



POLICY PLAN BERSAMA COLLECTIVE 2023 – 2025

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Content

Introduction	3
1. Mission and vision	4
1.2 Goal	4
1.3 Strategy	4
2. Current situation	5
2.1 Activities of the organization	5
2.2 Activities	5
3. Future	6
3.1 Example	6
4. Organisation	7
4.1 Board	7
4.2 Employees	7
5. Finance	8
Bijlage	9
Statuten	9

Introduction

Dear reader,

You are hereby presented with the Policy Plan (Beleidsplan) of Stichting Bersama Collective (Bersama Collective Foundation), established on 20th of April 2023 in The Hague with Chamber of Commerce (KvK) registration number 89984188 (RSIN number 865173904) under Dutch Law.

Increasing attention has been given to the connected history between The Netherlands and Indonesia in the last decade. Numerous new publications in The Netherlands have appeared, including a major investigation into the war of independence (1945-1949). This led in February 2022, to the Dutch King Willem Alexander apologizing to the people of Indonesia for the (quote) ‘systematic, extreme violence’ from the Dutch side during that period, as well as to everyone in the Netherlands who had to live with the consequences of the colonial war. Although there are differences of opinions about this publication, it has been criticized by Indonesian and Dutch historians, who claim that the Dutch government still is not taking full responsibility for the war crimes initiated by the Dutch and that the Indonesian perspective on the colonial past still receives too little attention.¹

In June 2023, the Prime minister openly recognized *17th of august 1945* as the official day for the Indonesian sovereignty during a parliamentary debate. Something that earlier never has been done. Critique has been pointed at the recognition as it turned out that the minister's recognition does not have legal relevance. As well as criticism of the absence of recognition to the Moluccan community. Many of whom fought for the Dutch during the war in Indonesia, whom in return for their services had been promised Maluku as an independent state in the federal solution. The Dutch did not keep their promise to the Moluccan community and *Republik Maluku Selatan (RMS) or Republic of the South Moluccas*, which was declared on April 25, 1950, has never been recognized as independent by either the Dutch or the Indonesian government.² While critique also exists against the idea of Maluku as an independent state, with arguments that this would be a colonial and anti-national act since Maluku belongs to and should belong to Indonesia.

There are political tensions, not only in The Netherlands but also in Indonesia. The Papua conflict is an example of an ongoing conflict in Western New Guinea between Indonesia and the ‘Free Papua Movement.’

These examples of ongoing issues and debates, highlights the complexity within the history of Dutch colonization, and colonization in a broad manner, where one has to consider and respect the variety of perspectives. It's impossible to talk about *History* as a discipline, without recognizing the *power struggles* that come with it. Who has written the history books we get lectured about in school? Who gets to decide what is remembered and what is forgotten? Whose voices get amplified in the media and in public?

The way we remember and retell stories from the past and present day forms our identities, decisions, and perspectives. It shapes our personalities, how we interpret day to day situations, political landscapes and our sense of belonging.

We are well aware that many people across the globe have been engaged in research regarding the consequences of Dutch colonization for many years and that the history of colonization is complex. With sensitive topics comes a great responsibility to amplify a diversity of stories and to find ways to ‘Reach out to recover together and recover stronger’.³

¹ Ewout Klei, “Nog steeds kolonialisme in geschiedenislessen over Indonesië”, De Kanttekening, 16 februari 2023, te lezen via: <https://dekanttekening.nl/samenleving/nog-steeds-koloniaal-perspectief-in-geschiedenislessen-over-indonesie/>
<https://deanderekrant.nl/nieuws/apartheidssysteem-is-de-olifant-in-de-kamer-van-het-indonesi-debat-2023-06-26>
<https://historibersama.com/the-concept-of-extreme-violence-is-colonial-trouw/>

² <https://www.dutchnews.nl/2023/06/nl-recognises-august-1945-as-indonesian-independence-date/>
<https://www.thejakartapost.com/opinion/2023/06/24/what-a-dutch-treat.html>

³ Proverb G20 2022, Chair Indonesia.

In recent years we have noticed an increase in attention for projects in The Netherlands focusing on the connected history between Indonesia and The Netherlands. Both in the commercial and the nonprofit sector, on individual as well as governmental level. More museum exhibits and programs, new films, theater productions and novels have been brought out, partly because of a growing awareness of discrimination and racism and the related colonial past, and because of more critical voices intervening in the public debate.⁴ This is a promising movement forward!

Many people in The Netherlands are looking for their roots in Indonesia, using art as a method in creating clarity in the complex colonial history and their own, often mixed identity. We have also noticed similarities in Indonesia, where many Indonesian artists are looking for their roots in Europe or working with the connections between Indonesia and Europe.

Searching for one's roots, researching the impacts of colonialism, exploring one's identity, sense of belonging and creating art in general, **are things we believe can be done best collectively**, where **supporting each other is crucial** in expanding our perceptions about the present while learning from the past.

We, the founders of Bersama Collective, longed for a platform where Indonesian, Dutch, European (and other) artists could engage in these topics *together*. We believe it to be of high importance for people from these places with connected histories, to collaborate, share experiences, exchange perspectives and *create a connected present*.

Whereas the idea for Bersama Collective was born! The Foundation aims to create awareness in society regarding colonial history and thereby heal wounds from the past. Moreover, it seeks to highlight the continuing impact of colonialism on the present and together form a community-driven future of continuous exchanges.

This Policy Plan provides insight into the way the foundation carries out the work to achieve its objective. Meaning, this document discusses the ambition and strategy of Stichting Bersama Collective, the way the Foundation is organized, the work that the Foundation does and its financial structures.

This plan was discussed during the board meeting of 20th of May 2023, adjusted and adapted as of September 2023. It will be evaluated annually and adjusted if necessary.

1. Mission and vision

In February 2023, a group of artists from Indonesia, The Netherlands and Sweden met and started an exchange process together in Indonesia. It was both an artistic and personal exchange where the artists involved opened a conversation about the colonial past of Indonesia and the Netherlands, shared their personal stories, cultural expressions and perspectives with each other. The artists also wrote a new, interdisciplinary stage performance which they performed for a large audience in Indonesia. For many in the audience and also for the participants of the group, it was the first time to experience a fusion of Indonesian- and European culture, instruments and stories in a performance.

The group experienced this exchange as enriching, deeply touching and healing. This first meeting was important and created a foundation for a deeper dialogue. As a next step, the group of artists want to create an even more profound and continuous exchange between artists from the focus countries Indonesia and The Netherlands, whereas the idea for **Bersama Collective** was born. The Foundation aims to provide a platform to form bonds that goes over the land borders. Through art, we aim to discuss ongoing issues concerning independence, equality, identity and belonging. While doing so, we hope to collectively heal wounds from the past.

⁴ Advies Commissie Versterking kennis geschiedenis voormalig Nederlands-Indië, "Deel en Verbind: Nederland, Nederlands-Indië en Indonesië", Den Haag, februari 2023, te lezen via: <https://www.tweedekamer.nl/kamerstukken/detail?id=2023D05018&did=2023D05018>

In these difficult times with polarization, war and a rising rate of extremes in politics we believe that art is the right way to open conversations on difficult topics, create acceptance for each other's differences and to form strong bonds.

1.2 Goal

The main objective of Bersama Collective is to create connections between artists from East and West, in particular from Indonesia and Europe, through interdisciplinary exchanges. The foundation provides a platform for a collective of artists to, through art, engage in conversations about the impacts of colonialism, identity, sense of belonging or other topics of preference.

The Foundation aims to;

- create awareness in society regarding the colonial history between Indonesia and The Netherlands and thereby heal wounds from the past;
- highlight the continuing impact of colonialism on the present and together form a shared future of continuous exchange and furthermore everything in the broadest sense of the word that is related to or may be conducive here to.

1.3 Strategy

Bersama Collective fulfills its mission by building a collective of Indonesian and European artists through interdisciplinary exchanges and thereby highlighting underexposed stories, among others around the impact of colonialism. All our projects focus on collaboration where the artists have full artistic freedom.

The Foundation seeks to achieve its goal, among other things:

- through artistic collaborations between artists from different countries;
- by bringing music, theater, dance, film, photography, spoken word and other ways of creating art.
- The Foundation is non profit and has no commercial interest.

In the work of the Foundation, we strive to work inclusively, from an intersectional perspective with a mindset that seeks equality and broad representation. Both in the board and in the way we work, with projects and potential partners the Foundation works with.

The board of the Foundation practices the Cultural Governance Code. We strive to work honestly, sustainably, transparently and with respect, solidarity and trust taking into account each other's interests. The board acts with integrity and is role-conscious. Thus, the board is alert to the board members' own positionalities, the roles that each fulfills and the reciprocal relationship with partners of the Foundation. From this awareness, **Bersama Collective** works towards its objective to create bonds between artists from East and West, strengthen the ties and build a continuous exchange internationally.

As of now the focus countries are The Netherlands and Indonesia, but keeping in mind the conversation about decolonization and independence is a conversation that concerns everyone. Meaning, the impact of colonialism crosses borders. Highlighting and strengthening underexposed narratives and perspectives is relevant for many places in the world, where people are still fighting for equality and independence.

Locality

Currently the foundation is active in The Netherlands and Indonesia.

Target group

The main target group for our foundation, both participants and audience taking part of our creative projects - are people that either are connected to or interested in Indonesia of different genders and ages. We do find it important to involve not only artists and audiences from Indonesia and The

Netherlands but also people from other countries and backgrounds. The conversation about decolonization and independence is held worldwide. This is also why we want to collaborate with artists from countries other than our focus countries. We believe that many people can learn from hearing about the Dutch colonial past and Indonesia's struggle for independence, and the stories of the people who emerged from this history.

The gap in knowledge of colonial history and the ongoing effects of colonialism do not only apply to people in the Netherlands. We think that the Western world in general should pay more attention to the colonial past and how it has affected and continues to affect different people around the world.

2. Current situation

The pre-work that led to the formation of this foundation has been ongoing since 2018. Even though the foundation only has been officially registered since April 2023, we already have many partner organizations and artist groups. For example the Indonesian groups Unlogic Theater, Bandar Theater, Bunyi Sunya Sound community, Jatiwangi Art Factory and Sanggar'O.

In Den Haag - The Netherlands, we have a collaboration with Het Indisch Herinneringscentrum, Het Nationale Theater and Theater Dakota for our artistic practices and we have become acquainted with 'Indonesia-Nederland Society' and the Indonesian Embassy.

In February 2023, we organized a pre-screening and panel discussion together with The Indisch Herinneringscentrum in Den Haag, where we talked about our first exchange in Indonesia. For an audience of approximately 100 people. A month later, we did the same at the opening of the exhibition 'Koloniaal Den Haag' at Haags Historisch Museum.

Right now, we are in the middle of planning artistic projects with some of our partners from Indonesia, which we want to apply for funding and execute in 2023/2024.

2.1 Activities of the organization

Our goals for the upcoming period 2023-2025 is to carry out our first projects as Stichting **Bersama Collective** together with our partner organizations and artists. We want to continue the conversations and maintain the collaborations we started in Indonesia in February 2023.

We want to go public with our website and draw attention to it's content via social media, screenings and pop-up exhibitions. (More information below)

Furthermore, since we are in the start-up-phase we want to establish more connections and expand our network with possible partners, artists and grantors.

2.2 Examples of activities

Together with our Indonesian partners, we have three projects we want to realize for the period 2024-2025:

1. An Interdisciplinary stage performance focusing on the story of 'Njai Dasima'.
With *Unlogic Theater*, *Sanggar'O*, *Bunyi Sunya* and freelancing artists from The Netherlands and Sweden.

The project brings Indonesian, Indo-Dutch and Swedish artists together in the Netherlands to create an interdisciplinary performance. With the artistic performance, deriving from the lost film "Nyai Dasima," we aim to shed light on the complexity in the relationship between Indonesia and the Netherlands.

We want to reenact this story and search the archival traces of the film, such as the synopsis, film reviews and snapshots of the film. We will use it as inspiration and write retellings of the story in an interdisciplinary way, in order to create a performance together. We want to use these retellings to capture the past, but we also want to use our own reflections on colonialism, identity and the group's connected history in the performance. It will be a combination of both highlighting historical events and at the same time the personal stories of our diverse group of artists. Our plan is to perform several times in The Hague and make this reenacted story and our mixed stories accessible to a large audience in the Netherlands.

2. In 2024, we also want to start publishing material on our multimedia website, which will contain the story about our first exchange in February 2023. The story contains interviews with some of the participants as well as the process of the collaboration. This website can be seen as a decolonized archive of the connected history between Indonesia and The Netherlands and personal stories.
3. An exchange and artistic collaboration between artists from Indonesia and Sápmi. An idea initiated by the Jatiwangi Art factory in Majalengka. We noticed a lot of similarities between ongoing issues in Indonesia and in Sápmi - the land area which is home to the indigenous Sami people in the arctic circle - in how the land is being taken and exploited by the governments and big companies. It's used for mining, windparks, fabrics and other forms of exploitation. Jatiwangi together with Bersama Collective has thought out an idea for an exchange between communities to share methods to deal with these ongoing issues, and to create awareness of the escalating climate situation with the rest of the world. In October 2023 we as Bersama Collective brought an indigenous artist from Sápmi (Sweden) and a resident from Jatiwangi (Indonesia) together through a workshop. This event focused on discussing possible ways to decolonise the land and protect the forests.

Furthermore we are flexible and open for (sudden) opportunities to arrange events and workshops, like:

- a workshop in collaboration with Bibliotheek Den Haag about identity.
- a workshop in November 2023 in collaboration with Theater Dakota about identity.
- a big kick-off event in 2024 where we exhibit videos and photos, launch the website, spoken word performance and music.
- a workshop series in relation to the project "Nyai Dasimah" based on collective memory and ancestral mothers.

3. Future

The aim for the future is to be a leading platform for people all over the world to learn about colonialism, the search for identity by former enslaved communities and to raise a sense of belonging for those who feel lost in the world. By creating interdisciplinary content for different worldwide accessible platforms, we hope to bring more knowledge to the table to make the past a healing factor for present and future generations. We expand our perceptions about the present while learning from the past.

While doing so, different factors might influence the way we want to create these projects, resulting in a change of elaborating and continuing our exchanges with one another. While these factors can have either a small or big impact on our strategy, the goal is to always maintain the same plan to achieve the goals the foundation has created. The foundation needs to be flexible in the plans when encountering sudden changes during the run-up of a project. Having multiple options and backup-plans is a good way of handling uncertain situations. Sometimes positive developments will occur, so it will become easier to get the results the foundation aims for.

We want to create strong bonds with other foundations and people with similar goals as ours.

We want to create ways for the board and the foundation's members to work sustainably with the foundation's goals and visions. For example by finding long term financial fundings or donations to support our causes.

We intend to inspire people in researching their own identity and roots, finding ways to uncover the connections with the colonial period in a community-driven way and collecting underexposed narratives through art.

3.1 Example of potential risks in reaching our goals

- An example could be the changing of the capital of Indonesia (Jakarta) to a different city. This is planned in the coming years and might result in less accessibility and may have influence on the partners we will work with.
- Next year there are elections for the government in Indonesia. We don't know how the newly installed government will prioritize art and the international relations with Europe and The Netherlands in particular. Meaning our partners risk having less funding opportunities in collaborative projects.
- Right now there's a momentum in the discussions around decolonization in The Netherlands. This is a good thing but we hope that it's not just a trend that will blow over in a few years and that all the available grants made possible by the Dutch government will come to an end. We hope that the government will continue supporting initiatives who want to address topics surrounding colonialism, decolonization and former enslaved communities.
- The Dutch history with Indonesia requires nuanced consideration, because so many different groups are involved. The current board all have personal connections to Indonesia and are well read up on the topics surrounding the connected history and decolonizing methodologies. But, being born and raised in the west also comes with blind spots and a risk of falling into the so-called 'western discourse'. We can address and work with this by engaging with historians and have a mindset where we are open to learn and humble to our own flaws and blind spots. It is important that Bersama Collective engages with people from a wide array of experts and professionals who can guide the foundation in handling these sensitivities.

4. Organisation

Name: Stichting Bersama Collective
Type: Non-profit organisatie
Date of founding: 20 april 2023
KVK number: 89984188
RSIN number: 865173904
BTW-ID: NL865173904B01
ANBI-status: In aanvraag
UBO registration: 20 april 2023

E-mail: info@bersamacollective.org
Post address: Cypresstraat 138
2565 HZ DEN HAAG
Zuid-Holland, NEDERLAND
Website: www.bersamacollective.org

4.1 Board

Chair woman: Ms. Francesca Vincentie
Secretary: Ms. Sacha Verheij
Treasurer: Mr. Joardi Meyer

The board has joint authority and makes decisions through meetings. The board receives no remuneration for its work within the foundation. Expenses are reimbursed upon presentation of supporting documents. The board has no independent role at the time of establishment. This means that members of the board can be hired as external parties, to contribute to projects set up by the foundation itself. The hiring of individuals must be approved, through a specific solicitation, by the board of the foundation (excluding the director in question being hired, should this be a board member).

4.2 Employees

The foundation currently has no employees. All work for the foundation, on behalf of the foundation, is performed by the board itself and foundation members. Any future employees may be assigned tasks, prepared by the board of the foundation and for possible compensation in proportion to the services rendered. The board itself works on a voluntary basis.

5. Finance

The foundation operates annually, with the fiscal year being equal to the calendar year, on the basis of a budget approved by the full board. That budget is always part of the annual plan and is included here separately.

No later than six months after the end of the financial year, the balance sheet and the statement of income and expenditure shall be drawn up and adopted. Preferably but not necessarily, examined by an accountant or other finance expert within the meaning of article 2:393 of the Dutch Civil Code, a statement will be drawn up regarding the truthfulness of said documents.

Financial statements are published each year on the foundation's website in the form of an annual report.

The income of the foundation includes (or may include) the proceeds of grants, any revenues from organized events, income from the sale of pamphlets, donations from individuals, companies, associations and institutions, gifts or inheritances, as well as other income.

Expenses can be divided into costs for projects, promotions, organizing and performing performances with music, art, dance, spoken word, theater, film & photo productions, as well as management and administration costs.

The board consists entirely of volunteers and receives no remuneration for the work done for the foundation.

No remuneration policy has been established within the foundation. If board members have to bear travel expenses or other actual out-of-pocket expenses in connection with activities on behalf of the foundation, they may declare such expenses to the foundation. In such a case the travel expenses are € 0.21 per kilometer.

No further office space is maintained by the Bersama Collective Foundation. Meetings and other gatherings take place as much as possible in public spaces or at locations that are preferably made available 'free of charge'. A consequence of this approach is that at times costs for rent, refreshments, audiovisual aids, etc. are borne by the foundation.

If the foundation is dissolved and a liquidation balance is established at that time in accordance with the bylaws, then for the time being it is hereby already provided that such balance shall be expended for a purpose equal or similar to the purpose of the Bersama Collective Foundation.

Binnen de stichting kan een vermogen worden opgebouwd wanneer het begrootte bedrag hoger lag dan het daadwerkelijk uitgegeven bedrag voor een project of jaar. Wanneer er een vermogen is opgebouwd binnen de stichting, zal dit dienen als buffer en zal worden ingezet voor:

- Onkosten, of
- Toekomstige projecten, of
- Vergoeding voor eventuele werknemers.

Het vermogen wordt niet uitbetaald als loon voor het bestuur van de stichting. Het vermogen kan wel gebruikt worden voor het vergoeden van geleverde diensten door eventuele toekomstige werknemers van de stichting, in verhouding tot de geleverde diensten.

Het beheer van het vermogen ligt ten alle tijden bij de penningmeester en behoort tot het takenpakket van dit bestuurslid. Om de geldstroom van de stichting transparant te houden dient de penningmeester bestedingen van het vermogen duidelijk te communiceren met de overige bestuursleden. Het volledige bestuur moet instemmen met de voorgestelde actie met betrekking tot het vermogen en geeft de penningmeester hiermee toestemming het vermogen te gebruiken.

Het werven van gelden

De stichting werft haar financiële middelen grotendeels door het verkrijgen van subsidies. Daarnaast zal de stichting donaties, giften en opbrengsten van bijvoorbeeld kaartverkoop tijdens projecten kunnen verkrijgen voor het financieren van toekomstige projecten. Afhankelijk van de projectbegroting zal er worden vastgesteld hoeveel en welke financiële middelen er nodig zijn om het project te kunnen financieren en de gestelde doelen te kunnen behalen.

Attachment

Statutes

You can find the statutes [here](#).