

2020



2023

**Arts Council Malta**  
**Annual Report**

20



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**Arts Council Malta**  
**Annual Report**

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# Foreword

In this Annual Report for 2023, we embark on a journey through the rich tapestry of initiatives, collaborations and achievements that define the artistic and creative terrain nurtured by Arts Council Malta (ACM).

**B**y delving into the diverse programmes and projects supported by ACM in 2023, a story of creative entrepreneurship, internationalisation, diversity, community-building and artistic prowess emerges as a testament to the dynamic interplay between the innovative spirit of Maltese and Malta-based artistic and cultural innovators and ACM's mission to advance the island's creative ecology.

At the heart of ACM's endeavours lies a steadfast commitment to advancing the arts and creativity in Malta. Guided by this vision, ACM serves as a catalyst for change, empowering artists, cultural practitioners and creative entrepreneurs to reach new heights of excellence and impact. Through initiatives like the Creative and Social Entrepreneur Programme Malta (CASE) and our wide array of funding schemes, including EU-funded programmes, ACM has continued to provide the necessary tools, resources and mentorship to equip individuals with the skills and knowledge to navigate the intersection of artistry and entrepreneurship, fostering a culture of innovation and resilience within our creative community.

ACM's engagement with prestigious international platforms, such as EUNIC and the Salzburg Global Forum, underscores a commitment to fostering dialogue, collaboration and knowledge exchange on a global scale. By leveraging events like the Creative Business Cup, opportunities are generated for local creative entrepreneurs to showcase their talents, forge connections and access resources that enable them to realise their visions and contribute to Malta's vibrant cultural economy.

Furthermore, ACM's dedication to promoting inclusivity, diversity and social cohesion permeates every facet of its work. Through research, evaluation and strategic partnerships, ACM strives to cultivate a more inclusive and equitable creative ecosystem – one where every voice is heard and every talent is nurtured. The initiatives highlighted in this report, from accessibility training to thematic calls in support of cultural rights, reflect a promise to champion diversity and foster a sense of belonging within our community.

Upon reflecting on the past year's achievements, we are reminded of the transformative power of creativity

to inspire, unite and uplift. Our goals – to promote professionalisation, embrace excellence and cultivate Malta's international cultural profile – serve as guiding beacons, illuminating the path toward a more vibrant and sustainable creative future.

Arts Council Malta's achievements in 2023 rest on the shoulders of all those who have believed in our mission and worked so hard to bring our programmes to fruition – and, for that, we are immensely grateful. To our dedicated team, committed partners and the energetic, creative community we serve, your passion and dedication fuel our shared journey toward artistic excellence and cultural enrichment. May the successes highlighted in this Annual Report 2023 further embolden our collective creativity to shape a brighter tomorrow.

**Albert Marshall**  
Executive Chair

**ACM serves as a catalyst for change, empowering artists, cultural practitioners and creative entrepreneurs to reach new heights of excellence and impact.**

# Organisational Structure & Governance

## Board of Directors

### Executive Chair

Albert Marshall

### Members

Dario Vella

Ilona Schembri

Jackie Mercieca

Joseph Buttigieg

Justin Attard

Marika Sammut Dimech

Roselyn Kitcher

Silvana Civelli

## Executive Chair's Office & Corporate Affairs

### Director Corporate Affairs

Eric Fenech Sevasta

### Registry Administration Assistant

Elizabeth Muscat

### Officer

Oscar Briffa

### Management Support Executive

Aida Daoud Bushra

### Executive HR & Administration

Kathryn Demicoli

### Driver/Messenger

Robert Camilleri

### Administration Officer

Angie Felice

### Sanitation Officer

Laurene Portelli

### IT Executive

Sean Cockram

### Assistant Director

Claudette Debono Farrugia

### Administration Senior Officer

Leonard Sciberras

### Driver/Messenger

Selina Mallia

### Driver/Messenger

Diandra Agius

### Administration Officer

Martha Scicluna

### Reception

Tania Spiteri

### Guest Relations Officer

Elaine Pickard

### Operations Executive

Martin Gauci

### Projects Executive

Vincent Piscopo

### Financial Controller

Gilmore Mercieca

### Finance Senior Officer

Karen Farrugia

### Accounts Support Senior Officer

Rossella Farrugia

### Finance Executive

Eileen Spiteri

### Support Officer

Ritienne Borg

### Finance Senior Manager

Joseph Zammit

### Finance Senior Officer

Ritienne Grogan

### Legal Officer

Luke Dalli

## Funding & Strategy Directorate

### Director of Funding & Strategy

Mary Ann Cauchi

### Support Administrator

Chantelle Baldacchino

### Creative Broker

Joseph Lia

### Head of Strategy

Adrian Debattista

### EU Projects Executive

Christopher Spiteri

### Regional Cultural Manager

Nicole Borg

### Head of Communications

Maria Angela Vassallo

### Support Administrator

Claude Gaspare Busuttil

### Education & Development Executive

Nikki Petroni

### Head of Funding

Rita Falzon

### Creative Communications Broker

Eleonora Ruggieri

### Support Administrator

Odetta Micallef

### Funds Administration Manager

Angelica Vella

### PR and Marketing

#### International Projects

Frank Psaila

### Support Administrator (Funding and Strategy)

Rityanne Gauci

### Education and Development Coordinator

Ana Vella

### Creative

#### Entrepreneurship Executive

Glen Calleja

### Internationalisation Executive

Romina Delia

### Senior Fund Executive

Annalise Buttigieg

### Creative Broker

Glen Zammit

### Diversity & Communities Executive

Simone Inguanez

### Internationalisation Support Coordinator

Celine Portelli

### Support Administrator

Joelle Dimech



**January**  
Arts Council Malta's 2023  
Calendar [LEARN MORE](#)



**February**  
Arts Council Malta analyses the outcomes from the first  
ever State of the Arts symposium [LEARN MORE](#)



**July**  
ACM Funding Schemes & Opportunities [LEARN MORE](#)



**August**  
Benefit from a reduced tax rate as  
a creative practitioner [LEARN MORE](#)



**March**  
Launch of half a million euros in funding  
schemes for feasts for 2023 [LEARN MORE](#)



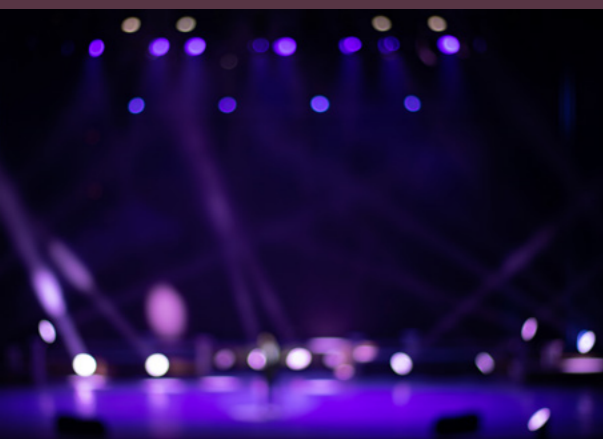
**April**  
Malta's Creative Business Cup launched for  
global 2023 competition [LEARN MORE](#)



**September**  
The Malta Book Festival 2023 – Offering Varied  
Pathways Into The World Of Books [LEARN MORE](#)



**October**  
Right to Culture - International Cultural  
Policy Conference [LEARN MORE](#)



**May**  
High demand for the first 2023  
session of the Arts Support  
Scheme [LEARN MORE](#)



**June**  
First Malta Pavilion at London Design Biennale unveiled:  
*Urban Fabric* takes up prominent Central Courtyard  
space at Somerset House [LEARN MORE](#)



**November**  
Malta Pavilion at the Biennale Arte 2024 in Venice [LEARN MORE](#)



**December**  
6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Premju għall-Arti  
winners announced [LEARN MORE](#)

# Highlights for 2023

# Government Budget Allocations 2023

ACM Recurrent and Capital Expenditure 2023	
Arts Council Malta	€2,500,000

ACM Funding Programmes and Initiatives	
Independent Arts Projects Support Scheme	€1,000,000
Health and Safety Standards in Fireworks Factories	€170,000
Participation in London Design Biennale	€70,000
Malta Arts Fund	€400,000
Schools Creativity Development Programme	€120,000
Support to Cultural NGOs	€200,000
Digital Games Fund	€100,000
Cultural Partnerships Agreements	€750,000
Creative Communities	€200,000
Public Service Obligation - TV Stations (Culture)	€300,000
National Choir	€110,000
Teatru Malta	€520,000
Export Programme	€180,000
Participation in Venice Biennale	€180,000
National Fund for Artistic Excellence	€150,000
Support to Local Theatre Spaces	€300,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€4,750,000</b>

Public Cultural Organisations (PCOs) Recurrent and Capital Expenditure 2023	
Festivals Malta	€6,740,000
Teatru Manoel	€1,620,000
Malta International Contemporary Arts Space	€4,500,000
Malta Philharmonic Orchestra	€3,180,000
Żfin Malta	€670,000
Valletta Cultural Agency	€3,600,000
Fondazzjoni Kreattività	€2,020,000
Pjazza Teatru Rjal	€2,690,000
KorMalta	€110,000
Mediterranean Conference Centre	€1,180,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€26,310,000</b>

# Vision, Mission & Goals

## 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. To invest in and foster diverse artistic and cultural expression.
2. To support and promote the conditions in which Malta's cultural and creative sectors can flourish.
3. To advocate and provide for community-led opportunities to engage in arts and culture.
4. To strengthen Malta's international cultural relations to continue developing international artistic exchanges and collaborations.
5. To nurture cross-sectoral collaborations that contribute to Malta's sustainable development.
6. To enable cultural partners, including Public Cultural Organisations, to build and strengthen organisational capacity.

## Guiding Principles

1. Champion the advancement of the status of artists and cultural and creative practitioners.
2. Value and position the diversity of artistic and cultural expression, access and participation as integral to Malta's wider cultural and creative ecology.
3. Nurture cross-sectoral synergies at local, national and international levels to recognise arts and culture as essential for the well-being of all.
4. Integrate active and participatory citizenship to ensure sectoral and public representation in our decision-making processes.
5. Support education, capacity building, professional development and knowledge exchange to empower people to flourish in their cultural and creative practice.
6. Build and strengthen strategic partnerships, collaborations and networks nationally and internationally to enable further opportunities for artists and practitioners.
7. Support sectors through proactive public engagement that is accessible, efficient and informed, using minimal bureaucracy.
8. Foster an evidence-based approach to have research, evaluation and debate inform our decisions and actions.
9. Embrace culture as a pillar of sustainable development in terms of its sustainability and interlinkages with the social, economic and environmental dimensions of well-being.
10. Recognise cultural infrastructure and international cultural relations as integral to the long-term advancement of Malta's cultural and creative sectors.



Etere' Il-Premju għall-Arti 2023  
Photo Credit: Darren Agius

SECTION 1  
**Strategy**



# Care, Create, Flourish – Towards Strategy 2025

Arts Council Malta (ACM) has long championed artistic and creative innovation while safeguarding Malta's cultural identity – an impetus at the heart of ACM's Strategy 2025.

**A**ligned with the National Cultural Policy 2021, Strategy 2025 is underpinned by the prioritisation of cultural rights, sustainability and well-being. To this end, it embodies our commitment to resilience in the face of challenges and alignment with community aspirations.

Importantly, Strategy 2025 is built on six pillars:

- **Public Investment:** Fuelling sustainable cultural and artistic practices to advance Malta's cultural and creative sectors and the well-being of cultural and artistic practitioners.
- **Diversity and Communities:** Promoting inclusivity and diverse cultural expressions to enable the arts and culture to permeate people's lives more deeply.
- **Education and Development:** Ensuring accessible and equitable arts education and participation from childhood to lifelong learning, while facilitating collaboration between cultural operators and educational institutions.

- **Internationalisation:** Enhancing Malta's global cultural profile by building trust and understanding through collaborations centred on diverse artistic and cultural expressions.
- **Creative Entrepreneurship:** Empowering artists with an entrepreneurial mindset to foster an empowered, skilled, resilient and collaborative artistic community.
- **Research and Evaluation:** Developing a knowledge base to inform decisions, assess impact and guide the evolution of Malta's cultural and creative sectors.

Standing firm atop our strategic pillars and looking ahead to a promising future, ACM remains committed to nurturing Malta's cultural heritage, fostering creativity and promoting sustainable growth. Together with our stakeholders and the artistic and cultural practitioners who shape Malta's creative landscape, we will care, create and flourish, collectively working towards a future in which the arts and culture are at the core of the advancement of society's economic and social well-being.

## Public Investment

### Funding Programmes

In 2023, Arts Council Malta (ACM) invested in a funding portfolio consisting of 19 schemes and programmes addressing the current needs of Malta's cultural and creative sectors. The funding portfolio enabled several activities, projects and events to take place. The ACM received a total of 569 eligible applications and, in all, supported 267 applications with a total direct investment exceeding €3 million. The schemes and programmes were competitive and included established parameters enabling the attainment of each scheme's objectives. Every application was submitted and received via the ACM's CRM system. They were then screened for eligibility and artistic merit. The applications passed through an evaluation process in which the evaluation board recommended a rank order and amount to be allocated to each funded proposal. Funded proposals were also assigned a mentor or monitoring support to follow the implementation of the projects, events and activities and to provide guidance and recommendations according to the specific needs of each funded proposal and beneficiary who received support through the funding portfolio.

ACM is committed to improving and ensuring fair, transparent and accountable processes. With this in mind, a new evaluation process was explored and introduced to manage the Arts Support Scheme's evaluation process. Applicants were asked to maintain anonymity in their concept and audience engagement proposal sections. First, the evaluators were given access to the application's concept and audience engagement sections, which they evaluated anonymously; thus, the shortlisting of applications was concentrated on the proposals' concepts. In 2023, a new role was introduced, that of an assessor to provide expert feedback on each application's project management and budget sections. The assessor had full view of the proposals and the evaluators' comments. During the final evaluation stage, the evaluators were given access to the proposals in their entirety, as well as the assessor's comments. The evaluators were then given the opportunity to update their mark or confirm their initial mark, thus enabling the formation of a rank order to direct the allocation of funds.

**Together with our stakeholders and the artistic and cultural practitioners who shape Malta's creative landscape, we will care, create and flourish, collectively working towards a future in which the arts and culture are at the core of the advancement of society's economic and social well-being.**

Arts Support Scheme – Right to Culture was a thematic call aligned with ACM's overarching commitment to cultural rights. It recognised the central role artists and cultural and creative practitioners play in creating and producing diverse artistic and cultural expressions. The thematic call primarily addressed specific community needs, such as cultural participation, solidarity, social justice, environmental responsibility, sustainability, community development and increased holistic well-being.

As stated in the National Cultural Policy 2021, artists working professionally in the sector may find it financially challenging to engage exclusively in artistic research for a significant period without compromising their income and financial commitments. ACM firmly believes in the importance of artistic research and the need for artists to renew and reflect on their practice. For this reason, the Sabbatical for Artistic Research Grant was launched in 2023. It is currently supporting four creative practitioners in carrying out their research while also being supported by a mentor with relative expertise in the topics being explored.

### Accessible Opportunities

In 2023, ACM launched the Micro Grant, a scheme to support both emerging and established artists in accessing public investment. The initiative is a one-time grant designed to support capacity-building items, such as equipment, materials, support services and space. It provides a support structure to encourage new applicants to access public investment and was addressed to applicants who did not receive funding between 2021 and 2023. The Micro Grant enables individual artists and creative practitioners to develop artistic work that advances their practice by providing the opportunity to implement a project, activity or event that enriches each artist's portfolio. A total of 36 individual artists received support through the Micro Grant in 2023.

Access Support was introduced to enable funded projects to adopt the highest standards of good practice, combining equity with quality. The initiative was implemented in line with the Right to Culture, which is effectively the cornerstone of the Arts Council Malta Strategy 2025. In 2023, the mechanism invested in people, resources, services, facilities and infrastructure, as well as in multidisciplinary and/or cross-sectoral collaborations for the development

and implementation of cultural and artistic projects or activities.

The Theatre Company Programme is a multiannual programme, which includes mentorship and strengthens the artistic community by fostering collaboration, knowledge-sharing and the nurturing of emerging talent. The experienced and established theatre companies benefitting from public investment act as mentors, providing guidance, support and valuable insights to emerging young theatre companies, thereby contributing to the growth and sustainability of Malta's theatre ecosystem. Two established theatre companies will benefit from this programme for three consecutive years, collaborating with younger troupes/ensembles and Teatru Malta.

### EU Projects

#### Training Needs Analysis

A survey was carried out between June and September 2023 to identify the training needs of public employees and creative practitioners working in Malta's cultural and creative sectors. The survey was conducted as part of a training needs analysis to gain a deeper understanding of the professional development needs within the local cultural and creative sectors, with the intention of influencing the direction and content of future training programmes, potentially through national projects funded by the European Social Fund. The survey was distributed to the public employees of Arts Council Malta, public cultural organisations, the Culture Directorate and the Local Government Division, as well as creative practitioners within the local artistic community.

#### Expression of Interest for the Co-Funding of Creative Europe Cooperation Projects

Arts Council Malta issued two expressions of interest (EOIs) for Maltese cultural and creative organisations planning to submit a proposal for cooperation projects to calls in 2023 and 2024 as part of the Creative Europe Programme 2021–2027. Through these EOIs, the Council supports cultural and creative organisations in Malta by endorsing their cooperation projects and committing to covering the co-funding amount, or part thereof, up to a maximum of €15,000, subject to the successful awarding of funding by Creative Europe and the project's relevance to the Council's vision, mission and goals.

## Diversity & Communities

### Inclusivity

2023 was marked by a strong focus on mainstreaming the Right to Culture, inspiring intersectoral knowledge-building, and ensuring greater accessibility and meaningful engagement. This centrality was generally reflected in events held or hosted by Arts Council Malta (ACM), including the international conference of the Compendium of Cultural Policies & Trends, the State of the Arts Malta National Symposium 2023, and an ACM webinar exploring the core themes of diversity, equity and accessibility.

Other actions shaped by a grassroots social justice and rights-based approach to advocacy, support and dissemination of good practice included the following:

- Research-based accessibility training for staff aimed at addressing the social structures that impede equitable participation, access and enjoyment.
- The introduction of a mechanism that complements access support, enabling activities and projects awarded under ACM funding schemes to adopt the highest standards of good practice that combine equity with quality.
- The launch of a Right to Culture thematic call for initiatives by artists, cultural and creative practitioners and communities to promote and realise cultural rights.

### Well-Being and Cohesion

Prompted by current realities surrounding well-being and social connectedness, and by growing sustainability challenges, 2023 saw the adoption of a systematic, holistic approach to sustainability that reflects the five pillars of the 2030 Agenda: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships.

ACM initiated the development of a sustainability strategy and action plan to foster greater engagement and awareness among different stakeholders and guide the sector to a more sustainable future. The process started with a series of internal focus groups, and the next round of sessions focused on the six regional governments. The process mapped circles of concern and influence while analysing strengths, resources and possible solutions to work through tensions around sustainability and address challenges resourcefully.

In a separate process, a fresh round of conversations – together with leading practitioners in the arts, culture and healthcare sectors – was kicked off to explore the correlation between arts, culture and well-being as a major focus area in arts policy. This was achieved through two workshops that were open to the public and that evaluated opportunities, challenges and solutions to identify actions that could facilitate collaboration and good practice in the area.

**2023 was marked by a strong focus on mainstreaming the Right to Culture, inspiring intersectoral knowledge-building, and ensuring greater accessibility and meaningful engagement.**

# Education & Development

## Enhancing Pedagogical Practices in Arts Education

Arts Council Malta (ACM) invests in several initiatives for pedagogical exploration in the arts. One such funding initiative for schools offered in 2022 was the Arts in Schools Scheme, which enriches the educational experiences of students enrolled in formal education by involving them in creating artistic projects and allowing them to work with artists and creatives. Aside from fostering creative experiences, the scheme encourages educators and artists to explore new methods of learning through the arts.

Another scheme offered in 2022 was Culture Pass, managed in collaboration with the Cultural Directorate. Culture Pass exposes school children and youths to the arts and a more holistic way of engaging with their curriculum through the arts. The initiative remained successful for another consecutive year in 2023, with numerous applicants submitting projects for recommendation and educators engaging project producers to work with their respective schools.

## A Review of Arts Education in Malta up to School-leaving Age

The research report commissioned by ACM and published in late 2023, called *A Review of Arts Education in Malta up to School-leaving Age*, served as a guide to understanding issues in curriculum education, as well as in higher and further education.

Conducted by the Department of Arts, Open Communities and Adult Education at the Faculty of Education (University of Malta), with Prof. Raphael Vella and Dr Maria Brown as Principal Investigators and Dr Karsten Xuereb and Liliya Cauchi as Research Support Officers, the report involved a nationwide study conducted during the 2021–2022 academic year. The goal was to research the national state of arts education, principally in the compulsory sector, seeking to understand whether official values and objectives listed in policy documents and curricula concerning arts education are fulfilled in actual practice across Malta's educational infrastructure.

The study involved reviewing relevant literature and comparing it to data collected from students, educators, heads and education officers through various qualitative and quantitative tools. The results showed that the main issues impacting the level of arts education in curriculum schools are insufficient arts instruction time, irregular and lacking arts facilities, the importance of bolstering the status of arts subjects, shortage of teachers of arts subjects and the need for upskilling and continuous professional development, as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the arts educational experience.

The report's authors provided 50 recommendations, mostly addressed to the Ministry for Education. The recommendations directed towards ACM emphasised that funding schemes should reach more students and support the professional development of arts teachers. ACM was also encouraged to foster further dialogue with educational stakeholders and support collaborations between schools and cultural organisations. One recommendation in particular has informed ACM's arts careers campaign, *ARTWORKS*, to be launched in 2024, as the report's authors noted the absence of such awareness. ACM will continue reviewing ways to implement the report's recommendations in current and future initiatives.

## Collaborations Fostering Wider Arts Appreciation

In 2023, ACM continued working on its existing schemes and projects to support learning and arts appreciation across all educational levels and formats. Outreach and public engagement activities increased to offer guidance and information about ACM's funding schemes and opportunities within the remit of arts education, professional development and artistic careers. In this regard, ACM was present at freshers' weeks, career expos and events organised by industry and educational entities to foster new networks and understand the perception of the arts within and outside Malta's creative and cultural sectors.

A working group made up of education and development representatives from public cultural organisations met regularly to discuss issues related to

arts education and career options. A new collaboration with ŽiguŽajg Festival and Spazju Kreattiv involved an exhibition titled *Possible Worlds*, which was designed as a platform to present contemporary art to children and young audiences. This same target audience was engaged in the exhibition's creation through workshops and interactive works of art. The initiative proved that involving children in the artistic process and offering creative spaces for them to dialogue with the arts is beneficial to their informal educational experience.

## Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Approaches to Arts Education

Throughout 2023, ACM revised and renewed agreements with some public entities and established new collaborative initiatives with public and independent institutions. The work created and supported educational opportunities for students, emerging artists and the general public. With regards to educational collaboration, ACM has joined forces with the Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST), Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST), Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ, University of Malta, the National Book Council, Fondazzjoni Kreattività and the Malta Society of Arts (MSA).

January 2024 saw the launch of the Malta Society of Arts and Arts Council Malta residency programme for emerging artists, following plans made in 2023. The residency provides emerging artists with a platform to develop their work while forming part of a community of artists from various disciplines and allowing them to engage with the MSA's archive. It provides mentorship, a studio space and an exhibition space to two creatives

starting their artistic careers. This initiative is part of ACM's objective to support young artists and assist in the professionalisation of their practice by building on the success of *Artivisti*, a collaborative programme run together with Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ.

## Career Pathways in the Arts

The initial groundwork for a dedicated arts careers campaign was set in 2023. Titled *ARTWORKS*, the campaign will run in 2024 as the benchmark project for ACM's education and development during the year. In advance of the campaign, focus groups and consultation meetings were held with career advisors across all educational levels, as well as with various educational stakeholders representing the state, church, independent sectors and further and higher institutions. Sessions were also held with public cultural organisations, independent cultural organisations, industry stakeholders and relevant policymakers. The data gathered is being analysed to plan an effective campaign that builds and sustains cross-sectoral relationships to benefit those seeking a career in Malta's creative and cultural sectors.

Furthermore, a new scheme was launched in 2023 – the Sabbatical for Artistic Research Grant – which enables four beneficiaries to focus on their professional practice. ACM has invested in the one-year sabbatical to allow creatives to dedicate time to research, development and experimentation. In addition, the Training and Development Support Scheme, which invests in educational activities that bolster the professional development of children and adults, was again offered in 2023.

# Internationalisation

## International Visibility

### Malta Pavilion at the London Design Biennale 2023

In its capacity as Commissioner, Arts Council Malta (ACM) published a call for the engagement of a design team to represent Malta at the London Design Biennale in 2023, held at Somerset House, a historic building in central London. The project titled *URBAN FABRIC* was selected to represent Malta. The team behind the project was Open Square Collective, an art and design group consisting of four members: Luke

Azzopardi, Trevor Borg, Matthew Joseph Casha and Alessia Deguara.

*URBAN FABRIC* juxtaposed ancient Phoenician traditions with a hypothetical village map, wherein space was physically delineated by the delicate fragility of purple-dyed fabrics. The poetic layers underpinning the project were driven by a strong eco-critical approach that sought not only to comment on the natural and built environment, but to actively promote sound ecological values.

# In its capacity as Commissioner, ACM published a call for the engagement of a design team to represent Malta for the first time at the London Design Biennale in 2023.

URBAN FABRIC was made from organic and sustainable materials that could easily be recycled and repurposed. Great care was taken to approach the design from a sustainable viewpoint and responsibly encourage current and future generations to foreground the earth in their aesthetic considerations.

The installation also allowed for audience engagement as visitors could walk through it to directly experience the space inside and around it in an embodied way, to navigate, and find ways in and out of it. Like a Maltese village, it imbricated ancient history with contemporaneity, light and shade, open and enclosed spaces and a strong sense of place and time.

## Malta Pavilion at the Venice Art Biennale 2024

Preparations for Malta's participation at the Venice Art Biennale 2024 are ongoing. The solo show by Maltese artist Matthew Attard is entitled *I Will Follow the Ship*, and it consists of a new art commission, weaving together cultural heritage and cutting-edge AI-driven technology. The Malta Pavilion will be co-curated by Maltese curator Elyse Tonna and Italian-American curator Sara Dolfi Agostini, both active in the Maltese art scene through several institutional collaborations. Maria Galea and Galleria Michela Rizzo shall oversee project management.

*I Will Follow the Ship* explores ideas of human existence and survival at the point of convergence between history and the future, physical experience, and digital input. It originates from the artist's latest explorations into AI and drawing technology, fused with his interest in historical images of ex-voto ship

graffiti. These vernacular iconographies speak of ancient local tales of faith and salvation across the Mediterranean. Located on the façades of several wayside chapels on the Maltese islands, these ephemeral stone etchings were possibly crafted by seafarers because of the religious significance and political immunity these buildings offered.

## International Collaborations and Partnerships

### Salzburg Global Forum for Young Cultural Innovators

ACM annually participates in the Salzburg Global Forum by supporting the participation of two young Maltese cultural managers. Launched in 2014, the Young Cultural Innovators (YCI) Forum is building a global network of 500 competitively selected changemakers in hubs across over 20 cities and regions worldwide.

The YCI Forum network is multi-disciplinary and encompasses creative disciplines that range from the visual and performing arts, literature and cultural heritage to foods, fashion, architecture and design. The annual programme is the first step towards the long-term engagement and participation of YCIs in a dynamic global network, with YCIs continuing to work together locally in their YCI Hub while remaining in touch with the wider global YCI network. The Forum links individuals and communities with one another through an annual programme, follow-up events, inter-hub exchanges, cross-border projects and other activities.

## Access to International Networks

In 2023, ACM retained its commitment to participate actively in its international partner networks.

### European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC)

EUNIC is the European network of organisations that engage in cultural relations. Together with its partners, it brings to life European cultural collaboration in over 100 countries worldwide with a network of 139 clusters, drawing on the broad experiences of its members from all EU Member States and associate countries.

EUNIC advocates for the prominent role of culture in international relations and is a strategic partner of the EU, actively involved in defining European cultural policy. EUNIC is a platform for knowledge-sharing and capacity-building among its members and partners.

ACM participated in the EUNIC Focal Points meetings and the AGMs held online and in Brussels and attended several online knowledge-sharing workshops and webinars.

ACM is also active in several EUNIC Clusters worldwide:

#### EUNIC Warsaw

Via the EUNIC Warsaw Cluster, Malta has participated in the annual event entitled *Poems in the City*. The objective of the *Poems in the City* project is to enable poetry originating from several European countries to be given international exposure in the streets of Warsaw. To this end, EUNIC collaborates with local authorities in Warsaw to display posters of poems from over 20 European poets in their original language on bus stops and in cafés, clubs, bookshops, libraries and prominent squares all over Warsaw.

In 2023, representing Malta was Clare Azzopardi, an award-winning writer for children and adults who is an active member of Inizjamed, an NGO with a mission to promote literature in Malta and abroad. A Polish translation was written by Ms Zuzanna Gawron.

#### EUNIC Vienna

ACM participated in the EUNIC Literature Festival called *Long Night of Literature* in collaboration with the Malta Embassy in Vienna. Elena Cardona represented Malta and read four poems from her poetry collection *Meta Tlaqt lil Adam*: "Jien", "Hajjiet tal-Ħalib", "Keffa", and "Fl-Art tal-Laring u l-Lumi". She also presented an English translation of her poems

written by Irene Mangion. *Long Night of Literature* took place on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023, in eight cultural institutes and partner institutions across Vienna, with the participation of 17 countries. In addition, ACM also participated in *EUROPTAG*, the Europe Day 2023 festival organised by EUNIC Vienna. Warren Galea represented Malta and gave a musical performance during the event.

#### EUNIC Dublin

In partnership with Dublin City Libraries, EUNIC Ireland launched its inaugural EUNIC European Film Club, a series of free screenings of European feature films and documentaries in six libraries across Dublin. A total of 24 screenings took place from 2<sup>nd</sup> March to 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023, showcasing films from the following 11 EU countries: Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal and Spain. The production *Simshar* (2014) was Malta's entry. The Embassy of Malta, in collaboration with Arts Council Malta, also participated in the Short Shorts from Europe Film Festival held in October 2023 with the film *I Lost Myself When I Found You* by Chelsea Muscat.

#### EUNIC Berlin

ACM participated in the EUNIC event *BABYLON EUROPA* in Berlin. The cultural show brought together music, dance, word art and new circus performances to celebrate Europe's diversity and cultural identity. As a partner event of the Carnival of Cultures, the sixth edition of *BABYLON EUROPA* presented excellent artists from 11 different European regions and countries at the ufaFabrik in Berlin. The audience enjoyed an impressive show entitled *HOME IN A BACKPACK*, and throughout the programme, musicians delivered rousing rhythms, jazz, electronic beats and folk tunes. Musician Patryk Cutajar performed, representing Malta.

#### EUNIC Ethiopia

ACM, in collaboration with the Embassy of Malta in Ethiopia, screened the Maltese movie *Carmen*, directed by Valerie Buhagiar, at the European Film Festival 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, held in October 2023 in collaboration with the EU delegation and EU Embassies and cultural institutes. Produced in 2022, *Carmen* is set in a Maltese village and tells the story of Carmen (played by Natascha McElhone), who looked after her brother, the priest at the local church, since she was 16 years old. At almost 50, she was suddenly forced to start a new life. Facing her past, Carmen brought colour to the lives of the villagers in this compelling story about a woman finding her voice.

### EUNIC New Delhi

The High Commission of the Republic of Malta, in collaboration with ACM, participated in the European Union Film Festival – India (EUFF), an annual event organised by the EU delegation in India along with EU Member States. The festival celebrates the diversity and depth of European cinema and culture.

2023 marked the 28<sup>th</sup> edition of the EU Film Festival, which took place from 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> December and showcased award-winning films from all 27 European Union countries and free film screenings in over 25 languages, including 18 films by female directors. The films spanned multiple genres, from comedy, drama and sci-fi to romance, animation and suspense. With rich themes, the films took audiences on cinematic journeys with narratives that underline the crucial role of intergenerational and intercultural dialogue and celebrate the creative and cultural exchange between the EU and India.

Malta participated with the award-winning Maltese film *Carmen*, directed by Valerie Buhagiar, screened on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at the Istituto Cervantes.

### EUNIC Malta

In its third edition, Malta's EUNIC film festival was held in collaboration with EuroPride Valletta 2023, focusing on the theme *Equality from the Heart*. Ten free film screenings occurred over seven days at Spazju Kreattiv in Valletta. Malta participated with a compilation of three short films: *In His Image*, directed by Matteo Pullicino; *Searching for the Wave*, directed by Chelsea Muscat; and *Venus Melite*, directed by Scott Lyman.

Eleven members and partners of the EUNIC Malta cluster participated in the event, including the embassies of Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Spain, as well as the Alliance Française, Arts Council Malta, the British Council, the European Commission Representation and the Istituto Italiano di Cultura.

### IETM

IETM is the International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts, which connects over 500 performing arts organisations and individual members working in the contemporary performing arts worldwide. In 2023, ACM actively participated in several meetings with IETM.

An open call for 2024 IETM memberships and participation in IETM events was launched by Arts Council Malta in November 2023 for Maltese performing artists that work in or across any of the following disciplines: theatre, dance, circus, interdisciplinary live art forms and new media.

### ACM Webinar: MEET IETM, the International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts

The final ACM webinar in the 2023 series focused on IETM – the International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts. The webinar was held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and brought together speakers who shared their insights and experiences regarding IETM.

### International Exchanges

#### International Cultural Exchanges Scheme

In 2023, the International Cultural Exchanges Scheme (ICE), managed by ACM, addressed international cultural exchanges, focusing specifically on the outgoing mobility of Maltese and Malta-based artists aged 18 and over, as well as their artworks and cultural productions. It supported participation in international festivals, exhibitions, showcases, networking events, films, conferences, artist residencies and fairs. The scheme also supported artists' participation in a digital format. It also endorsed marketing, including digital as well as printed adverts, the production of audiovisuals, the filming of a theatrical or dance production, the filming of art installations, poetry readings, exhibitions, fashion shows and the production of websites and demos for international promotion.

## Creative Entrepreneurship

### CASE Malta

CASE (Creative and Social Entrepreneurship) Malta is a new, three-year training and development programme for artists and creative practitioners in Malta. The programme was developed by In Place of War in collaboration with Arts Council Malta. It emerged as a response to the prevailing issues facing Malta's creative and cultural sectors in developing skills, competencies and knowledge in entrepreneurship, business and technology. Specifically, limited avenues for learning development via collaboration, experimentation and peer exchange have been identified as key focus areas. 2023 included the first two cycles of the programme in January–February 2023 and June 2023.

For the first cycle of CASE Malta, 15 applications were received, with 10 participants selected. The call for participation was published on social media, notably via In Place of War's networks and those of local partners, including Arts Council Malta. The drop-in sessions provided prospective participants with information on the programme. In terms of recruitment criteria, it is important to note that no formal academic qualifications were required; instead, candidates were selected based on their ability to demonstrate passion and interest in a creative discipline and their potential as entrepreneurs based on their motivations, previous experiences and vision. The participants were required, however, to be able to use written and spoken English.

The participants attested to the training being either "extremely" or "very" useful. They found its pace and style appropriate as it created a space for critical reflection, peer knowledge exchange and engagement with diverse perspectives and experiences. The participants considered the modules on risk assessment, evaluation and impact, theory of change, digital platforms and audience development particularly relevant to their development.

For this first cycle of the programme, allocations included the mentorship of eight participants (with three sessions each), and three participants were provided seed funding of €600 each.

The second cycle included nine participants, with mentorship allocated to six and seed funding to two.

### Salzburg Global Forum 2023

Arts Council Malta has been involved with the Salzburg Global Forum since 2018, and in 2023 the Council continued to support the participation of two local artists in the seminar held in Salzburg. The 2023 residential session was themed *On the Front Line: Artists at Risk, Artists Who Risk*, and it delved into the convergence of contemporary art, activism, politics, law, research, technology, ethics and organisation. The forum served as a platform where artists played a

**CASE (Creative and Social Entrepreneurship) Malta is a new, three-year training and development programme for artists and creative practitioners in Malta.**

pivotal role, fostering discussions, self-reflection and dialogue to connect diverse viewpoints. The goal was to generate fresh concepts and cultivate dedication to actionable strategies through lively debates and the exchange of ideas.

### Creative Business Cup 2023

In 2023, Arts Council Malta again supported the annual Creative Business Cup Malta, organised by Culture Venture. The event forms part of Creative Business

Network's global initiative and provides a platform for local entrepreneurs to present their business concepts to a local jury. The winners move on to compete in the international arena at the Creative Business Cup Global Finals. Considered a significant global event, it serves as a catalyst for bringing creative start-ups together, fostering connections among potential future partners, investors and mentors. In 2023, Arts Council Malta allocated funding of €1,500 each to three finalists, enabling them to develop their projects further.

## Research & Evaluation

### Cultural and Creative Practice Survey

In 2023, the first Cultural and Creative Practice Survey (CCPS) report was published in collaboration with the National Statistics Office (NSO). In addition, the complementary thematic report called *Artists in Malta: From Myth to Method* was also commissioned by Arts Council Malta (ACM) based on data collected from the CCPS.

The findings present a valuable analysis of the conditions under which artistic, creative and cultural practitioners operated prior to the changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the attitudes, desires and self-perceptions of practitioners.

In the first quarter of 2024, a follow-up survey will take place to ensure comparability and a longitudinal

understanding of the trends that determine cultural and creative practice in Malta. The target population for this survey is people aged 16 years and over who live in private households in Malta. A total of 2,375 people were contacted for the study. In all, 1,019 participated and 1,244 were found ineligible to participate.

Data was collected by means of Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI) by the NSO. The findings can be visualised via the new online data dashboard on ACM's website, which can be used to create customised charts and comparisons using the survey's dataset. The dashboard facilitates data access and dissemination for users interested in getting quick, descriptive insights into the findings.

### Malta Music and Nighttime Economy Strategy

The Malta Music and Nighttime Economy (NTE) Strategy, developed by Sound Diplomacy in partnership with ACM, was finalised by the final quarter of 2023. The report compiles all research and stakeholder engagement that Sound Diplomacy has completed in the past two years for the Malta Music and Nighttime Economy Strategy.

The strategy demonstrated that Malta has multiple regulatory entities that can benefit from implementing the report's recommendations on an economic, social and cultural level so long as all parties work in a collaborative and supportive way to contribute to the development and application of the recommendations.

The report demonstrates the supportive and robust infrastructure, both physical and strategic, that exists in Malta's music sector. Resources and funding led by ACM and other public entities provide opportunities to develop careers in the music industry. Meanwhile, the year-round NTE and its inherent links to culture offer opportunities to further enhance both the music sector and the NTE. However, limited coordination between government agents, ongoing friction with residents due to a lack of clear and regulated policies surrounding sound, a need for awareness of and support for professional development to bridge the gap between amateur and professional, and the opportunity for enhanced and formalised international partnerships are just some aspects that, with considered and coordinated planning and assistance, could help strengthen Malta's music sector. In 2024, the implementation of the recommendations made in the strategy will be set in motion.

### Right to Culture: International Cultural Policy Conference and State of the Arts – Malta National Symposium 2023

Between 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023, ACM hosted a conference and symposium addressing its strategic theme of Right to Culture in alignment with its ongoing campaign on cultural rights. The event took place at the National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta as well as the University of Malta – Valletta Campus (in the case of the Symposium).

The events on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> October were organised in collaboration with the Compendium for Cultural Policies and Trends. The International Cultural Policy Conference

on 5<sup>th</sup> October built on the one held in Bucharest in 2022, and the event on 6<sup>th</sup> October consisted of the 6<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Compendium Association and Assembly of Compendium Experts and served as a meeting point for the Compendium community itself.

On the conference's first day, EU Commissioner for Equality Helena Dalli delivered the event's opening remarks, followed by a keynote speech from author, activist and UN former Special Rapporteur on cultural rights Dr Karima Bennouna, who framed the importance of the Right to Culture.

The conference continued with three panel discussions on artistic freedom, cultural diversity and accessibility, and cultural democracy. The panels comprised cultural policy experts, artists and delegates from the Compendium and Arts Council Malta. The second day saw discussions on the plans and performance of the Compendium Association and presentations delivered by Compendium members and experts on their cultural policy work in their respective countries. The third day consisted of the Symposium in which a panel discussion took place with Malta-based practitioners and artists focusing on how the Right to Culture applies to Malta's context and the opportunities and challenges that it brings along. The Symposium also featured an inspirational opening keynote and performance from Maltese queer artist Claire Tonna and several short presentations and contributions delivered by local practitioners in cultural rights, who were selected following an open public call for contributions.

**The findings present a valuable analysis of the conditions under which artistic, creative and cultural practitioners operated prior to the changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the attitudes, desires and self-perceptions of practitioners.**



ACMLab: Let's Strategise, November 2023  
Photo Credit: Sebïo Aquilina

SECTION 2  
**Funding**

# Funding

During 2023, Arts Council Malta (ACM) managed a funding portfolio with a total of 20 funding schemes. In all, 543 eligible applications were submitted through 21 calls for financial support; 238 applications were successful and received funding in 2023, which equals a total disbursement of €3,088,667.

**F**unding Schemes 2023 introduced several new initiatives that enabled ACM to address several strategic actions targeting current needs within Malta's cultural and creative sectors.

A set of guidelines and regulations were issued for each scheme and made available on [artsCouncilmalta.gov.mt](https://artsCouncilmalta.gov.mt), together with each scheme's corresponding application template. When the call was opened, applicants had six weeks to submit their proposals online through ACM's CRM system. Applications were submitted by creative professionals, individual artists, entities registered with the Malta Business Registry, educational institutions, groups, consortia, collectives and voluntary organisations enrolled with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations.

Received applications were processed according to a pre-defined method as outlined in the guidelines and regulations for each scheme. Eligible applications passed through the evaluation process according to the parameters set by each scheme. Evaluators were given online access to review eligible applications individually, and they submitted their marks and comments for each criterion as established in the guidelines and regulations. Finally, the evaluation boards discussed eligible applications during a concluding evaluation session. During the final evaluation session, the boards established a ranking order based on the average marks submitted by the evaluation board.

In 2023, a new evaluation process was introduced for the Arts Support Scheme. The scheme's assessment focused on the application's concept, while the remaining sections of each application received feedback from the evaluators and assessor. The evaluators reviewed each application's concept and audience engagement anonymously. Applications that received 60 marks or over were passed to the assessor, while those that obtained fewer than 60 marks were not shortlisted and, therefore, not processed further. Once the assessor provided feedback, the shortlisted

applications were passed on to the evaluators once again. This time, the entire application and the assessor's feedback were made available to the evaluators, who were asked to either confirm their provisional mark or justify their decision to modify it. ACM officials screened the budget of the highest-ranking applications and allocated funds accordingly. There were 112 applications and 19 beneficiaries supported through this new scheme, and the evaluation process was also adopted in the Arts Support Scheme Right to Culture, which involved a total of 28 applications, out of which 11 were awarded funds.

Access Support provided eight funded projects with an additional grant to support activities and projects awarded under ACM Funding Schemes 2023 to adopt the highest standards of good practice, combining equity with quality.

In 2023, ACM launched an Expression of Interest for the Co-Funding of Creative Europe Cooperation Projects, addressing Malta-based cultural and creative applicants planning to submit project proposals for European Cooperation Projects as part of the Creative Europe Programme 2021–2027.

Beneficiaries of Funding Schemes 2023 whose funded project or activity included mobility of items and required an ATA Carnet had the opportunity to submit their requests through the Mobility Guarantee Scheme. There were no beneficiaries for these two new initiatives.

The Micro Grant aims to provide a support structure that encourages new applicants to access public investment. It is a new funding mechanism to support applicants who did not receive funding between 2021 and 2023. In 2023, a total of 36 individual artists and creative practitioners received support to develop artistic work that will help them advance their practice. The Theatre Company Programme is supporting two ensemble-based theatre companies in improving their

artistic output and development by securing a space in line with ACM's Strategy 2025. The Newspapers Support Scheme supported seven newspapers in the quality assurance of content related to arts, culture and heritage in local print newspapers.

The Sabbatical for Artistic Research was introduced in 2023 and enabled four individual artists to engage in artistic research which is practice-based or practice-led and aimed towards developing and exploring new ideas, methodologies, materials and techniques in artistic development. Also in 2023, the Training and Development Support Scheme focused on nurturing creative potential and supporting its development into professional activity. The scheme is divided into two strands and supports the continuous professional development of Maltese or Malta-based artists and the development and exposure of young Maltese or Malta-based artists who are active in the cultural and creative sectors. In 2023, the scheme was awarded to 19 adult and 10 young artists. Furthermore, the Arts in Schools Scheme funded eight projects, which facilitated collaborations between an educational institution and creative practitioner for each project.

Culture Pass is a joint initiative by Arts Council Malta and the Culture Directorate within the Ministry for National Heritage, the Arts and Local Governments. The Call for Expression of Interest for the submission/proposal of events of a cultural and artistic nature targeting children and students from kindergarten and primary, middle, senior and post-secondary schools was held and received 57 applications, out of which 43 proposals were recommended for the 2023–2024 scholastic year.

Furthermore, 26 fireworks factories and seven organisations benefitted from the Health and Safety Standards in Firework Factories scheme, which facilitates the upgrading of infrastructure so that fireworks volunteers can work in a safer environment, both during the manufacturing process and the letting off of fireworks.

Skema Ngħinu Finanzjarjament Iis-Soċjetajiet tal-Banda is a collaboration with the Għaqda Nazzjonali Każini

tal-Banda, which supported 30 band clubs in carrying out structural works and cultural projects. The Artistic Financing for Feast Associations is a competitive fund that supports the design, manufacture and restoration of items that embellish Maltese towns and villages during their feasts. In 2023, the fund supported 27 cultural and social associations, enabling them to reach higher levels in the artistic work they produce in accordance with contemporary development.

The International Cultural Exchanges Scheme focuses on the outgoing mobility of Maltese and Malta-based artists aged 18 and over, as well as their artworks and cultural productions. It supports cultural exchanges, participation in festivals and events abroad, and the production of audiovisuals for international platforms. In 2023, the scheme supported 15 projects.

KulturaTV invested in developing six challenging audiovisual productions containing cultural and creative content that will be broadcast on private stations, which are free-to-air starting from October 2024. Il-Fond tal-President għall-Kreattività supported two projects to strengthen inclusivity, community development and well-being through cultural participation and creative expression. The programme is a collaboration between Arts Council Malta and the Office of the President of the Republic.

The multiannual programmes invested a total of €550,000 in cultural organisations in 2023. As part of the investment, 15 cultural organisations started a three-year programme of activities supported by the Investment in Cultural Organisations Malta programme. These organisations are being supported to invest in capacity-building by further developing their skills and to organise festivals, programmes and events addressing artists' development and elevating the quality of artistic work. The Investment in Cultural Organisations Gozo is a three-year programme that started in 2022 and supports seven organisations in Gozo that are active in the island's cultural and creative sectors.



# Key Figures

FOR FUNDING PROGRAMMES IN 2023

Access Support Top-Up	
Applicants	12
Beneficiaries	8
Success Rate	67%
<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>€13,055</b>

Artistic Financing for Feast Associations Scheme	
Applicants	71
Beneficiaries	27
Success Rate	38%
<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>€140,000</b>

Arts in Schools	
Applicants	10
Beneficiaries	8
Success Rate	80%
<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>€39,503</b>

Arts Support Scheme	
Applicants	112
Beneficiaries	19
Success Rate	17%
<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>€450,000</b>

Arts Support Scheme - Right to Culture	
Applicants	28
Beneficiaries	11
Success Rate	39%
<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>€225,000</b>

Health and Safety Standards in Fireworks Factories Fund	
Applicants	33
Beneficiaries	33
Success Rate	100%
<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>€147,306</b>

Il-Fond tal-President għall Kreattività	
<b>Funds to be disbursed over three years (2023 - 2026)</b>	
Applicants	3
Beneficiaries	2
Success Rate	67%
<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>€75,000</b>

International Cultural Exchanges Scheme	
Applicants	33
Beneficiaries	15
Success Rate	45%
<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>€98,244</b>

Investment in Cultural Organisations - Gozo	
<b>Amounts awarded annually for three consecutive years (2022 - 2025)</b>	
Applicants	9
Beneficiaries	7
Success Rate	78%
<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>€250,000</b>

Investment in Cultural Organisations - Malta	
<b>Amounts awarded annually for three consecutive years (2023 - 2026)</b>	
Applicants	17
Beneficiaries	15
Success Rate	88%
<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>€300,000</b>

KulturaTV	
Applicants	8
Beneficiaries	6
Success Rate	75%
<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>€240,000</b>

Micro Grant	
Applicants	44
Beneficiaries	36
Success Rate	82%
<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>€102,455</b>

Newspapers Support Scheme	
Applicants	7
Beneficiaries	7
Success Rate	100%
<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>€152,383</b>

Programme Support Scheme	
Applicants	36
Beneficiaries	8
Success Rate	22%
<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>€333,333</b>

Sabbatical for Artistic Research Grant	
Applicants	7
Beneficiaries	4
Success Rate	57%
<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>€99,758</b>

Skema Ngħinu Finanzjarjament Iis-Sočjetajiet tal-Banda	
Applicants	58
Beneficiaries	30
Success Rate	52%
<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>€176,730</b>

Theatre Company Programme	
<b>Funds allocated for three years (2023 - 2026)</b>	
Applicants	2
Beneficiaries	2
Success Rate	100%
<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>€196,176</b>

Training and Development Scheme - Strand 1	
Applicants	61
Beneficiaries	19
Success Rate	31%
<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>€34,000</b>

Training and Development Scheme - Strand 2	
Applicants	18
Beneficiaries	10
Success Rate	56%
<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>€15,724</b>

# Amounts Awarded

IN 2023

Access Support Top-Up		
Malcolm Caruana-Dingli	Berklee at Umbria Jazz Clinics 2023	€1,198
Nikolai Azzopardi	The Great Dictator	€1,860
Ignite	The Cruelty of the Gods	€2,000
Kristina Borg	In search of a long-term sustainable vision for YOU ARE WHAT YOU BUY	€1,697
Gabriel Caruana Foundation	Ceramics Materials Workshop	€600
Solari Productions Ltd	ŽEJTUNE	€2,000
Tamara Fenech	Frank & I	€2,000
Azzjoni Kattolika Maltija	Mument	€1,700

Artistic Financing for Feast Associations Scheme		
Għaqda Mużikali Sant'Andrija - Luqa	Arti tterraq	€5,203
Peace Band Club	Sett Bandalori Ġodda Fit-Triq Prinċiplali tan-Naxxar	€5,976
Soċjetà Mużikali Santa Marija Qrendi	Plancier artistiku ġdid	€7,000
St Joseph Band Club Kirkop	Inkomplu Nsebbħu t-Triqat Koppin fil-Festa ta' San Ġużepp	€2,274
Għaqda Mużikali Santa Marija, Ħal Għaxaq	Krejazzjoni ta' sett ta' tliet pilandri tad-dawl kumplimentari għall-kolonna magħrufa bhala l-vażetti ta' stil neo-gotiku fuq disinn ta' Giuseppe Decelis	€6,082
Għaqda Karmelitana Banda Queen Victoria, Żurrieq	Statwi Ġodda għall-Festa tal-Madonna tal-Karmnu Żurrieq	€4,851
Soċjetà Mużikali Madonna tal-Ġilju	Is-Sostenibbiltà fl-Armar tal-Festi Maltin	€6,000
Għaqda Mużikali u Soċjali Madonna tal-Karmnu Fgura	Restawr tal-Anġlu	€3,260
L-Għaqda Soċjali Madonna tad-Duttrina	Nghaddu l-festa lill-ġenerazzjoni li jmiss	€2,624
Soċjetà Filarmonika Lourdes Qrendi	Tkomplija tar-rinovar fuq il-pjanċier artistiku	€6,000
Għaqda Muikali San Ġużepp Ħal Għaxaq	Bandalori ġodda	€6,000
Għaqda Armar Xewkija	Inkomplu Nsebbħu l-Festa ta' Raħalna	€5,796
Għaqda Armar Għajnsielem	LED Lighting Pavilions - Għajnsielem	€5,629
Banda San Ġorġ Bormla	Armar għall-Festa tal-Immakulata Kuncizzjoni	€6,000
Għaqda ta' L-Armar Festa Stella Maris	Pavaljuni bil-Pittura	€6,000
Għaqda Banda Żejtun	Upgrade the Bandstand	€2,400
Società Filarmonica Maria Mater Gratiae Żabbar AD 1883	Restawr u konservazzjoni - Kolonna antika ta' Malta Rebbieħa	€6,000
Kummissjoni Festa Burmarrad	Finanzjament Artistiku - Festa Burmarrad 2024	€6,000
Kummissjoni Festi Parroċċa Santwarju Madonna tas-Sacro Cuor, Tas-Sliema	Sett Pavaljuni Artistiċi	€6,000
Soċjetà Santa Marija u Banda Re Ġorġ V, Mqabba	Inkomplu nsebbħu fil-ġranet tal-festa	€4,777
Kumitat Festi San Duminku, il-Birgu	Sett ta' tmien pavaljuni tad-drapp	€3,084
Grupp Armar Festa Sant'Anna	Design and manufacture of decorative statues for the parvis	€6,574
Għaqda Każin Banda San Filep AD 1851	Bandiera bil-Pittura li tagħti ġieħ lil San Filep u lil Haż-Żebbuġ	€5,984

Artistic Financing for Feast Associations Scheme		
Għaqda Mużikali San Ġużepp AD 1987	Sett Bandalori tal-Granmastrri fi Triq Malta Rebbieħa, il-Kalkara	€6,000
Għaqda tal-Armar Madonna tas-Sokkors Ta' Kerċem, Għawdex	Proġett Sett Pavaljuni tad-Drapp - Inlibbsu r-Raħal b'Arti rikka tradizzjonali tal-Festa	€6,000
Soċjetà Mużikali Beland AD 1861	Sett Bandalori għall-Festa tal-Qalb Imqaddsa ta' Ġesù fiż-Żejtun	€3,208
Kumitat Festa Esterna San Ġużepp Msida	Bandalori għal Pjazza tal-Bandli	€5,278

Arts in Schools		
Il-Perla Kindergarten	Il-Ktieb tal-Istaġuni	€5,000
St Albert the Great	Parlata mal-Belt	€4,884
De La Salle College	From Script to Screen: A Journey Through Film Production	€5,000
Gżira Learning Support Centre	Painting Our Identity	€4,666
St Theresa College Middle School	United in Clay	€4,953
Chiswick House School	Nature Matters	€5,000
San Anton School	Imsielet fl-Imselliet	€5,000
St Edward's College	Synthesize	€5,000

Arts Support Scheme		
Francois Galea	Il-Beżżul Biezel	€23,074
Nikolai Azzopardi	The Great Dictator	€30,000
Glasshouse	The Glasshouse Project	€27,000
Brandon Terribile	Snow Globe: A Multi-Sensory Theatre Production for Autism and Neurodiversity	€22,389
Chewing Productions	2X2   A Double Bill of New Theatre	€8,186
Ignite	The Cruelty of the Gods	€21,286
Soċjetà Filarmonika La Stella Gozo	West Side Story - A landmark musical project for the Maltese Islands	€30,000
Culture Venture	The Solo Projects	€29,336
Take 2	Take//Two x The Monteverdi Project	€25,520
Nicholas Bonello	A Lily - Saru l-Qamar	€8,209
Tamara Fenech	Frank & I	€30,000
BB Operations Ltd	XENOGRAFJA - weekend intensive	€21,198
Tricia Dawn Williams	ToyPiano+	€27,833
Luke Saydon	Il-Każin tal-Imqarbin - Research and Development Project	€13,440
Daniela Attard	Migration Nation	€17,890
Michael Azzopardi	Tfal tax-Xemx	€26,902
Unfinished Foundation	Beyond What Drifts Us Apart	€29,795
Christine Zerafa	A detailed insight into the solo piano works of Karl Fiorini: developing an informed performance practice approach and collaborating on a new work for solo piano through an artistic research process	€28,971
Sarah Chircop	DREAM [of] LAND	€28,971

Arts Support Scheme - Right to Culture		
André Agius	Establishing a national play-reading service and a Theatre-Scripts Database & Archive	€20,800
Azzjoni Kattolika Maltija	Mument	€15,691
Edward Caruana Galizia	Mothers and sons	€21,476
The Eden and Razzett Foundation - Inspire	An Inclusive Multi-Sensory Virtual Reality Show for Students with Autism/Neurodivergent Spectrum	€28,400
Costantino Film Ltd	"Novecento - la leggenda del pianista sull'oceano" by Alessandro Baricco	€30,000
Gillian Zammit	Young Artists Vocal Programme	€30,000
Roderick Camilleri	Midwal - Community Archive	€11,677
Adrian Buckle	Peer Gynt	€30,000
Žugraga Dance Organisation	Sustainability in action: From ideas to impact	€5,659
Arthaus	Stepping Forward	€5,182
Busli Collective	Safer Grounds	€26,115

Health and Safety Standards in Fireworks Factories Fund		
Għaqda Piroteknika Qalb ta' Ġesù Fontana Brothers Fireworks	Manutenzjoni tal-Kmamar tan-Nar u lqugh tal-ilma aħjar	€5,000
Soċjetà Mużikali Santa Katarina V.M. Żurrieq	Modernizzar tal-apparat pirotekniku għal titjib fis-sigurtà	€5,000
Għaqda tan-Nar 23 t'April	Lejn aktar sigurtà waqt il-ħruq tan-nar	€5,000
Soċjetà Mużikali Madonna tal-Ġilju	Passaġġi u bini ta' tinda fil-Post tan-Nar (l-aħħar fażi)	€5,000
Għaqda Mużikali Marija Assunta	Investiment f'Makkinarju biex Jiffacilita x-Xogħol	€5,000
Għaqda Karmelitana Banda Queen Victoria, Żurrieq	Piroteknika Sikura	€5,000
Għaqda Mużikali Sant'Andrija	Apparat għal waqt displays piroteknici	€5,000
Għaqda Mużikali Santa Marija, Hal Għaxaq	Fire	€5,000
Każin San Ġużepp u Banda De Rohan	Kamra tan-nar aktar sikura permezz ta' għodod ġodda u manutenzjoni	€5,000
Għaqda Armar San Sebastjan	Safety and Security for fireworks let off	€5,000
Għaqda tan-nar San Mikiel Lija	Xiri t'apparat elettroniku għal iktar titjib ta' sigurtà	€5,000
Soċjetà Santa Marija u Banda Re Ġorġ V, Mqabba	Inkomplu nibnu fuq proġetti passati	€5,000
St. Joseph Band Club Kirkop	Ambjent aktar Sigur	€5,000
Għaqda Każin Banda San Filep	Rinovazzjoni tal-bini esistenti u protezzjoni mill-elementi	€5,000
Soċjetà San Pawl Banda Konti Ruġġieru	Tibdil tal-Hydraulic Press	€5,000
Għaqda Mużikali San Ġużepp Hal Għaxaq	Sigurtà fil-kmamar	€5,000
Soċjetà Mużikali Santa Marija Qrendi	Xiri ta' kmamar mobbli għal manifattura ta' xogħol pirotekniku	€5,000
Soċjetà Filarmonika 'L-Unjoni'	Investiment f'tgħamir protettiv u għodda waqt il-ħruq tan-nar	€5,000
St. Leonard Band Club	Aktar Sigurtà fil-fabbrika tan-Nar	€5,000
Santa Maria' Philharmonic Society of Mosta	Investiment fl-Għodda	€5,000
Soċjetà Filarmonika Lourdes Qrendi	Tkomplija tal-Proġett Tal-Maħžen	€5,000
Għaqda Piroteknika 11 ta' Frar, San Ġwann	Laying of Concrete Foundations for Sheds	€5,000
Soċjetà Filarmonika La Stella	Roof replacement and restoration of storage house for wooden frames and mortar tubes	€5,000
Soċjetà tan-Nar San Bartilmew, Għargħur	Fire Sprinkler System	€5,000
Soċjetà Piroteknika 15 ta' Awwissu, Mosta	Għodda li tiffacilita l-hidma Sigura fil-kumpless tan-nar	€4,956

Health and Safety Standards in Fireworks Factories Fund		
Għaqda tan-Nar 25 ta' Novembru - Żejtun	New Gate Entrance	€4,950
Għaqda Mużikali Marija Bambina Banda Vittorja, Naxxar	Aktar sigurtà għad-dilettanti tan-nar waqt il-manifattura u ħruq tan-nar	€2,500
Soċjetà Filarmonika Stella Maris	Xiri tal-ilbies protettiv u għodda tal-manifattura, bdil ta' kanni tal-ħadid għal kanni tal-Fibre	€2,400
Għaqda Mużikali Santa Marija - Dingli	Tishiħ tal-armar biex in-nar ikun jista' jinħaraq b'mod aktar sigur	€2,500
Soċjetà Filarmonika San Pietru Banda Birzebbuga	ħruq Iktar Sigur	€2,500
Soċjetà Mużikali Beland	Sigurtà waqt il-ħruq tan-nar fil-festa ta' Santa Katerina Żejtun	€2,500
Għaqda Banda Żejtun	Vertical Bench Press (Pressa)	€2,500
12 <sup>th</sup> May Band and Social Club	ħruq tan-nar b'mod aktar sigur	€2,500

Il-Fond tal-President għall Kreattività - Amounts awarded for three consecutive years (2023 - 2026)		
Opening Doors Association	Leading by Example: Inclusion at all Levels	€45,000
Gabriel Caruana Foundation	Layers of Being	€30,000

International Cultural Exchanges Scheme		
Vince Briffa	Solo Exhibition at the Heritage Gallery: Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich, London	€8,236
Electronic Music Malta	Electronic Music Malta - Local Artists at Fanzine Festival	€8,729
Moveo Dance Foundation	From Malta with Love Tour	€6,091
Ryan Falzon	Rituals of Passage (Antwerp)	€10,000
Take 2	The Internationalisation of Castillo	€10,000
Lucien Houtkamp	Music melts all the separate parts of our bodies together	€3,105
Ġulja Holland	London Debut Solo Show	€7,740
Anna Galea	Participation in the Firenze Biennale 2023	€6,445
Unfinished Foundation	Joining International Networks	€4,380
Shawn Mizzi	Angelcrypt European & Western Asia Tour	€10,000
Lawrence Buttigieg	Undermining patriarchy through the sense and sexuality of the female body	€1,103
Christian Galea	LEAR - Let your daughters rule!	€7,515
Martina Buhagiar	Malleus Malleficarum	€2,525
Malta Interior Design Association	European Council for Interior Architects (ECIA) GA 2023	€2,375
AP Valletta	Valletta - Accra: a dialogue between mercantile cities	€10,000

Investment in Cultural Organisations - Gozo - Amounts awarded each year for three consecutive years (2022-2025)		
Victoria International Arts Festival	Victoria International Arts Festival	€40,000
Soċjetà Filarmonika La Stella Gozo	Taking forward the legacy of Teatru Astra Opera (2022-2024 opera productions)	€55,000
Soċjetà Filarmonika Leone A.D. 1863	Teatru Aurora	€55,000
Gaulitanus Choir	Gaulitana: A Festival of Music	€40,000
Gozo Youth Wind Orchestra Foundation	Building on 20 years of success whilst looking forward to the next decade with courage	€20,000
Chorus Urbanus	Feel The Magic	€30,000
DCapitals Big Band	Ċittadella Arts Festival	€10,000

Investment in Cultural Organisations - Malta - Amounts awarded each year for three consecutive years (2023-2026)		
Teatru Salesjan	Capacity Building - Building on the Past whilst looking ahead. The re-opening of Teatru Salesjan.	€23,000
Magna Żmien Foundation	Magna Żmien	€20,800
Soċjetà Mużikali Beland	Beland Band Club - Future Proofing	€23,000
Moveo Dance Foundation	Moveo - Aiding Sustainability	€20,800
Malta Entertainment Industry and Arts Association (MEIA)	Capacity building to improve sectoral representation	€23,000
Għaqda Mużikali Immakulata Kuncizzjoni	Reboot - Post Covid - Team Building Event for Members	€2,700
Opening Doors Association	Opening Doors Association: Elevating, Evolving, Empowering	€32,000
Inizjamed	Il-Festival Mediterranju tal-Letteratura ta' Malta	€17,000
Electronic Music Malta	Circuits Programme 2023 - 2025	€12,000
Medina Foundation for Music	Contrasting Concepts	€25,000
Kinemastik	Kinemastik International Short Film Festival	€15,000
L-Għanja tal-Poplu	L-Għanja tal-Poplu - Festival tal-Kanzunetta Maltija	€23,000
Għaqda Nazzjonali Każini tal-Banda	Maltese Band Music Festival	€17,700
Għaqda Mużikali San Ġużepp Hal Għaxaq	Summer Lust Music Festival	€20,000
Għaqda tal-Mużika San Ġejtanu - Ħamrun	Insaħħu l-kultura bandistika, l-ilsien Malti u l-irwol tal-każini f'Malta u Għawdex	€25,000

KulturaTV		
Solari Productions Ltd	ŻEJTUNE	€70,000
Toontulooon Ltd	Karamellu tar-Raħal t'Isfel - Animated Series	€40,000
Reel8 Productions Ltd	Id-Dar Maltija	€39,676
Mizzi Media House Ltd	Randan	€32,290
Lampa Stampa Ltd	Ciao Ciao	€44,640
Emotive Media Ltd	VULCAN XM645	€13,394

Micro Grant		
Paul Giordimaina	Recording for Gatt Groove Album	€3,000
Patryk Cutajar	Setting the Bar	€3,000
Klinsmann Coleiro	Klinsmann - Music Album Project	€3,000
Francesca Grech	Developing A New Picture Book for Children	€3,000
Andrew John Sciberras	Generation Young	€3,000
Anna Marie Curmi	An Evening with Arie Antiche	€3,000
Ethan Attard	Ethan Attard: Debut	€2,998
Rambert Paul Attard	How to Deal With a Breakup R&D	€2,190
Julian Dingli	Julian Dingli	€3,000
Kristina Critien	Songwriting Camp	€3,000
Ivan Grech	Ivan Grech First Solo Album	€3,000
Owen Leuellen	Album Recording	€3,000
Antoine Mercieca	CD Reording	€1,015
Luca Selvaggi	Sounds of Ether - Multi Sensory Music & Sound Journeys of Introspection & deep rest	€3,000
Clayton Gauci	Operation Activate	€3,000

Micro Grant		
John Paul Azzopardi	Liquid Key	€2,968
Patrick Fenech	CAGED SPACES: A photo documentary project	€3,000
Michelle Gruppetta	Mock-up Pitch Bible for Portfolio - Father I am not your strongest soldier	€3,000
Alan Ferrante	Learning the Art of Real Life Figures	€3,000
Mireille Estelle Camilleri	Malta Hanina	€3,000
Samuel Ciantar	no.site.studio x 2.3	€3,000
Zoe Camilleri	Zowij.Makes	€1,117
Damian Spiteri	Music Video	€3,000
Michael Farrugia	Mouse Trap	€2,940
Matteo Caruana Bond	The Bride	€2,975
Thomas James Dempsey	Who We Used To Be	€2,667
Glen Montanaro	Exploring and reinvigorating Maltese music through a collaborative lens	€3,000
Sheldon Saliba	Age of Human	€3,000
Jameson Cucciardi	The Writers' Playroom	€2,780
Victor Agius	INEARTH, UNEARTH: Archives of Matter and Ritual	€3,000
Antoinette Cefai	Għidli - Music Video	€3,000
Rowena Zammit	Giulietta - Research & Development	€2,985
Sephora Schembri	The art of weaving and printmaking	€3,000
Gianni Selvaggi	CultureCast	€2,820
Natalia Rakhmatulina	Going Solo	€3,000
Liam Mizzi Peplow	Recording of SOUL Album	€3,000

Newspapers Support Scheme		
Standard Publications Ltd	Promoting Arts, Culture & Heritage on the Malta Independent Newspapers	€30,000
Allied Newspapers Ltd	Arts and Entertainment, The Sunday Times of Malta	€29,122
Azzjoni Kattolika Maltija (AKM)	Highlighting and appreciating the beauty around us through art	€14,435
Union Print Co Ltd	MADWARNA	€15,663
Media.Link Communications	Lejn it-tishiħ tal-użu tal-Malti	€30,000
Mediatoday Co Ltd	Illum & MaltaToday Culture Pages	€18,163
Mediatoday Co Ltd	Training young journalists in investigative reporting and news reportage in a Maltese Digital and Print news platform	€15,000

Programme Support Scheme		
Lucia Hunt	Decadence, Now	€55,000
The Shrinking Violets	Connections	€45,183
Prickly Pear Productions	Walking Home - Programme of Events	€55,000
Moveo Dance Foundation	Moveo Artistic Season	€30,153
Zararti Malta Cultural Association	Reaching out to the elderly through drama	€15,444
YMCA Malta	Art Explore - Empowering the Peace Doves	€26,790
FM Theatre Productions	Theatre Next Door Season	€54,915
Francesca Scerri	Sempreviva The Musical	€50,848

Sabbatical for Artistic Research Grant		
Kristina Borg	In search of a long-term sustainable vision for YOU ARE WHAT YOU BUY	€25,000
Margerita Pulè	And We Were Able To Breathe / Researching curatorial methodologies outside of traditional exhibition contexts	€25,000
Anna Calleja	AI: Archive of Iconography	€25,000
Matt Stroud	Harraffi - Visual Development of Maltese Folklore	€24,758

Skema Ngħinu Finanzjarjament lis-Socjetajiet tal-Banda		
Socjetà Filarmonika La Stella - Sotto Kumitat Festa San Ġorġ - Belt Victoria	Kontinwazzjoni t'investiment fl-installazzjoni għall-membri u l-pajjiż ta' fil-Każin tal-Banda La Stella	€6,480
Għaqda Mużikali San Ġuzepp Ħal Għaxaq	Insebbħu s-Sede tagħna	€6,480
Socjetà Filarmonika Pinto Banda San Sebastjan	Nippreservaw l-Artiġġjanat Malti fil-Każini tal-Banda	€6,980
Għaqda Mużikali San Pietru fil-Ktajjen, Birzebbuga	Insaħħu l-mezzi eżistenti biex nissalvagwardjaw il-futur	€4,050
Għaqda Mużikali L'Isle Adam	Restawr u Konservazzjoni tal-Patrimonju Artistiku	€7,434
Għaqda Mużikali Santa Marija, Ħal Għaxaq	Bandalora tal-Prima	€5,918
Socjetà Filarmonika San Bartilmew	Nirrinovaw is-Sala tal-Kunċerti u tagħlim tal-Mużika	€6,480
Socjetà Mużikali Santa Marija Qrendi	Attrezzament tas-Sala tal-Kunċerti tal-Banda Santa Marija Qrendi	€6,980
Għaqda Karmelitana Banda Queen Victoria, Żurrieq	Insaħħu t-tagħlim u l-prattika tal-mużika	€6,203
Socjetà Mużikali Beland	Promozzjoni fit-tagħlim tal-banda	€6,480
Għaqda Mużikali Marija Assunta	Noħolqu ambjent aktar professjonali u komdu fejn inkatru l-kultura mużikali	€6,980
Socjetà Santa Marija u Banda Re Ġorġ V, Mqabba	Il-wirt li jgħaqqadna	€5,497
Għaqda Mużikali San Ġorġ Martri	Nippreservaw il-passat, niproteġu l-prezent, nippreparaw għall-Futur	€6,326
Socjetà Filarmonica Maria Mater Gratiae Żabbar AD 1883	Ġrajjetna - niktbu l-istejjer tagħna	€6,456
Għaqda tal-Mużika San Gejtanu - Ħamrun	Strengthening our administrative, operational and technical facilities to support and sustain membership in our Club	€3,400
Għaqda Każin Banda San Filep AD 1851	Ngħożžu dak li writna	€6,480
Għaqda Banda Żejtun	Dangerous staircase entrance	€6,016
Banda San Ġorġ Bormla	Manutenzjoni fil-Palazz Paolino Vassallo	€8,000
Socjetà Mużikali San Lawrenz - Belt Vittoriosa	Restoring the hall to its formal glory	€6,480
Socjetà Filarmonika Stella Maris	Restawr Vetrini I Mera Antika	€6,480
Għaqda Mużikali Sant'Elena	Insebbħu s-Sala Principali	€3,799
Socjetà Filarmonika Lourdes Qrendi	Tkomplija tar-rinnovar fuq il-pjanċier artistiku	€6,480
Socjetà Mużikali San Ġirgor Sliema AD 1987	Ninvestu sabiex l-Għan tagħna jintlaħaq - Klima u tagħlim	€5,831
"SANTA MARIA" Philharmonic Society of Mosta	Restawr, tisbieħ u tkomplija tas-sala ewlenija tas-Socjetà	€5,780
Għaqda Mużikali Marija Bambina, Banda Vittorja, Naxxar	Fire Prevention and Security Upgrade Project	€3,083
Socjetà Mużikali Madonna tal-Gilju, l-Imqabba	Creating Social Spaces, Supporting Youth Volunteering and Safeguarding Cultural Identity	€5,737
St. Joseph Band Club Kirkop	Kunċert Mużiko-Letterarju	€2,000
Socjetà Filarmonika Sliema	Arkivjar ta' Manuskritti tal-Mużika u Dokumenti Storiċi	€5,940
Għaqda Mużikali San Ġuzepp AD 1987	Tagħlim tal-Mużika f'ambjent aktar addattat u xieraq	€6,480
Socjetà Mużikali Trinità Qaddisa	Nibnu fuq dak li Rawmu fina	€6,000

Theatre Company Programme - Amounts awarded over three years (2023-2026)		
Laughing Matters Ltd	The More or Less Theatre Play-Factory	€96,176
Theatre Anon Arts Foundation	Hut 7 Collective	€100,000

Training and Development Support Scheme - Strand 1		
Gabriel Caruana Foundation	Ceramics Materials Workshop	€2,000
Claire Tonna	Attending Berklee Summer Programme 2023	€2,000
Carl Borg	Two Weeks of Music Composition Tuition at the Darmstadt International Summer Course for New Music	€2,000
Marisha Bonnici	Training on Demand	€569
Melanie Erixon	Art Business Essentials	€1,824
Francesca Bartolo	Manhattan Opera Studio (MOS) Summer Festival	€2,000
Kristina Borg	The Community Economies Institute Summer / Winter School and Practice Retreat	€2,000
Erica Muscat	Linklater Teacher Designation August 2023	€2,000
Malcolm Caruana-Dingli	Berklee at Umbria Jazz Clinics 2023	€1,826
Rebecca Anastasi	Less is More / Development Angels Programme	€781
Nadine Farrugia	Three Months of Musical Theatre Training at the International College of Musical Theatre	€2,000
Matthew Abela	Screenwriting Workshop	€1,781
Chelsea Sciortino	Attending and exhibiting at UK Games Expo	€2,000
Maria Rosa Thornhill	The Art Department's Three Key Crafts	€2,000
Maria Mercieca	RPU (Ruolo Produttivo Universale) Organizzatore	€2,000
Anthony Tomaselli Chetcuti	Into the roots of the flamenco art	€2,000
Matteo Depares	Music Production Mentorship	€1,982
Daniela Attard	Royal Drawing School - Drawing Intensive	€1,812
Letta Shtohryn	Game design course at CG spectrum (USA)	€1,425

Training and Development Support Scheme - Strand 2		
Kellyann Spiteri	Summer Music Course at Chetham's School of Music	€1,751
Julia Gauci	NSCD - Venice workshop April 2023	€1,504
Amber Pace	European School of Ballet Summer Intensive, July 2023	€2,000
Lea Ellul Sullivan	YGP Nervi International Dance Festival	€2,000
Chloe Holland Attard	Spring & Summer Ballet Intensives & GDO Competition	€745
Tommy Milford Cook	Berklee Valencia Campus 2024	€2,000
Marianna Micallef	Showtime Circus Associates	€1,345
Valentina Maria Zahra	Can you Dance? Super Convention, October 2023	€1,236
Teyarnie Galea	Royal Ballet - Mid Associates	€2,000
Francesca Marie Micallef	Summer Commercial Music Course	€1,143



Right to Culture: International Cultural Policy Conference 2023  
with the Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends, Valletta  
Photo Credit: Darren Agius

SECTION 3

# Communications

# Communications

Arts Council Malta (ACM) recognises the importance of actively and effectively communicating as a public entity. It prioritises transparent messaging to ensure accessibility to information about its activities and strategic initiatives while highlighting the importance of maintaining continuous communication within the organisation and with its intended audience. This has been achieved through various methods, including social media, TV programmes, online platforms and publications like *Encore* magazine and *Circle* magazine, among others.

**W**ithin ACM, the Communications team provides complimentary brokerage services to establish a dedicated contact point for creative individuals keen on ACM's funding programmes and to support prospective beneficiaries. In all, the team handled 618 queries in the CRM, i.e. telephone calls and meetings, and 1,858 queries by email in 2023. The team also provided regular updates on ACM's funding schemes and results through social media and newsletters.

The brokerage team also curates ACMLabs. In 2023, it conducted six sessions, which covered diverse topics like audience development, funding schemes and opportunities, and scholarships and grants for arts education. During 2023, the brokerage team also introduced KunsillKafe for 2024, which will focus on providing artists and creative practitioners with a space to discuss current scenarios and share ideas in a semi-informal setting.

Using its online platforms, ACM prioritises accessibility for the cultural and creative community. During the COVID-19 pandemic, ACM initiated a webinar series, fostering valuable discussions that connected local practices with global viewpoints. This facilitated international networking opportunities through online meetings, and due to its success, the model was maintained following the pandemic. In 2023, two ACMWebinars took place, delving into topics such as the Right to Culture and IETM: the International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts.

During the scholastic year 2021–2022, Arts Council Malta commissioned a comprehensive review of arts education in Malta and Gozo, titled *A Review of Arts Education in Malta up to School-leaving Age*. The study, conducted by Malta University Consulting, focused on arts education in the compulsory sector,

examining if the stated values and objectives align with actual practices and infrastructure. The research involved a nationwide investigation, incorporating qualitative and quantitative data from students, educators, heads and education officers.

In collaboration with the National Statistics Office (NSO), ACM also issued the findings of the *Cultural and Creative Practice Survey*, which was conducted in November 2019 to understand the working conditions of artistic, cultural and creative practitioners and to provide valuable insights before the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In all, 2,375 people were contacted for the survey; 1,019 participated and 1,244 people were found to be ineligible to participate. Data was collected by means of Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI) by the NSO. A follow-up survey is planned for 2024 to ensure longitudinal understanding and comparability.

Another publication, titled *Artists in Malta: Myth to Method*, a thematic report based on the *Cultural and Creative Practice Survey*, was also issued in 2023. The research formed part of ACM's broader initiatives to assess the working environment of artistic, creative and cultural professionals in Malta. Aligned with ACM's objective to promote the well-being of artists, the study utilised statistical analysis of data from the NSO's *Creative and Cultural Practice Survey*, with 1,019 participants completing a Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) in the final quarter of 2019. The findings can also be visualised via the new online data dashboard on ACM's website, which can be used to create customised charts and comparisons using the survey's dataset.

The sixth edition of the Premju għall-Arti also took place in 2023, for which over 150 eligible

nominations were received, with the winners announced in December 2023. This edition consisted of 17 awards, of which 14 were competitive and three were honorary. In this edition, audience participation was elevated as the audience contributed 25 per cent of the vote in four categories: Best Work for Young Audiences, Best Project in the Community, Best International Achievement and Best Creative and Innovative Enterprise. Around 3,500 public votes were received. As of 2023, the Premju għall-Arti will be held biennially, with the next edition in 2025.

Various campaigns were scheduled for 2023, including a Right to Culture Campaign, involving the Right to Culture resource pack audiobook launch, and the contribution of multiple projects through a series of videos promoting inclusivity and the implementation of cultural rights.

2023 was also the year ACM, together with the Compendium of Cultural Policies & Trends, organised the International Cultural Policy Conference 2023 in Malta. The international cultural policy community was invited to engage in debates addressing the pertinent theme of the Right to Culture, which included panels on artistic freedom, cultural diversity and accessibility, and cultural democracy. In conjunction with the International Cultural Policy Conference, ACM organised the second edition of the State of the Arts – Malta National Symposium, with panels on contextualising the Right to Culture in Malta, a workshop on empowering sounds and rhythmic variations, as well as a series of presentations on different aspects of the sector, with specific highlights on cultural rights.

In addition, in 2023, an informative video was published on the Reduced Tax Rate for Creative Practitioners, whereby one can benefit from a

reduced tax rate of 7.5 per cent. This fiscal incentive is being implemented to mitigate economic uncertainties for artistic activities, which are more likely to occur within atypical working conditions.

Malta will again participate in La Biennale di Venezia with Matthew Attard's project for the Malta Pavilion, *I WILL FOLLOW THE SHIP*, as announced in 2023. The Malta Pavilion at the Venice Biennale already featured extensively in local and international press in 2023 and will be unveiled in April 2024.

In 2023, the *URBAN FABRIC* installation took over the central courtyard at Somerset House, London, to mark Malta's first time participating in the London Design Biennale. The exhibit was conceived through a fusion of art, architecture and innovative and sustainable design. It featured extensively in local and international press, including leading arts and culture publications like *Wallpaper\**, *Creative Boom*, *designboom*, *DAMN Magazine*, *Selvedge Magazine*, *Londonist*, *Aesthetica Magazine*, *Design Week*, *Glass, Hero*, *Financial Times* and *CN Traveller*.

In 2023, ACM's internationalisation section worked on several initiatives through the EUNIC networks, including a film festival at Spazju Kreattiv during Europride in Valletta in September. 2023 also witnessed the continued benefits of ACM's IETM membership, one of the oldest and largest international networks of its kind worldwide and through which contemporary performing artists can participate in initiatives, workshops and meetings with other international artists.

# Digital Presence 2023

## Website

The ACM website hosted 77,246 sessions with 58,096 users. The average duration per session was 6:03 throughout the year. There were 2.22 page views per session.

## Newsletter

In 2023, 12 newsletter issues were published, and each issue was opened by an average of 308 people, with a total of 3,707 opens throughout the year. The number of ACM newsletter subscribers was 579 at the end of 2023.

## Social Media Insights

ACM's Facebook page grew by an average of 59.25 new likes per month in 2023. Total likes on Facebook stood at 13,042 at the end of 2023, representing an increase of 711 since the beginning of the year. ACM's Instagram page reached 13,904 people in 2023.

# Contact

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