



STATE OF THE ARTS

MALTA NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 2024

RENEWING COMMON PATHWAYS

24TH & 25TH OCTOBER 2024
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA - VALLETTA CAMPUS

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS





STATE OF THE ARTS

MALTA NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 2022
26 & 27 October 2022 | Valletta Campus, Valletta

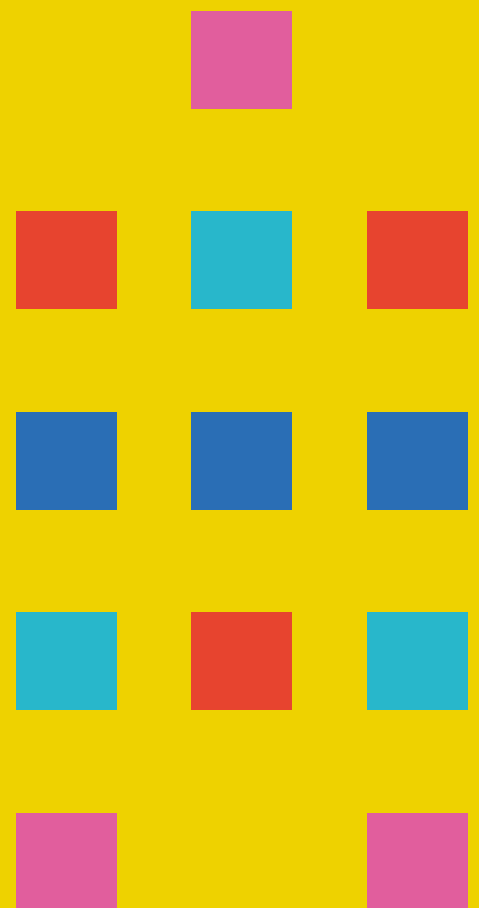


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OVERVIEW



OVERVIEW

The **State of the Arts - Malta National Symposium** is back this October, marking its third edition, and, as we look back at and critically engage with what has been achieved in the past editions, we would like to **renew our common pathways** adopting a hands-on and solution-oriented approach.

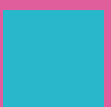
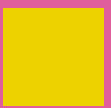
The aim of the symposium is to co-create a safe space that can reshape individual and collective efforts, leading to a more thriving artistic and cultural sector. Earlier this year, Arts Council Malta published a post on its social media channels, inviting the public to share their thoughts on what themes feel urgent and crucial to discuss at the Symposium. This has informed and inspired the content thematics and development of the Symposium's programme.

As the organisation and planning of the Symposium move into a more comprehensive and intense stage, and to keep our proposed co-creative approach alive, we would now like to invite Malta's Creative and Cultural Sectors (CCS) as well as the general public to propose their contributions to help facilitate a meaningful and sustainable exchange of good practice, suggesting practical solutions on how to overcome the current challenges that the sector encounters.

The Symposium will take place at the University of Malta - Valletta Campus on the following days:

- Thursday 24th October 2024, 9:00am to 3:00pm
- Friday 25th October 2024, 12:00pm to 5:15pm

THEME



THEME

In our making and organising of creative and cultural processes:

- **How can we transform ourselves as individuals to transform the wider system?**
- **How can the transformed system transform our individual realities?**

Making things with others and recognising our interdependence is a **practice of commoning**.

The commons are all around us, quietly shaping our lives. These tangible and intangible assets exist in our Maltese neighbourhoods, in Mediterranean cities and in the wider European and international context. But what exactly are they? The commons are the natural, cultural and social resources held in common by a community and accessible to all members of a society, supporting the quality of life. Practical examples of the commons include: air, forests, rivers, the sea and a liveable Earth; local parks and community gardens; a local language and shared knowledge; user generated contents on the web and open source software; an artistic movement and public art; security and justice.

Sometimes the understanding and engagement of the commons emerge from cooperation, other times from conflict. At its core, **the commons benefits society as a whole**, transcending individual, sectoral or generational interests, recognising planet Earth not as a mere shared treasure but, moreover, as an equal co-player. The concept of the commons invites us to act as citizens within interconnected social webs. However, in our contemporary political landscape, scepticism looms. Individual freedom in private markets often overshadows the role of citizens serving, engaging with and passing on the commons in good condition - a responsibility called commoning.

Art and culture provide tools to dream and **reimagine ways of doing and being**, allowing people to connect and share. How can art and culture keep the commons alive and how can the commons sustain art and culture? As inspired by the thoughts that the public shared earlier this year, the Symposium puts forward the theme **Renewing Common Pathways**, which is further unpacked in the next section below.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS



CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

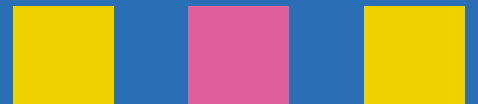
Topics and tracks of interest, which unpack the overall theme **Renewing Common Pathways**, include, but are not limited to, the following questions:

- How can **a practice of commoning** sustain the **socio-economic status and working conditions of creatives**?
- How can **commoning processes** challenge the current **limiting and limited art funding structures**?
- How can **spaces and infrastructure become more available, accessible and affordable** through **commoning practices**?
- How can **shared values and an ethics of care** open up **access** to a wider group of practitioners with **different needs and experiences**, leading to better **equity**?
- How can **a process of commoning** provide a **wider variety of artforms and practices**, relevant to more **diverse audiences**?
- How can **a practice of commoning** unify and consolidate efforts towards the **development of formal and non-formal learning**?

Contributions may focus on more than one topic and can also be cross-sectoral.

The selected contributions will be invited to become part of the Symposium programme on either 24th October or 25th October. The organisers reserve every right to allocate a specific date and time to every selected contribution, depending on its relevance to the overall programming of the Symposium.

FORMATS



FORMATS

Selected contributions will form part of the parallel sessions programme. Each parallel session will have a total duration of **1 hour 30 minutes**. Interested applicants may propose contributions of this total duration or shorter ones, as per the guidelines below.

Contributions are welcome in any format such as, but are not limited to:

- Workshops
- Game/Gaming
- Live artistic presentations
- Visual Stories
- Theme Forum
- Presentations of projects, case studies and/or proposals for future collaborations

Workshops

Objective: A structured and interactive session about a specific topic and designed to create a meaningful exchange of knowledge and experience, guiding the group through a process that leads to practical and specific outcomes. Contributions might want to identify a specific problem, explore new methods, brainstorm and/or test ideas, or offer the opportunity for skills building.

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes

Game/Gaming

Objective: Plan and play a strategy game where players navigate real-life policies and goals that can impact and reshape Malta's artistic and cultural sector, suggesting practical solutions on how to overcome the current challenges that the sector encounters. This activity-based session is highly interactive and encourages communication, systems thinking, strategic planning and networking.

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes

Live artistic presentations

Objective: The showcasing of artistic work through live demonstrations, performances, screenings or similar will enable the session participants to directly interact with the work, and stimulate exchange and discussion.

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes, starting off with the live artistic presentation of a suggested duration of 10 to 20 minutes that feeds into a discussion for the remaining time.

FORMATS

Visual Stories

Objective: A storytelling format in which 20 slides or images are shown for 20 seconds of commentary each (6 minutes and 40 seconds in total). The slides or images will move automatically as the presenter is speaking, ensuring a concise and light, yet, dynamic and engaging presentation followed by discussion time.

Duration: 6 minutes and 40 seconds of slides, followed by a discussion of around 20 minutes, per contribution.

This session will combine a maximum of three Visual Stories contributions.

Theme Forum

Objective: This format will combine three short and cross-cutting presentations relating to a common or similar topic, highlighting Malta's CCS' strengths and assets, as well as identifying current problems and areas for growth and improvement. The presentations will provide the basis for a subsequent open discussion and planning with the participants.

Duration: 10 minutes per contribution (30 minutes total), followed by an open discussion of 1 hour.

Presentations of projects, case studies and/or proposals for future collaborations

Objective: The presentations of projects, case studies, good practices and/or proposals for future collaborations will provide first-hand experience, enabling expression, sharing of feedback, networking, knowledge exchange and discussion.

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes

Symposium Languages

- Maltese, English and Maltese Sign Language
- Interpretation services can be provided, in discussion with the contributor



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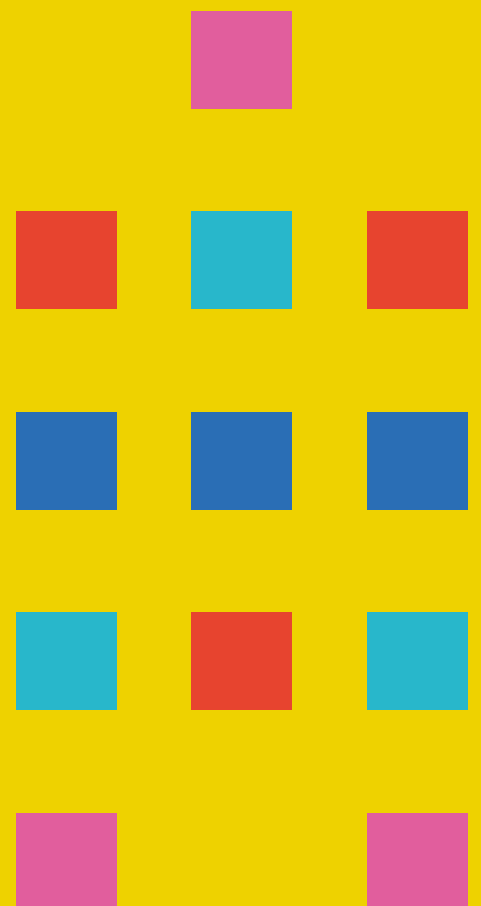
WHAT THIS COLLABORATION OFFERS



WHAT THIS COLLABORATION OFFERS

- A fee of €400 (excluding VAT) per contribution upon submission of a VAT invoice after the Symposium
- A contract of service between the contributor and Arts Council Malta
- Technical and logistical support at the Symposium venue
- A two-day pass to attend the Symposium

ELIGIBILITY



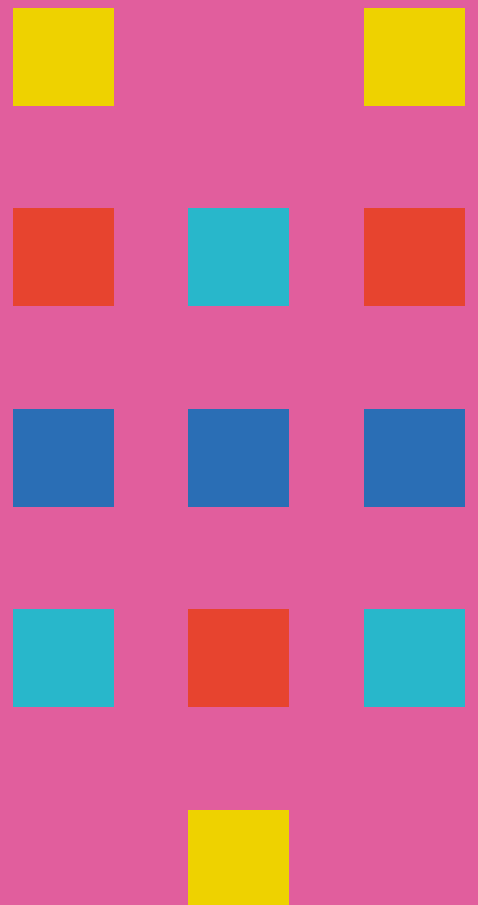
ELIGIBILITY

Arts Council Malta highly appreciates proposals from artists, researchers, academics, policymakers, activists, creatives and other art workers from the CCS and from shared interest sectors (including, but not limited to: the Social Sector, the Education Sector, the Health Sector, the Sustainability Sector, Local Government, and Civil Society) - representing a range of backgrounds including gender diversity, sexual orientation, age, diverse abilities, cultural diversity, diverse beliefs, socio-economic backgrounds, educational backgrounds, fields of expertise/experience, geographical backgrounds - to submit workshops, initiatives, good practices, possible strategies and solutions, performative and other artistic practices, and questions for exploration and discussion during the 3rd edition of the State of the Arts - Malta National Symposium. Contributions need to have a clear and direct connection to Malta's CCS.

Number of submissions per contributor

- Applicants are welcome to submit several proposals, however, only one proposal per applicant can be selected.
- Each proposal is to be submitted separately through the online form.

HOW TO APPLY



HOW TO APPLY

Before submitting a proposal, please read this document and the application questions carefully and make sure that your proposal addresses one or more topics of relevance to the overall theme *Renewing Common Pathways*.

Each proposal for contribution must include:

- Format of the proposed contribution
- Title of the proposed contribution
- Language of the proposed contribution (Maltese / English / Bilingual / Maltese Sign Language / Other)
- A description of the proposed contribution (max. 1500 characters), including:
 - How does the proposed contribution relate to the theme and topics of the symposium?
 - What are the objectives of the proposed contribution and who is(are) the expected target audience(s)?
 - What kind of participatory engagement is envisaged, and how does the engagement enable a hands-on and/or solution-oriented approach?
 - How is the proposed contribution structured?
- Full name and surname of the presenter(s) leading the session
- A short biographical note outlining the presenter(s)' background, experience and expertise in the relevant field (max. 800 characters per presenter)
- Links to any online resources, documentation, or portfolios showcasing the presenter(s)' previous work
- Supporting documentation (optional)
- Any remarks, questions or special assistance required

All submissions must be submitted through this **online form**.

REVIEW PROCESS



REVIEW PROCESS

Each proposal will be reviewed by a selection board of three evaluators, with reference to the selection criteria laid down below:

- **Relevance** - The proposal aligns with the key theme and at least one topic and track of this 3rd edition of the State of the Arts - Malta National Symposium: *Renewing Common Pathways*, and is relevant to the symposium's target audience, that is, Malta's CCS.
- **Approach and Methodology** - The proposed contribution adopts a hands-on and/or solution-oriented approach, with possible strategies and practices that can pave the way forward for a more equitable future.
- **Clarity and coherence** - The proposal is coherent and clearly identifies the contribution's objective/s, expected target audience and outcome/s.
- **Transferability** - The idea, principles and/or approaches presented have the potential to be transferred to other contexts and scenarios, and to inspire dialogue across disciplines and among different stakeholder groups.

SUBMISSION AND IMPORTANT DATES

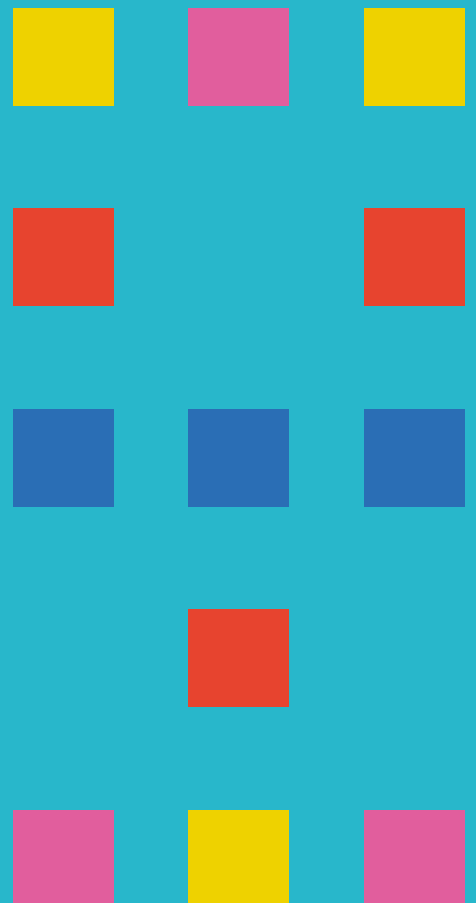


SUBMISSION AND IMPORTANT DATES

- **Monday 22 July 2024, 5pm** - Deadline for contribution submissions
- **Monday 29 July 2024** - Selected proposals communicated by Arts Council Malta
- **Friday 2 August 2024** - Deadline for selected contributions to confirm their participation and initiation of contracting process
- **Monday 19 August 2024** - Deadline for selected contributions to submit additional and/or logistical information (these will be communicated by Arts Council Malta upon selection and in conjunction with the allocated time and/or setup).
- **Thursday 24 October 2024** - Symposium Day 1
- **Friday 25 October 2024** - Symposium Day 2

NEED ADVICE?

Any questions regarding the Call for Contributions should be addressed to hello.acm@artscouncil.mt



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