



ARTS COUNCIL MALTA
ANNUAL REPORT

2017



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Cover shows an image from *Human_Construct*, Kane Cali, Project Support Grant – Malta Arts Fund. Photo by Alexandra Pace

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CONTENTS

Chair's Foreword.....	4	Cultural Participation Survey 2016..	48
Organisational Structure & Governance	7	Artisti	52
The Arts Council Malta Board & Directors	8	EU Projects Office.....	56
The Strategy Team	9	The Cultural Programme of the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union.....	58
Arts Council Malta in 2017.....	10	Funding & Brokerage	62
Government Budget 2017 allocations to ACM and Public Cultural Organisations (PCOs).....	12	Key figures for Funding Programmes in 2017.....	64
Strategy	14	Amounts Awarded in 2017.....	66
Progress to date for the Strategy2020 Actions	17	Funding Programmes – Evaluations	74
Strategic Action Highlights	44	ACM Brokerage and Training Services 2017.....	75
The Malta Pavilion at the Biennale Arte 2017.....	46	ACMLab sessions 2017.....	76
		ACM'S Digital Presence in 2017.....	77

Executive Chair's Foreword

Albert Marshall

2017 – A year of firsts

Cultural democratisation has been the overarching mission and vision of Arts Council Malta since its inception in 2015. Much has happened in the two years since the Council published its *Strategy2020*, its five-year action plan for the cultural and creative sectors. At the time, the Council committed to implementing 70 actions in five years, a long-term plan which would transform Malta's cultural and artistic landscape in line with its vision of placing the arts at the centre of people's lives

Since then, 66 of these actions have already been – or are in the process of – being implemented. Most involved bold new initiatives, a change in mindset – a cultural paradigm shift – and an addressing of the sector's needs to stimulate growth and create jobs.

That is why, for Arts Council Malta, 2017 was a year of firsts. We started out with the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, in which the Council played a pivotal part through the design and implementation of the Presidency's Cultural Programme.

This was followed by the Malta Pavilion at La Biennale di Venezia 2017, *Homo Melitensis: An Incomplete Inventory in 19 Chapters*, which

received considerable press acclaim and marked Malta's return to the Biennale.

The publication of the results of the 2016 Cultural Participation

The Council committed to implementing 70 actions in five years, a long-term plan which would transform Malta's cultural and artistic landscape in line with its vision of placing the arts at the centre of people's lives

Survey through a symposium and accompanying publications – with its wealth of insights and analysis – was another important milestone.

On the funding front, the launch of the Professional Development Grant was followed by Artivisti, Arts Council Malta's mentoring programme for young artists. 2017 also saw the launch of the Creative Industries Platform, a sector-specific fund which aims to build business clusters in the cultural and creative sectors.

New initiatives also kept rolling out: the EU Projects Office and Il-Premju għall-Arti, the first national arts awards, both of which were launched last year.

Finally, 2017 came to an end with the launch of Festivals Malta as a new public cultural organisation, marking its separation from Arts Council Malta. On the eve of 2018, the year of Valletta as the European Capital of Culture, we are now looking forward to the year ahead, the first when Arts Council

Since then, 66 of these actions have already been – or are in the process of – being implemented. Most involved bold new initiatives, a change in mindset – a cultural paradigm shift – and an addressing of the sector's needs to stimulate growth and create jobs

Malta can fully focus on its role as policy maker and strategic nerve centre, paving the way for the final implementation of its *Strategy2020* vision while proactively taking the initiative to design its next five-year commitment inspired by the new National Cultural Policy due to be published shortly.

On the eve of 2018, the year of Valletta as the European Capital of Culture, we are now looking forward to the year ahead, the first when Arts Council Malta can fully focus on its role as policy maker and strategic nerve centre

Organisational Structure & Governance



Dancer Yasmin Bohn.
Photo by Ritty Tacsum.

The Arts Council Malta Board & Directors

Executive Chairman Albert Marshall

Vice Chairman Dr Paul Cachia

BEFORE JUNE 2017

Dominic Galea
Charles Hili
Jackie Scott
Joe Micallef
Marquis Nicholas De Piro
Caroline Tonna
Frederick Testa

AFTER JUNE 2017

Veronique Farrugia
Charles Hili
Jackie Scott
Joe Micallef
Marquis Nicholas De Piro
Caroline Tonna
Paul Giordimaina

ARTS COUNCIL MALTA DIRECTORS

Director of Strategy Toni Attard

Director of Festivals & Events Annabelle Stivala

Director Corporate Affairs Etienne Bonello

The Strategy Team

FUNDING & BROKERAGE

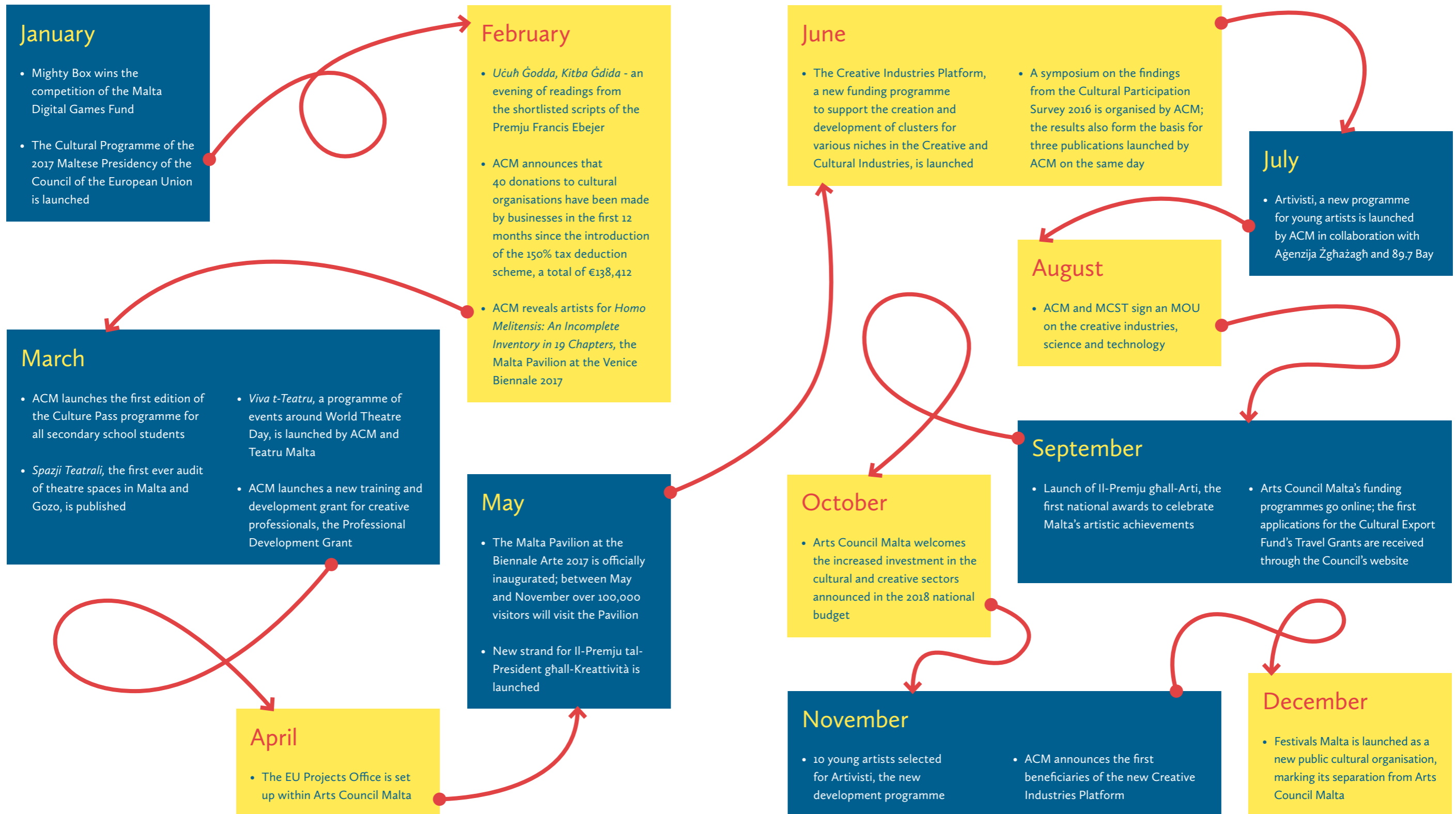
Elaine Falzon, Head of Funding & Brokerage
Christabel Catania, Creative Broker
Joseph Lia, Creative Broker
Annalise Buttigieg, Senior Fund Administrator
Rachel Vella, Fund Administrator

ASSOCIATES

Joseph Buttigieg, Education & Training Associate
Adrian Debattista, Research Associate
Romina Delia, Internationalisation Associate
Frances Catherine Farrugia, Business Development Associate
Simone Inguanez, Diversity & Communities Associate
Christopher Spiteri, EU Projects Associate

Sandra Borg, Communications Executive
Luke Dalli, Legal Officer
Eric Fenech Sevasta, Management Support Executive
Martha Scicluna, Support Administrator

Arts Council Malta in 2017



Government Budget 2017 allocations to ACM and Public Cultural Organisations (PCOs)

ACM RECURRENT EXPENDITURE 2017		€
Arts Council Malta	2,200,000	

ACM PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES 2017		€
Malta Arts Fund	320,000	
Cultural Export Fund	150,000	
Cultural Partnership Agreement	510,000	
Kreattiv	100,000	
Creative Communities	150,000	
Il-Premju tal-President għall-Kreattività	90,000	
KulturaTV	300,000	
Malta Digital Games Fund	100,000	
National Fund for Artistic Excellence (includes Artisti and the Professional Development Grant)	120,000	
La Biennale di Venezia	150,000	
Teatru Malta	170,000	
Support to Cultural NGOs/Enterprises	140,000	
TOTAL	2,300,000	

PUBLIC CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS (PCOS) RECURRENT AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE		€
Festivals Malta	1,322,000	
Teatru Manoel	1,835,000	
The Valletta 2018 Foundation	4,517,000	
Pjazza Teatru Rjal	2,300,000	
ŻfinMalta	550,000	
Fondazzjoni Kreattività	1,090,000	
The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra	2,250,000	
Mediterranean Conference Centre	630,000	
TOTAL	14,494,000	

The Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival organised by Inizjamed; supported through the Cultural Partnership Agreement. Photo by Virginia Monteforte

Strategy



Our vision

Placing the arts and creativity at the heart of Malta's future.

Our mission

We invest in the cultural and creative sectors to achieve higher levels of excellence and develop Malta's creative ecology.

Our goals

1. Nurture creative potential and support its development into professional activity.
2. Invest in artistic excellence.
3. Connect Malta to the international artistic community.
4. Provide more opportunities for people to engage in creativity.
5. Build the capacity of Public Cultural Organisations (PCOs).

Progress to date for the Strategy2020 Actions

Based on the five strategic goals outlined in Strategy2020, 70 actions were established to address three stakeholder groups: creative professionals, communities and public cultural organisations. 66 of these actions were in progress in 2017 and were monitored against planned measures which were set at the beginning of the year. Qualitative and quantitative indicators were gathered on a quarterly basis in order to assess the progress of each measure against its respective action. The below summarises the progress made throughout 2017 for each of the 66 actions:

FUNDING

ACTION 1 Develop a five-year strategic funding portfolio to invest €10 million in creative professionals, practitioners, cultural organisations and organisations engaged in cultural initiatives, through strategic and development funding programmes targeting 750 projects and beneficiaries.

In 2017, Arts Council Malta managed a total number of 26 calls across 10 funding programmes, received 470 applications and awarded 189 beneficiaries across various art forms and creative disciplines. An average of two out of every five applications was awarded, granting beneficiaries a total of €1,167,235. As part of the development of the strategic funding portfolio, three new funding

programmes and initiatives were launched in 2017: the Professional Development Grant, Artivisti and the Creative Industries Platform.

ACTION 2 Invest €1.3 million in Malta Arts Fund research, development and multi-annual project grants.

In 2017, Arts Council Malta received a total of 137 applications for the Malta Arts Fund – 117 applications for the Project Support Grant and 20 applications for the Research Support Grant. Of these, 19 projects were supported through the Project Support Grant and six through the Research Support Grant. The four projects funded through the Multi-Annual Support Grant – addressing long-term international collaborative

projects – kicked off during 2017. These projects also form part of the Valletta 2018 artistic programme.

ACTION 3 Develop a regular funding programme for partner organisations to implement this strategy.

2017 was the first year of funding for the 11 organisations supported through the Cultural Partnership Agreement – Arts Council Malta’s regular funding programme for cultural organisations and festivals. Between 2017 and 2019, these entities will receive a total of over one million euro through the programme. In return, they will be required to further the Council’s strategic aims as laid out in Strategy2020.

Following a competitive call for proposals, the selected organisations are the META Foundation; Teatru Salesjan; Opening Doors Association; BLITZ and Kinemastik. The selected festivals are: The Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival organised by Inizjamed; the Malta Short Film Festival organised by the Malta Film Foundation, the designers’ component of the Malta Fashion Week, the Valletta Film Festival organised by the Film Grain Foundation, L-Ghanja tal Poplu and the Beland Music Festival.

The Cultural Partnership Agreements with the main strategic partners have already led to a number of new recruitments, additions to the programmes, cross-collaborations between the supported organisations and participation in development programmes.

ACTION 4 Establish a new funding programme for emerging artists as part of the National Fund for Excellence.

In June 2017, a call for young artists was launched. The new mentoring and funding programme, Artivisti, aimed to provide emerging creatives in the community with an opportunity to access and learn from a nourishing pool of talent and a rich network of peers. 10 Artivisti have been selected for 2017-18 (More info on pages 54-55).

ACTION 5 Establish a new funding programme for training and continuous professional development as part of the National Fund for Excellence.

The Professional Development Grant, a new programme to support professional development and training in the cultural and creative sectors, was launched in 2017. Out of 53 applications, 37 benefitted from this grant with a total of €46,544 allocated towards this fund.

The Professional Development Grant took over and expanded on the training component that was formerly integrated in the Travel Grants, a strand of the Cultural Export Fund.

ACTION 6 Increase co-funding mechanisms for our portfolio through public private financing and crowdfunding.

Throughout 2017, Arts Council Malta has sustained its initiatives which specifically address this strategic point, namely the 150% tax deduction

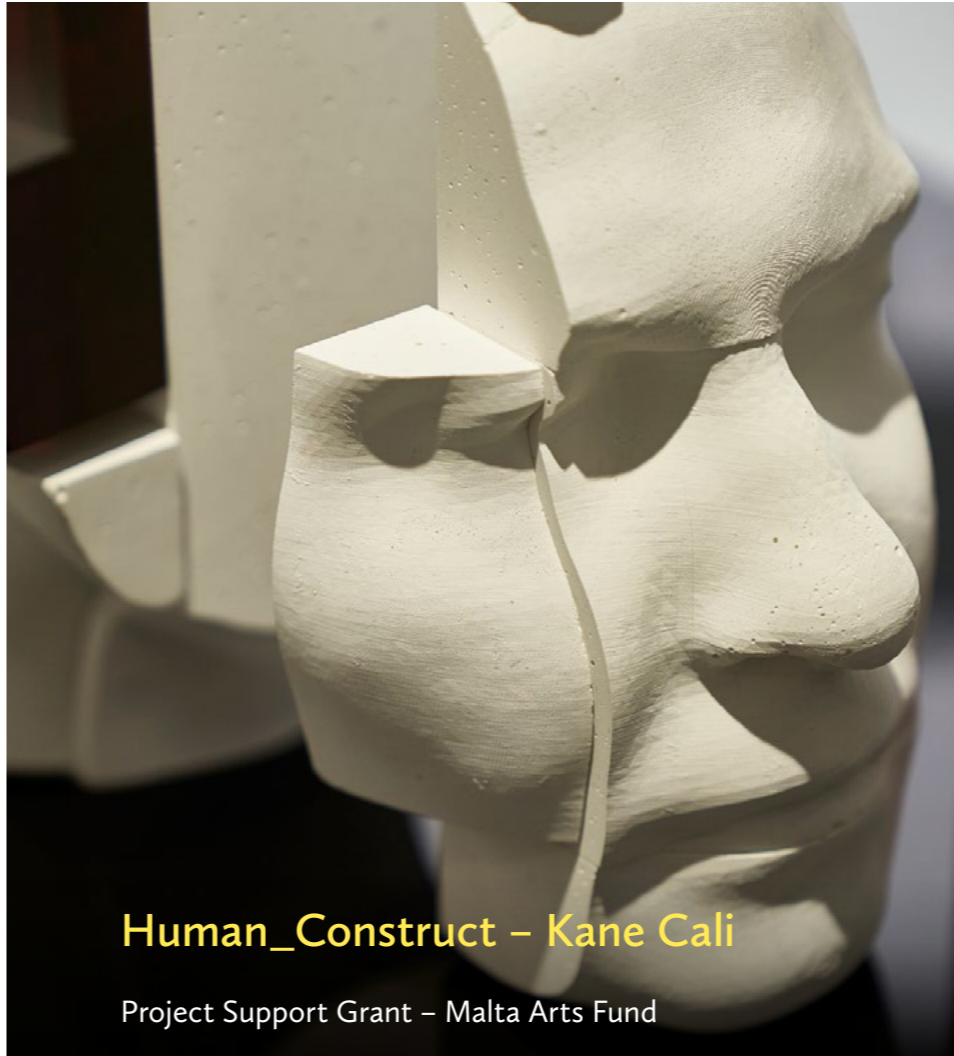
on donations to culture and the collaboration with ZAAR crowdfunding platform. During 2017, 33 donations to various cultural organisations – amounting to €265,550 - were claimed under this incentive. Donations were mainly targeted to heritage and performing arts organisations and band clubs.

In 2017, 20 creative projects approached ZAAR crowdfunding

platform, of which 14 successfully raised the targeted amounts.

ACTION 7 Establish standard operating procedures for fund management to ensure transparency, reduce bureaucracy and simplify the application process.

In 2017 the standard operating procedures were consolidated and updated as the system was gradually shifting to a new online CRM system.



Human_Construct – Kane Cali
Project Support Grant – Malta Arts Fund

The first major solo exhibition by Maltese artist Kane Cali. *Human_Construct* is both research project and exhibition, delving into notions of identity. The works invite the viewer to take a step back and reflect on our identity as a social species, both in tangible human form and as a construction of ephemeral data.

“Having been awarded the Malta Arts Fund for the Human_Construct project proved to be invaluable as it greatly contributed to broadening collaborative avenues with other creative institutions, such as Fab Lab, Esplora and R Lautier. Beyond this, it has enabled me to continue developing my practice through further material exploration and helped reach audiences beyond those of the art circle. The fund also allowed me the opportunity to better focus my efforts on the details needed to achieve high standards on all fronts.”

Therefore, throughout the year, the Strategy team was constantly working on creating, updating and reviewing the CRM system which will be completely changing the internal workflow, leading to a more fluid, transparent, coherent and efficient system. Throughout the year, the Strategy team organised a number of internal workshops to discuss the procedures in view of these changes and update/change where necessary. These updates started to be gradually communicated publicly so as to ensure a smooth transition.

The funding guidelines, which outline the procedure adopted, were regularly updated throughout the

year. The dissemination of information about the funding programmes and procedure, both publicly as well as to the evaluators selected to carry out the evaluations, remained a constant.

ACTION 8 Increase the use of online funding applications for a greener and more efficient funding process.

During 2017 Arts Council Malta officially launched the new online application system, starting with the Travel Grants (September deadline) and slowly adding the Presentation & Touring and Professional Development Grant to the online portfolio by the end of the year. Apart from

preparing for the actual launch, the Funding & Brokerage team was busy testing the system and also actively communicating this update with the creative sector while attending to questions and queries concerning registrations and online applications.

ACTION 9 Assess and monitor the strategies, financial estimates and financial records of Public cultural organisations.

Budget and programming meetings were held individually with PCOs in preparation for the 2018 budget submissions. Regular meetings were held between Arts Council Malta associates and their counterparts in PCOs to ensure that the Strategy2020 strategic objectives are streamlined in the programmes of PCOs. A quarterly reporting mechanism was also created to monitor cultural participation and programming.

ACTION 10 Set up Teatru Malta as a professional structure for the development of theatre through productions and co-productions with Maltese and international artists and companies.

Throughout 2017, Teatru Malta, under the remit of Arts Council Malta, focused on the setting up of its organisational structure - including the opening of its premises at Teatru Pandora community theatre in Żejtun. After the launch of

its branding and concept in March 2017 as Malta's first national theatre with no walls, 2017 was a year of development and research, with a full programme of events to kick off in January 2018.

ACTION 11 Establish Festivals Malta, including the Carnival Village Experience, as part of the Valletta 2018 legacy programme.

In December 2017, Arts Council Malta launched Festivals Malta as a Public Cultural Organisation (PCO) which not only programmes cultural activities, but also endeavours to make festivals and the performing arts an integral part of Maltese life. Festivals Malta is responsible for more than 160 activities, including eight festivals and five national events.

The remit of this new Public Cultural Organisation (PCO) reflects Arts Council Malta's mission and vision as set out in Strategy2020. Festivals Malta seeks to fulfill the Council's commitment to implement the National Cultural Policy in terms of cultural public manifestations through the existent festivals and the creation of new ones as required.

Festivals Malta is also working on setting up the Malta Carnival Experience project, funded by the EU's ERDF, which will offer a year-round Carnival showcase of all elements related to this popular event.

LITHOS proved to be an innovative and ground-breaking printmaking research that located and tested local limestone to substitute the Bavarian Solnhofen limestone, which is exclusively used for lithography.

The team consisted of Maltese geologist Saviour Scerri, Moroccan master lithographer Elkahfai Moulay Youssef and three Maltese intaglio printmakers Lino Borg, Justin Falzon and Jesmond Vassallo.

"The positive results obtained have proved to be an important stepping stone for the re-introduction of this fascinating art form to the Maltese artistic scene."



LITHOS – Jesmond Vassallo

Research Support Grant – Malta Arts Fund

BROKERAGE

ACTION 12 Create and update a cultural resource toolkit.

Following regular ACMLab sessions throughout the year which tackled different relevant subjects, a number of toolkits have been created and uploaded on the ACM website. These include guides about applying for ACM funding programmes online, crowdfunding the arts, income tax, ethical considerations, PR and standard contracts.

ACTION 13 Organise regular information sessions and workshops on funding programmes.

Throughout the year, a number of different sessions were organised to provide targeted information about the funds managed by the Council. The team organised a session focusing on band clubs and related funding opportunities and has also organised sessions focusing on specific funds, namely the newly-launched Professional Development Grant, the Creative Industries Platform and Artivisti as well as Il-Premju tal-President għall-Kreattività. The Creative Brokers regularly visited the Gozo Culture office to provide direct brokerage services.

ACTION 14 Facilitate regular networking sessions between the identified stakeholders in the strategy and other sectors.

In 2017 Arts Council Malta organised one specific networking session, namely the Kreattiv networking session, through which schools were encouraged to meet creative practitioners and develop projects together. The Funding & Brokerage team also assisted the newly-launched Teatru Malta to organise *Tahdita Teatru* and *Tour Teatru Tazza Te*, two initiatives aiming at bringing the theatre sector and the various local communities together to discuss, network and possibly collaborate on a number of different budding projects.

ACTION 15 Design thematic and project development seminars.

A total of seven ACMLab sessions were organised in 2017, focusing on a wide range of subjects including international networking, supporting voluntary organisations in widening cultural participation, audience development and building online audiences as well as art pricing.

ACTION 16 Organise Information sessions on intellectual property rights and other legal matters.

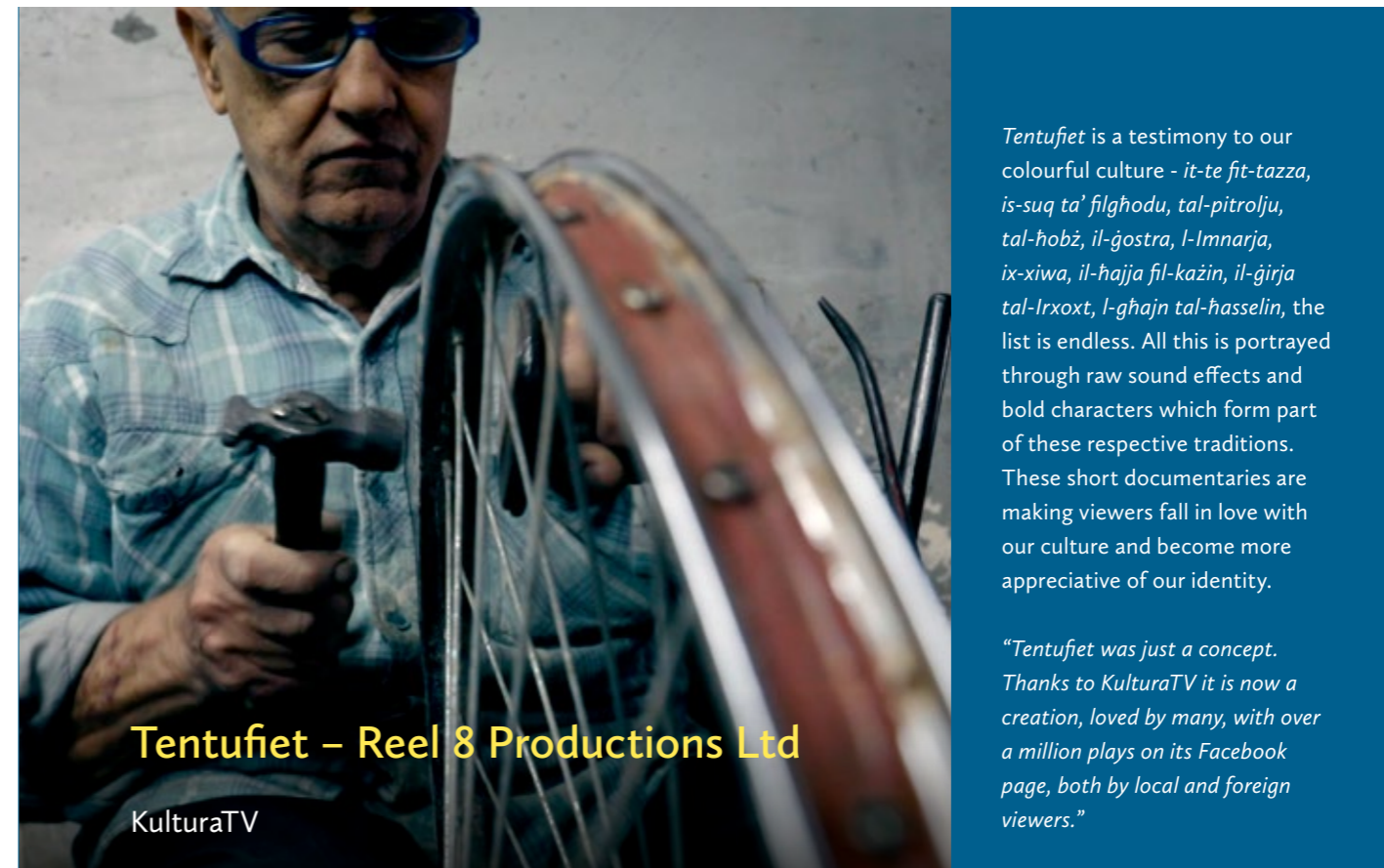
An ACMLab session entitled 'Self-censorship: how free is free?' was held in April 2017. The session presented and explained the current legislation in relation to freedom of artistic expression and opened the discussion about issues which the creative sector at times faces.

ACTION 17 Manage an ongoing one-to-one brokerage service through multiple communication platforms which will also be available during set 'after office' hours.

This is an ongoing task addressed through the existence of two Creative Brokers within the Funding & Brokerage team whose job it is to liaise between the Council and the creative practitioners. Throughout the year, Arts Council Malta has offered a continued brokerage service to the sector through calls, emails and direct meetings both in Malta and in Gozo.

ACTION 18 Design brokerage services that are accessible to communities identified in the strategy by increasing networking possibilities and fund application submissions by targeted groups.

A total of 17 regional information and brokerage sessions were held in 2017. These were primarily targeting local community organisations which were interested in carrying out projects within their communities or on a national level. The brokerage team has also organised a project development session specifically targeting local band clubs.



Tentufiet – Reel 8 Productions Ltd

KulturaTV

Tentufiet is a testimony to our colourful culture - *it-te fit-tazza, is-suq ta' filghodu, tal-pitrolju, tal-hobż, il-ġostru, l-Imnarja, ix-xiwa, il-hajja fil-każin, il-ġirja tal-lrxox, l-ghajn tal-hasselin*, the list is endless. All this is portrayed through raw sound effects and bold characters which form part of these respective traditions. These short documentaries are making viewers fall in love with our culture and become more appreciative of our identity.

"Tentufiet was just a concept. Thanks to KulturaTV it is now a creation, loved by many, with over a million plays on its Facebook page, both by local and foreign viewers."

ACTION 19 Celebrate the achievements of the cultural and creative sectors through the establishment of the yearly Arts Council Malta Awards.

The first edition of Il-Premju għall-Arti was launched in September 2017. A total of 106 applications were received for the following categories:

- Best project in the community
- Best international achievement
- Best work for young audiences
- Best artistic programme or season
- Best Creative Enterprise
- Young Artist of the Year
- Artist of the Year
- Production of the Year.

The categories were selected according to Arts Council Malta's strategic priorities as outlined in the Council's Strategy 2020, its five-year plan for the cultural and creative sectors.

Nominees from these eight categories were selected by a jury of sectoral experts and Arts Council Malta representatives from the nominations submitted through an open call. Il-Premju għall-Arti also includes three other awards - the Lifetime Achievement Award, the Ambassador

of the Arts and the People's Choice Award.

The Awards cover projects, productions or activities in the cultural and creative sectors which have been premiered or presented between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017.

Winners will receive a prestigious award, a sculpture in glass and ceramic, by Maltese artist Kane Cali.

ACTION 20 Lead a network of all Public Cultural Organisations to address programming and operational requirements, increase inter-PCO collaboration and share resources and expertise.

Throughout 2017, quarterly meetings were held with the senior management of PCOs to support further inter-PCO collaboration and to discuss the results of research conducted by Arts Council Malta.

ACTION 21 Advise Government on cultural infrastructure projects and on the governance structures that may be created through new cultural projects to ensure sustainable and effective management.

Action will be initiated in 2018.

EDUCATION

ACTION 22 Invest a minimum of €400,000 in the Kreativev programme. We will also measure the programme's impact on creativity in schools.

In 2017, 30 applications were received under the Kreativev funding programme, of which 21 were successful beneficiaries. In 2017, through this programme, 32 creative practitioners collaborated with 20 schools and engaged an estimated 2,000 students. Total allocation amounted to €91,274.

The Kreativev research project, which is a joint collaboration with the University of Malta (UOM), started in 2016 and is expected to be completed in 2018. See also Action 62.

ACTION 23 Collaborate with education entities and advocate for the inclusion of a broader spectrum of Arts Education across all schools in Malta and Gozo.

A proposal was presented on behalf of Arts Council Malta by a research team from the University of Malta to assess the provision of arts education in primary education. Due to the proposed changes in the broader educational framework, this action has been temporarily put on hold.

ACTION 24 Invest a minimum of €500,000 in the cultural participation programme to ensure that every secondary school student will experience a minimum of one artistic production a year produced by creative professionals and presented through a curated programme. We will evaluate this programme and assess its extension to primary schools.

The second call for applications under the Culture Pass programme was issued in 2017 and the new programme of events was launched at the beginning of the scholastic year 2017 – 2018. This initiative was issued by the Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government (MJCL) in collaboration with ACM. 26 artistic events were selected and are being promoted with schools and creative professionals so that every secondary school student will experience at least one cultural event per year. 25,000 students in all secondary schools in Malta and Gozo have benefitted from this initiative.

As for the extension of the Culture Pass to primary schools, development on this measure to date includes a proposal under discussion for the extension of the Culture Pass to primary schools, allocating funds for transport to site-specific venues and overtime rates to teachers. A request to the Ministry for Finance has been made for this funding in 2019.

ACTION 25 Work with all Public Cultural Organisations to develop a yearly comprehensive learning programme addressing the objectives of the strategy.

Action is currently on hold.

ACTION 26 Develop the culture mentors network that brings together educators who serve as cultural ambassadors in schools.

This Network was reinstated in 2017 with two meetings held in April and in September. 45 teachers have registered as cultural mentors and the meetings were well-attended. The culture mentors network was crucial in promoting the Culture Pass programme in schools.

ACTION 27 Collaborate with education entities and industry professionals to establish a national register for accredited arts educators and arts education institutions.

Discussions started with Education officials to determine a way forward and set common grounds for an accreditation system for arts educators. The implementation of this action is on hold due to changes in the Ministry for Education and Employment's regulations for accreditation in informal learning.

Legends with Legs allowed Year 5 children attending the Gozo College Rabat Primary school to experience a two-day immersive workshop without school bells, uniforms, books and strict lesson times. During these workshops the children had the chance to explore the feeling, sounds and textures of Gozitan folk stories and to retell them for a new generation through the medium of the expressive arts. The creative team chose three folk tales from Gozo and rewrote them into modern English. These stories formed the basis of the workshops that took place at the Visual and Performing Arts School, Gozo. The workshops were documented and a short film was made for each story. These were presented along with an exhibition of the artwork at the Cittadella Cultural Centre in November 2017.



**Legends with Legs –
Gozo College Rabat Primary**

Kreattiv

TRAINING

ACTION 28 Create skills development programmes targeting sectoral gaps and needs for the improvement of artistic practice. Priority will be given to scriptwriting for theatre and film, as well as technical and production skills, and critical reviewing.

Initiatives to encourage scriptwriting were held in February and March 2017. Eight new scripts were developed during these workshops with readings of the works presented to audiences.

ACTION 29 Develop skills training programmes related to business development, financial planning and marketing.

In 2017, Arts Council Malta organised an intensive course on strategic planning for 20 participants from 15 beneficiary organisations of the Cultural Partnership Agreement and the Gozo Cultural Support Programme. The course was delivered by Dr David Stevenson from Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh.

ACTION 30 Provide training and information on artist mobility, international collaboration and export.

As part of the ACMIlab series, Arts Council Malta, in collaboration with Fresh Arts Coalition Europe and the European Culture Networks, organised an information session focusing on Networks, Artists in Residencies and Cultural Exchanges in February 2017. The session, which was attended by 30 creative professionals, was addressed

by representatives from the following international networks:

On the Move; Res Artis; Triangle Network and IETM – International network for contemporary performing arts.

This session specifically targeted artists interested in getting to know more on artist residencies and cultural exchanges happening locally and internationally as well as those artists who wanted to export their work to international platforms.

ACTION 31 Develop an apprenticeship programme to expose young artists to the work of creative professionals.

During the last quarter of 2017, Arts Council Malta and MCAST officials were discussing a pilot of eight apprenticeships with ACM and PCOs.

ACTION 32 Develop specialised programmes that support the professional development of the sector. Priority will be given to cultural management and cultural leadership.

Preparatory work for a European Social Fund (ESF) application, on the professional development of 341 employees of PCOs and Local Councils, started in the final quarter of 2016. The application was supported by an extensive training needs analysis and was submitted in 2017. If accepted, the project will run between April 2018 and May 2021.

COMMUNITY CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Action 33 Invest a minimum of €900,000 in funding programmes targeting community exchange cultural projects.

In 2017, 20 projects out of 34 applicants were awarded funds through the Creative Communities fund. The total amount allocated was €82,470. A further €54,220 was awarded to eight projects through the first strand of Il-Premju tal-President għall-Kreattività. Both these funds focus on enhancing community and social well-being through artistic projects. In 2017, a new strand of €45,000 in additional funds was added to Il-Premju tal-President għall-Kreattività; through this strand, three beneficiaries of previous editions of the Award will receive support for the continuation of their community projects for a three-year period.

The groundwork for the impact evaluations for the Creative Communities Fund and for Il-Premju tal-President għall-Kreattività was carried out throughout 2017.

Action 34 Create possibilities for local cultural spaces to serve as places of exchange with other cultural practitioners.

Between April and July 2017, Tour Teatru Tazza Te, a series of tours in some of the lesser-known theatre spaces, was organised by Teatru Malta and Arts Council Malta and supported by the Valletta 2018 Foundation.

Action 35 Ensure that PCO programming and festivals engage with the various communities identified in this strategy.

An audience development workshop led by Morris Hargreaves McIntyre was held on 23 June 2017 as part of the Cultural Participation Survey presentations. The workshop, that targeted PCOs, addressed ways in which audience segmentation can assist strategic planning in terms of programming, making it more relevant to local communities.

Action 36 Create a multidisciplinary talent campus with partners for hard-to-reach youth with creative potential.

In the *CLAP! – Creative Labs and Artistic Performances in Palestine* project, children and young people will be actively engaged as performers, giving them a sense of belonging in an environment characterised by tensions and conflicts. Their active participation will provide them with a 'safe zone' where they can experience some form of security and routine in their lives, helping them to develop resilience that will serve them well when they grow older. By presenting relevant narratives through performances that an audience can relate to, the street festival and the theatre festival proposed in the project will serve to engage with a diverse audience coming from different parts of Palestine, including refugee camps and isolated areas. See also Action 40.

Action 37 Develop a programme that engages the elderly and promotes intergenerational activity.

2017 witnessed increased vigour relating to intergenerational initiatives, particularly through the ACM funding portfolio. One such project aims at empowering vulnerable youth and the elderly through the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM).

Action 38 Facilitate the accreditation of professional creative therapists working with vulnerable groups.

ACM continues to champion due accreditation, ethics and good practice particularly through support of creative projects with vulnerable groups, facilitated by qualified creative therapists.

Action 39 Include NGOs active in cultural work with the identified groups in this strategy as one of our priority areas for our partnership agreements.

ACM continues to support its strategic partners under the CPA call 2016 to develop and sustain due Community Action Plans so as to ensure that the respective target groups identified



in the Council's Strategy 2020 will be addressed throughout their work. Beneficiaries have been required to foster a long-term collaboration with one or more of the identified target groups and to define how they will be engaging the particular community / communities.

Action 40 Facilitate intercultural dialogue through the establishment of an intercultural network that brings together cultural mediators and the respective ethnic communities.

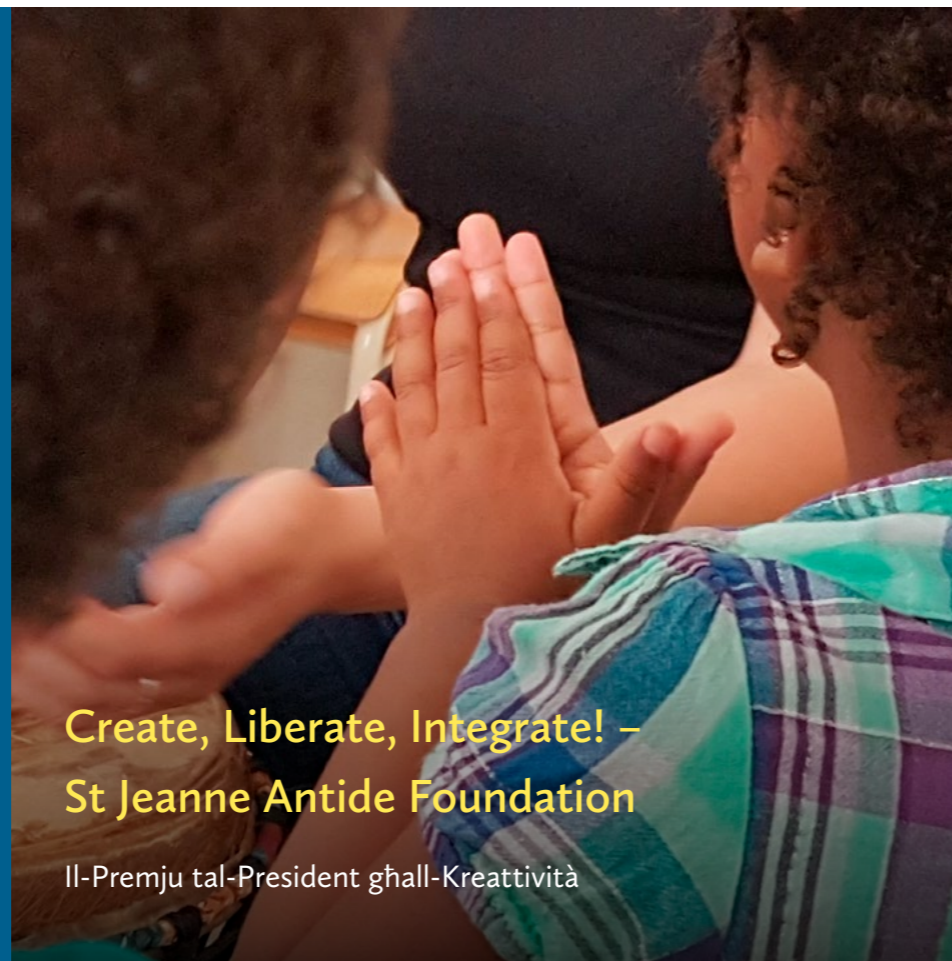
Arts Council Malta is a beneficiary of a EuropeAid grant of €199,273, to implement a project that will support Euro-Palestinian cultural activities through capacity-building, networking and showcasing. *CLAP! – Creative Labs and Artistic Performances in Palestine* will see ACM collaborate with lead partners Al-Harah Theatre to promote intercultural creative exchange between European and Palestinian performing artists, performing arts organisations and cultural leaders.

A project consisting of a number of short creative programmes with diverse survivors of domestic violence and their children. The programmes focus on exploration of one's creativity and sharing of creative skills, thus establishing a safe space where participants are encouraged to connect for healing, integration and strengthening of relationship between mother and child.

"Through the project, we were able to offer women of different backgrounds an opportunity to connect and network with each other, acquire team-building skills, learn ways with which to express and process difficult emotions, maintain stronger single-parent families and share their creative expressions with other women in the group as well as the public at large."

Create, Liberate, Integrate! – St Jeanne Antide Foundation

Il-Premju tal-President għall-Kreattività



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Action 41 Invest €700,000 in a creative start-up programme.

The Creative Industries Platform (CIP) funding programme was launched on 19 June 2017. The three-year programme will facilitate the creation of sector-supported platforms within the creative and cultural industries (CCIs) that will provide targeted assistance to help the sector grow in a sustainable manner. The funds are to be used to provide one or more sub-sectors within CCIs with access to professional mentoring, capacity-building initiatives, networking and export development opportunities. A total of 12 applications were received, with five being selected for support. The platforms supported operate in the following sectors: video game development, publishing and literature, film, contemporary art and performing arts. The agreement will provide funding for three consecutive years, after which another call will be opened. Jointly these platforms have been approved a total of €679,760 over a three-year implementation period.

Action 42 Invest €500,000 in games development.

Two applications for the Malta Digital Games Fund (MDGF) were received, both of which qualified to proceed to Phase 1. These were awarded €10,000 each to develop a playable game slice that would be pitched in competition for the winning game to proceed to Phase 2. The final game competition was organised during the Global Game Jam in collaboration with the Institute of Digital Games at the

University of Malta. The winning game was awarded another €35,000 for further development and publishing. The video game funded in 2016 is nearing completion.

Action 43 Create a comprehensive cluster policy programme.

The launch and subsequent approval of the Creative Industries Platform (CIP) funding programme has led the selected five sub-sectors to cluster and work together towards common goals. The programmes have also paved the way for sustainable collaborations between the private and public sectors.

Action 44 Manage a tax deductions programme for arts donations.

The 150% Tax Deduction on Donations to Culture scheme ran in 2017 for the second consecutive year. Over 200 enquiries and meetings took place with regards to this initiative. In 2017, 23 companies made 33 donations to various registered cultural organisations, amounting to a collective tax benefit of €46,471.25, resulting in a total donation of €265,550 to cultural organisations.

Action 45 Foster connections between the creative industries and other business sectors.

Continued meetings with major industry stakeholders and the cultural sector were held to discuss new methods of collaboration between business and cultural organisations.

Action 46 Collaborate with Malta Enterprise on bridging the gaps in areas of access to finance, skills and incentives.

A service level agreement was entered into between Malta Enterprise and Arts Council Malta, whereby Business First (the client-facing arm of Malta Enterprise) will be offering a desk service via appointment in its continued efforts to provide a one-stop shop for industry. Additionally, over 50 meetings and enquiries were handled, focusing on Malta Enterprise incentives, the majority of which were eligible to make use of Microinvest. Five creatives benefited from B. Start.

Various incentives were widened to cater for the Creative Industries.

Action 47 Collaborate with the respective entities to address legislation and regulations impacting the production of cultural events.

In 2017 the legal office focused on the logistical issues faced by cultural entities when planning their events, due to the large amount of bureaucracy. In collaboration with the Ministry for Home Affairs and the police force, the laws regulating the organization of outdoor events in unlicensed venues were amended, with the aim of bringing about speedier procedures.

Action 48 Collaborate with the respective entities to address the legal status of the creative professional.

In close contact with the stakeholders and the PCOs within the sector, the

legal office has provided a number of legal tools to both private and public individuals and constituted bodies for the better understanding of the legal status of the creative professional.

Lil' Arena is a fast-paced, online battle arena for two to eight players with 10-minute-short but action-packed matches. The player decides the looks of their character and drafts a different set of abilities before fighting each match.

"With the financial support of the Malta Digital Games Fund managed by Arts Council Malta, the team grew from a one-man army to a crew with half a dozen members. Lil' Arena turned from a small solo project into a promising IP, with the potential of sustaining a small business."

Lil' Arena – Konstantinos Vasileadis, Tall Guy Productions

Malta Digital Games Fund (MDGF)

INTERNATIONALISATION

ACTION 49 Invest €500,000 through the Cultural Export Fund in travel, touring and translation grants for creative practitioners seeking to attract wider audiences and markets.

In 2017, €135,407 was allocated in travel, touring and translation grants through the Cultural Export Fund. 42 beneficiaries received €53,632 through the Travel Grants; eight beneficiaries received €48,000 through the Presentation & Touring Grant while 11 beneficiaries received €33,775 through the Translation Grant.

ACTION 50 Organise delegations, in collaboration with other entities, to international arts platforms including markets, fairs and festivals.

In 2016, Arts Council Malta set up an office in New York that is also part of the EUNIC New York cluster. In 2017 the office coordinated Malta's participation in the following events:

- 16 January 2017, EU Presidency Concert at the ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York. Held under the auspices of the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta to the United Nations in collaboration with Arts Council Malta in New York (Tenor Nico Darmanin and pianist Charlene Farrugia).
- 16 February 2017, Library of Congress, Washington DC, Poetry Reading (Immanuel Mifsud). Presented by Arts Council Malta in

collaboration with the Embassy of Malta in the US.

- 14 May 2017, Panorama Europe Film Festival – Film *Do Re Mi Fa* by Chris Zarb. Museum of Moving Image - MOMI, Queens, New York, presented by Arts Council Malta.
- 16 May 2017, Panorama Europe Film Festival – Film *Do Re Mi Fa* by Chris Zarb. Bohemian National Hall, Manhattan, New York, presented by Arts Council Malta.
- 2 June 2017, European Literature Night, Bohemian National Hall, New York (Oliver Friggieri). Presented by Arts Council Malta.
- 13-24 Sep 2017, Photoville — Brooklyn, NY ISLE LANDERS (Darrin Zammit-Lupi), presented by Arts Council Malta.

In November 2017, in collaboration with Spazju Kreattiv and Žigužajg 2017 - International Arts Festival for Children and Young People, ACM also supported an international delegates programme at Spazju Kreattiv. This included a series of talks, discussions and networking events.

ACTION 51 Develop the Malta Showcase as an online resource and networking platform for international promotion and showcasing opportunities.

The Malta Showcase 2016-2017 Presidency edition was launched at Spazju Kreattiv in Valletta in February 2016. In 2017 several artists from the Malta Showcase formed part of the cultural export programme of the Maltese Presidency of the Council

of the European Union. See more on page 60.


ACTION 52 Commission the Malta Pavilion at the Venice Art Biennale in 2017 and 2019.

After an absence of almost two decades, the Malta Pavilion returned to the 57th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia in 2017. The conceptual exhibition: *Homo Melitensis: An incomplete inventory in 19 chapters*, devised by the artist-curators Raphael Vella and Bettina Hutschek resulted in a spirited, often provocative address of Maltese cultural identity, history, religion, myths and politics,

expressed through over 200 items of ephemera and historical artefacts and 13 contemporary artists from the Maltese diaspora. The Malta Pavilion saw over 100,000 visitors and received international press acclaim. See more on page 46.

ACTION 53 Collaboration with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on cultural diplomacy and external cultural relations through the co-management of the Cultural Diplomacy Fund.

Arts Council Malta worked hand in hand with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on the cultural export programme of the



FRANCIS EBEJER
BARONI MALTEZ
... DHE UNË, LUSIANI

The Maltese Baron... and I Lucian – OMBRA GVG, Publishing House

Translation Grant – Cultural Export Fund

A translation into Albanian of the book *The Maltese Baron... and I Lucian* by Francis Ebejer. The book in Albanian was published by OMBRA GVG based in Tirana, Albania. An important element in the promotion of the translated book was its presentation and sale at the 2018 Tirana Book Fair.

“OMBRA GVG is happy to have published a well-known and respected Maltese author such as Francis Ebejer and we consider it a privilege to have ‘The Maltese Baron... and I Lucian’ on our catalogue.”

Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2017.

ACTION 54 Co-manage the international cultural programme of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2017.

Arts Council Malta led the design and coordination of the cultural

programme which included around 1,000 artists in artistic events in Malta and abroad. Several artists were selected from the Malta Showcase 2016-2017 edition.

In 2017, ACM also actively participated in meetings in Brussels, in the Presidency Chairing Team of the Cultural Affairs Committee (CAC) for

Photo by Adam Holt

Bettina Paris participated in a two-month internship at the Chickenshed Theatre in London, where she formed part of a 'Performances for Children' Programme, a vibrant programme that performed all over London. Throughout the internship she was greatly involved in both the creation and development of the 'Tales from the Shed' performances for children, and she was also asked to form part of the team for their new concept performance 'Planet Play'. Bettina was eventually also asked to stay on for another month, to form part of the team that was to perform at the Victoria and Albert Museum in South Kensington in London, as part of the 'Pink Floyd: Their Mortal Remains' Exhibition.

"The fund was beneficial not only because I made a new contact with one of the most successful theatre companies in London - which could potentially lead to other artistic collaborations in my career - but also because the members forming part of the team came from all over the globe."



Internship with Chickenshed Theatre, London – Bettina Paris

Travel Grant – Cultural Export Fund

the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

ACTION 55 Support the development of incoming and outgoing artist residency programmes for 50 artists, implemented in collaboration with Public Cultural Organisations and festivals focusing on research, realisation of collaborative projects and exchange.

There were 27 incoming and six outgoing residencies in 2017. Incoming and outgoing residencies were organised by Spazju Kreattiv, the Valletta 2018 Foundation and Blitz. Outgoing residencies were also supported through the Travel Grant strand of the Cultural Export Fund managed by ACM.

Spazju Kreattiv and the Valletta 2018 Foundation

- Incoming - 20 (mainly from Poland, Italy, USA, Chile)
- Outgoing - 1 (Poland)

BLITZ (Includes Blitz residency programme and *Transformer*, a Malta Arts Fund/Multi-Annual Supported-programme, which also includes a residency component)

- Incoming – 7 (Greece, Spain, the UK, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Turkey)
- Outgoing – 1 (Greece)

Funded through the Travel Grant/ Cultural Export Fund

- Outgoing – 4 (Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Peru).

ACTION 56 Support the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on the implementation of bilateral and multilateral agreements and advise on cultural programming.

Advice was given by ACM to MFA on cultural bilateral agreements and on the implementation of cultural projects by Maltese diplomatic missions abroad during the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2017.

ACTION 57 Facilitate international conferences and networking sessions including the 7th World Summit on Arts and Culture in 2016 and the yearly European Network Coordinators Meeting.

In collaboration with FACE (Foundation for Arts, Culture and Education), ACM organised the fifth meeting of coordinators of European cultural networks held at Spazju Kreattiv in Valletta in February 2017.

ACTION 58 Participate actively as members of international networks such as International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies, the European Union National Institutes of Culture, IETM and the European Festivals Association.

In 2017, Arts Council Malta retained its commitment to participate actively in its partner networks, with participation in the IFACCA meeting in Denmark and EUNIC meetings in Brussels and Siena.

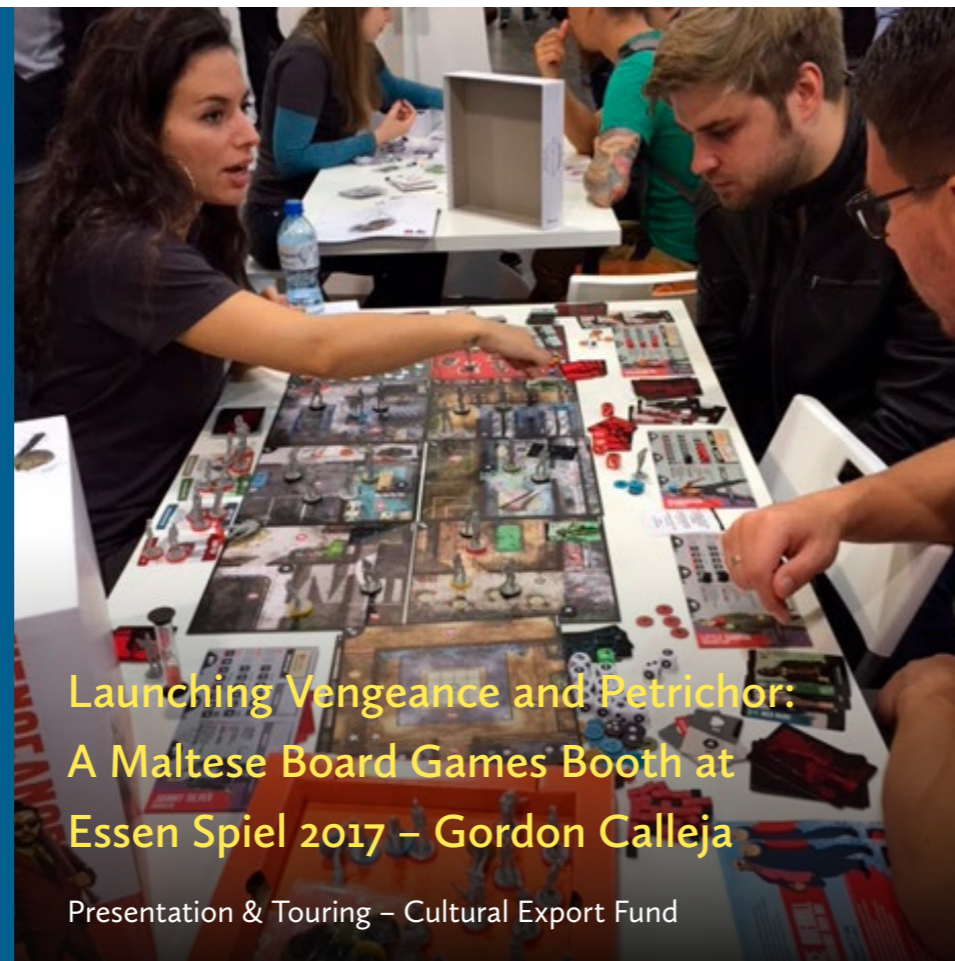
In November 2017 Arts Council Malta organised a delegation to the

IETM plenary meeting in Brussels. IETM is the international network for contemporary performing arts: theatre, dance, music-theatre, new circus, object theatre, site-specific,

interactive and performance art. Representatives from Spazju Kreattiv, ŻfinMalta, Teatru Malta and the Malta International Arts Festival formed part of the delegation.

Gordon Calleja launched two board games: *Vengeance*, designed by Gordon Calleja himself and *Petrichor*, designed by David Chircop, at the board games festival Essen Spiel in Germany. The applicants also ran a Maltese Board Games Booth, showcasing the games being launched along with previous board games made by local board game designers, while sneak previews of upcoming titles in the form of playable prototypes were also presented. The games will also be launched by the partner publishers in various languages.

“The Cultural Export Fund was a huge help to get our respective games to the largest festival of board games in the world, Essen Spiel, and get our work noticed by audiences, press and publishers alike.”



Launching Vengeance and Petrichor: A Maltese Board Games Booth at Essen Spiel 2017 – Gordon Calleja

Presentation & Touring – Cultural Export Fund

RESEARCH

ACTION 59 Conduct a yearly evaluation on the implementation of targets in this strategy.

Information from the performance reviews of all strategic areas was compiled quarterly. This culminated in the Strategy2020 annual review as per this report. Every quarter, progress on performance indicators for each action was recorded by each associate, describing the planned action for the quarter, its actual output and reach.

ACTION 60 Implement an extensive research plan on audience development, social impact, artistic excellence, professionalisation and education.

The Cultural Participation Survey 2016 final report was launched in June 2017 during a public symposium held at the University of Malta, Valletta Campus. The findings from the 300+ page report commissioned by Arts Council Malta in collaboration with the National Statistics Office and the Valletta 2018 Foundation were the focal point of the discussions, together with related themes such as audience development and wellbeing. The feedback on both the report and the symposium was generally positive, as attested through written feedback forms. Cultural operators and other users considered the report to be of importance for their future decision-making and the symposium as a timely opportunity for a healthy debate on the discourse surrounding cultural participation. See more on page 49.

ACTION 61 Publish regular reports and studies based on the research plan as resources for academic research and policy making.

The Cultural Participation Survey 2016 publication provided the basis for two additional analytical publications. *Culture Segments Malta*, the report from international cultural research agency Morris Hargreaves McIntyre (MHM) on audience segmentation, was commissioned by Arts Council Malta. It was published digitally and presented in June by MHM's Senior Consultant Jo Taylor during three events: the Cultural Participation Survey symposium; the ACMLab entitled 'Know Your Audience'; and a workshop with Public Cultural Organisations on how to make the best use of this data for their audience development strategies. Based on the survey data, *Culture Segments Malta* mapped out in detail the profile of the culture market in Malta, examining the attitudes, motivations and behaviour which determine how people in Malta engage with culture.

ACM also commissioned and published a collection of essays from a range of critical perspectives. Entitled *Perspectives on Cultural Participation in Malta*, the publication consisted of nine chapters from 10 authors from a range of disciplines who presented, questioned and unpacked findings from the survey, the related policy discourse and the potential impact on the cultural sector within the wider social context. Themes discussed include audience development,

motives and barriers to participation, digital cultural participation, cultural taste, accessibility and inclusion in cultural activities as well as volunteering in the cultural sector.

ACTION 62 Compile a yearly statistical report and review on all funding programmes and the status of the creative economy.

Statistics for 2017 funding programmes, including application success rate and fund allocations, were compiled and included in the 2018 funding publication. In 2017, the Kreattiv fund impact evaluation with the University of Malta entered its second phase: this involved the collection of data in June from over 300 students in 10 schools through questionnaires. Following consultation meetings with ACM, the Economic Policy Department (EPD) completed the final version of the 2016 creative economy report using national accounts data.

In 2017 an agreement was reached with the Centre for Research in Arts and Economics (CREARE), Netherlands, to carry out an evaluation on the Creative Communities funding programme to understand its impact on the beneficiaries. This evaluation is set to start in the first quarter of 2018. Preparations for a call for tenders for research services on the evaluation of the Premju tal-President għall-Kreattività were concluded at the end of 2017. The call will be launched in the first quarter of 2018.

ACTION 63 Participate in European research programmes on culture statistics and policy.

ACM participated in two assembly meetings of stakeholders and experts of the Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends in Europe as part of the chairmanships of the Council of Europe in Nicosia, Cyprus (March 2017) and Prague, Czech Republic (November 2017).

During these meetings, decisions were made on how the new Compendium Association will be structured in view of the funding cuts from part of the Council of Europe. The launch of the new association during the Prague assembly had 12 new stakeholder members from 12 different European countries. From these members, a board and a president were elected for the new Compendium Association that will take over responsibility for the Compendium project from 1 January 2018.

ACM represented Malta's position as a standing member, confirming its already ongoing in kind contribution by updating the cultural policy country profile on the compendium website and other thematic research initiated by the Compendium Association. The meetings were organised by the Council of Europe and ERICarts and also included thematic discussions on the fields of culture and populism, gender equality as well as the role of national cultural institutions.

The ACM research associate also gave a presentation during a parallel session at the Association of Arts

Administrators Educators (AAAE) conference held in Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh in June 2017. The presentation addressed stakeholder management through the mobilisation of social and cultural capital by cultural entrepreneurs in Malta.

ACTION 64 Create a methodological research framework for public cultural organisations and cultural operators to collect and share data.

A standardised cultural event monitoring sheet was finalised and distributed so as to gather data from PCOs on a quarterly basis. This data consisted of productions and performances produced/co-produced or hosted by PCOs, collaborators, ticket sales and income/expenditure for each event. Data on PCO programming was also collected through standardised frameworks in order to inform 2018 budgetary financial allocations.

ACTION 65 Map cultural spaces and resources within communities.

March 2017 saw the launch of *Spazji Teatrali: A Catalogue of Theatres in Malta and Gozo*, a catalogue of 78 theatre spaces, which was commissioned by Arts Council Malta and implemented by the Valletta 2018 Foundation. This was the result of the theatres audit that was initiated in 2015 as part of the Valletta 2018 Cultural Mapping project. ACM formed part of the scientific committee that provided ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the audit that led to the publication. This study aimed to provide the cultural sector with valuable informational resources on the spaces available within each locality, as well as promoting the use of these same spaces in contemporary cultural activity.

COMMUNICATION

ACTION 66 Develop a new website that will serve as a virtual platform for information, resources and communication with Arts Council Malta.

Following the launch of the new ACM website in 2016, throughout 2017 the Communications team worked on the regular updating of www.artscouncilmalta.org with news releases, blogs, toolkits and publications. In this way, the website serves not only as a window on to the work of the Council but also aspires to become a valuable research and information tool for artists and creative practitioners. 2017 also saw the launch of the first online registrations and applications for the Cultural Export Fund Travel Grants – a process which is gradually being expanded to include all funding programmes.

ACTION 67 Provide regular updates on ACM funding programmes and brokerage services through social media and a monthly newsletter.

ACM was present and active on social media throughout 2017, providing a more accessible side to the Council as well as immediate insight into the Council's programmes and initiatives. The monthly newsletter was issued regularly, with a round up of the Council's work and upcoming events. By the end of 2017, Facebook was getting around 150 new likes per month and had almost hit the 7,000

mark in terms of likes, Twitter had 2,319 followers and the newsletter's open rate stood consistently above the 20% mark.

ACTION 68 Publish a yearly calendar of funding deadlines and guidelines and the ACM report.

The Funding Publication 2018 was distributed as from December 2017, with information on ACM's programmes, key figures on funding programmes and case studies of best practice stories. A photoshoot was commissioned specifically for the publication, with dancers from the national dance company ŻfinMalta visually representing key concepts which run through the Council's various funding programmes. The end result is a bilingual and visually attractive publication which provides up-to-date information on the Council's funding programmes for the coming year and which seeks to provide a glimpse into the artistic projects of the beneficiaries.

The Council's first Annual Report was also published in April 2017 with the aim of providing a comprehensive snapshot of the work undertaken by the Council during the preceding year. The Report includes valuable statistics, a complete list of all funding beneficiaries during the preceding year as well as a progress report to date on the Council's 70 strategic actions.

ACTION 69 Commission media productions that promote the sector on national and international networks.

2017 saw the continued release of the second series of 60-second clips inspired by the Council's *Ohlom Ohloq* Create2020 campaign. While the first series had featured key people whose lives were transformed by the arts, the second series focused on the Council's funding programmes and how these helped people turn their artistic dreams into reality. The series aired on national television until June 2017. A new series of *Ohlom Ohloq* clips is being planned for 2018.

October 2017 also saw the start of *Kultura News*, a daily five-minute programme broadcast on the national TV station, which provides lively concise interviews with artists and creative practitioners, with a particular focus on work that is connected with the Council.

ACTION 70 Facilitate networking between cultural journalists, editors and practitioners in the cultural and creative sectors.

The ACM Communications team works continuously to improve relationships between creative practitioners and cultural journalists and editors by brokering interviews with the press as part of the Council's media campaigns. 2017 also saw the Council pitching artists' interviews to *Kultura News* editors, providing extra coverage to creative practitioners whose work is connected to the Council. The Council also works to kindle the media's interest in the Council's various funded projects, highlighting them in all its communications, thereby channelling further media interest.

Strategic Action Highlights



The Malta Pavilion at the Biennale Arte 2017

'Homo Melitensis: An Incomplete Inventory in 19 Chapters' saw international press acclaim and over 100,000 visitors last summer

Curated by Raphael Vella and Bettina Hutschek, the conceptual exhibition: *Homo Melitensis: An incomplete inventory in 19 chapters* brought together works by artists based in Malta, works by artists from the Maltese diaspora as well as folk artefacts and works from private and national collections. The exhibition also included artefacts and images from different sources, such as journalism, national and private collections and popular culture, that interpret, question and define the imaginative spirit of the Maltese identity.

Homo Melitensis featured the artworks of the following Maltese artists: Aaron Bezzina, Adrian Abela, Austin

Camilleri, Darren Tanti, David Pisani, Gilbert Calleja, Joe Sacco, John Paul Azzopardi, Karine Rougier, Maurice Tanti Burlò aka Nalizpelra, Pia Borg, Roxman Gatt and Teresa Sciberras.

The Malta Pavilion was commissioned by Arts Council Malta, under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice, Culture and Local Government. It also formed part of the Cultural programme of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2017.

Achieving over 100,000 visitors to the exhibition between May - November 2017, the exhibition garnered a host of high profile media accolades and acknowledgements.

"Malta's Pavilion offers a sense of the tiny nation interrogating itself as it steps onto the international stage."

Hyperallergic

"...a kind of mini museum filled with contemporary artworks and historical artifacts... The displayed items range from the serious (religious iconography) to the absurd (a box of Maltesers candy)..."

Paste Magazine

"Malta's return to the biennale after an absence of 17 years (and only their 3rd appearance in the biennale since it started in 1895) was particularly strong."

Forbes magazine

"Sardonic, hilarious, Malta's tongue-in-cheek portrait of itself through films, paintings and sculptures as a set of nearly insurmountable clichés - Maltese knights, falcons, rabbits, votives, Maltesers (who knew?). An island so riven by politics that even appearing at the Biennale is controversial: is it a vote-catcher?"

The Observer

"[One of] The 10 National Pavilions You Can't Miss at the Venice Biennale."

The Culture Trip

Cultural Participation Survey 2016

The Cultural Participation Survey (CPS) 2016 was commissioned in order to get an overview of cultural activity in Malta. Taking place throughout 2016, the methodological design and implementation was coordinated by Arts Council Malta in collaboration with the research department of the Valletta 2018 Foundation as well as the Living Conditions and Culture Statistics Unit at the National Statistics Office (NSO). The design of the survey also involved external expertise from the Department of Economics at the University of Malta and international cultural research agency Morris Hargreaves McIntyre. Data collected is to support evidence-based policy implementation and as a publicly accessible knowledge base to the cultural sector. The last preceding survey had taken place in 2011

The 2016 survey went beyond just replicating the cultural fields surveyed in 2011 in that it produced deeper insights such as the possible barriers, motives and wellbeing factors that could be correlated to modes of cultural participation. This would allow for demographic and psychographic profiling of Malta's audiences.

The data collection took place between October and November 2016 based on a net sample of 1,125 respondents (from a gross sample of

1,500) from face-to-face interviews. The target population was that of persons aged 16 and over residing in Malta and all persons within the target population had an equal probability of being selected. As per the 2011 census, the age, gender and geographical distribution of the sample was representative of the total adult population, with a 50:50 gender representation and also reflecting an aging population, with 23% being 65 years of age and over.



Photo by Stephen Buhagiar

MAIN FINDINGS

When respondents were asked whether they had attended cultural events in 2016, the highest percentage point increase and largest attendance was registered for parish feasts, with a 67% attendance. The lowest attendance rate was in dance performances, with a 12% attendance. Cinemas registered an attendance of 42%, historical sites 35% and museums 30%. 32% said they had attended a theatre performance, with comedy registered as the favourite genre, while concert-going registered an attendance of 32%. Pop music remains the predominant music interest of the respondents. With the exception of dance performances, which remained unchanged since 2011, there was an increase in attendance across all types of events.

With the exception of dance performances, which remained unchanged since 2011, there was an increase in attendance across all types of events

As for active engagement, the survey revealed that 37% of the population was active in at least one form of cultural activity in 2016. Craft activities registered the highest rate of participation in 2016, with 15% of the adult population having engaged in it in some form. This was followed by active involvement in parish feasts

at 8.5% and painting/drawing and/or sculpture at 6%. The younger the age groups, the more likely they were to have participated in a cultural activity. A positive correlation was also noted between life satisfaction and involvement in culture. This was even more pronounced among people who consider themselves to be artists.

As in 2011, the survey included questions on other forms of cultural consumption that are not related to cultural events. With 78% of the population having access to the internet, 70% of online users accessed the internet to listen to music, 66% to read newspaper articles online and 61% to find information on a local cultural event. 44% stated that they had read at least one book in 2016 and 67% listened to music every day.

Respondents' attitudes towards cultural and social matters allowed for attempts at identifying possible motives and barriers to participation. The majority indicated a preference for "Maltese art and culture" (57%) which corresponds with the answers attained from the language preference

questions in relation to various activities. 54% agreed that “access to arts and culture is important to being a well-rounded person” but fewer agreed that “arts and culture are essential to my life” (32%). In absolute terms, time is indicated to be the strongest barrier to participation, with 56% agreeing that “other commitments in my life prevent me from having enough time to go to arts or cultural events”. Opinions with regards to more policy-

related statements were also elicited, with a substantial majority agreeing that “taxpayers’ money should be used to finance arts and cultural initiatives” (62%) and that private businesses should make donations and sponsorships to the arts (70%). On the other hand a considerable share of the population feel that “public funding of the arts does not benefit me” (43%) and “most people are socially excluded from cultural opportunities”(30%).

The younger the age groups, the more likely they were to have participated in a cultural activity. A positive correlation was also noted between life satisfaction and involvement in culture

PUBLICATIONS

Apart from the survey, another two complementary publications were launched, entitled *Perceptions on Cultural Participation in Malta* and *Culture Segments Malta: Audience Atlas and Pen Portraits*. The latter was a report prepared by Morris Hargreaves McIntyre (MHM) and commissioned by Arts Council Malta. Based on the statistics in the CPS, the report maps out in detail the profile of the culture market in Malta, examining the attitudes, motivations and behaviour which determine how those in Malta engage with culture. Broken down by both artform and audience segment (or Culture Segment), this report examines who is currently going to arts and culture events, as well as measuring potential markets to provide detailed audience insight. This provides usable data for cultural organisations and assists them in setting realistic targets. The report aims to improve the understanding

of cultural organisations’ markets using data that is rich, practical and powerful. A version of the report was also published for the Public Cultural Organisations that co-funded the commissioning of this study, containing tailored audience profiles for each organisation.

Perceptions on Cultural Participation in Malta, also published and commissioned by Arts Council Malta, is a publication of nine chapters from 10 authors from a range of disciplines who present, question and unpack findings from the survey, the related policy discourse and the potential impact on the cultural sector within the wider social context. The publication is meant to stimulate further discussions, inspire further research and inform policymaking, all the while contributing towards a knowledge base useful to cultural operators.

SYMPOSIUM

The CPS statistical report and the accompanying publications were launched during a symposium on cultural participation held on 21 June at the Valletta Campus Theatre, University of Malta. During the symposium, the main statistical findings and the methodology of the survey were presented by the NSO’s Director of Social and Regional Statistics Etienne Caruana. This was followed by a reaction from the Minister for Culture Dr Owen Bonnici and Arts Council Malta’s executive chairman Albert Marshall.

Jo Taylor, MHM’s Senior Consultant, went on to introduce the Malta Culture Segments, as in the report. The presentation described characteristics of potential and current audiences in Malta that go beyond demographics and the ways in which cultural organisations can use this data in their marketing and programming efforts. This was followed by a presentation by Dr Marie Briguglio from the Department of Economics (University of Malta) entitled ‘Cultural Participation and Wellbeing’, which formed the basis of one of the chapters in the *Perspectives* publication. Dr Briguglio explained how being involved in the design process of the CPS enabled her and her research team to develop questions that would enable insights into not just the ways in which people participate in culture but how it affects their wellbeing, an unprecedented study in Malta. Using the CPS data set, a cultural participation index was

created as a variable for a composite measure of wellbeing to analyse whether there was a relationship. Through econometric testing, it was indicated that those who identify themselves as artists tend to have higher life satisfaction and also, as expected, were more likely to donate time and money to artistic activities. This group was also more likely to be involved in the arts when young.

Cristina Da Milano, the president of ECCOM (European Centre for Cultural Organisation and Management), led the third and final presentation by covering her organisation’s work in a recently published study on audience development commissioned by the European Commission, entitled ‘How to place audiences at the centre of cultural organisations’. The aim of the study is to provide innovative approaches in the area of audience development and to equip cultural leaders with the means to make a convincing case within their organisation for becoming more audience-centric, and to investigate peer-learning opportunities.

The symposium was concluded with a round table discussion by some of the authors from the *Perspectives* publication, moderated by Arts Council Malta’s director strategy Toni Attard. The discussion addressed a range of themes - from the ubiquitous presence of digital in culture to the issue of accessibility as relating to Valletta 2018 and the public’s concerns on whether it will have a long-term impact.

54% agreed that “access to arts and culture is important to being a well-rounded person”



Photo by Fabrizio Fenech

Artivisti

2017 saw the first edition of the Artivisti young creatives development programme in collaboration with Aġenzija Żgħażaġh, in partnership with 89.7 Bay

Artivisti is designed to provide emerging creatives in the community with an opportunity to access and learn from qualified mentors and a rich network of peers.

ARTIVISTI AIMS TO:

- Identify and give recognition to the best young talent.
- Develop potential, creativity, talent, initiative and social responsibility.
- Invest in nurturing and transformation through knowledge, skills, attitudes, values, and creative exchange.
- Act as a platform for young promising talent.
- Provide accessibility and opportunity for participation in a wide range of quality art experiences.
- Encourage the contribution of arts practitioners and organisations towards the development of promising talent and facilitation of collaborative arts projects.

THE 10 ARTIVISTI SELECTED IN THE FIRST EDITION ARE:

Keit Bonnici
(design, visual art)

under the mentorship of Tom Van Malderen

Luke Camilleri
(DJing, music production, beatboxing)

under the mentorship of Toby Farrugia

Joanna Portelli
(fine arts)

under the mentorship of Caesar Attard

Diane Cutajar
(literature, creative writing)

under the mentorship of Caldon Mercieca

Michel Angelo Muscat
(singing)

under the mentorship of Miriam Cauchi

Matteo Depares
(music production)

under the mentorship of Howard Keith Debono

Gabriel Buttigieg
(visual arts)

under the mentorship of Vince Briffa

John Cutajar
(music production, composition)

under the mentorship of Joseph Debono

Maria Gauci
(dance)

under the mentorship of Rachel Calleja

Martina Joy Azzopardi
(dance: flamenco)

under the mentorship of Estelle Bonello Sant

EU Projects Office

In 2017 Arts Council Malta set up an EU Projects office in line with Strategy2020's guiding principles. The Office focuses on addressing the development of knowledge, skills and competences that enable people to engage in creative life for their enhanced well-being as well as developing Malta's international cultural profile through collaborations, partnerships and networks

CLAP! – Creative Labs and Artistic Performances in Palestine

Arts Council Malta is a beneficiary of a EuropeAid grant of €199,273, to implement a project that will support Euro-Palestinian cultural activities through capacity-building, networking and showcasing. *CLAP! – Creative Labs and Artistic Performances in Palestine* will see ACM collaborate with lead partners Al-Harah Theatre to promote intercultural creative exchange between European and Palestinian performing artists, performing arts organisations and cultural leaders. The project will kick off in January 2018 and has a duration of 18 months, during which it will create links between creative practitioners and

the community to nurture mutual understanding across different cultures. Arts Council Malta's expertise in devising the national cultural strategy and funding programmes will be key to the implementation of the capacity-building activities and also to the effective realisation of this project. The other partners in this project are ŽiguŽajg International Festival for Children and Young People and IETM - International network for contemporary performing arts.

This is the first time that a Maltese cultural organisation has been awarded a EuropeAid grant.

EUNIC – Crossroads for Culture – Building a European Cultural Relations Sector

Arts Council Malta is participating in an EU project funded by the Creative Europe Support to Networks action entitled *EUNIC – Crossroads for Culture – Building a European Cultural Relations Sector*, managed by lead partners EUNIC Global. As full members of EUNIC (European Union National Institutes for Culture), ACM will be direct beneficiaries of the project's activities, and will benefit from research and capacity-building activities, publications, conferences, seminars and staff development schemes. The overall long-term global objectives of the project are:

- To strengthen EUNIC's capacity for policy development, strategic

partnership and the effective and efficient delivery of programmes and projects;

- To develop and deliver the new strategy for EU international cultural relations;
- To develop European cultural relations sector so that it is driven by both national and European interests and work bilaterally any multilaterally inside and outside the EU.

The project has been awarded a grant of €250,000 and will be implemented over four years (December 2017 - November 2021).

Bahr, ŻfinMalta, at the Official
Opening Ceremony of the 2017
Maltese EU Presidency of the
Council of the European Union.
Photo by Mario Casha



The Cultural Programme of the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Arts Council Malta in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Heritage Malta led the Presidency Cultural Working Group responsible for the cultural programming of Malta's EU Presidency of the Council of the European Union, under the artistic directorship of Mr Airan Berg

The Official Opening Ceremony of the 2017 Maltese EU Presidency was held in January 2017 at the Mediterranean Conference Centre. A newly-commissioned work for the Presidency, *Bahr*, explored migration in all its forms, and its dialogue with movement, encounters, challenges and possibilities. It was performed by the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) under the direction of Mro Brian Schembri, accompanied by the national dance ensemble ŻfinMalta in Mavin Khoo's interpretation of Albert Garzia's original music score, composed for the occasion. Also in January 2017, the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, accompanied by world-renowned Maltese tenor Joseph Calleja, performed during the Opening Concert of the Maltese Presidency,

held at the BOZAR Museum in Brussels.

Several Maltese artists featuring in the Malta Showcase 2016-2017 edition were included in the cultural export programme of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Some of these artists included *Etnika (Touring Band), who performed in six different locations round Australia, including a performance at the Sydney Opera House; Gilbert Calleja, who exhibited his photo exhibition *Lampara* at the Berlaymont in Brussels; David Pisani who exhibited *Vanishing Valletta* at Neumunster Abbaye in Luxembourg, and at the Einav Culture Centre in Tel Aviv, Israel; Darrin Zammit Lupi, who displayed his photography exhibition entitled *Isle Landers* at Neumunster Abbaye in Luxembourg; Joseph P.

Smith who exhibited his photos *The Texture of Memory* at the European Economic and Social Committee building in Brussels, and at the Library of Xicheng District in Beijing in China; Robert Zahra who exhibited his *Moving Lands* art exhibition at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi in India; Ruben Zahra and his team travelled to Australia to perform *Kirana* with several children there; the Valletta International Baroque Ensemble performed at the Basilica de San Miguel in Madrid, at the Weisser Sal, Charlottenburg, Germany and at the Cathedral St Louis Des Invalides in Paris; ŻfinMalta performed *From Home with Love - a Double Bill of New Work* at Sadler's Wells Theatre in London; Norbert Francis Attard exhibited his artworks at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg; Kris

Micallef's *REGNUM* photo exhibition was displayed at the European Economic and Social Committee building in Brussels, and also at the BOZAR Museum of Fine Arts also in Brussels; Kažinska performed at Istakal Avenue, at Galatasaray Square and at the Municipality Theatre in Istanbul; Gabi Sultana held a piano recital at Neumunster Abbaye in Luxembourg and in Cité de la Musique, Strasbourg; Cosmos Wind Ensemble (MPO) performed at the State Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow and at the Grand Concert Hall of the Royal Warsaw Castle in Poland; Contact Dance Company performed *Diaspora* at the Foundation of Cacoylannis, Theatre Hall in Athens; the MPO also held a concert at the Musikverein in Vienna, with a repeat performance in Klagenfurt.

Jazz Combo, Domus#1,
Teatru Salesjan. Teatru Salesjan
is supported through the Cultural
Partnership Agreement. Photo by
Vincienne Bezzina



**Funding &
Brokerage**

Key figures for Funding Programmes in 2017

THE MALTA ARTS FUND

Strand 1 Research Support Grant

Applicants: 23
Beneficiaries: 6
Success rate: 26%
Amount allocated: €19,371

Strand 2 Project Support Grant

Applicants: 119
Beneficiaries: 19
Success rate: 16%
Amount allocated: €209,954

Strand 3 Multi-Annual Support Grant

Last call was in 2016 for three years (2017-2019)

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES

Applicants: 41
Beneficiaries: 20
Success rate: 49%
Amount allocated: €82,470

KULTURATV

Applicants: 29
Beneficiaries: 7
Success rate: 24%
Amount allocated: €200,000

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (CPA)

Last call was in 2016 for three years (2017-2019)

CULTURAL EXPORT FUND

Strand 1 Travel Grants

Applicants: 112
Beneficiaries: 42
Success rate: 38%
Amount allocated: €53,632

Strand 2 Presentation & Touring

Applicants: 12
Beneficiaries: 8
Success rate: 67%
Amount allocated: €48,000

Strand 3 Translation Grant

Applicants: 24
Beneficiaries: 11
Success rate: 46%
Amount allocated: €33,775

KREATTIV

Applicants: 30
Beneficiaries: 21
Success rate: 70%
Amount allocated: €93,989

IL-PREMĴU TAL-PRESIDENT GĦALL-KREATTIVITÀ

Strand 1 Project Support

Applicants: 10
Beneficiaries: 8
Success rate: 80%
Amount allocated: €54,220

Strand 2 Multi-Annual Support

Applicants: 3
Beneficiaries: 3
Success rate: 100%
Amount allocated: €45,000 for projects covering 2018-2020 (€15,000 in 2017)

MALTA DIGITAL GAMES FUND

2016 call

Amount allocated (phase 2): €35,000 to the Game Jam winner

2017 call

Applicants: 2
Beneficiaries (phase 1): 2
Success rate: 100%
Amount allocated: €20,000

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Applicants: 53
Beneficiaries: 37
Success rate: 70%
Amount allocated: €46,544

ARTIVISTI

Applicants: 15
Beneficiaries: 10
Success rate: 67%
Amount allocated: €45,000 (co-funded by Aġenzija Żgħażaġh)

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES PLATFORM

Applicants: 12
Beneficiaries: 5
Success rate: 42%
Amount allocated: €679,760 for the period 2018-2020

FINANZJAMENT GĦALL-HIDMA TAL-KAŻINI TAL-BANDA

Applicants: 30
Beneficiaries: 21
Success Rate: 70%
Amount allocated: €166,395.39

Amounts Awarded in 2017

BENEFICIARY	PROJECT	AMOUNT AWARDED
Malta Arts Fund - Strand 1: Research Support Grant		
Guerilla Ltd (Samuel Sultana)	Interactive Serialised Narratives driven by Geographical Information System	€4,000
Jesmond Vassallo	LITHOS	€4,989
Stefan Aquilina	Cultural Transmission of Actor Training Techniques	€1,762
Moira Scicluna Zahra	Creative Maltese In Parallel – exploring multidimensional identities	€4,620
Lisa Gwen Baldacchino	MaltaDoors Stories (working title)	€2,000
Malta Arts Fund - Strand 2: Project Support Grant		
Jonathan (k/a Jimmy) Grima	The Song Bird	€2,000
Opening Doors Association	The Staging of <i>Aħdar id-Deżert</i>	€15,000
Jacob Piccinino	Il-Manekkini - *Changed to <i>BabelX</i>	€17,000
Andrew Schembri	Light Pushes Stuff (working title)	€20,000
Irene Biolchini	Anamnesis - Art, Memory and Identity in Poland and Malta between 1989 and 2016	€12,000
Christopher Gatt	International Outreach Programme for the Genre of Contemporary Pop Music sung in the Maltese Language	€12,000
Niki Young	(met)afourisms	€13,000
UNIFAUN Theatre Productions	Tebut Isfar	€10,000
Kane Cali	HUMAN_CONSTRUCT	€10,000
Kenneth Calleja	Living in a song	€10,000
Dario Vella Catalano (Group: ManaTapu)	Tuatara	€10,000
Moveo Dance Company (Dorian Mallia)	Pandora's Box	€6,000
Julian Mallia	Julinu's Radioactive Ravioli	€11,000
UNIFAUN Theatre Productions	The ACROBAT	€20,000
Alexandra Alden	'Wild Honey & Thyme' first full-length album by Alexandra Alden VINYL Printing and Release Performance in Malta	€5,253.60
Zvezdan Reljić	WIĆĆNA / OUR FACE	€19,000
Teatru Salesjan	Macbeth performed by The Teatru Salesjan Young People's Shakespeare Company, Roaring Voices	€10,000
Giulia Privitelli	Walking in Circles	€4,200
Jess Rymer	Malta Sound Women Network hit Action Planet	€4,500
Julian Vassallo	Uncommon Spaces	€7,000

BENEFICIARY	PROJECT	AMOUNT AWARDED
Malta Arts Fund - Strand 3: Multi-Annual Support Grant		
ARC Research & Consultancy Ltd. (Davinia Galea)	The Mediterranean Dimension: Initiation and (re)creation	€60,000
More or Less Theatre (Angele Galea)	Get Your Act Together	€60,000
Musicconnect Ltd. (Gabriella Giacchino)	Of Peace and Unrest (Working Title)	€35,000
Blitz (Alexandra Pace)	TRANSFORMER: International creative spaces & cultural mobility	€45,000
Cultural Export Fund - Strand 1: Travel Grants		
Glen Zammit	Norddeutsche Horntage	€824.06
Patsy (Patricia) Chetcuti (obo Moveo Dance Company)	Freedom Prison	€1,054
Evgletta Zhanna Shtohryn	Land-art project and an environmentally themed video art project	€924.87
Charlotte Stafrace	TimeSlips Creative Storytelling	€404.05
Sandra Zaffarese	Participatory Attendance at the New York International Children's Film Festival	€924.87
Ilona Baldacchino	Devising Dance Performance with adults with learning dis/abilities: an exploration of dis/ability, dance and artistry, with special reference to Opening Doors dance group	€573.62
Sarah Spiteri	Music for All - Approaches for Special Music Education	€1,850
Bettina Paris	Internship with Chickenshed Theatre, London	€2,000
Sara Pace	Residency + at the Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughan, Co Clare, Ireland	€1,369.58
Gilbert Calleja	iF LAB – Interactive Factual Lab (www.iflab.net)	€1,963.59
Michelle Cachia Castelletti	Recording of Mahler Symphony No 10 (reconstructed, arranged and orchestrated by Michelle Castelletti) by John Storgårds and the Lapland Chamber Orchestra for the international classical record label BIS	€2,000
Valerie Visanich	Out of place in an institutional art space? A comparative research on cultural participation in Malta and Portugal	€832.62
Etienne Spiteri	Peter Stark Conducting Masterclasses and Workshops	€1,028
Nadia Mifsud Mutschler	Partecipazzjoni f' <i>Voci lontane, voci sorelle</i> (Firenze)	€323.21
Bernard Camilleri	International Games Week Berlin - 'Quo Vadis 17 - Create. Game.Business' and AMAZE. Indie Games Showcase	€1,269
Adrian Grima - Inizjamed	Mediterranea 18 Young Artists Biennale	€1,214
Steve Hili	Performing 'Burning Love. To the ground' and providing a platform for Maltese comedians at the Edinburgh Fringe 2017	€500

BENEFICIARY	PROJECT	AMOUNT AWARDED
Nicholas Zammit obo VOCA	VOCA on stage in Brussels	€2,000
Teodor Reljic	Participation at Worldcon 75 in Helsinki	€830.50
Mario Abela	Lumen Residency - Atina Italy	€1,428.80
Evelina Batey	39 th European Piano Teachers Association Annual Conference in Helsinki. Preparation for the 40 th EPTA Europe Conference in Malta in 2018	€1,255.93
Robert Buttigieg	BISYOC 2017 - Intercultural Youth Orchestral Exchange	€800
Malcolm Galea	The Complete History of Europe (More or Less)	€1,900
Rochelle Gatt	Festival Deltebre Dansa	€1,284.77
Karl Schembri	Participation in IV International Poetry Festival of Lima (Fiplima)	€2,000
Angelique Muller	13 th Annual Holly shorts film festival	€1,500
Weeping Silence	Weeping Silence plays world-famous FemMe festival	€1,900
Josianne Azzopardi Mammo	Participation at Scots write, organised by the society of authors (SOA) in St Andrews, UK	€653
Ryan Falzon	Scouting Berlin	€1,500
Matthew Maggi	Participating at the Toronto Film Festival	€1,935
Abigail Grech	Sciaccia Classic Fest	€468
Angelcrypt	Angelcrypt Live in UK	€1,690
Andrew Farrugia	Te fit-Tazza	€1,350
Francesca Balzan	Participation in conference 'Jewellery Matters', Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam	€959
Opening Doors Association	Symposium 'Dance-Diversity-Inclusion'	€889
Alev Blackburn	Berlinale 2018	€2,000
Mark Xuereb	Ceramics at the Heart of the Amazon	€1,935
Pjattaforma Ltd	Visit in Cairo International Book Fair to source translation rights and publication agreements	€1,421
James Micallef Grimaud	Malta - India, Around the Globe!	€1,137.05
Film Grain Foundation	Festival Circuit Networking	€1,470
Anna & Stephanie Galea	Women's Perspectives - a Mother/Daughter Synergy	€1,151
Kinemastik	Kinemastik in Rotterdam	€1,261
Antonella Axisa	Attendance at the Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival	€762
Cultural Export Fund - Strand 2: Presentation & Touring		
Maurice Tabone - St Paul Choral Society	Maltese Choral Singing on the Camino de Santiago	€8,000

BENEFICIARY	PROJECT	AMOUNT AWARDED
Gordon Calleja	Launching Vengeance and Petrichor: A Maltese Board Games Booth at Essen Spiel 2017	€8,000
Chris Dingli	Bad Dad North America Tour 2017	€8,000
Larissa Bonaci	Star of Strait Street	€1,769
SEED Dance Company	Performing at the Royal Albert Hall, London	€7,000
Big Friends Guggen Musik A.D. 2008	Big Friends Guggen Musik Malta UAE Tour 2017	€8,000
Loranne Vella	Maltese Literature in Australia	€731
Gaulitanus Choir	Gaulitanus Choir Concert Tour - Lombardia	€6,500
Cultural Export Fund - Strand 3: Translation Grants		
Gezim Tafa - OMBRA GVG	The Maltese Baron... and I Lucian' By Francis Ebejer	€3,864
Professor Clare Vassallo	Translation in English (Bridge Language) of Joe Friggieri's <i>Nismagghom Jghidu</i> , Kite: 2016	€5,000
Clare Azzopardi	Kulhadd Halla Isem Warajh - in Romanian	€2,100
Adrian Grima	Romarin et autres caprices - Reading Maltese Poetry in Paris	€3,060
Joseph Mizzi	Translation of the original novel in Maltese <i>L-Appartament fir-Raba' Sular</i> by Charles Casha into English to be used also as a bridge-language for translation into other languages	€1,136
Leanne Ellul	Translation of the novel <i>Gamma</i> from Maltese to English	€2,125
Milagros Teresa Hernandez Garcia	Translation of <i>FREJP</i> by Clare Azzopardi into Spanish using bridge translation into English by Albert Gatt	€2,175
John A. Bonello	The Manduca Case, (Irvin Vella, Virtual Investigator, #01)	€2,000
Dejan Matic	Translating the novel <i>Jutta Heim</i> by Immanuel Mifsud into Serbian using English as a bridge language	€4,830
Reel8 Productions	Translation of <i>Fejn Ghexna</i> , a creative documentary featuring Maltese cultural lifestyle according to different towns and villages	€4,625
Ksiazkowe Klimaty	Translation of Pierre Mejlak's collection of stories <i>Dak li l-Lejl lhallik Tghid</i> from English to Polish	€2,320
Professional Development Grant		
Jon Mallia	EAVE Producers' Workshop	€2,000
Glen Calleja	Stub binding course (bookbinding) with BINDING re: DEFINED	€686.51
Rebecca Camilleri	Solo Lab Mentoring Programme	€1,983
Yuri Charyguine	Intermediate Course for Accordion Repairers	€1,203
Carlo Muscat	NYC Jazz Masterclass	€2,000
Kristina Borg	'Socially and Community Engaged Art. What is it and who is doing it?' at UNIDEE	€766
Steve Hili	Comedy Career Development Sessions	€1,685

BENEFICIARY	PROJECT	AMOUNT AWARDED
Nunzia Martiello	Internship at Atelier Holcnerova, Lisbon Portugal	€2,000
Deborah Falzon	Flamenco para toda la vida, cada dia (Flamenco for life, every day)	€2,000
Theatre Anon Arts Foundation	Puppetry Workshops	€2,000
Laura Wyatt O'Keeffe	Hedonist, A Participatory Poetry Project	€1,600
Edwin Balzan	LOOP - A Summit for Music Makers	€740
Sasa Jovanovic	Production Design Workshop with Allan Starski	€1,134
Creative Communities		
Opening Doors Association	Difference and Diversity: Leadership Training for Social Inclusion in the Performing Arts	€3,500
Soċjetà Mużikali Madonna tal-Ġilju	Creative Christmas Workshops for the Community	€4,999.70
Ghaqda Mużikali Santa Marija, Hal Ghaxaq A.D. 1873	Sagru/Profan - Photographing the present, reliving the past	€3,888.45
Flimkien għal Ambjent Ahjar	Santa Marija Convoy Commemoration	€3,702.40
Ghaqda Mużikali San Ġużepp Hal Ghaxaq	Music through Kodaly - Music for Everyone	€3,600
Ghaqda Mużikali San Leonardu, A.D. 1858	D Hymns: Digitising, Documenting and Disseminating Kirkop's musical heritage - a 425 th anniversary celebration	€4,925
Art Club 2000	Train the Trainers and exhibit - an experience in Art, Ceramics, Mosaic and Modelling	€5,000
Circolo San Giuseppe Filarmonika Sagra Familja Kalkara	Bandastorja	€2,854
Soċjetà Filarmonika Santa Marija	L-Għażżiela... Jisimni Marija!	€3,905
Inspire	Inspire Mosaic	€2,352
Drachma	Joan	€5,000
We Are - Youth & Student LGBTI Organisation	Kitba Queer	€4,752
Soċjetà Filarmonika L-Unjoni	Reaching the Young Through Film Music	€5,000
Malta Chamber of Scientists	Enabling through Creativity	€5,000
Richmond Foundation	Sync-ability - making disability able and sync with creativity	€2,982
Malta Band Club Association	Festival Mużikali u Artistiku fl-Isla, bil-partecipazzjoni tal-Baned tal-Kottonera u l-Komunità Artistika	€5,000
Ghaqda Madonna tal-Grazzja, Banda San Mikiel, Żabbar, A.D. 1883	Niskopru l-Identità Żabbarija permezz tat-Teatru	€5,000
Ghaqda Mużikali Sant'Anna Marsaskala, A.D. 1994	Arti fil-Berah	€3,965.56

BENEFICIARY	PROJECT	AMOUNT AWARDED
Soċjetà Filarmonika San Pietru Banda Birzebbuġa	A Night at the Cathedral	€3,522
Big Friends Guggen Musik Malta	Youths: Get Marching!	€3,522
Kreattiv		
Maria Regina College, Naxxar Learning Support Centre	Express it, Inside Out	€3,625.24
St Joseph Mater Boni Consilii	Dawra durella max-xemx, il-pjaneti, u s-sistema solari kollha	€5,000
Floriana Primary - San Ġorġ Preca College	The Sea	€4,997.85
Pietà Primary - San Ġorġ Preca College	Rhytmos	€5,000
Gozo College Rabat Primary	Legends With Legs	€4,517.75
San Ġorġ Preca Hamrun Secondary School	The Art of Stained Glass and the Science behind it	€2,361.22
Guardian Angel Secondary Education Resource Centre	The Mediterranean Aquarium	€4,000
University of Malta Cottonera Resource Centre CRC	Science and gender: Undermining stereotypes through robotics and engineering	€4,000
St Nicholas College Middle School Rabat	Science Theatre	€4,773.75
Kirkop Secondary School	Metamorph	€4,742.53
Dun Manwel Attard Young Adult Education Resource Centre	Transformations	€4,786.25
San Andrea School	I create	€5,000
Saint Theresa College Birkirkara Primary	Performing arts: insects in the garden	€4,999.79
St Clare College Sliema Primary	Unity and Diversity	€5,000
Chiswick House School	The String Opera	€4,640
Attard Primary School, St Nicholas College	Iċ-Ċiklu tal-Farfett - Spettaklu għat-Tfal	€3,880
Gozo College Middle School	The Golden Ratio - Mathematical Patterns in Art and the Natural World	€5,000
Valletta Primary	Valletta through a kid's lens	€4,950
San Andrea Senior School	The Maltese Tales (working title)	€5,000
Chiswick House School	Let's Sing and Dance a Picture	€2,715

BENEFICIARY	PROJECT	AMOUNT AWARDED
Kultura TV		
SMASH Communications Ltd - Joseph Baldacchino	Futur Kreattiv	€20,000
Reciprocal - Neil Zammit / Nicholas Grima	Storja Animalta	€40,000
PRO.MOTION Ltd - Carmel Bonnici	Aqra b'Isienek	€17,721
Sharp Shoot Media Ltd - Stephen Dalli / Justin Farrugia	Moda: L-Istorja	€21,837
Reel8 Productions	Mitkellma	€38,532
Reel8 Productions	Tentufiet	€22,560
Take 2	Hallelin tal-Bahar	€39,350
II-Premju tal-President għall-Kreattività - Strand 1		
St Jeanne Antide Foundation	UMAMA Project	€5,965
Karl Vella Foundation	Bringing Creativity to Life	€7,515
Foundation for Science and Technology	Grandma got STEAM	€8,000
Mental Health Malta	Hope in the journey of recovery	€6,000
aditus Foundation	Our Island II: Personal Accounts of Refugees in Malta	€7,350
Troupe 18:45	Xrar	€7,350
Sir Michelangelo Refalo Sixth Form	Another Brick in the wall: Building hope and strengthening diversity	€6,000
Down Syndrome Association	Radio Valo Malta	€5,790
II-Premju tal-President għall-Kreattività - Strand 2		
Opening Doors Association	Creative Music Training for Adults with Intellectual Difficulties	€15,000
Fondazzjoni Kenn għal Saħhtek	Creatively Me: recovering myself from my eating disorder through dramatherapy	€15,000
GF Abela Junior College	Holqa - European Theatre Festival for Students	€15,000
Malta Digital Game Funds - Phase 1		
Konstantinos Vasileiadis	Lil' Arena	€10,000
Project Farsight	Martin Bonnici	€10,000
Malta Digital Game Funds - Phase 2		
Konstantinos Vasileiadis	Lil' Arena	€35,000

PLATFORM	AMOUNT AWARDED (2018-2020)
Creative Industries Platform	
Video Game Development Platform	€150,000
Literature and Publishing Platform	€93,360
Film Industry Platform	€136,400
Performing Arts Platform	€150,000
Contemporary Visual Arts Platform	€150,000
BENEFICIARY	AMOUNT AWARDED
Finanzjament għall-Hidma tal-Każini tal-Banda	
La Vittoria Band Club	€5,014.40
Għaqda Mużikali Vittoria	€5,500
Soċjetà Mużikali L'Isle Adam	€9,735
Soċjetà Mużikali San Ġużepp	€9,439.31
Għaqda Mużikali Santa Marija	€10,000
Soċjetà Filarmonika San Lawrenz	€8,000
Soċjetà Filarmonika Santa Marija	€4,750
Stella Maris Band	€11,550
Għaqda Mużikali Banda San Ġużepp	€9,296
Għaqda Mużikali Sant'Anna	€5,719
Għaqda Mużikali Sant'Elena	€11,621.92
Għaqda Mużikali Beland	€7,800
Soċjetà Filarmonika Madonna tal-Ġilju	€6,416
Soċjetà Filarmonika Banda Birzebbuga A.D. 1990	€5,500
Soċjetà Filarmonika Unjoni	€4,802.60
Soċjetà Filarmonika La Stella	€5,819
Soċjetà Filarmonika Santa Marija, Banda Re Ġorġ V	€12,573
Soċjetà Mużikali Santa Katerina	€3,750
Għaqda Mużikali San Leonardu	€9,953.60
Għaqda Mużikali San Gabriel	€10,020
Soċjetà Mużikali Peace	€9,135.56

Funding Programmes – Evaluations

Evaluators' Selection Process

Evaluators for the various funding programmes are selected from a pool of independent evaluators made up of individuals who have submitted their application following the open call for evaluators published on the Arts Council Malta website.

They are appointed on the basis of the relevance of their skills to the funding programme that needs to be evaluated.

As part of our continuous effort for transparency and clarity, the names of the evaluators who have carried out evaluation duties during a specific year are published on our website at the end of that year.

Evaluators who were also beneficiaries of Arts Council Malta funds during that same year are excluded from participating in the evaluation sessions of the funding programmes from which they have benefitted.

List of Evaluators in 2017

1. Agius Jean Marc
2. Aquilina Carmen
3. Axisa Antonella
4. Azzopardi Keith
5. Bartolo Simon
6. Bell Albert
7. Bonewald Ard
8. Borg Maria Carmela
9. Briffa Vince
10. Bugeja Nicole
11. Bugeja Norbert
12. Burge Marcelle
13. Busuttill Maria-Louisa
14. Buttigieg Lydia
15. Calleja Glen
16. Calleja Jackson Sabrina
17. Calleja Miriam
18. Cassar Cordina Mariella
19. Cauchi Miriam
20. Depares Ramona
21. Ellul Leanne
22. Eomois Ingrid
23. Fenech Giuliana
24. Fenech Michael
25. Floch Yohann
26. Frendo Maria
27. Galea John
28. Galea Malcolm
29. Ghigo Clare
30. Ghirlando Lou
31. Giacchino Gaby
32. Grima Anna
33. Howalt Thomas
34. Hutschek Bettina
35. Kuymizakis Yasmin
36. Laus Michael
37. Licari James
38. Magri Pantea Anamaria
39. Massa Claire
40. Meli Joseph
41. Mercieca Caldon
42. Micallef Katya
43. Micallef Sebastian
44. Mulholland Denise
45. Naudi Louis
46. Petroni Nikki
47. Piquero Lucia
48. Pope David
49. Portelli Diane
50. Sant Caruana Daphne
51. Sciberras Keith
52. Scicluna Kenneth
53. Scicluna Oliver
54. Siil Ragnar
55. Spagnol Michael
56. Spiteri Etienne
57. Spiteri Zahra Maria
58. Tanti Darren
59. Tonna Monika
60. Vella Mary Grace
61. Xuereb Mario
62. Zammit Lupi Darrin
63. Zammit Sarah-Lee

ACM Brokerage and Training Services 2017

One of our guiding principles focuses on our support to the sector through the creation of a single service point which also provides consultation and information services.

Our brokerage services serve as our first point of contact through which artists, representatives of organisations and the general public

is able to send queries, address difficulties, receive and give feedback, develop ideas, make contact with entities or other stakeholders.

Sessions held in 2017:

WORKSHOPS

- European Short Pitch 2017 by Nisi Masa – 9-15 January 2017
- Premju Francis Ebejer – *U'cuħ ġodda, kitba ġdida* – 21 February 2017
- Project Development Band Clubs – 11 March 2017
- Taħdita Teatru – 25-26 March 2017
- Kreativ Matchmaking session – 27 April 2017
- Audience segmentation workshop for PCOs – 23 June 2017

INFORMATION SESSIONS

- Professional Development Grant information session – 29 March 2017
- Four regional meetings – 12, 15, 16, 26 June 2017
- Il-Premju tal-President għall-Kreattività information session – 8 June 2017
- Creative Industries Platform workshop – 5 July 2017
- Artivisti info session – 21 July 2017

BROKERAGE SESSIONS

- MCAST AD Media Gr B Yr – 19 January 2017
- Gozo Outreach – 23 January 2017
- Gozo Outreach – 20 February 2017
- Gozo Outreach – 20 March 2017
- Tour Teatru Tazza Te southern region – 22 April 2017
- Tour Teatru Tazza Te south-eastern region – 27 May 2017
- Tour Teatru Tazza Te northern region – 17 June 2017
- Tour Teatru Tazza Te Gozo region – 8 July 2017
- Tour Teatru Tazza Te central region – 29 July 2017

TRAINING INITIATIVES

CPA training session (30 September 2017) - 20 participants from 11 CPA beneficiaries and four Gozo Cultural Support Programme beneficiaries.

ACMLab sessions 2017

The ACMLab series is Arts Council Malta's regular platform for information, networking and matchmaking sessions as well as discussions and regular meetings with the sector.

As part of our commitment towards active brokerage in the cultural and creative sector, ACMLab is our platform to share information and good practices, debate cultural matters and facilitate networking between peers and other stakeholders. In conjunction

with these sessions, a resource toolkit is being created to support creative professionals and organisations as a creative professional or as an organisation active in the cultural and creative industries. This is available from www.artscouncilmalta.org.

ACMLAB SESSIONS IN 2017 WERE HELD IN SPAZJU KREATTIV AND BLITZ IN VALLETTA ON THE DATES BELOW:

- Networks, Artists in Residency and Cultural Exchanges – 2 February 2017
- Building trust – securing space for all: supporting voluntary organisations in widening cultural participation – 23 March 2017
- Self-censorship: how free is free? – 20 April 2017
- The Entrepreneurial Mind-set – 24 May 2017
- Know Your Audience – 22 June 2017
- Building and Developing Online Audiences – 28 September 2017
- Pricing your art – 23 November 2017.



ACM'S Digital Presence in 2017

- The ACM website hosted 69,268 sessions with 38,607 users.
- The average number of new likes per month on Facebook amounted to 154.7.
- The number of subscribers to the ACM newsletter rose steadily throughout the 12-month period going from 727 in December 2016 to 865 subscribers by the end of 2017.

WEBSITE

- The average duration per session went up from 2:44 in the first quarter to 3:10 in the final quarter.
- Page views per session also went from 2.62 to 3.35 during the same period, meaning that user engagement increased throughout the year.

NEWSLETTER

- The average open rate for a newsletter campaign was 22.8 % with an average click rate of 5%.

SOCIAL MEDIA INSIGHTS

- The ACM facebook page accumulated 6,807 likes while 2,319 users were following the ACM Twitter page by end of 2017.
- Total likes on Facebook in the final quarter stood at 6,807 – an increase of 1,857 over the beginning of the year.
- The ACM Twitter page garnered 475 new followers over the 12-month period with a total of 2,319 followers, 544 likes and 352 retweets.



REGNVM - Kris Micallef

Part of the cultural programme of the 2017 Maltese Presidency
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artscouncilmalta.org

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