprises experts in visual arts and, depending on the project, landscape architecture, architecture, public history, history or other disciplines.

Conflict of interest Applicants who are married to or in a registered partnership with a member of the jury, an expert member, or the competition organizers, or who live in a de facto partnership, or who are closely related or related by marriage, or who are in a professional relationship of dependency or affiliation with these persons, are excluded from participation.

2.6 Compensation

Compensation All participating teams that are admitted to the procedure following the pre-qualification phase and that submit a verifiably documented project will be paid flat-rate compensation of CHF 15,000 excluding VAT. This compensation is not part of any subsequent fee.

Payment The compensation will be paid to the responsible individual/organisation. The contracting authority is not liable for allocating the compensation within the team.

2.7 Claims arising from the competition

Declaration of intent The contracting authority intends to award the planning of the envisaged work directly to the authors of the top-ranked project according to the recommendation of the jury.

Commissioning The goal of the contracting authority is to realise the project within the budget approved by the Federal Council. The compensation for planning and realisation cannot therefore exceed CHF 1,700,000 including VAT. This figure must include the costs of fees, additional expenses, the production of artistic objects and all necessary structural modifications at the existing site.

In the event of non-realisation The creators of competition entries are entitled, in addition to the above-mentioned compensation and subject to overriding or objectively compelling reasons (e.g. non-feasibility), to compensation worth a third of the total prize sum (i.e. total of compensation payments), if:

- a) the jury recommends that they should be issued a further planning assignment or awarded the contract, but the contracting authority awards this assignment to a third party and/or
- b) the contracting authority reuses the competition entry without issuing the creator a further planning assignment.
- c) If, after the prize decision, the contracting authority decides not to go through with the realisation of the project, the above claims to compensation no longer

apply.

2.8 Ownership and intellectual property rights

Copyright Copyright to the competition entries remains with the participants. The submitted documents pertaining to competition entries that have received compensation become the property of the contracting authority.

The person or organisation in charge must obtain the above rights from all (including voluntary) team members involved, or be authorised to assign these rights.

Publications Publication of projects by the contracting authority must include a full indication of authorship; no special consent is required. Publications of competition entries by the authors subsequent to the contracting authority's announcement of the competition result do not require approval from the contracting authority.

2.9 Pre-qualification phase

This procedure is being advertised publicly and all eligible interested parties can submit an application to participate. On the basis of the application documents submitted, the jury will carry out a pre-selection based on eligibility, which will allow up to 12 applicant teams to proceed to the competition.

Deadlines The deadlines in this procedure are listed in the overview. After the jury has undertaken the pre-qualification assessment, participants will be notified via Simap of the outcome.

Pre-qualification documents All pre-qualification documents are provided in digital form and can be downloaded via www.simap.ch from 11 July 2025. The following documents are available for the pre-qualification phase:

1. Competition programme
2. Background paper on the historical context (including selected bibliography)
3. Applicant Information Form
4. Confirmation of Admissibility Criteria Form
5. Self-Declaration Proof of Compliance with Participation Conditions of the Federal Procurement Conference FPC
6. Self-Declaration According to Art 29c Measures concerning Ukraine
7. General Terms and Conditions of FDA for Mandates
8. Code of Conduct for Partners of FDFA

Answering of questions No information on the call for proposals will be provided verbally. There will be a written question and answer session to address any questions that participants may have. Questions must be entered in writing by 27 August 2025 on the question/answer forum on the website www.simap.ch. Questions received after this deadline will not be answered. A weblink will be sent out to all participants to download the questions and answers in anonymised form. The information provided in the answers is binding and supplements this competition programme.

*Application documents
to be submitted*

A valid application comprises the following forms and documents, completed in full and duly signed (A to F):

A) Applicant Information Form (Appendix 3):

Information and overview of all team members and the team organisation in accordance with the specifications in the document and signed by the lead person or the lead company.

B) References of the team:

At least 3, maximum 6 reference objects on a maximum of 6 A4 pages. The essential information (title, project description, illustrations, year, location, client, role of the team) must be provided for each reference. The presentation format is free.

The reference objects should represent the various disciplines of the team members. Reference objects from completed/planned projects of preferably comparable complexity and scope must be documented in a comprehensible manner. The services provided by the respective authors must be clearly stated.

C) Understanding of the task:

Presentation of the understanding of the competition's task, its social and design dimensions, and possible approaches to its implementation on a maximum of 3 A4 pages. The most important points regarding the topic, location, and task should be addressed. The presentation format is free.

No project proposals will be requested or evaluated.

D) Confirmation of Admissibility Criteria (Appendix 4)

E) Self-Declaration Proof of Compliance with Participation Conditions (Appendix 5)

F) Self-Declaration According to Art 29c Measures concerning Ukraine (Appendix 6)

*Submission deadline
and conditions*

The complete prequalification documents must be submitted by the deadline of 10 October 2025, marked "Erinnerungsort Bern" (Memorial Site Bern), to the address below:

Address for submission:

PLEASE DO NOT OPEN – OFFER 'Memorial Bern'

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA
Peace and Human Rights Division
Attn: Nicolas de Torrenté
Bundesgasse 32
CH-3003 Bern

– Personal delivery to the submission location:

The required documents must be submitted by the applicants themselves or by courier to the reception desk at the address specified in the procedure by the deadline at

the latest, during reception opening hours (Monday to Friday from 8.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.), in exchange for a receipt.

- Delivery by post:

The postmark or barcode receipt from a Swiss or state-recognized foreign post office (company postmarks are not accepted) is decisive for compliance with the deadline.

- Submission to a Swiss diplomatic or consular representation abroad:

Foreign applicants may submit their tenders by the above-mentioned deadline, during normal opening hours, in exchange for a confirmation of receipt from a Swiss diplomatic or consular representation in their country. They are required to send the confirmation of receipt from the relevant representation to the procurement agency by email to memorial.bern@eda.admin.ch by the submission deadline at the latest

- Electronic submission by email

The offer (in PDF format) must be sent by email to memorial.bern@eda.admin.ch by 23:00 Swiss time on 10 October 2025 at the latest. Offers received after this deadline cannot be considered. They will be returned to the provider.

The email must have the following text in the subject line: 'Memorial Bern'. Applicants must confirm the binding nature of their offer in the email. Receipt of offers submitted by email will be confirmed by email by 13 October 2025 at the latest.

Applicants must ensure that they have proof of the timely submission of their offers.

Formal admission criteria

Applicants who fail to meet one or more of the following criteria will be excluded from the procedure:

- Submission of complete documents
- Timely submission of documents
- Fulfilment of eligibility criteria (cf. section 2.5)
- Compliance with the admissibility criteria (Appendix 4)

Eligibility criteria

Based on the application documents submitted, the jury will check that the basic eligibility criteria listed below have been met and will carry out a comparative assessment of suitability using a points scale (0-5) and a weighting of the individual criteria.

Each criterion will be awarded between 0 and 5 points.

The total score is a maximum of 5 points and is composed of the percentage weighting of the criteria. All criteria are assessed using the following grading scale:

- 0 not assessable
- 1 not fulfilled
- 2 partially fulfilled
- 3 fulfilled
- 4 well fulfilled
- 5 very well fulfilled

	Eligibility Criteria	Weighting(%)
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EC1	<p><u>Professional qualifications / reference projects</u></p> <p>Applicants must demonstrate their creative and conceptual skills through at least three (maximum six) completed or ongoing projects preferably of comparable complexity and scope in the fields of fine arts, art in public spaces, commemorative culture, the curation of exhibitions or the design of complex public spaces.</p> <p>In addition to completed projects, planned projects or objects, studies, etc. may also be submitted.</p> <p><u>Submission:</u> Reference documentation (Document B)</p>	40 %
EC2	<p><u>Interdisciplinary nature of the team</u></p> <p>The team must be composed in such a way as to ensure that it has the required range of expertise to carry out the task. A team is required that includes, in addition to the visual arts (mandatory), other experts from landscape architecture or architecture, history education/history, or other relevant fields.</p> <p><u>Submission:</u> Completed Applicant Information form with information on team members (Document A, Appendix 3)</p>	20 %
EC3	<p><u>Financial and organisational capacity</u></p> <p>The applicant team must demonstrate that it has sufficient economic, financial and organisational capabilities to carry out the contract and fulfil its legal obligations with regard to taxes, duties and social security contributions. In addition, the applicant must demonstrate the availability of appropriate specialist personnel. The lead person or organisation must have proven experience in managing comparable procedures.</p> <p><u>Submission:</u> Completed Applicant Information form with information on team members and Confirmation of Admissibility Criteria (Document A, Appendix 3 and Document D, Appendix 4)</p>	20 %
EC4	<p><u>Understanding of the task</u></p> <p>In this document, applicants can explain in their own words how they understand the task at hand in terms of its content and social aspects. Reflections on the significance of the memorial site, the relationship between art, space and communication, and the interdisciplinary challenges of the task are expected. This submission serves to assess the references submitted and the composition of the team.</p> <p><u>Submission:</u> Understanding of the task (Document C)</p>	20 %

2.10 Competition phase

Subsequent procedure Once the result of the pre-qualification stage is disclosed via Simap and the appeal period has passed, the competition phase begins, in which the eligible participants work up a project proposal. The information with regard to content and the framework conditions for the project are described in detail in the section 'Project task regulations' below.

The timetable for the procedure is set out in the overview (cf. section 2.3).

Available competition documents In addition to the documents provided in the pre-qualification phase, participants will also be supplied with the following competition documents. All documents will be provided in digital form.

9. Site map 1:200 (pdf and dwg)
10. Map of existing structures (pdf and dwg)
11. Photo documents
12. Historical gardens expert report
13. Cost estimate form
14. Author's sheet form

Site visit No site visits will be conducted. The area is freely accessible.

Questions and answers No information on the competition procedure will be provided verbally. There will be a written question and answer session to address any questions that participants may have. Questions must be submitted in writing by 24 November 2025 on the question/answer forum via www.simap.ch. Questions received after this date will not be answered. A weblink will be sent out to all participants to download the questions and answers in anonymised form. The information provided in the answers is binding and supplements this competition programme.

Project presentation All participating teams will present their projects, including their model, to the assessment body. Participants will be invited to the presentation on 27 April 2026 under separate cover once the projects have been received.

Assessment Projects will be assessed on a non-anonymous basis. Once the submitted project documents have been opened, anonymity will be lifted. Participants will be notified via Simap of the outcome of the project competition.

Assessment criteria The jury will apply the assessment criteria below. The order of the criteria does not equate to any kind of weighting. The jury will carry out an overall evaluation on the basis of the listed assessment criteria.

Impact of the entry in relation to the task. The following questions provide a framework for assessment:

- Can the proposed memorial stand out within the geographical and spatial context? Is the implementation strong enough, spatially and content-wise?
- Is reference made to the thematic specifications in a way that is easy to understand and tangible? Is the historical dimension adequately incorporated and does the proposal promote reflection of historical events against the backdrop of the present-day?
- Is the proposed project able to have an intellectual, emotional and physical

<p>effect on the visitor?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How convincing is the connection between the artistic and educational aspect of the memorial, and do both aspects receive due consideration? - How will the public be actively involved; what connections will be created with the various target groups?
Spatial design in the context of the existing public space
Compliance with the legal, planning and technical conditions
Adherence to the cost budget for realisation
Durability and longevity of the artistic elements and of the proposed type of education/mediation support

Public exhibition
Jury's report

After the assessment is complete, all projects will be publicly exhibited for around 10 days with attribution of all authors. Participants will be informed of the location and opening times of the exhibition when they are notified of the jury's decision. The result of the competition and the direct award of the contract to the competition winner as per the jury's recommendation will be published on simap.

The jury's report will be available to download on the contracting authority's website when the exhibition opens. It will also be released to the media.

Documents required

Participants may only present a single project proposal. Variants are not permitted. Participants must submit the following documents:

- (A) Submission of design including all the content and images needed to understand the project.
The submission should include a maximum of 4 plans in A1 landscape format, and must match the orientation on the reference plan provided throughout. The plans will be hung up in two rows placed one above the other for the assessment and exhibition. Cross sections and views should be depicted horizontally. All plans to scale must feature a visual scale in the bottom right-hand corner so that the documents are still meaningful if the plans are reduced in size.
 - Site map 1:200 on the map provided (Appendix 1); the key existing information on the map must be legible, the orientation of the map must correspond to the specifications, and the section of the site map must not be cropped;
 - All plans, sections and views required to understand the project must be produced on a scale 1:200*;
 - Presentation/visualisation of the three-dimensional impression made by the project;
Explanations and schematic representation of all the information considered relevant by the project authors to understand the project. The explanations should be included in an appropriate place on the plans. In particular, information is expected on:
 - Integration in the site
 - Embedding in the historical context
 - Integration and type of education/mediation
 - Material expression, fabrication
 - Maintenance;
- Two sets of plans must be submitted, one of which (to be submitted unfolded) will be used for judging and the competition exhibition, and the second (to be submitted folded) will be used for preliminary examination and will not be

returned.

(B) Model to physically represent the project proposal (space, object, material expression, educational/mediation concept). The maximum dimensions LxWxH must not exceed 1.50x0.80x1.50 metres and not weigh more than 10kg.

A photograph of the model in A4 format should be included with the project submission.

Physical models are not submitted, but can be brought along by the participating teams to present to the jury.

(C) Cost estimate on form (Appendix 13)

(D) Signed author's form (Appendix 14)

(E) Sealed envelope (marked with the chosen name/label and the note 'digital data carrier') containing a digital data carrier with all required plans, forms and calculations in PDF format.

*Presentation and
labelling*

All submitted elements must be designated with a name/label and marked 'Bern memorial'.

Submission conditions

The complete project documentation must be submitted by the deadline of 9 March 2026, marked "Memorial Bern", to the address below:

Address for submissions:

PLEASE DO NOT OPEN – PROPOSAL 'Memorial Bern'

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA
Peace and Human Rights Division
Attn: Nicolas de Torrenté
Bundesgasse 32
CH-3003 Bern

– Personal delivery to the submission location:

The required documents must be submitted by the applicants themselves or by courier to the reception desk at the address specified in the procedure by the deadline at the latest, during the reception desk's opening hours (Monday to Friday from 8.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.), in exchange for a confirmation of receipt.

– Delivery by post:

The postmark or barcode receipt from a Swiss or state-recognised foreign post office (company postmarks are not accepted) is decisive for compliance with the deadline.

– Submission to a Swiss diplomatic or consular representation abroad:

Foreign applicants may submit their tenders by the above-mentioned deadline, during normal opening hours, in exchange for a confirmation of receipt from a Swiss diplomatic or consular representation in their country. They are required to send the confirmation of receipt from the relevant representation to the procurement agency by email to memorial.bern@eda.admin.ch by the submission deadline at the latest

No models should be submitted, but they must be brought along by the participating teams to the presentation.

3. Provisions regarding the Project

3.1 Basic principles and context

*Decision of the
Federal Council*

The unanimous decision of both chambers of the Swiss parliament and the decision of the Federal Council and the City of Bern to establish a memorial in the Swiss capital sends out a clear message from Switzerland's politicians, showing a willingness to engage with the country's history during the era of National Socialism, to commemorate its victims, to take historic responsibility, to make an impact in the present, and to look to the future.

Excerpt from the Federal Council decision of 26 April 2023:

"The Federal Council considers it of great importance to keep alive the memory of the consequences of National Socialism, namely the Holocaust and the fate of the six million Jews and all other victims of the National Socialist regime. This is particularly important today, as hardly any survivors or contemporary witnesses remain alive, and Holocaust relativisation and antisemitism are on the rise again. [...] By erecting this memorial, the federal government, together with the City of Bern, is sending out a strong message against genocide, antisemitism and racism, and for democracy, the rule of law, freedom and basic individual rights. The memorial is also intended to promote discussion and debate and to have an impact beyond the country's borders."

Background paper

The background paper on the historical context (Appendix 2) sets out briefly the historical context of the Swiss memorial to the victims of National Socialism in Bern and outlines its intended thematic focus. It is intended to provide participants with a supplement to the competition programme. It also features a selective bibliography.

Vision

The steering committee set up to implement the Federal Council decision adopted the vision for the memorial in January 2025. It serves as a basis for the task description in this competition programme.

The national memorial in Bern will centre on the victims of National Socialism, whose stories were connected to Switzerland in different ways. Art and information will encourage people to engage with the National Socialist era and to reflect on historical responsibility. As a living place of remembrance, it will be open to all, create space for dialogue, and will promote awareness of civilian courage, solidarity, human rights and democracy, now and in the future.

*Organisational
context*

Two organisations will be responsible for the long-term activities:

- The Swiss Memorial for the Victims of National Socialism network association was set up in late 2024. It brings together the various Swiss sites of remembrance and commemoration of the victims of National Socialism, and promotes scientific and expert support and advice for these sites and venues. One of its main tasks will also be to work with the Canton of St. Gallen to support the planning, realisation and operation of a national, cross-border educational and networking centre in the Rhine valley in St. Gallen.

- A support association based in Bern will provide long-term assistance to the memorial to the victims of National Socialism and its activities. Its main focus will be to support the place of remembrance in Bern. This includes coordinating its maintenance, operations and security, as well as developing and adding to its educational programme.

3.2 Task description

Task The memorial has two tasks in terms of content. First, it should commemorate the victims of National Socialism. And second, it should inspire people to engage more deeply with the era of National Socialism and to discuss the relevance of the past to the present.

Core themes of the memorial:

- Entanglement: Switzerland was entangled with other countries in various ways, and therefore also with the National Socialist and fascist regimes.
- Persecution: Switzerland was well informed about the persecution happening and yet refused to provide sanctuary to people whose lives were in immediate danger.
- Responsibility: Everyone in Switzerland had scope for action within their respective roles and functions, and bore responsibility for their decisions.
- Understanding: Engaging with National Socialism and fascism helps us understand the present and shows where the discrimination and exclusion of minorities can lead.

A contemporary and aesthetically effective design is expected that encourages people to reflect on and emotionally engage with the topic in a variety of ways.

Location The memorial will be established in the centre of the Swiss capital, Bern. It will be located close to the Federal Palace, will be visible to all, accessible on foot and will offer wheelchair access. It will also be free to visit. From this location, the memorial will act as a symbolic expression of the federal government's acknowledgement of its historic responsibility.

The funds available and the size of the location would not allow a dedicated museum or a large-scale exhibition space directly on site. In parallel to the competitive procedure, links will be established with other education and mediation sites, such as museums and other cultural institutions, which can be involved on a situational and project-related basis for exhibitions, workshops or events.

The memorial should work as a standalone element and should be integrated into the existing site.

Target audience The memorial is intended for the general public. For relatives and descendants of victim groups and helpers, the memorial should be a place of remembrance and a sign of the recognition of the victims' suffering and long-time lack of regard. For those who have no personal connection to Swiss history during the era of National Socialism and Fascism, the memorial should encourage them to explore the themes and will provide more in-depth information. The intention is also that schoolchildren and students visit the memorial on excursions with teachers or caregivers and can engage with the topics and questions raised in a contextualised, educational framework while there and/or

afterwards. The location at a lively public place in the centre of the city of Bern should appeal to people from the local area, those from other parts of Switzerland, and the many international visitors to the Swiss capital.

The design of the memorial should take account of the different needs of these groups and allow a range of different types of use – from quiet visits by individuals to guided and commented group tours.

*Communicating
themes and inspiring
reflection*

Art in the public space can draw attention and inspire curiosity, stir emotions, encourage people to question, and shift perspectives, and through implicit mediation, it can provide an introduction to the topic or convey a core message. In terms of explicit mediation, information reflecting the complexity of the themes should be disseminated in both the analogue and virtual space. For the explicit mediation, the focus is on two dimensions: firstly, the National Socialist policy of persecution and extermination as a basis, and secondly, the responsibility and agency of Swiss actors.

On the site itself, only the basic content and core themes of the memorial need to be communicated in a readily understandable, multilingual and updatable form, as well as pointers to the off-site programmes where people can explore the themes in more depth. These off-site programmes will be developed later, for example on a website, connected to other historical sites or city tours. The tasks are split as follows:

- Competition entrants are invited to propose designated places for the basic information and to suggest the way in which it will be provided in their design concept. Possible options may be information boards, audio guides and audio-visual descriptions.
- The specific content provided on site will be developed after the judging phase in collaboration with the project team of the winning entry and with the support of experts in history, public history and history education. This will involve further development and adaptation of the proposals submitted in the competition.
- In addition, in parallel to the competition, the support association for the memorial – the *Trägerverein Memorial für die Opfer des Nationalsozialismus* – is looking into the possibility of establishing links with education and mediation sites, such as museums and other cultural institutions, which can be involved on a situational and project-related basis for exhibitions, workshops or events. Documentation for schools is also planned.
- The support association mentioned above will also be responsible for operation and maintenance of the memorial once it is complete.

*Artistic and
spatial implementation*

The future commemoration and memorial site should reflect the significance of the topic in the context of national and international remembrance culture. The aim is to incite people to reflect on and emotionally engage with the topic in different ways through the artistic design. The aesthetic aspect provides the most immediate entry point to the topic. A design concept is expected that employs contemporary aesthetics and at the same has a spatial impact. When choosing the artistic approach and media, the concept of 'memorial' is open and can be understood as a monument or a marker of remembrance. The memorial should allow different types of use and should encourage visitors to reflect and question.

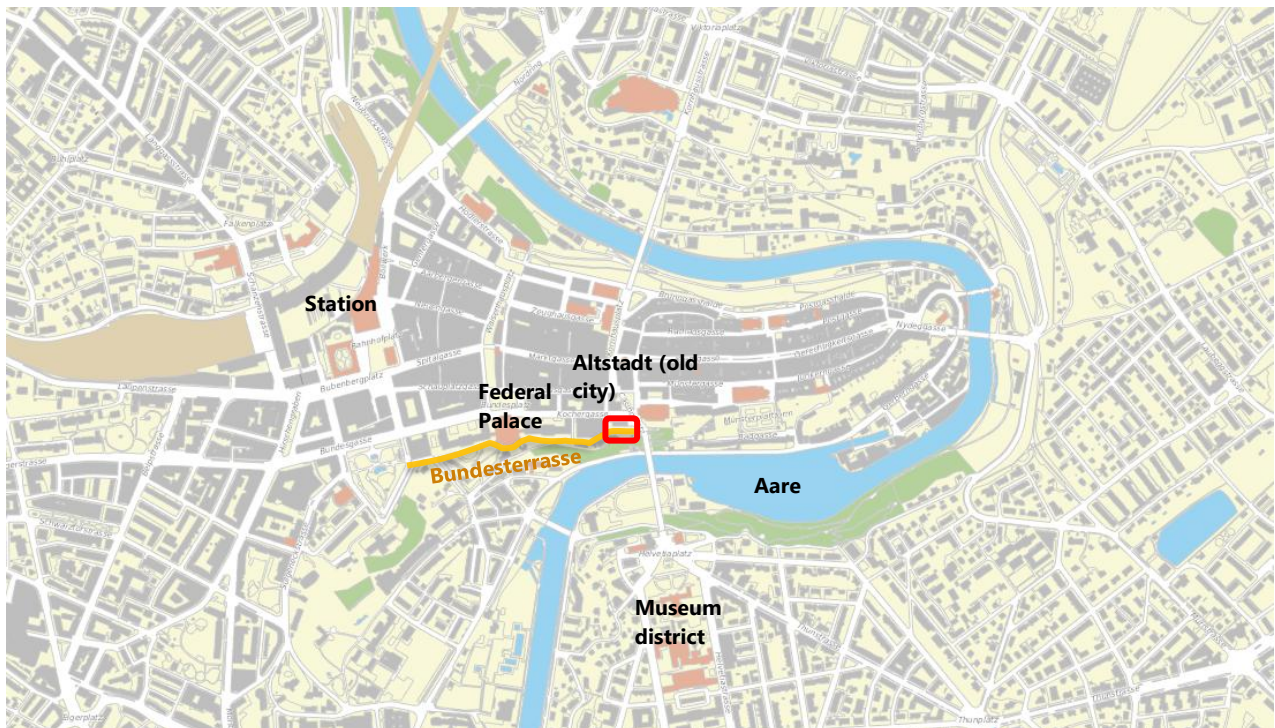
It should also be a visual basis on which to continue the public debate. It should be seen as part of a complex remembrance and education/mediation context that is to be

further deepened, and is particularly aimed at young people. Dialogue-based and participatory approaches are therefore conceivable as part of the artistic design or as additional elements. In some countries, memorials list the names of victims. In the case of Switzerland, it is not possible to obtain a conclusive categorisation of victims and a full list of names. The memorial should not therefore include a list of victims' names as part of the design. However, individuals can be mentioned by name and various victims' stories can be depicted as case studies.

The artistic and conceptual design of the memorial site should be durable, using materials that will last a long time. In addition, the memorial design must be capable of being integrated in the surrounding urban environment. As a national memorial, it should also reflect Switzerland's linguistic and cultural diversity.

3.3 Competition perimeter

Site On the basis of a site analysis, Bern City Council decided to provide the Casinoterrasse as the location for the memorial. The deciding factors in favour of the site were its central location in the heart of Bern's historic old city, and the fact that it is already a lively spot that is highly frequented by both locals and tourists. In this way, the future memorial will be located in the beating heart of Bern, surrounded by life and not tucked away on the periphery. The site is very well connected, situated between the main train station, the Federal Palace and the museum district, and offers breathtaking views of the winding Aare river and the Alps. The Casinoterrasse is at the end of the promenade along the Bundesterrasse, which stretches in front of the parliament buildings from the Kleine Schanze park to the Casino Bern concert venue.



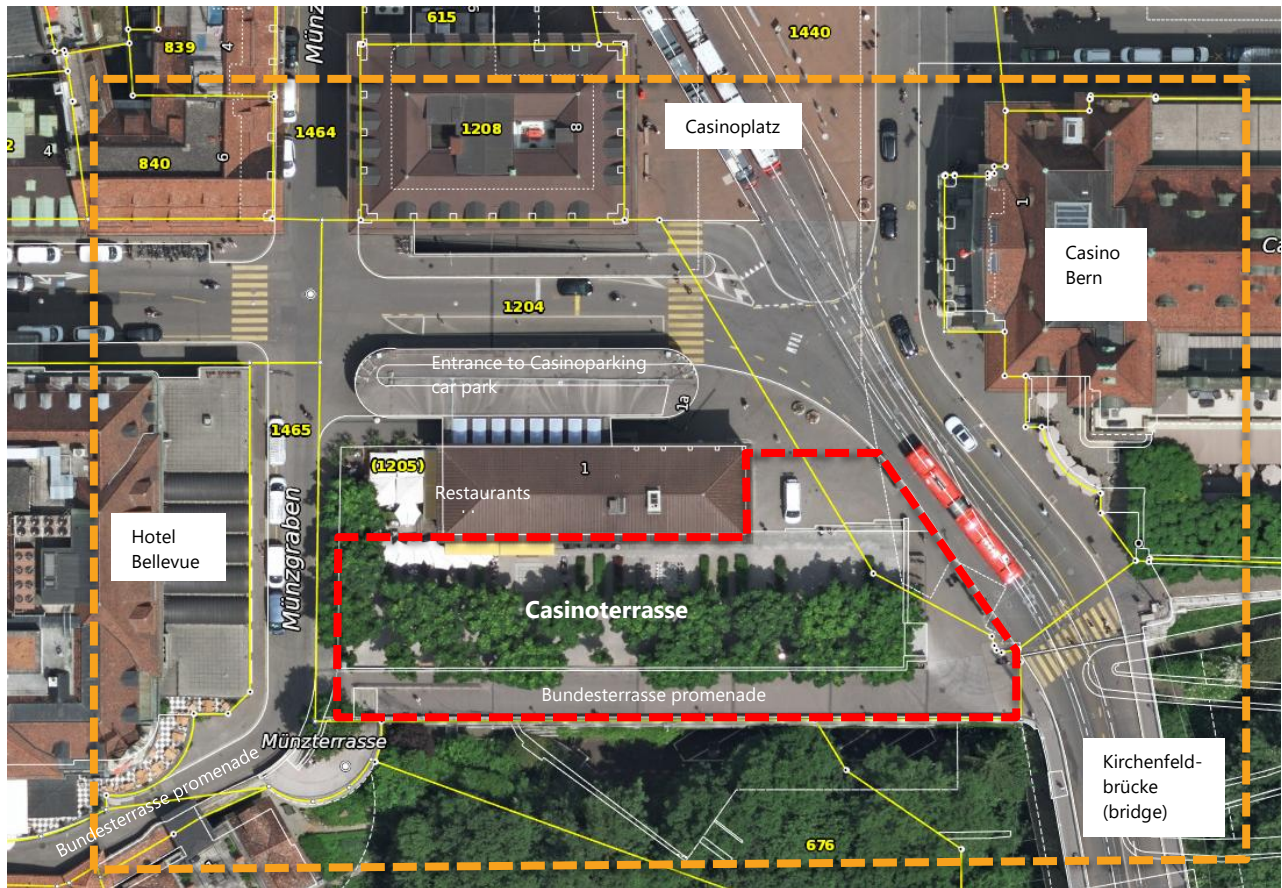
Map (source: www.map.bern.ch)

Perimeter The competition perimeter is on the two plots no. 1204 and no. 1440 in the Swiss land register (city of Bern). The place name 'Casinoterrasse' refers to the terrace above the

Casinoparking underground car park, adjacent to the Casinoplatz. This name is not used on official map series and city maps, or in internet search engines.

The project perimeter (bordered in red) comprises the Casinoterrasse and the Bundesterrasse promenade below.

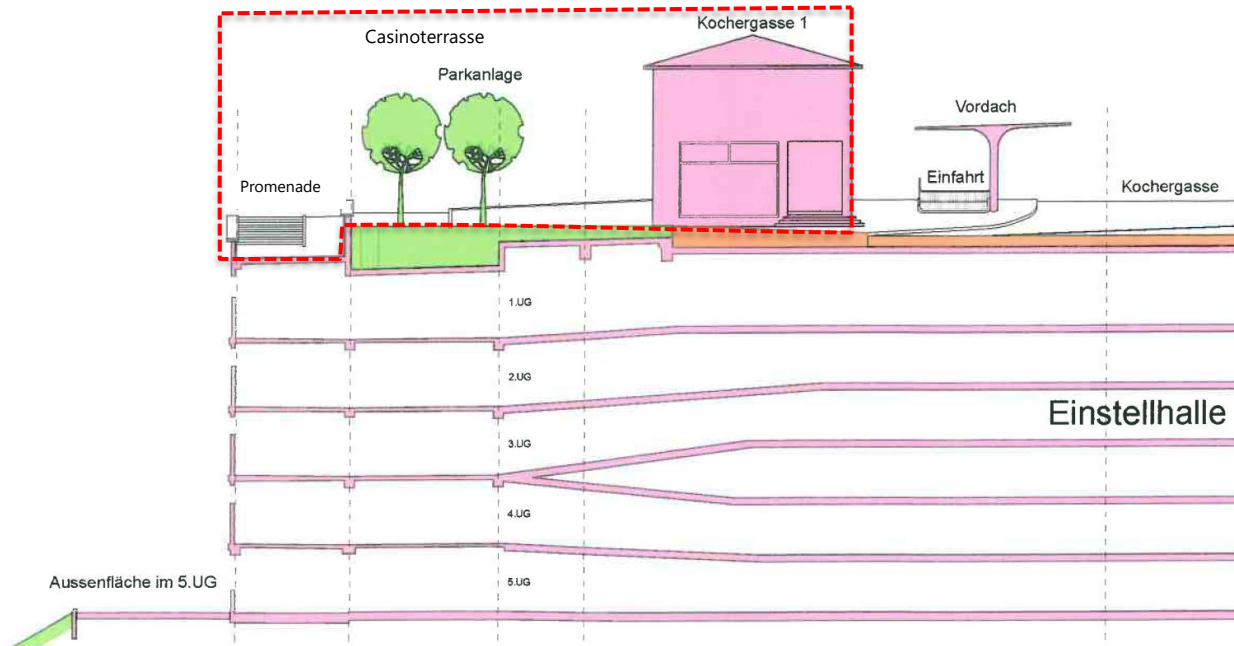
The broader site context (bordered in orange) comprises the Casinoplatz with the adjacent buildings (Casino Bern, Hotel Bellevue), and the end of the Aarehang hillside with the Münzterrasse and Kirchenfeldbrücke bridge.



Competition perimeter on plot map / Orthofoto (source: <https://map.bern.ch>)

Significance regarding urban development

From an urban development perspective, the significance of the Casinoterrasse as a heritage site is evident in two ways: as the southern end of Casinoplatz, and as the eastern boundary of the 'Bundeshausfront', forming part of the Aare-facing backdrop to the Bundesterrasse. The Casinoterrasse is part of, and inextricably linked to, the biggest urban transformation of Bern's old city in the first half of the 20th century. In terms of urban heritage preservation, the Casinoterrasse provides a gentle transition between the Casinoplatz and the Kirchenfeldbrücke bridge. When they were built, the car park and terrace cleared up an urban design issue by bridging the last section of the terrain that traditionally separated the lower and upper old cities.



Cross section of car park building with the Casinoterrasse above. Project perimeter is bordered in red (source: Stadtgrün Bern)

In addition, the Casinoterrasse connects the Kleine Schanze park to the Casino Bern building and its outdoor restaurant. The dark green foliage of the chestnut trees as a spatial anchor creates a green strip that pulls the whole façade of the Federal Palace together into a uniform whole. The tree-lined avenue has an important impact from afar and is just as iconic as the supporting and fortification walls underpinning them.

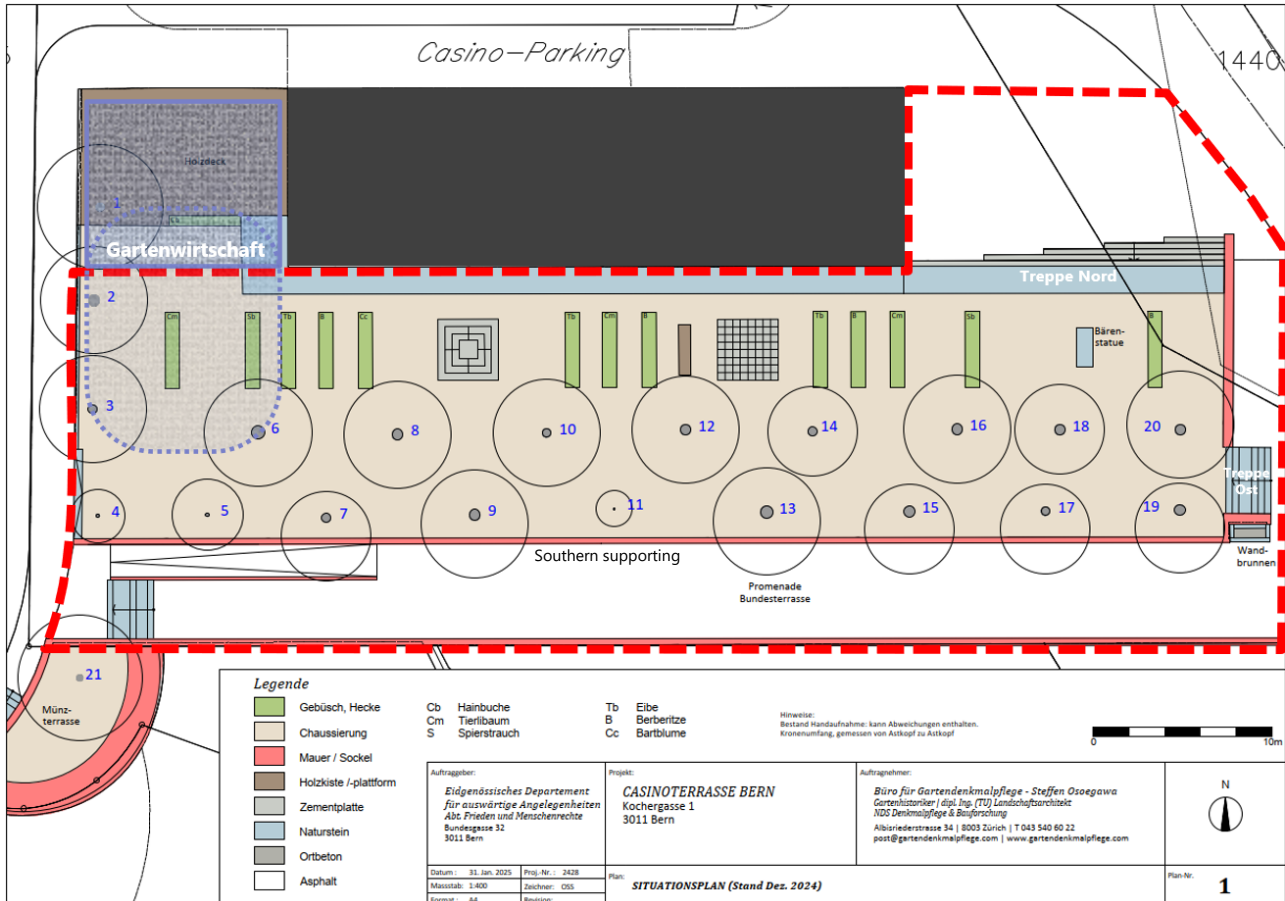
The Casinoterrasse is an intrinsic part of the heritage site of national importance (ISOS-A-area 5) and has an outstanding impact on the urban fabric of the 'Obere Altstadt' (upper old city). Along the whole southern boundary of the old city, the Casinoterrasse is a key part of the UNESCO world heritage site with its avenues and façade walls that are a continuation of the older terrace walls.

Current use The Casinoterrasse is a popular public space for both locals and tourists. It is often used as a meeting place and offers seating where people can sit back and relax, as well as space for open-air leisure activities. Part of the terrace is used for al fresco dining by the restaurant in the adjacent building.

4. Framework conditions

4.1 Planning specifications

On account of technical, heritage preservation and usage-specific restrictions within the project perimeter, various specifications must be complied with in the development of project proposals.



Site map with project perimeter (source: Büro für Gartendenkmalpflege, own representation)

Monument preservation

The location of the memorial within Bern's 'untere Altstadt' (lower old city), which features many protected historical buildings, requires consideration of the various monument preservation inventories.

The memorial must blend in to the existing site in both conceptual and design terms. The building units must be preserved and – unless stated otherwise – must not be re-configured or altered. The material expression and architectural concept must be geared towards the key features of the existing site. The monument should be executed to a high standard and designed to last.

Historic garden conservation

The definition of the framework conditions is based on the historic garden expert report (Appendix 4) which describes the various elements that must be protected or preserved. The following are protected and must therefore be preserved in situ:

- the Casinoterrasse as a structure, with its granite slab covered parapets and supporting walls, including coping;
- the street lamps;
- all 20 chestnut trees;

- the promenade as a structure, its granite steps and ramp;
- the wall fountain including bronze relief.

The avenue lined with chestnut trees must be retained. The project proposal must not harm the trees or wildlife. The design should strive to preserve the avenue's visual and spatial impact (see also outside restaurant plan).

The various elements of the site layout (hedges, recreational zones, benches and tables) can be altered in the project proposals. The hedges and recreational zones can be dispensed with entirely. However, the redesign should include seating to ensure a high-quality space where people want to linger.

The bear sculpture must remain within the perimeter but can be moved to a suitable location within the site.

The surfacing (tarmac) on the Casinoterrasse can be modified but not sealed. The requirements regarding drainage and maintenance must be complied with and the project proposal must be at least equivalent. Site-appropriate measures can be included to increase biodiversity or improve tree locations.

The staircase on the eastern side must be retained as the original access point to the terrace.

The access on the northern side (steps with supporting wall to the east) can be redesigned if there are convincing conceptual and design-related reasons to do so. The whole street and pavement area must retain its primary function as a multi-use zone. In the case of reconfiguration, an alternative location should be proposed for the existing bike hire location (Publibike) in front of the wall. The alternative location must be clearly visible as now, publicly accessible, and it must be reachable for the distribution of e-bikes. It must be equivalent to the previous site in terms of size and must cover the same catchment area.

The supporting wall to the south (between the Casinoterrasse and the Bundesterrasse promenade) including handrails, and the wall fountain with bronze relief, must be kept. The wall covering made of natural stone slabs must be kept but can be used for installations.

The Bundesterrasse promenade must be preserved as a thoroughfare for non-motorised mobility (pedestrians and bicycles).

The existing bars and restaurants and the associated operation of outdoor seating areas is in the city's interest as it helps counter security issues in the evenings and at night. It also helps make the site lively and vibrant, as described above. The existing open-air restaurant with its 78 seats inside the project perimeter must therefore be considered in the design of the memorial. The necessary space could be reconfigured on the site, provided the operational requirements, the number of seats and access for waiting staff are taken into account.

Technical framework conditions

The statics of the existing structures allow only a certain degree of additional load on the Casinoterrasse. The maximum load capacity of 5kN/m² must not be exceeded.

The site is equipped with communications infrastructure. Connection points for electricity and water are available in the immediate vicinity of the project perimeter. There is a drainage system in place, which can be adapted if necessary.

All transport infrastructure on Casinoplatz and the Münzgraben must be retained in full. This applies in particular to the pedestrian area between the Kirchenfeldbrücke bridge and Casinoplatz.

A public toilet is available in the Casinoparking car park.

Security The Casinoterrasse is publicly accessible. The cantonal police force is responsible for safety and security on the site. No specific restrictions are imposed at present. Organised events in the city of Bern require a permit.

4.2 Building law, norms, regulations

The applicable legal foundations must be taken into account. In particular:

- City of Bern building regulations, building zone protection zone A [Link](#)
- City of Bern building inventory [Link](#)
- ISOS inventory [Link](#)
- UNESCO World Heritage Site [Link](#)

4.3 Costs (budget)

The project has a cost ceiling for planning and realisation of CHF 1,700,000 including VAT. This amount includes the costs of fees, ancillary costs, the production of artistic objects, initial costs for the proposed on-site education and mediation elements, as well as all necessary structural alterations to the existing buildings and site.

All cost elements should be listed on the cost estimate form (Appendix 13) on the basis of a rough cost estimate, providing evidence of compliance with the cost ceiling.

The realised project will generate a certain degree of operating costs for maintenance, education and mediation activities etc. The contracting authority is endeavouring to keep the foreseeable operating costs to a minimum.

5. Final provision

5.1 Place of jurisdiction for appeals

The parties agree that the place of jurisdiction for civil disputes will be the domicile of the contracting authority.

In accordance with Art. 53 PPA, an appeal may be filed in writing against this call for proposals to the Federal Administrative Court, PO Box, 9023 St. Gallen within 20 days of the decision being notified. The appeal must be submitted in duplicate, and must include the request, the grounds including evidence, and the signature of the person filing the appeal or their representative. A copy of this publication and available evidence should be enclosed.

6. Appendixes

Prequalification Phase	
1	Competition programme
2	Background paper on the historical context (including selected bibliography)
3	Applicant Information Form
4	Confirmation of Admissibility Criteria Form
5	Self-Declaration Proof of Compliance with Participation Conditions of the Federal Procurement Conference FPC
6	Self-Declaration According to Art 29c Measures concerning Ukraine
7	General Terms and Conditions of FDA for Mandates
8	Code of Conduct for Partners of FDFA
Competition Phase	
9	Site map 1:200 (pdf and dwg)
10	Map of existing structures (pdf and dwg)
11	Photo documentation
12	Historical gardens expert report
13	Cost estimate form
14	Author's sheet form