Appendix 1

**FESTIVAL DESCRIPTION, PROGRAMME,**

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

**The 13th Light Festival “Staro Rīga”**

Time of event: **18 - 21 November 2020**

Opening hours of festival objects every day of the festival from 17:00 to 23:00

Venue: **Riga**

**The theme and programme of the Light Festival “Staro Rīga” 2020**

**Festival theme: CHIAROSCURO**

The light festival organisers tend to say that during the festival we turn off the light rather than turn it on. It is not easy to get complete darkness in an urban environment, and you may have to agree with the famous Latvian folk music instrument *kokle* player Laima Jansone, who has said: “There is never real darkness in the universe. It slightly reflects the light from the stars.”

The converse is the manifestation of identity. Darkness is usually opposite to light. Reflection in the mirror does not occur unless one side is dark. Darkness highlight everything that is light, and this contrast encoded in the title of the festival theme indicates the deepest essence – the light that is accentuated by the darkness. Traditionally, two colours – white and black – are used to represent darkness and light. But is darkness black and light - white?

One of the techniques used in art for effectively engaging with darkness is chiaroscuro - a distinctive contrast between light and dark, which affects the overall composition of the art piece. In painting, the light falls from a single, usually invisible source to deepen the dramatic, psychological effect of individual objects. Famous artists such as [Leonardo da Vinci](https://lv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leonardo_Da_Vin%C4%8Di), [Caravaggio](https://lv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karavad%C5%BEo) and [Rembrandt](https://lv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rembrants) excelled in this technique.

By offering light objects to the Light Festival “Staro Rīga”, light artists are invited to freely interpret the broad subject as both a method of creating light art objects and a narrative of their content.

The Light Festival “Staro Rīga” is a platform for creative solutions that combines projects the main artistic technique of which is the use of light through a variety of innovative technical and technological solutions.

This approach is particularly important at the moment, when we all live differently and we have to take into account different restrictions in the course of events. The Light festival "Staro Rīga" will also be different and will be developed by the complex nature of light art and various possibilities of technological solutions.

Light artists are invited to apply their light objects in any variety of forms of light art expression – freestanding installations, light sculptures, ambient and landscape lighting, lighting of walking routes, video projections, interactive light objects that can be created and enhanced by festival viewers using (also remotely) a variety of technologies and virtual environments.

Applicants for light objects are invited to think about new formats for releasing of the light festival objects, which can take place even if there is a ban on public assembly during “Staro Riga”.

The area of the festival is changed significantly. When choosing the site, light artists are invited to think in a decentralized way, looking for new site placements not only in the central part of the city, as it has been before and not only on the street level.

When offering visual objects and installations in public environment, the following restricted assembly conditions must be taken into account, and consideration should be given to the urgency of responding to new restrictions and recommendations by the responsible authorities for safer visits, provided that during the festival public assembly will be allowed::

- light objects shall be designed to enable viewers to observe 2 m distancing from each other;

- the sites should not include solutions for the participation of viewers in the handling of stands or devices;

- distancing and personal hygiene measures for the activities of the personnel involved should be provided;

- operational response to the adjustment of the flow of viewers should be planned, as far as it depends on the designer of the light object.

It should be considered that signing of contracts for applications approved in the tender for implementation of publicly accessible objects will be coordinated with the regulatory frameworks of the responsible authorities on the safe course of events and could be launched in September.

The overall programme of the Festival 2020 will consist of the following parts:

1. The main programme of the festival
2. Festival participation and partner programme in which various companies, institutions and private entrepreneurs participate with light projects.

This programme will also include citizens' participation initiatives, encouraging everyone to play an active role in creating light objects in their homes and in making use of tools and materials available to everyone.

There may also be a separate programme of creative, educational and experimental events that invites organisations, institutions, to share creative ideas corresponding to the Light festival “Staro Riga” , focusing on the involvement and co-operation of citizens by sending them to e-mail staroriga@riga.lv. The creation of such a programme of activities will be decided after evaluation of the competition entries.

**1. Main programme of the Festival**

Light artists / light object organisers are invited to seek innovative approaches to solutions for light objects. Festival objects may be located in inaccessible places that can be viewed only from a distance organised and controlled remotely, virtual and mobile, using virtual space and unexpected technical and technological solutions.

Objects can be located in different places in the urban environment – parks, walking routes, bridges, squares, yards, on and near monuments, buildings. They must conform to the scale of the urban environment, can be visible both in the vicinity and at a distance, in the context of the urban landscape.

**2. Festival participation and partner programme “Riga Carnival”**

The Festival programme includes light objects - light installations and objects of the cooperation partners, whose ideas are created, technically realised and financed by Festival partners or sponsors. The programme of the cooperation partners allows companies and institutions to get involved in an urban festival by lighting their own building, creating an light installation and telling the story of their company. Cooperation partners co-finance the festival, covering the cost of creating the light object. Cooperation partners are offered a special communication programme, in which the partner can be involved in covering additional costs by co-financing the costs of the advertising campaign at its discretion.

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