

Fundación Banco Santander responds to the COVID-19 crisis with free online culture and aid for the third sector

Since the state of alarm was declared in Spain, Fundación Banco Santander has redirected its activity with two objectives:

- Facilitate access to culture from home
- Support NGOs working with vulnerable groups affected by the current crisis.

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In the **field of culture**, one of its main areas of work, the following initiatives have been developed:

- The website, fundacionbancosantander.com, has enabled a virtual visit of the latest exhibition "My Cartography, The Erling Kagge Collection" located in the Art Gallery of Boadilla and inaugurated last February 24th by Ana Botín and Rodrigo Echenique. Via the screen the user can access the exhibition, obtain information about each piece and decide on their own route with the help of a virtual map. The exhibition brings together 188 pieces by some of today's most interesting artists: Ian Cheng, Eliza Douglas, Olafur Eliasson, Jana Euler, Raymond Pettibon, Wolfgang Tillmans or Franz West.
- The foundation has published the latest titles of the [Colección Literaria Obra Fundamental](#) - free of charge on its website. For more than 20 years, the Foundation has been publishing unpublished texts that show the most unknown personality of literary figures of enormous importance and their most humane facet. With the help of researchers and specialists on each of the authors, the Foundation has rescued texts by such significant women as Ana María Martínez Sagi, Clara Campoamor and Elisabeth Mulder, and by extraordinary figures such as Vicente Alexandre and Ramón de la Serna, the next protagonist of the following volume of the Collection. All of these volumes can be downloaded with a single click from the Foundation's website.

- Support has been provided to the artistic and lyrical institutions with which the Foundation usually develops projects to enable them to make as much content as possible available to the public in digital format, thus making it easier for museums to develop virtual tours of their exhibitions and for theatres to offer their shows online. This has been achieved, for example, by Patrimonio Nacional with the exhibition [La otra Corte. Mujeres de la Casa de Austria en los Monasterios Reales de las Descalzas y la Encarnación](#)
- Various online meetings have been organised for employees and shareholders related to the Banco Santander Collection and the exhibition currently on display at the Boadilla Gallery.

However, the most notable aspect of its activity is found within its social action programmes, which have been adapted to help cover the new needs that have arisen among the most vulnerable groups in society during the State of Alert.

- Within [Santander Ayuda](#), the Foundation's support programme for non-profit organisations, a special **COVID 19 edition** has been created. The Foundation will allocate **200,000** euros to social projects that help groups at risk of exclusion to cope with the effects of the health and social crisis. Given the high demand for the call for proposals, the usual selection of beneficiaries has been **doubled** and on this occasion 40 projects will be supported with a maximum grant of 5,000 euros. Among the selected projects are initiatives such as:
 - “Fidias frente a la brecha tecnológica derivada de la crisis sanitaria y social del COVID-19” of the Fundación Fidias, for the purchase of computer equipment for the most vulnerable children and young people in Vizcaya.
 - The “Vuelvo a la comunidad” project of the Asociación de Personas con Diversidad Funcional de Emburria aimed at creating the figure of personal assistants to guide people with functional diversity in Asturias and to be able to face the new situation safely. A total of 26,399 people will see their situation of vulnerability improved thanks to this aid.
- Lastly, the programme [Santander Social Tech](#), aimed at promoting the digitalisation of the third sector, has been reinforced in this second edition. After verifying the new needs of the NGOs related to teleworking and the development of their online projects, the Foundation has activated new online training courses in digital transformation and has distributed aid worth 250,000 euros to 50 NGOs to acquire hardware, software and communication and fundraising tools in a digital format.

Guadalupe Fernández Díaz, program coordinator of the Association of Parents of Deaf Children in Salamanca, explains that "since the state of alarm of COVID-19 began, it

was clear to us that our hearing impaired children and youth and their families could not be left without services. Thanks to Santander Social Tech's help we are going to renew the website and make it accessible. We are also working to create an intranet to communicate internally with our partners and be able to post content about our telematic speech therapy and educational services. This help is a great opportunity for these times".

Borja Baselga, director of Fundación Banco Santander said that "with these two projects the Foundation has dedicated half a million euros to supporting small NGOs. They are the ones who know best the needs of their immediate community and with this aid we enable them to respond quickly to the new situation".

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At Fundación Banco Santander we work to contribute to the construction of a more equitable, inclusive and sustainable society.

With this objective, we develop initiatives grouped into three lines of action: the promotion of culture as a tool for understanding the world around us, social action to facilitate the progress of vulnerable groups and care of the environment to protect natural heritage.

In all our programmes we strive to create networks of collaboration with the third sector in order to face the main global challenges together.