

# REGULATION

## 20<sup>th</sup> International Sand Sculpture Festival SUMMER SIGNS 2026

Jelgava, Latvia

The International Sand Sculpture Festival in Jelgava is taking place for the 19<sup>th</sup> year. Every year the festival brings together renowned professional sculptors and artists from all over the world. **The Festival will be held from May 16<sup>th</sup> to May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026. Open call for artists – until March 25<sup>th</sup>.**

**According to the European Union, artists from Russia and Belarus, as well as citizens of Russia or Belarus, who represent another country, may not participate in the sand sculpture competition and festival.**

### I General provisions

1. This regulation determines the procedure according to which the applications of the ideas for the Sand Sculpture Festival will be submitted, evaluated and the way of sand sculpture building process.
2. The competition is announced and organized by the establishment “Kultūra” of Jelgava City self-government (hereinafter – JCLGE “Kultūra”).
3. Ideas submitted for the competition shall be evaluated by the competition commission, which is approved by the head of JCLGE “Kultūra”.
4. Participation in the competition is open to any natural person who has reached the age of 18.
5. The announcement of the Competition and Regulation is published on the website **kultura.jelgava.lv**

### II Festival aim and theme

6. The aim of the festival is to develop the city of Jelgava as a creative cultural place, which annually presents the world's latest trends of environmental art, current events and projects. With the help of sculptors and artists the festival creates a platform for exchanging experiences and new discoveries in the making of sand sculptures.
7. The theme of the festival: **STORIES OF THE JURASSIC.** Sculptors should reflect their vision of the festival's theme in the sand artwork.

*At a time when the Earth breathed differently, when forests were mightier than mountains and the world belonged to giants, the stories of the Jurassic Period were born. It was an era in which nature ruled with unstoppable force, where every step concealed a mystery and every shadow could be full of life.*

*We invite artists to dive into the ancient world, where dinosaurs roamed endless forests, the seas were inhabited by mysterious creatures, and the first rulers of the skies glided*

*above. These stories are not only about strength and size — they are about survival, balance, struggle, and harmony between life and nature. The Jurassic Period is a myth grounded in reality — a world before humans, where imagination meets science. Here, giant predators and peaceful herbivores meet, primordial beauty and untamed power.*

*Bring the stories of the Jurassic Period to life in sand — create sculptures that allow viewers to hear the breath of the ancient world and, for a moment, arrive in a time when nature wrote its own laws. Join in and leave your imprint on a world where the past comes alive in the present, and the stories of the Jurassic Period continue to live on — monumental, mysterious, and breathtaking.*

8. **Sand sculpture competition** is organized in two stages:

**8.1. SAND SCULPTURE SKETCH COMPETITION.** Artist shall submit the visual and technical project of the sand sculpture sketches. At the end of the competition the jury selects authors of the best sketches, who acquire the right to participate in the sand sculpture making competition.

**8.2. SAND SCULPTURE MAKING COMPETITION.**

**Sand and technical support**

The organizers shall provide each participant with:

- Sand, compacted in shapes according to the submitted technical plan of the shapes.
- Forms:
  - 1,5 m x 0,9 m – 8 pcs
  - 3 m x 0,6 m – 4 pcs
  - 2,4 m x 0,6 m – 4 pcs
  - 1,8 m x 0,6m – 4 pcs
  - 1,2 mx 0,6 m – 4 pcs
  - 0,8 m x 0,6 m – 4 pcs

The different sizes shapes can be assembled different by artist's discretion.

- 1 blade.
- 1 bucket.
- 1 sprayer for glue and glue solution.

#### **IV The application procedure**

9. The application form for the participants must be filled out on the official website of the festival: **kultura.jelgava.lv until March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

Applications that arrive after the deadline will not be considered.

Participants must submit the following information:

- filled in **application form**,
- **CV** (short creative biography),
- **photo of artist** (color, JPG format, which will be used for publication materials and on ID cards),
- Copy of **passport or ID card**;

- **Sketch of the sculpture** must be submitted by specifying the **height and width** on a double-sided view of the sketch and by emphasizing the view from above in JPG format, providing the parameters of the sculpture.
- **Submission of the technical installation plan of the shapes shall be mandatory according to the sizes of the shapes offered by the organizers.**
- The photo of the 3 last sand sculptures photos.

## V Transportation fares

10. Organizers shall provide the actual travelling expenses up to the amounts provided below. The amount shall include the charges for forming visas if they are necessary and if they fall within the provided amount.
11. **Participants who arriving by car or train at arriving day should give fuel receipts or transport tickets. The original fuel checks or transport tickets must be submitted with the name, surname, personal identity number of the member. If the document certifying payment of money is issued abroad, it must have the name of the applicant.**
12. Participants who arriving by plane should send it by e-mail to the organizers.
13. Travel expenses will be divided as follows:
  - **Latvia – limited to EUR 70;**
  - **Lithuania, Estonia – limited to EUR 100;**
  - **European countries, Ukraine – limited to EUR 300;**
  - **Other countries – limited to EUR 600 .**

Travel expenses will be refunded on account of the country, which the participants are representing (must be indicated in the application form)!

The organizers shall bear the costs of transfer for the participants coming and going away from Riga.

## VI Prizes

14. **Each winner of the Sand Sculpture Sketch Competition** will be granted the right to participate in the Sand sculpture Making Competition and money **prize in the amount of EUR 600** after making the sculptures.
15. **The cash prizes of the sand sculpture building competition** will be divided as follows:
  - 1st place - EUR 2000;**
  - 2nd place - EUR 1300;**
  - 3rd place - EUR 1000.**
16. At its sole discretion the jury may award one or several extra money prizes, not exceeding the total amount of prizes **EUR 1000**.  
The organizers bear the expenses related to the tax's chargeable to the money prizes.
17. Organizers will pay taxes in addition to sums payable in money prizes in accordance with the order as provided by the Republic of Latvia Law.

## VII Assessment of the Festival works

18. The winners of the Sand Sculpting Competition shall be determined according to the evaluation of the jury. The works will be assessed according to the following five criteria –**first impression, technical performance, composition, artistic value, compliance with the sketch**. Works are judged by the completion on May 21st.

## VIII Work conditions, accommodation, safety

19. From May 16<sup>th</sup> to May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, participants will be accommodated in a 4-star hotel. **In each room stay 2 persons**. Meals will be served 3 times a day from the evening of May 16<sup>th</sup> till the morning of May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
20. During the festival evening events will be organized for the participants, depending on the artists' choice and weather conditions.
21. The sculpting will take place outdoors in Jelgava, at Pasta Island.
22. The festival participants working hours:  
May 17<sup>th</sup> to May 21<sup>st</sup> from 9 AM to 7 PM.
23. All works must be finished by 7 PM on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Technical personnel and equipment will be available to participants during working hours. Depending on the weather conditions, after consulting with the festival participants the organizers reserve the right to change the agenda.
24. Participants must bring their own tools.
25. Participants will be instructed about the work safety rules and signatures for work safety will have to be provided. Participants must provide their own health insurance policy. Each participant is responsible for his own safety, health and life.
26. If due to some reason, for example, inappropriate weather conditions, the artist is willing to withdraw from the previously submitted sketch, or to change the visual appearance of the sculpture, changes must be coordinated with the organizers. If changes are made without coordinating, organizers reserve the right not to cover the travel expenses, and not to pay the sketch Awards.
27. **In accordance with the epidemiological safety measures established in the country and worldwide, the festival organizers reserve the right to change the format of the event.**

## IX Copyright

28. All sculptures created within the festival shall remain the property of the organizers. Organizers reserve unlimited rights for the exhibition of sculptures.
29. Both the authors of the sculptures and the organizers reserve the rights to freely use photos, video materials etc. without mutual liabilities and for no additional remuneration. Organizers reserve the right to document the works for the needs of mass media in unlimited amounts.

### X Festival Schedule

<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>May 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Arrivals, acquaintance, dinner, technical briefing.
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>May 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Work on the sculpture.
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>May 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Work on the sculpture.
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>May 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Work on the sculpture.
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>May 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Work on the sculpture.
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>May 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Work on the sculpture.
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>May 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Excursion. Award ceremony.
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>May 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Departures.