

**LIGHT
FESTIVAL
LUCERNE**

**BECOME PART OF THE LILU
LIGHT FESTIVAL LUCERNE**

**CALL FOR
PROJECTS**

Credits: Laila Bosco

CALL FOR PROJECTS

Dear light artists

For the 7th time, we are launching a „Call for Projects“ for the Lilo Light Festival Lucerne. From January 15 to 25, 2026, we are once again inviting national and international artists to light up the city of Lucerne with us.

As always, we are most excited about projects with a connection to the city and region of Lucerne. Lucerne has great architectural diversity. Historic sights, special house facades, secluded squares and small alleyways are waiting for creative ideas. In the following document you will find stories, legends and information on possible locations as inspiration.

Lucerne is set to become a glowing meeting place in January with innovative and interactive light installations. The Lucerne Light Festival is looking forward to exciting and surprising project submissions.

Kind regards
Lea & Thomas

**LIGHT
FESTIVAL
LUCERNE**

2



LEA ISAAK

Festival Management

„The heartwarming Lilo fits perfectly into the Lucerne winter.“

THOMAS FRITSCHI

Festival Management



„The great variety of light installations never ceases to fascinate me.“

LOCATIONS OF THE PAST LILU LIGHT FESTIVAL 2025

3



- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Inseli-Park | 12 Water Tower |
| 2 KKL Luzern | 13 Peterskapelle (inside) |
| 3 Gateway | 14 Peterskapelle (outside) |
| 4 Meilihalle | 15 Mühlenplatz |
| 5 Vögeligärtli | 16 Lions Monument |
| 6 LUKB | 17 Kurplatz |
| 7 Restaurant Opus | 18 Kurplatz |
| 8 Mühlenplatz | 19 Kurplatz |
| 9 Mühlenplatz | 20 Matthias-Luchsinger-Platz |
| 10 Hirschenplatz | 21 Mandarin Oriental Palace |
| 11 Jesuit Church | 22 Neubad |

Neubad

KEY POINTS / INFO

The Lilo Light Festival Lucerne 2026 does not have a specific festival theme. However, ideas and concepts relating to Lucerne are welcome and preferred. In the following document you will find stories, legends, and information to help support and inspire you.

The Lucerne Light Festival values artistic freedom but stipulates that the projects must not contain any political or discriminatory themes or statements.

OUR JURY

4



Lea Isaak
Festival
Management



Thomas Fritschi
Festival
Management



François Chalet
Artistic Advisory
Board



Roman Beranek
Artistic Advisory
Board



Flora Frommelt
Artistic Advisory
Board



Lukas Baumgartner
Artistic Advisory
Board

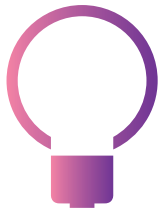


Jonas Staub
Artistic Advisory
Board

KEY POINTS / CRITERIA

5

The submissions are evaluated according to the following criteria:



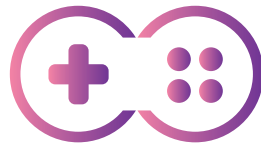
INNOVATION

We welcome innovative project submissions - both in terms of content and implementation.



LOCATIONS

Consideration of the provisional locations available - other suggestions are welcome.



INTERACTION

Interactive projects are always very popular.



CREATIVITY

Creative approaches and backgrounds are valued positively.



CONSIDERATION

The festival takes place in the city center. Residents and the general public must be taken into consideration.



PRI-MEUR

Of particular interest are new installations and productions that have never before been shown at a festival.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

The design and creative idea is at the forefront of the project submissions. The idea is at the core. Nevertheless, framework conditions with regard to feasibility and technical implementation must already be included. The following responsibilities lie with the artist:

RESPONSIBILITY ARTISTS

- + The basic responsibility for designs, planning and implementation of ideas lies with the artists.
- + The installation is always outdoors and must withstand snow, rain, wind and cold temperatures. The installation is in operation for 11 days from 6 pm to 10 pm.
- + Liability for the installation materials lies with the artists. It should be noted that the installations are installed in a public area and should function maintenance-free during operation.
- + The artists are responsible for any repairs to the installations. Spare parts must therefore be planned for.
- + In principle, the installations must be set up and dismantled by the artists themselves. Support can be organized in consultation with the organizers.
- + Technical details and material requirements must be provided as precisely as possible at the time of entry.
- + The budget per project is basically open and will be evaluated depending on the entry.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

7

The content gets approved in three stages.

The first is when the contract is signed, the second around the beginning of December and the third before the festival begins.

RESPONSIBILITY LILU

- + The Lilo Light Festival Lucerne supports the artists in the implementation of the technology and infrastructure and works together with external technology providers. The selection of these partners is subject to the festival management.
- + Lilo is responsible for technical clarifications and obtaining the necessary permits from the city of Lucerne.
- + A security service patrols at night.

- + The festival provides the necessary basic infrastructure (power connections, suspension points). If required, the festival provides support with the structural planning of the installations.
- + All submissions are checked with regard to the approval procedure of the City of Lucerne so that nothing stands in the way of approval later on.
- + We provide catering and accommodation during the set-up and dismantling period.

DATA & FORMALITIES

INTRODUCTION

To enter a light installation for the Lilu Light Festival Lucerne, some detailed information are required. In addition to the idea, artist's name and motivation, the festival management and the jury also require precise technical information about the planned lighting project. Here you will find the checklist that must be adhered to when submitting. Submission is free of charge.

All entries must be submitted by 30.04.25 under this link.

[Call for Projects Registration](#)

Personal data

- First Name
- Last Name
- Your address
- E-mail address
- Your telephone number
- Your website
- Social media channels

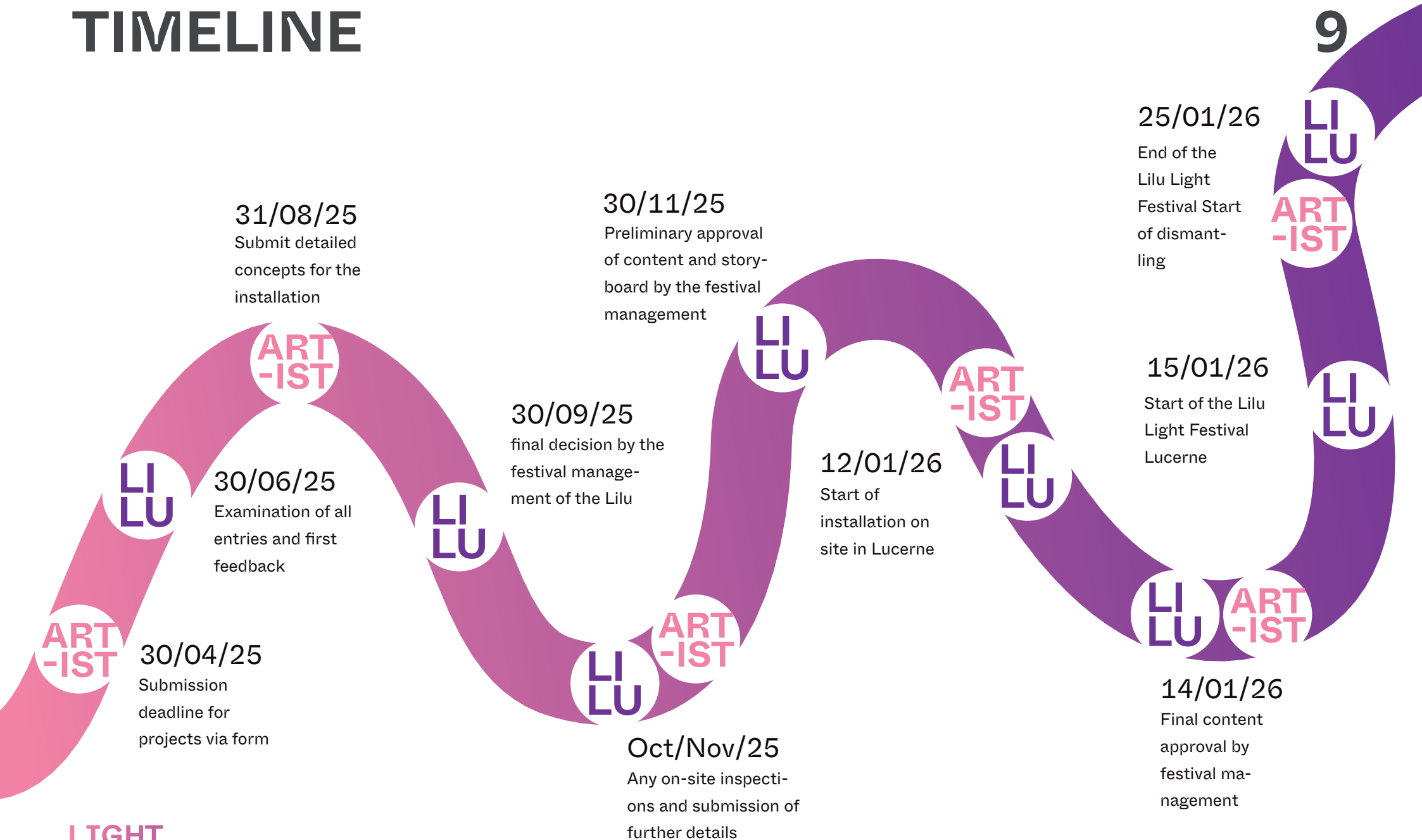
Documents

- Pictures of the project
- Project budget
- further documents such as sketches, animations, portfolio, motivation,...)

Installations

- Artists name | name of the collective
- Type of Company, Registration, VAT
- Project title
- Possible location
- Description of the installation (150 characters)
- Artist description (200 characters)
- Technical description
 - required Space
 - Required material incl. technology
 - Specification for installation
 - Power requirement
 - Assembly time required

TIMELINE



LUCERNE INTRODUCES ITSELF

10

THE CITY OF LUCERNE

Lucerne, the gateway to Central Switzerland, is nestled in an impressive mountain panorama on Lake Lucerne. Thanks to its sights, attractive lakeside location and nearby excursion mountains Pilatus, Rigi and Titlis, the city is a destination for many visitors. However, what distinguishes the region most is its ability to combine seemingly contradictory elements: Modernity finds its place here as well as centuries-old sights and traditions.

WHAT MAKES LUCERNE SPECIAL

11

LUCERNA - CITY OF LIGHT

Lucerne has had the surname „City of Lights“ since the late Middle Ages. The Lucerne chronicler Diebold Schilling wrote that Lucerne got its name from the „liechtz wägen“. According to legend, an angel had shown the first inhabitants of Lucerne the place where they should build a chapel in honor of St. Nicholas with a light. The Hofkirche stands on this site today. Others say that the name „Lucerne“ is linked to fishing and the location on the lake. „Luciaria“ means „a collection of pikes“.

Further information: „Lucerne shines. From the miraculous luminous phenomenon to the Plan Lumière“.

ARCHITECTURE

One of the architectural highlights is the futuristic KKL Luzern (Culture and Convention Center) by French star architect Jean Nouvel. The famous Spanish-Swiss architect, civil engineer and artist Santiago Calatrava is responsible for the bold and generously designed station concourse made of glass and concrete. Let the facades come to life and symbols appear on buildings, squares and on the water. There are also exciting places and passageways in the new town.

WHAT MAKES LUCERNE SPECIAL

12

PLACES OF INTEREST / SIGHTS

The covered, medieval Chapel Bridge, which is considered one of the oldest covered wooden bridges in Europe with its gable paintings, characterizes Lucerne's cityscape. Another landmark of the city is the Musegg Wall, which has been preserved in its original fortified form with the exception of one tower.

Historic houses decorated with frescoes surround picturesque squares such as the Weinmarkt in the car-free Old Town. Lucerne is a city of squares and churches.

The 17th century Jesuit Church is considered to be the first sacred baroque building in Switzerland and the two towers of the Hofkirche are an integral part of the cityscape. The dying lion, which was carved into the rock to commemorate the heroic deaths of the Swiss who fell in the Tuileries in 1792, is one of Switzerland's most famous monuments. And with the 112-metre-long Bourbaki Panorama, Lucerne has one of the few surviving monumental circular paintings in the world.

THEATER CITY LUCERNE

Theater (and masking) has always played a major role in Lucerne. This connection can be established through figures, masks and stories.



LEGENDS & FIGURES

13

Lucerne is characterized by legends and figures. We are very happy to use these in our interpretations for the light installations.

Here are the most important figures and legends from Lucerne:

THE GIANT OF REIDEN

The Wild Man can be seen on the time tower of the Musegg wall, on panel 001 of the Chapel Bridge and on the Reuss-side façade of the historical museum. There is also an inn dedicated to the Wilden Mann / "Wild Man".

BROTHER FRITSCHI

Simple farmer, cult figure of the Lucerne carnival, Fritschi fountain on Chapel Square

GHOST OF FURRENGASS

A thin, figurative apparition that gets bigger and bigger and moves via Eggtreppe and Kornmarkt through Furrengasse to Kapellplatz, dragging a gruesome animal tail behind it.

LAKE PILATUS

Legend of the burial place of Pontius Pilate (namesake of the mountain)

PILATUS

Story of the dragon who guards his treasures in a cave, story of the Pilatus witches, story of the wild people (small wild men who lived in caves)

DRAGON STONE

Legend of the stone that a dragon lost and which is said to bring prosperity. It is still kept in the Historical Museum today.

SQUARES & BUILDINGS

14

All available spaces and buildings are listed below. You will also find some additional information.

INSELI-PARK

The Inseli was originally an island in shallow water. It was privately owned until 1924. The Inseli only took on its present appearance in the 1950s. At that time, the Inselikanal was covered over to create parking spaces for the increasing number of tourist cars.

KKL LUZERN

The KKL Luzern (Culture and Convention Center Lucerne) stands on the site of the former Kunst- und Kongresshaus (1932 - 1933) and was built between 1996 and 2000 according to the plans of French architect Jean Nouvel. A copper roof projecting far to the north in the shape of a wing covers the space.

LUCERNE RAILROAD STATION

The old station burned down in 1971. All that remained was the iron construction of the platform halls. The new building was completed in 2001. Santiago Calatrava created a bold entrance hall in glass and concrete. The historic entrance gate is a reminder of the old station, which opened in 1896, with its 42-metre-high dome.

SQUARES & BUILDINGS

15

MEILI-HALL

Landing stage 1 is one of the most architecturally valuable boat stations on Swiss waters and is the only landing stage in Switzerland with a hall from the 1930s. It was built in 1935/36 by the renowned Lucerne architect Armin Meili. The platform floats above the lake and is supported on concrete pillars.

RAIFFEISEN COUNTER HALL

Raiffeisen is the third largest banking group in Switzerland. Raiffeisen is represented at 834 locations. One of these is located at Bahnhofstrasse 5 in Lucerne. The counter hall can be staged in this branch.

VÖGELI-GÄRTLI

Vögeligärtli was not only home to birds, but also deer, a stalactite cave and once a stinking gasworks. It wasn't until the Hirschmatt quarter was completed that the central library was added - and in a roundabout way.

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH

Too high a tower, too loud bells - the reformed St. Luke's Church did not have an easy time in Catholic Lucerne at first. However, the architecture of the reinforced concrete building was soon praised as an outstanding representative of early modernism. Inside the church, the stained glass windows by Louis Moilliet are particularly worth seeing.

VIKTORIAPLATZ LUKB

With the construction of the new railroad station in 1896, Pilatusstrasse was freed from the tracks of the Central Railway. The result was a magnificent boulevard that bears comparison with Zurich's Bahnhofstrasse. The Hirschmatt quarter was created on the drawing board.

THEATER LUCERNE

Lucerne's theater tradition did not begin in 1839 but can be traced back to the Middle Ages and early modern times. The idea for a new theater was born in 1812. Louis Pfyffer von Wyher was the chief architect of the theater building, the foundations of which were laid in March 1838.

SQUARES & BUILDINGS

16

FRANCISCAN CHURCH COURTYARD

The parish of St. Maria zu Franziskanern is located in the old town of Lucerne, on the left bank of the Reuss. The Franciscan church and the „Franziskanergärtli“ are the historic landmarks of the parish. The „Franziskanergärtli“ is also used as a Christmas market during the festive season.

FRANCISCAN SQUARE

There has been a Franciscan monastery within the ring of walls since the 13th century. The church of St. Mary in the center of the monastery was built between 1270 and 1280. The previous building therefore dates back to the Romanesque period. In 1561-1562, the nave was extended and essentially rebuilt in the Gothic style.

GOVERNMENT BUILDING

The construction of a Renaissance palazzo was intended to represent Lux (Luzius) Ritter's social career outwardly. The palazzo is a magnificent building in the style of the Italian Renaissance: the three-storey colonnaded courtyard (patio) in the center of the building is particularly graceful.

JESUIT CHURCH

The church Il Gesù Rome was the model for the Jesuit church in Lucerne. The Jesuit Church is the first baroque hall church in Switzerland. The baroque and rococo stucco, the high altar, the organ and the church treasury are of particular artistic value.

ZÖPFLI

„Zöpfl“ is the diminutive form of „Zopf“. The vernacular term refers to the position of the extraordinarily beautiful building at the south-eastern corner of the Old Town, on the northern bridgehead of the Reuss Bridge. The foundations of the building protrude into the Reuss.

MÜHLEN-PLATZ

From the 8th century, the mills used the power of the Reuss where today the Spreuerbrücke bridge leads to Mühlenplatz. In 1875, ten of the eleven mills were destroyed by fire. Instead, three Jonval turbines were built in 1887/89. By 1926, the mechanical power transmission had been replaced by an electricity generator, which produces 0.5 million kWh per year.

SQUARES & BUILDINGS

17

MUSEGG WALL & MUSEGG TOWERS

The Musegg Wall with its nine towers is part of Lucerne's historic city fortifications. The inner ring consisted of a city wall along the Löwengraben and Hirschengraben - the Kapellbrücke and Spreuerbrücke bridges were also part of it. The Musegg towers form the city crown, visible from afar.

Viewed from west to east, they are:

- 1 - Nölliturm
- 2 - Männliturm
- 3 - Luegislandturm
- 4 - Wachtturm/Heuturm
- 5 - Zytturm
- 6 - Schirmerturm
- 7 - Pulverturm
- 8 - Allenwindenturm
- 9 - Dächliturm

WINE MARKET

The Weinmarkt fountain - considered the most beautiful fountain in the city - is the work of stonemason Konrad Lux. He created the fountain in 1481 and worked on it for ten years. He was obviously inspired by the Fischmarkt fountain in Basel.

HIRSCHEN-PLATZ

There are two historic inns on Hirschenplatz: the „Goldene Adler“ and the „Hirschen“. The „Goldener Adler“ was granted tavern rights early on, in 1356. Where wasn't Goethe? Johann Wolfgang Goethe was of course also in Lucerne. In 1779, Goethe stayed at the „Goldener Adler“. The nearby „Hirschen“ has been in existence since 1474 and also boasts a splendidly crafted inn sign depicting a golden, leaping stag. Goethe is said to have dedicated a poem to it.

KORN-MARKT

Between 1602 and 1606, the Italian architect and master builder Anton Isenmann from Primmell erected the town hall on Kornmarkt in the Italian Renaissance style on the site of the previous building. Milanese builders and craftsmen accompanied Isenmann to Lucerne.

WATER TOWER

The water tower is one of Lucerne's best-known landmarks. It was built before the Chapel Bridge was built in the first half of the 14th century. Its characteristic feature is not only the old stork's nest on the top of the tower, which has not been occupied for a hundred years, but also its shape. Its ground plan is octagonal, the shape that the Hohenstaufen Emperor Frederick II Barbarossa was particularly fond of. The water tower was initially a symbol of power, a defensive and watchtower, later it was used as an archive, treasury and armory.

SQUARES & BUILDINGS

18

ST. PETER'S CHAPEL

St. Peter's Chapel is the oldest church in the city. It has always been a public place, linked to the fate of the city of Lucerne. This is what the chapel should also be today: a place of encounter, open to people from all walks of life and backgrounds, with respect for history and the courage to write new stories.

SEEUQUAI & SCHWEIZERHOFQUAI

Schweizerhofquai in Lucerne is the section of quay between Schwanenplatz and Kurplatz. The city government of Lucerne planned a road connection between Schwanenplatz and the Hofkirche St. Leodegar im Hof as early as 1836. A first narrow quay was then built in 1844 at the same time as the Hotel Schweizerhof Luzern was built.

HOTEL SCHWEIZERHOF

The Hotel Schweizerhof is a five-star hotel located near the shores of Lake Lucerne on Schweizerhofquai. The hotel is one of the few in Switzerland that is a cultural asset of national importance and is a listed building. The original architecture has been largely preserved to this day.

KURPLATZ

The Kurplatz with the music pavilion was built between the Schweizerhofquai and the Nationalquai in 1906. The small, unprecedentedly beautiful park was designed by Berlin architect Bruno Schmitz on behalf of the Lucerne hotel industry in the style of so-called geometric Art Nouveau. The pavilion, benches, fountain and lights form a complete work of art.

MUSIC PAVILION

Pavilion, benches, fountain and lights form a complete work of art. Schmitz is also the creator of the Monument to the Battle of the Nations in Leipzig (Germany). Before the First World War, a spa orchestra gave daily concerts in the pavilion during the tourist season.

COURT CHURCH EXTERIOR FAÇADE

The Hofkirche, originally a Romanesque building, burned down in 1633 and was subsequently rebuilt. The two towers, which still show Romanesque architectural elements, remained. The Gothic Oelberg group was added to the north tower in 1633. The St. Michael's Chapel is located between the two 69-metre-high towers above the entrance hall.

SQUARES & BUILDINGS

19

BOURBAKI

The giant circular painting depicting the passage of the Bourbaki army was commissioned by a Geneva panorama entrepreneur. This panorama was moved from Geneva to Lucerne in 1889. Today it is part of a cultural center. The new building houses cinemas in the basement and the Lucerne City Library on the upper floor.

LION MONUMENT

In 1821, Karl Pfyffer von Altshofen commissioned the Danish sculptor Berthel Thorvaldsen to create a monument to the Lucerne Guards in the abandoned quarry on his Kreuzmatt estate. Thorvaldsen designed three models for the lion monument: one is in the Glacier Garden, a second in the Historical Museum and the third in the Thorvaldsen Museum in Copenhagen.

GLACIER GARDEN

In 1873/1874, glacier pots were discovered by chance during the construction of a wine cellar in the immediate vicinity of the Lion Monument. The Glacier Garden Museum was created: the focus is on the depiction of ice-age Lucerne.

NATIONALQUAI & HOTEL NATIONAL

The Hotel National was built in various stages between 1870 and 1890. The monumental hotel building in the style of French historicism still bears witness to the formative power of tourism at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. The quay area, the Nationalquai, owes its name to the Hotel National. The quay was generously laid out and the previously flat lakeshore was greatly altered.

GRAND CASINO

In 1882, a magnificent architectural gem, the former Kursaal, was built in the city of Lucerne. Even then, it was a place for meetings, entertainment and pleasure for the senses. Over the past 130 years, the Kursaal has undergone several renovations to become the Grand Casino Luzern of today.

MATTHIAS-LUCHSINGER-PLATZ

Matthias Luchsinger was a member of the Lucerne City Parliament (Grand City Council) at municipal level between 1959 and 1973. During his eleven years as Director of Construction, he was responsible for numerous building and planning projects. The car-free Old Town of Lucerne and the lakeside path from the Museum of Transport to Tribtschen deserve special mention. The square at the Casino Lucerne on Lucerne's National Quai was named Matthias-Luchsinger-Platz in his honor.

SQUARES & BUILDINGS

20

HOTEL MONTANA

A funicular railroad takes guests from Haldenstrasse to the Hotel Montana on the hill above the Halden quarter: the magnificent Hotel Montana was built shortly before the First World War by Lucerne architects Moeri & Krebs. Today, it is considered a masterpiece of Art Deco architecture in Switzerland.

RÖSSLIWIESE

The large meadow on Carl-Spitteler-Quai invites you to relax and enjoy yourself. The peaceful park is located directly on the water. The large trees provide enough shade in summer to spend an afternoon by the lake.

VILLA SCHWEIZERHOF

It was around 1860 that the Zingg family acquired the property in a privileged location directly on the shores of Lake Lucerne and built a manor house on it. In the 20th century, the Hauser family acquired this stately property to build a stylish and magnificent hotel.

LIDO FIELD

The Lido Wiese with its fantastic view of Lucerne and the mountain panorama offers many visitors unforgettable moments. The magnificent park is located directly on the lakeshore. Today, the park serves as a meeting place and creates a pleasant atmosphere thanks to its size.

SWISS MUSEUM OF TRANSPORT

The Swiss Museum of Transport was opened on July 1, 1959 after two years of construction and quickly became the most visited museum in Switzerland. In 1969, Switzerland's first and still only large planetarium was added, along with the restaurant and office building. The iconic Road Traffic Hall was added for the 50th anniversary in 2009.

SEEBRÜCKE (IN THE WATER)

The bridge was built a good 150 years ago. The first changes were not made until 1934, when the bridge was widened to a width of 26.7 meters with a new reinforced concrete superstructure. At the time, this made Lucerne's Seebrücke the widest bridge in Switzerland.

STREET- LIGHTART

LIGHT THE WAY

21

The Lilu tour is a route that connects all the light installations at Lilu. Visitors are guided from one installation to the next. At Lilu 2026, we want to deepen the tour experience even more: our guests should come across various small projections or works of lightart along the way. After all, it doesn't always have to be big and grand – sometimes it's the hidden works of art embedded in the environment that inspire visitors, make them laugh or think.

For the «Street-Lightart» project, we are looking for smaller, simpler light installations with a great effect. The Lilu festival site should be illuminated in as many places and corners as possible – staged street lamps, small projections on facades or trees will light the way for visitors. This project gives lightart creators the opportunity to enter the world of light festivals at a low threshold, to present existing small projects or to test designs for larger light installations on a small scale.

Artists receive a maximum of CHF 1,000 per installation.

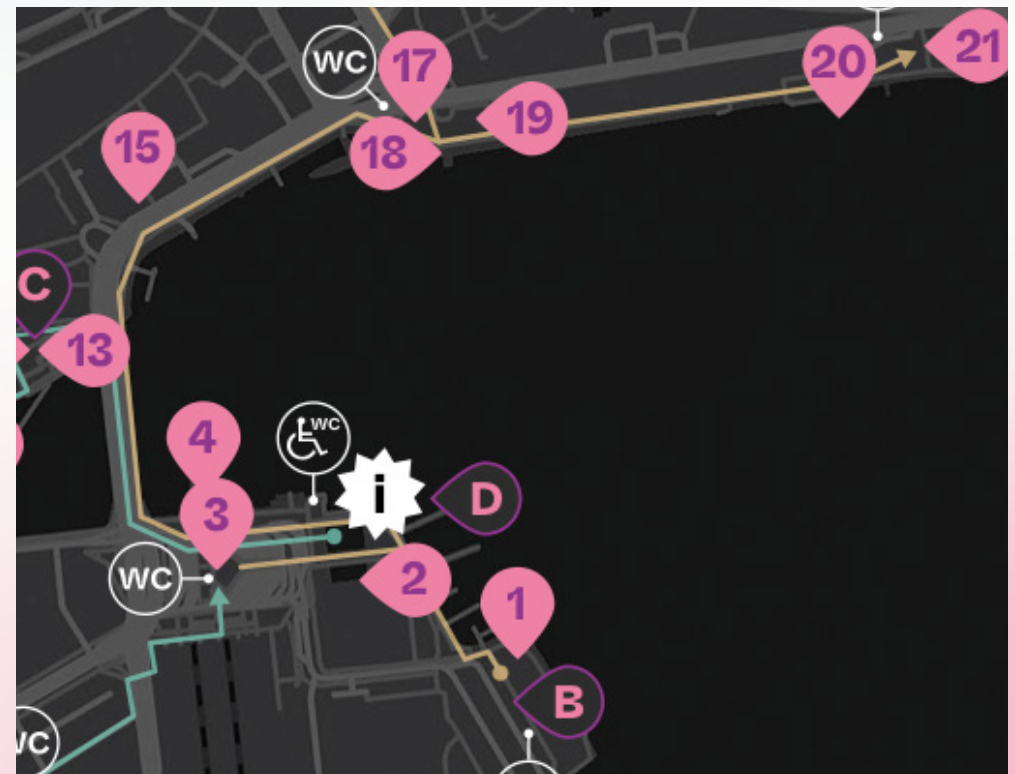
The power connection is provided by the Lucerne Light Festival.

SMALL ART, BIG IMPACT

For the first time, we are planning the «Lilulino» for Lilo 2026: a place will be created at «Inseli» in Lucerne where smaller light installations will be given a stage. Visitors will be immersed in their own little world of Lilo. Various seating areas and catering options create a cozy atmosphere in which guests have time to marvel at the different and creative light installations.

Do you have a project that requires a maximum area of 5m² and would like to give it a big stage? Then apply with your idea and, with a bit of luck, become part of the new Lilulino.

Artists will receive a maximum of CHF 1,000 per installation.
The power connection will be provided by the Lucerne Light Festival.



PROJECT NEUBAD

23

Get the opportunity to realize your lightart project during one month and present it at the Lilu 2026.

The Neubad, the former indoor swimming pool of the city of Lucerne, hosts numerous events every year in the fields of music, spoken word, science, film, performance, cuisine and much more. Perched on the roof of the Neubad is a 4.5-room apartment that wants to be filled with fresh art and cultural madness. The aim of this residency is to create digital art to fill the pool of the Neubad during the Lilu Light Festival Lucerne.

Is there a project floating around in your head that you finally want to realize but have never found the resources to do so? The Neubad project gives you the chance to live in the Neubad residence for a month on board and lodging and to throw yourself into your vision of lightart. It doesn't matter whether you work alone or with a collective – the main thing is that your idea is convincing!

This project will be advertised separately in spring. If you are interested, you can contact us so that we can send you the call for applications as soon as it is published in April: residenz@lichtfestivalluzern.ch

CONTACT US

LILU LIGHTFESTIVAL LUCERNE 15. - 25.01.2026

Lichtfestival Luzern
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6002 Luzern

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24

PROJECT ENTRIES

[Call for Projects Registration](#)

MORE INFO

lichtfestivalluzern.ch/call-for-projects
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