

Amsterdam 6 March 2022

Bajesdorp can (almost) start building!

As you might already know, Bajesdorp was once a small squatters' village on the terrain of the former Amsterdam prison. Here, we would organize an annual festival and weekly soup kitchens. And then, two years ago, it was demolished. But because we negotiated with the project developer of the new "Bajeskwartier", we are allowed to realize a new building, a permanent home for artists and activists at the outskirts of Amsterdam.

Our new building will be a mix of ateliers and flats as well as a small theatre, a café, two rehearsal studios and two big bio-dynamic gardens. With this project we hope to add to a more sustainable, more creative, and more social way of living in Amsterdam. At this moment, our group consists of theatre makers, former squatters, musicians, theatre technicians, teachers, film makers, and two little kids. As we made sure that the building can never be sold, the new Bajesdorp offers a permanent home for its inhabitants, which is quite rare in Amsterdam, a city in which real estate mainly functions as an object of speculation.

The ground floor

The ground floor plans are more and more taking shape. From the beginning on it was clear to us, the ground floor needs to have a public function. Here, we want to realize a small theatre space, in which performances can be shown, concerts organized or meetings held. We are also planning a small public café with a bar and a terrace on which we will hopefully soon be able to welcome you all. The two studios can be rented out for rehearsals or community based get-togethers. At the moment we are busy with forming a group of artists that can collectively run and sustainably exploit the ground floor facilities.

Building Permit

It is official: we are allowed to build. On February 25<sup>th</sup>, we got the good news that the city officially grants us the building permit. This is a huge milestone for us and we are immensely happy about it. But there is still a lot of work ahead of us: in order to start the building process before the summer, we need to finalize our finances.

Finances

Despite the enormous rise in prices for building materials last year, we managed to find a contractor. But the building costs were nevertheless much higher than expected. This means that we need to loan more money from the bank. At the moment we are in negotiations with two banks: the GLS bank (a sustainable bank from Germany) and the Rabobank (a little less sustainable Dutch bank). With the Rabobank we will have to sell 450.000€ in bonds in order to get a mortgage. With the GLS it is 570.000€ in bonds. We haven't made a final decision on which bank to go with, but will anyways still have to sell a good amount of bonds.

Selling bonds

How does selling bonds work? You can buy one or more bonds (it is 250€ per bond) and after 15 or 20 years (depending on what kind of bonds you bought) you will get the whole sum back. In the meantime we pay you an interest. The interest we pay is at the moment higher than the interest you get from your bank. It might thus be financially interesting for you to buy bonds from us, plus you would invest your money in a social and sustainable project.

At the moment we have sold 422.000€ in bonds and are close to the finish line. But we have only six more weeks to finalize our finances and therefore need all the help we can get. Every bond counts!

If you have any further questions for us or want to read more in Dutch about our project, please visit our website: <https://vrijkoop.bajesdorp.nl>

You can also find an English brochure of the Website here: <https://english.bajesdorp.nl>

For buying bonds go here: <https://vrijkoop.bajesdorp.nl/winkel> (in Dutch)

And here you find our fantastic Bajesdorp video: <https://promo.baj>

Update about our finance in exploitation (in Dutch):

<https://bajesdorp.nl/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Update-financieringsplan-en-exploitatie-maart-2022.pdf>

In solidarity,  
Bajesdorp