

**Your guide to ARTIVISTI**

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**TIME FRAMES**

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| **Submission Deadline** | **Announcement** | **Implementation Time Frame** |
| 28 September 2017 | 20 October 2017 | 1st December 2017–1st December 2018 |

1. **Context**

**ARTIVISTI** is managed by Arts Council Malta in collaboration with Aġenzija Żgħażagħ, in partnership with 89.7 Bay. It makes part of a diverse portfolio of schemes and initiatives to maximise the potential of Malta’s creative growth by investing in excellence in Malta’s cultural and creative sectors, encouraging further employment opportunities in the sectors, facilitating cultural exchange, as well as promoting inclusivity and active cultural participation.

**ARTIVISTI** is an intersectoral collaboration with Aġenzija Żgħażagħ. It is linked to the implementation of the National Youth Policy, as well as Arts Council Malta’s goals outlined in the Create2020 Strategy, with a particular focus on providing more opportunities for people to engage in creativity. The initative forms part of our funding programmes for community exchange, which aim at investing in:

* Increased cultural participation across Malta and Gozo
* Better understanding between artists and communities
* More diversity in cultural programming
* More importance devoted to a culture that is much more representative of Maltese society in general
1. **Aims of the Programme**

The programme responds to the critical need for greater support to young creatives, reflected in the local creative community. The programme was developed to limit the likelihood that young creatives will delay their professional development and be discouraged from participating in creative endeavours and opportunities for creative growth. **ARTIVISTI** aims at:

* Identifying and giving recognition to outstanding young talent
* Nourishing potential, creativity, talent, initiative and social responsibility
* Investing in nurturing and transformation through knowledge, skills, attitudes, values, and creative exchange
* Acting as a platform for young promising talent
* Providing accessibility and opportunity for participation in a wide range of quality art experiences
* Incentivising the contribution of arts practitioners and organisations towards development of promising talent and facilitation of collaborative arts projects
1. **Who can be nominated?**

The Programme supports the development of selected creatives, active in the arts, aged 16 to 25 by the end of the current year, who show outstanding talent and commitment and want to pursue a career in the arts.

The programme is aimed at individuals. Groups are not eligible.

1. **Who can submit a nomination?**

The selection is carried out through a public nomination process.

Nominations may be submitted by an individual,organisation, entity, or institution; whether public, non-governmental or private, with the exceptions indicated below. Self-nominations are eligible.

The nomination must identify three professional endorsers, ideally from the field.

The following may not nominate or endorse a candidate for the programme:

* Aġenzija Żgħażagħ / staff
* Arts Council Malta / staff or council members
* Bay Radio / staff
* Members of the Selection Board
* The nominator may not also act as an endorser
1. **Direct value of the Programme**

Each selected Artivist benefits from:

* Participation in a year-long interdisciplinary residency programme (A brief description is provided in Section 6 of this document)
* A series of one-on-one mentorship and support opportunities over a core period of 12 months (A brief description is provided in Section 7 of this document)
* A micro-grant of €2,000 towards the respective creative development of the young creative (A brief description is provided in Section 8 of this document)
* Opportunity to access, and learn from, a nourishing pool of creative talent and a rich network of peers
* A visible ambassadorial role for the art
* Membership to alumni community and a lifetime of encouragement, opportunity and support (A brief description is provided in Section 9 of this document)
1. **Interdisciplinary residency**

A shared vision embraced by Aġenzija Żgħażagħ and Arts Council Malta is the widening of participation of young people in cultural life.

The residency programme is designed to maximise cultural immersion and creative development of participants. The residency programme will tap into the opportunities and strengths of diversity within the creative scene and facilitate productive interaction between creatives. Participants will be supported to draw on networking experiences, engage in creative collaborations and cross-pollination of ideas, engage with different communities and the wider public, and create high quality work.

The Interdisciplinary Residency Programme focuses on stimulating initiative and professional arts practice, cultivating social responsibility, and offering project development training through:

* **Peer sessions**

: aimed at bringing participants closer together, generating creative discourse, exploring different art forms, considering possible (interdisciplinary) collaborations, enabling peer review

* **Behind the Scenes touring** – where respective participants will take peers to their own creative space

: aimed at celebrating the creativity of the Artivists, and allowing them to share each other’s creative processes

* A **Meet the Artist series**

: aimed at presenting vibrant one-hour encounters in an informal, interactive format, introducing each artist to a wider public. Each session will be personal and unique, and will include a Q&A with the featured artist

* At least one **three-day residential programme**

: aimed at intensive interpersonal and team-development

* A **Residency in the Community**

: aimed at enabling and supporting reciprocal engagement between the Artivists and the community, and promiting the work of the Artivists

* An allowance of up to €400 each Artivist toward the creation of a **creative project in the community**

: aimed at supporting the procurement of relevant resources

The Interdisciplinary Residency Programme is created and coordinated by Aġenzija Żgħażagħ.

1. **Mentorship and support**

**Eligible period**: 12 months from result notification date

The Mentorship and Support Programme is a laboratory for personal development. It is a twelve-month intensive, where each participant will focus on their creative development and gain support and exposure for their work, while upholding their distinct identities.

The nomination shall propose a core idea for the creative development programme, as well as a local mentor. These will be considered by the Selection Board, who will then advise Arts Council Malta. The selection of the mentor ultimately lies with Arts Council Malta.

The mentorships are designed to be a self-directed experience planned with the respective mentors, in consultation with Arts Council Malta. The mentors will provide their mentees with broader access to the local cultural landscape by sharing ideas, advice, resources, and experiences.

The Mentorship and Professional Support Programme is coordinated by Arts Council Malta.

1. **Micro-grant towards respective creative development**

In order to catalyse creative development, the programme will allocate a micro-grant of €2,000 to each participant towards the creative development of the respective Artivist as agreed with the respective mentor.

The micro-grant is a timely, critical method of support to ensure that the agreed creative development plan will be successfully implemented, and to help motivate the Artivist to persist.

Disbursement will take place 70% upon approval of proposal submitted with creative mentor, and 30% upon completion of project and participation in residency programme.

The Micro-grant Programme is coordinated by Arts Council Malta.

1. **Alumni community**

The programme serves to support our work of identifying and nurturing young artists and creative practitioners at every stage of their professional development while sharing their works with the public.

The selected creatives become part of an expanding support network of alumni linking up alumni over the years. The programme brings the work of participants and alumni to audiences in the Maltese islands as well as abroad.

1. **Eligibility**

Nominations will first be screened in terms of eligibility. Ineligible nominations in terms of the points below will not be processed further and will not undergo evaluation.

**Ineligible for support:**

* Individuals under 16 years of age or over 25 years of age by end of current year
* Individuals who are not in possession of a Malta residence permit, or of a Maltese citizenship certificate, or of a Maltese passport
* Development not related to culture, arts and the creative industries
* Activities which are part of individual modules credited as part of an education course or research as part of established academic programmes
* Incomplete nominations as explained under the section ‘Mandatory Documentation’

*With reference to the microgrant:*

* Costs already covered by public cultural organisations, or another public funding programme managed or co-managed by Arts Council Malta or other public agency, government department or Ministry
* Projects that would have already taken place before the result is notified to the nominee
* Expenses that are not incurred during the time frame of the development programme stipulated in the agreement

**Mandatory documentation**

The documents below are mandatory and required for the pre-evaluation assessment. Failure to present any of these documents will render the application non-compliant.

* A complete, signed and dated nomination form
* Creative practice portfolio
* A creative video pitch by the nominee, which includes:
* A taster of the nominee’s creative proficiency
* The nominee’s goals and dreams for the next three years
* Why the nominee should be chosen for the programme

Kindly note that it is your responsibility to submit all the necessary documentation, as outlined above, before the indicated deadline.

Arts Council Malta representatives will not vet your nomination form prior to submission.

Late applications will not be accepted. A decision on funding will be made on the strength of the submitted information. Application packages will not be returned to applicants.

1. **Video pitching**

The aim of the video pitching is to create an opportunity to voice the ‘dream’ being presented to the evaluators.

* The video pitch is the face of the nomination, not only delivering vital information, but also displaying personality.
* The video pitch may be created using any medium, including a mobile phone, and uploaded (password-protected) on YouTube or Vimeo . It can be presented in a variety of creative formats, but should not be longer than three (3) minutes. The pitch shall include a taster of the nominee’s creative proficiency, propose the core idea of the proposed development programme, and propose a plan for the implementation of the said idea.
* The video pitch may be created using any medium, including a mobile phone, and uploaded on YouTube or Vimeo.
* A link to the uploaded pitch, as well as the relevant password (if the uploaded pitch is password-protected), are to be included in the nomination.
1. **Submitting your nomination form**

Nomination forms are available from [www.artscouncilmalta.org](http://www.artscouncilmalta.org). Fill in your nomination form step by step and answer all the questions on the nomination form.

You may submit your nomination form with all relevant supporting documents as follows By sending an email on **applyforfunds@artscouncilmalta.org** till noon on the day of the deadline.

It is essential that in the same email you include all additional supporting documents as required by the Guidelines and Regulations. You should also include your signature (electronic signature or scan) as indicated on the nomination form;

Application forms will only be accepted until noon (12:00) of the deadline. Nominations that reach the Council after the deadline will not be accepted.

1. **Selection Criteria**

The Selection Board bases its decision upon the following criteria:

**Criterion 1 – Strength of portfolio and level of committment (40 marks)**

**Criterion 2 – Clarity of vision and video pitch (40 marks)**

**Criterion 3 – The relevance of the ARTIVISTI programme in providing an added value for the nominee (20 marks)**

1. **Selection process**

The programme is competitive, and nominations are evaluated according to established criteria.

As specified above, each criterion is allocated a number of specific marks.

Eligible nominations will be assessed by a selection team made up of independent evaluators. Arts Council Malta and Aġenzija Żgħazagħ will select evaluators on the basis of their independent and professional experience. The evaluators will present an assessment on each of the proposed nominations, indicating the relevant ratings awarded, and announce the selected Artivists on the basis of the rankings.

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1. **Communication of results**

On the day indicated, you will receive your result notification from Arts Council Malta.

If you have any difficulties concerning your results, you should email us on fundinfo@artscouncilmalta.org within five (5) days of receiving the Selection Board’s decision.

No information on the selection process will be released before the official result notification. **Any form of soliciting will automatically disqualify an application**.

The selected Artivists will then be formally announced during an official ceremony.

All information received by the Programme Administrator, Programme Manager and Evaluators will be considered confidential, both during and after the evaluation process. Provisions on data protection and confidentiality for successful nominations will be included in the grant agreement.

1. **Implementation and monitoring**

If a nomination is approved for support, the Artivist will be required to sign an agreement specifying the conditions of the programme at Arts Council Malta. When accepting to be part of the programme, Artivists accept that their name, their projects, and the amount awarded can be published by Arts Council Malta.

The disbursement terms of the micro-grant will be established in accordance with the agreed creative development programme.

The Artivists must use the programme’s logo on all related material and follow the communication guidelines which will be provided to them at a later stage. The grant received must be used solely for the purpose for which it was awarded, in line with the Regulations and Guidelines and the Agreement.

Artivists must notify Arts Council Malta immediately if changes affecting the nature of their development plan take place during implementation. Changes cannot be implemented unless approval is received.

1. **Report**

At the end of the mentorship, the following need to be submitted by not later than six (6) weeks after the respective development programme is concluded. These shall include documentation of the respective development programme, including : visual documentation, articles, interviews, blogs, relevant links.

* A brief written report by the Artivist on the activities timeline of their respective development programme, and the final updated budget together with all supporting documents
* A brief written review about the outcomes of the development programme, explaining how the Artivist maximised on the opportunity of the Programme for their creative development, and how this increased participitation in creative endeavours

Arts Council Malta retains the right to make use of submitted project material.

Arts Council Malta retains the right to recover funds in case these are not being used and/or are misused and/or are not used according to the submitted plan and budget.

1. **Complaints procedure**

Filing a complaint will not affect your chances of receiving support from Arts Council Malta in the future. All complaints will be treated with confidentiality.

**Grounds for complaints**

Nominators or nominees can make a complaint regarding procedural anomalies and irregularities during the submission and evaluation process in terms of the procedures stipulated in these Guidelines and Regulations. Complaints cannot be made concerning:

* The policies and procedures of Arts Council Malta or of the Government of Malta
* The merits of the application in terms of the criteria stipulated in these Regulations and Guidelines. Only nominators or nominees may file complaints concerning the nomination.

**Filing a complaint**

Complaints must be made in writing and must be as clear as possible. The complaint must state the grounds and the reasons for the complaint, providing a detailed explanation and justification supported by relevant documentation or testimonials as to why the complainant deems that irregularities were committed in the procedure/s stipulated in these Regulations and Guidelines or in standard good governance rules and regulations governing the public sector. The decision at the end of the complaint process shall be final. Complaints need to be made to the Head of Funds and Brokerage at Arts Council Malta within five (5) working days of receipt of your funding decision. You will normally receive a reply to your complaint within ten (10) working days from the Head of Funds and Brokerage at Arts Council Malta.

In case you are not satisfied with the reply, Arts Council Malta will convene a Board that will discuss your complaint further. If you approach our complaints procedure, then you are accepting that we can use information about your nomination to address the complaint. The decision of the Board is final.

**CONTACT US**

For more information, you may call us on 2339 7020 or send us an email on fundinfo@artscouncilmalta.org

Websites

[www.artscouncilmalta.org](http://www.artscouncilmalta.org)

<http://www.agenzijazghazagh.gov.mt/>

<http://bay.com.mt/>

**Regulations and Guidelines updated on the 7th of July 2017**