



ARTS COUNCIL MALTA
ANNUAL REPORT

2024



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Foreword

In this Annual Report for 2024, we reflect on a year of continued growth, resilience and transformation across Malta's cultural and creative sectors, which stand as vital pillars of identity, expression and innovation.

Arts Council Malta (ACM) remains steadfast in its commitment to nurture an environment where Maltese and Malta-based artists, cultural practitioners and creative entrepreneurs can flourish, both locally and internationally. Through a dynamic blend of funding schemes, mentorship programmes, research and strategic initiatives, 2024 marked another step forward in strengthening the sector's sustainability, visibility and global reach.

International exchange persists as a cornerstone of ACM's efforts to broaden the horizons of Malta's creative community, providing artists and cultural operators with opportunities to showcase their work, forge new collaborations and engage in global cultural discourse. From participation in leading international festivals and exhibitions to artist residencies and digital showcases, these initiatives reinforced Malta's presence on the world stage in 2024 while fostering cultural dialogue beyond our shores.

Our commitment to fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing was further demonstrated through strategic networking initiatives over the past year, which remain pivotal in expanding Malta's cultural footprint.

The launch and endorsement of the Charter for the Status of the Artist, during the State of the Arts 2024 Malta National Symposium, marked a historic milestone.

Notably, ACM facilitated a range of programmes that support Maltese artists and cultural practitioners, including key funding initiatives, Creative and Social Entrepreneurship (CASE) Malta, and the State of the Arts 2024 Malta National Symposium. These efforts highlight ACM's role in driving forward-thinking conversations, ensuring Malta's creative ecosystem remains agile in an era of rapid transformation.

The launch and endorsement of the Charter for the Status of the Artist, during the State of the Arts 2024 Malta National Symposium, marked a historic milestone, laying the groundwork for stronger protections and improved working conditions, rights and recognition for cultural practitioners. Meanwhile, ACM's ongoing research efforts continue to inform policy and strategy, ensuring that decisions are rooted in a deep understanding of the sector's evolving needs.

As we look back on the past year's achievements, we acknowledge the unwavering commitment, creativity and resilience of Malta's artistic community. This report stands as a testament to the collective efforts that drive the sector forward, shaping a cultural landscape that is innovative, inclusive and globally engaged. Looking ahead to 2025, ACM remains dedicated to championing the arts, fostering collaboration and strengthening Malta's position within the international creative sphere.

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Executive Chair

Organisational Structure & Governance

Board of Directors

Executive Chair

Albert Marshall

Members

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Joseph Buttigieg

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Marika Sammut Dimech

Roselyn Kitcher

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Creative Broker Executive

Glen Zammit

Creative Communications Broker

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Ray Calleja

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Eric Fenech Sevasta

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Sean Cockram

Administration Officer

Angie Felice

Manager Administration

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Selina Mallia

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Diandra Agius

Reception

Lorita Camilleri

Reception

Tania Spiteri

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Elaine Pickard

Administration Officer

Martha Scicluna

Projects Executive

Vincent Piscopo

Registry Administration Assistant

Elizabeth Muscat

Officer

Oscar Briffa

Finance

Financial Controller

Gilmore Mercieca

Manager Junior Finance

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Rossella Farrugia

Finance Executive

Eileen Spiteri

Support Officer

Ritienne Borg

Finance Senior Manager

Josepha Zammit

Manager Junior Finance

Ritienne Grogan

Funding & Strategy Directorate

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Funding & Strategy

Mary Ann Cauchi

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Catherine Genovese

Regional Cultural Manager

Nicole Borg

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Education & Development Executive

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Emma Chetcuti

Support Administrator

(Funding & Strategy)

Rityanne Gauci

Education &

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Creative Entrepreneurship Executive

Glen Calleja

Diversity & Communities Executive

Simone Inguanez

Creative Broker Executive

Joseph Lia

Support Administrator

Ylenia Callus

Senior Fund Executive

Annalise Buttigieg

Research & Statistics

Karsten Xuereb

International Representative

Walid Nabhan

International Cultural Relations

Executive Head

Annabelle Stivala

Internationalisation

Support Coordinator

Celine Portelli

PR & Marketing International Projects

Frank Psaila

Internationalisation Executive

Romina Delia

Artistic Liaison Officer

Frederick Testa

Highlights for 2024



Arts Council Malta's
Action Plan for 2024



€700,000 announced in support of band clubs, feast
decorations and fireworks factory associations



Arts Council Malta and Aġenzija Żgħażaġh celebrate
start of Fifth Edition of Artivisti Mentorship
Programme through Inaugural Meeting



Culture and
Well-being Forum



President's Fund for Creativity



Launched KunsillKafè



Mapping the Sector: Towards the Formation of the
Academy of the Performing and Visual Arts Seminar



The State of the Arts Malta
National Symposium



ACMLab: Creating an
Artistic Programme



Launched ArtWorks, a new campaign which will
increase knowledge about arts education and career
opportunities in the arts and creativity sectors



Malta Book Festival:
From Illustration to Book exhibition



Launch of the
HelloACM programme

Government Budget Allocations 2024

ACM Recurrent and Capital Expenditure 2024	
Arts Council Malta	€2,425,000

ACM Funding Programmes and Initiatives	
Independent Arts Projects Support Scheme	€1,000,000
Health and Safety Standards in Fireworks Factories	€170,000
Film Malta	€300,000
Participation in London Design Festival	€70,000
Malta Arts Fund	€400,000
Schools Creativity Development Programme	€120,000
Support to Cultural NGOs	€200,000
Creative Malta	€900,000
Digital Games Fund	€100,000
Cultural Partnerships Agreements	€750,000
Spring Festival	€70,000
Creative Communities	€200,000
Public Service Obligation - TV Stations (Culture)	€300,000
Export Programme	€180,000
La Biennale di Venezia	€200,000
National Fund for Artistic Excellence	€150,000
Support to Local Theatre Spaces	€300,000
Total	€5,410,000

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.



State of the Arts Malta National Symposium 2025
Photo credit: Pink Olive

SECTION 1

Strategy

Care, Create, Flourish:

TOWARDS STRATEGY 2025 AND BEYOND

Arts Council Malta (ACM) continues to champion artistic and creative excellence while fostering a sustainable and inclusive cultural ecosystem.

Strategy 2025 serves as our guiding framework, ensuring that cultural rights, artistic development and sector resilience remain at the heart of our mission.

Aligned with the National Cultural Policy 2021, Strategy 2025 is our roadmap for prioritising cultural rights, sustainability and well-being in Malta's cultural and creative sectors. It is built on six key pillars:

- ▶ **Public Investment:** Strengthening financial and structural support for sustainable artistic and cultural practices, ensuring long-term sector growth and advancing the well-being of Malta's cultural and artistic practitioners.
- ▶ **Diversity and Communities:** Promoting inclusion, accessibility and cultural rights to deepen engagement with the arts across all communities in Malta.
- ▶ **Education and Development:** Expanding opportunities for arts education and professional growth, fostering collaboration between cultural operators and educational institutions.
- ▶ **Internationalisation:** Enhancing Malta's dynamic cultural presence globally by supporting mobility, cross-border partnerships and international artistic exchange.

▶ **Creative Entrepreneurship:** Empowering artists and cultural practitioners with the skills, networks and resources needed to build sustainable creative enterprises.

▶ **Research and Evaluation:** Strengthening data- and research-driven decision-making to assess impact, inform policy and support the evolving needs of Malta's cultural and creative sector.

By fostering collaboration, innovation and sustainability, ACM remains committed to empowering Maltese and Malta-based artistic and creative practitioners and entrepreneurs. As we move forward, we will continue to nurture artistic expression, expand cultural participation and reinforce Malta's position within the global creative landscape.

Strategy 2025 is our roadmap
for prioritising cultural rights,
sustainability and well-being in Malta's
cultural and creative sectors.

Public Investment

Funding Programmes

In 2024, Arts Council Malta (ACM) invested in a funding portfolio consisting of 22 schemes and programmes addressing the current needs of Malta's cultural and creative sectors. The Council received a total of 672 eligible applications and, in all, supported 377 applications with a total direct investment exceeding €4.5 million.

Funding parameters and criteria are established by the guidelines and regulations of each funding scheme. Each application was submitted through the ACM's online system and eligible proposals were evaluated by a board of independent evaluators. During this competitive evaluation process, the evaluators determined which proposed projects merited funding according to an established ranking order.

Each funded proposal was assigned a mentor or monitoring support with the aim of assisting beneficiaries throughout the implementation of their funded projects. Every beneficiary was requested to attend a training session wherein they were given an overview of the steps required to fulfil their contractual obligations in relation to the dissemination and reporting elements of their funded project.

Accessible Opportunities

In 2024, several e-info sessions were held following the publication of guidelines and regulations to give prospective applicants a clear picture of each funding scheme's parameters.

The Micro Grant was designed to support the acquisition of 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 2022 and 2024.

In line with the Right to Culture initiative, the Access Support scheme was also made available in 2024, enabling funded projects to adopt the highest standards

of good practice, combining equity with quality. This support mechanism invests in people, resources, services, facilities, infrastructure and multidisciplinary and/or cross-sectoral collaboration for the development and implementation of cultural and artistic projects or activities.

Professional Development

The Apprenticeship Scheme was introduced in 2024 in accordance with ACM's commitment towards the professional development of emerging and established creative practitioners. The scheme furthers the professionalisation of Malta's cultural and creative sectors with particular emphasis on the enhancement of technical and vocational skills. It provides 10 apprentices with the opportunity to work directly within and be exposed to Malta's cultural, creative, social and iGaming (excluding betting companies) sectors, fostering direct collaboration between apprentices and their hosts and thus providing mentorship opportunities.

Participatory Approach

As of 2024, the management of funding proposals concerning the development and production of quality-driven, cultural audiovisual productions was added to ACM's remit. In line with the Council's commitment to a participatory approach, a consultation phase was held, eventually leading to the publication of the Screen Support Scheme's guidelines and regulations in the first half of the year. Through its five strands, the scheme supported projects' pre-production phase consisting of screenwriting and development, as well as the production phase for short films and feature-length fiction, animation, documentaries and cultural programmes.

The participants of the Sectoral Representative Working Group, which was established towards the end of 2024, are members of representative organisations for Malta's cultural and creative sectors and/or individuals whose experience and expertise were considered representative of specific areas within Malta's cultural

and creative sectors. Following a call for expression of interest, seven representatives were selected from different sectors and artistic backgrounds, adding a multidisciplinary dimension. This initiative aligns with Action 12 of ACM’s Strategy 2025 as well as the Arts Council Malta Act of 2015 (8) and it therefore places participatory cultural governance at the core of ACM’s decision-making.

EU Projects
Stations of Culture – Stations of Dialogue

Funding Programme	EUNIC – European Spaces of Culture
Country	Ethiopia
EUNIC Partners	EUNIC members from France, Germany, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain
Project Implementation Timeframe	June 2024–October 2025
Project Budget	€60,000

ACM in collaboration with the Embassy of Malta in Addis Ababa is a partner in the “Stations of Culture – Stations of Dialogue” project, a EUNIC initiative that will transform Ethiopian railway sites into vibrant cultural hubs to foster dialogue and showcase EU values through artistic collaboration. The project offers local Maltese artists an opportunity to collaborate with other European and Ethiopian artists, using railway stations as unique venues for interdisciplinary expression, bringing the EU values of freedom, democracy and inclusivity to new audiences.

The project’s core objectives align with EU policies on cultural diplomacy and sustainable development, aiming to:

- ▶ Foster EU–Ethiopia cultural dialogue, grounded in EU principles like freedom, democracy and equality.
- ▶ Promote artistic inclusivity, with a focus on the meaningful inclusion of female artists.
- ▶ Advance digital cultural relations, incorporating digital art to bridge existing gaps in engagement.

Through exhibitions, performances and workshops, the project encourages mutual understanding and cultural exchange. Expected project outcomes include empowering local artists, strengthening EU–Ethiopia ties and promoting EU values in accessible public spaces, demonstrating the EU’s role in building lasting cultural relationships across borders.

Hypatia – Digital Gender Gap, Digital Violence, Education and Awareness Project

Funding Programme	Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership in Adult Education
Project Partners	Czech Republic, Italy, Malta and Spain
Project Implementation Timeframe	September 2024–December 2026
Project Budget	€250,000

ACM is a partner in the “Hypatia – Digital Gender Gap, Digital Violence, Education and Awareness” project, which was successfully awarded funding under the Erasmus+ programme with a grant of €250,000 over 28 months.

Starting in September 2024, the project addresses the critical need for digital literacy among European women, especially those facing intersecting vulnerabilities. The partnership consists of IDRISI Cultura e Sviluppo ETS (Italy) as the lead organisation, working alongside IT Solutions for All (Spain), CIG NORA (Czech Republic) and Arts Council Malta. The project bridges the digital gender gap by providing accessible, non-professional training on the link between technology and gender discrimination. The project aligns with the EU’s priorities on digital transformation, lifelong learning and upskilling pathways.

Key project outcomes include a multilingual curriculum, an open online course, research on EU strategies addressing the digital gender gap and a recommendations kit. ACM, leading the Dissemination and Awareness Work Package, will engage the artistic community through a media campaign highlighting digital safety and gender equity, tying into ACM’s Right to Culture initiative. The work package includes the creation of a short docufilm to further public awareness, fostering digital empowerment and awareness of gender biases in technology.

In a world that is developing so fast and yet is fragmenting so quickly, culture is this “fantastic conversation” that keeps societies together and is crucial for our collective future.

(Paraphrasing Brian Eno, Culture Action Europe’s *State of Culture Report (2024)*)

Diversity & Communities

Inclusivity

Throughout 2024, Arts Council Malta (ACM) continued to engage in collaboration and knowledge development across sectors, advocate for evidence-based policy development and support the adoption of the highest standards of good practice, combining equity with quality.

ACM entered into an agreement with the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability, outlining strategic targets within the framework of an action plan to strengthen diversity, equity, inclusion and the indispensable twin pillars of accessibility and belonging. The agreement is designed to consolidate research capacities; identify strengths, gaps and priorities; and navigate perceptions, mindsets and other challenges. It also enables capacity-building to promote a deeper understanding and awareness of short- and long-term goals, in line with the overarching principles of the National Cultural Policy 2021, Strategy 2025 and *Freedom to Live*, Malta’s 2021–2030 National Strategy on the Rights of Disabled Persons.

Through consistent advocacy and the alignment of investment with cultural rights and sustainable community development values, ACM continues to raise awareness about cultural rights, support capacity-building and enable communities to actively shape cultural narratives for a sustainable democratic future.

Well-Being and Cohesion

In 2024, ACM witnessed growing interest in the intersections between cultural expression and engagement, health, holistic well-being and sustainability. Following the demand generated by the Culture and Health Workshops towards the end of 2023, the Council brought together creative and medical practitioners in a one-day forum exploring the value of culture and creativity in enabling connectedness and supporting mental, physical and social health and well-being on the individual and collective levels.

ACM is also actively engaged in the Open Method of Coordination Group on Culture and Health, which helps build a healthy, more prosperous Europe in line with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen’s political guidelines.

Later in 2024, Malta became the first EU Member State to match EU funding, enabling six emerging artists to participate in Culture Action Europe’s Culture, Health and Well-being Platform project, providing financial support and promotion to artists bridging culture and health. This was enabled by an agreement with ACM.

In 2024, ACM also held:

- ▶ A series of focus groups with Public Cultural Organisations (PCOs) and beneficiaries of the Investment in Cultural Organisations mechanism.
- ▶ A capacity-building session for ACM staff.
- ▶ An ACM lab session exploring the development of sustainable creative practices as part of the Malta Sustainable Development Action Days 2024.

Education & Development

Enhancing Pedagogical Practices in Arts Education

Arts Council Malta (ACM) invests in several initiatives for pedagogical exploration in the arts. The Arts in Schools Scheme was offered in 2024, aiming to enrich the educational experiences of students enrolled in formal education by involving them in creating artistic projects and giving them the opportunity to learn with artists and creatives. Furthermore, the scheme encourages educators and artists to explore new methods of learning through the arts.

Culture Pass, managed in collaboration with the Cultural Directorate, was also offered in 2024. The scheme exposes schoolchildren and youths to a more holistic way of engaging with their curriculum through the arts. In 2024, the initiative remained successful for another consecutive year, with numerous applicants submitting projects for recommendation and educators engaging project producers to work with their respective schools.

The Council worked closely with arts subjects Education Officers from the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation to organise training sessions for art teachers from primary, middle and secondary schools and music teachers from middle and secondary schools. The training consisted of information sessions about arts education initiatives and funding schemes offered by ACM and, in the case of music teachers, training by UK digital education company Charanga about online tools and resources available to music teachers.

Collaborations Fostering Wider Arts Appreciation

In 2024, ACM continued working on its existing schemes and projects to support learning and arts appreciation across all educational levels and formats. Members of the Council were present at outreach and public engagement activities, including freshers' weeks at the University of Malta and Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST), 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.

ACM's collaboration with the Žigužajg Festival and Spazju Kreattiv was renewed for another year. The partnership included an exhibition titled *But I See Beauty and Wonder...*, aimed at facilitating children and young audiences to engage with contemporary art. This same target audience was engaged in the exhibition's creation through workshops and interactive artworks. The collaboration also included support for Incubator, an international initiative designed by the European Network of Cultural Centres (ENCC) focused on European fund project writing with a view to offer expert mentoring and networking opportunities with other socio-cultural professionals from all over Europe.

The Council also collaborated with the National School Support Services to offer training to career advisors and guidance teachers based in state schools to inform them about Malta's arts and culture scene, as well as education and career pathways in the arts.

Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Approaches to Arts Education

The Council strengthened new and existing agreements with public entities and independent institutions in 2024. These collaborations established educational opportunities for students, emerging artists and the public.

The first edition of the Malta Society of Arts (MSA) and Arts Council Malta (ACM) Residency Programme for Emerging Artists was held in 2024. The programme supports two artists by providing them with the opportunity to revise their practice and conduct research while having access to a studio space and to MSA's educational and artistic programme and archives. The initiative is part of the Council's objective to support the professional development of artists.

The Artivisti programme was reignited in 2024 as an investment in the growth of young, emerging artists. Each participant was assigned a mentor and offered a budget to conceive and manage independent artistic projects.

A further important step taken in 2024 was the seminar titled *Towards the Formation of the Academy of the*

Performing and Visual Arts in Malta. The aim of the seminar was to discuss whether Malta should establish a dedicated Visual and Performing Arts Academy with arts education stakeholders from the public and private sectors and across all education levels. The seminar formed part of an ongoing research process conducted by ACM, the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation, and ARC Research and Consultancy.

Career Pathways in the Arts

ARTWORKS, an arts education and careers campaign, was launched in 2024. In preparation for the campaign, focus groups and consultation meetings were held with various educational stakeholders representing the state, church, independent sectors and further and higher institutions. Sessions were also held with Public Cultural Organisations (PCOs), independent cultural organisations, industry stakeholders and relevant policymakers. The campaign consisted of two core elements: a marketing campaign featuring eight ambassadors and a grassroots campaign consisting of

training and awareness raising with educators, students and professionals.

Aside from professional development opportunities funded by the Training and Development Support Scheme, students from a cohort enrolled at the University of Malta and the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) each spent a minimum of two months working at the Malta Pavilion at La Biennale di Venezia from April to December 2024. The Council collaborated with the Erasmus offices of the respective institutions to establish traineeship programmes for upcoming local talent, exposing them to a large-scale international work environment.

Furthermore, a new collaboration was established with the National Skills Council through a memorandum of understanding (MOU), with the aim of identifying emerging careers within the arts sector with respect to academic and vocational pathways. The collaboration will explore global trends in skills development, future skills, transversal skills, resilience and adaptability in the cultural and creative sectors.

Internationalisation

International Visibility

Malta Pavilion at La Biennale di Venezia 2024

The 60th edition of La Biennale di Venezia marked Arts Council Malta's fourth participation with its own National Pavilion since 2017, when Malta re-entered the Biennale with its *Homo Melitensis: An Incomplete History in 19 Chapters* exhibition. The Council also commissioned Malta's participation in the event's 2019 and 2022 editions, with *Maleth/Haven/Port – Heterotopias of Evocation* and *Diplomazija Astuta* respectively. The Malta Pavilion in 2024 was once again commissioned and led by ACM, under the auspices of Malta's Ministry for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government.

The solo show by Maltese artist Matthew Attard, entitled *I Will Follow the Ship*, consisted of a new art commission, weaving together cultural heritage and cutting-edge AI-driven technology. The Malta Pavilion was 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 oversaw project management.

I Will Follow the Ship explored ideas of human existence and survival at the point of convergence between history and the future, physical experience and digital input. It originated from the artist's explorations into AI and drawing technology, fused with his interest in historical images of ex-voto ship graffiti – vernacular iconographies which 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. These maritime graffiti resonate with many cultures whose relationship with the sea has been – and still is – crucial. The ship remains a unifying metaphor of hope for survival.

The Malta Pavilion at La Biennale di Venezia 2024 was very well received by both the local and international press.

Malta Pavilion at the London Design Biennale 2025

The London Design Biennale is an international exhibition and thought leadership programme featuring world-leading design innovation and creativity from countries across the globe. It is held at Somerset House, a historic building in London and one of the UK's finest and most beautiful 18th-century structures. The fifth London Design Biennale will take place from 5th to 29th June 2025. Each edition invites participants to respond to a universal theme set by the Artistic Director.

In its capacity as Commissioner, ACM published a call for the engagement of a design team to represent Malta at the London Design Biennale in 2025. *URNA* was selected to represent Malta.

URNA is an innovative project that explores the fascinating and distinctive subject of cremation. The proposal perfectly exemplifies and merges design innovation and creativity. It is bold, stimulating and far-reaching, beyond the idea of simply being “art”. It is a design for the community and challenges the status quo on interment, while offering a solution that is both poetic, intellectually stimulating and environmentally engaging. It should serve as the starting point for much discussion.

URNA introduces a new ritual for handling human remains, anticipating the adoption of cremation on the Maltese Islands and envisioning it as a culturally significant process. The project redefines the columbarium, ossuary and wake to re-establish death as a significant ceremony, unburdened by unnecessary signifiers.

A multinational team has been compiled for this project. Anthony Bonnici (MT), Andrew Borg Wirth (MT) and Los Angeles-based Tanil Raif (CY) are architects with practices that intersect with design, academia and curation. Their academic and professional interests meet to create not only a contemporarily relevant project but also one which expresses the project's fundamentally Maltese roots. The project will be

further complemented by the contribution of Matthew Attard Navarro (MT), whose creative agency ANCC has generated influential work in London over the past decade. He will be working closely with Anne Immelé (FR) and Stephanie Sant (MT) to convey the narrative that surrounds the design proposal. Additionally, Thomas Mifsud (MT), an architect invested in the practice of art direction, will be a fundamental bridge between participating members.

Malta Pavilion at the Gwangju Biennale, South Korea 2026

Preparations are underway for ACM's debut at the Gwangju Biennale in 2026, a contemporary art biennale in South Korea which is recognised as one of the top art biennales in the world. It ranks in the top five globally, alongside La Biennale di Venezia; Documenta in Kassel, Germany; the Whitney Biennial in New York City; and, the European pan-regional Manifesta, also known as the European Nomadic Biennial. The 2024 edition of the Gwangju Biennale attracted over 700,000 visitors, showcasing its global significance.

ACM will commission and manage Malta's first-ever presence at the Gwangju Biennale in 2026. In 2024, ACM began its preparations for this prestigious event. Meetings with the Biennale's organisers have already taken place, and research is in progress.

Access to International Networks

In 2024, ACM retained its commitment to actively participating in its international partner networks.

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 community hubs across over 20 cities and regions worldwide.

The YCI Forum network is multidisciplinary 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 a 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.

European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC)

EUNIC is the European network of organisations engaging 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, ACM has participated in the event titled *Poems in the City* annually, in collaboration with the Embassy of Malta in Warsaw. 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 train stations, cafés, clubs, bookshops, libraries and busy, prominent squares all over Warsaw.

In 2024, representing Malta was Maltese poet Norbert Bugeja with his poem *Ritorn*. Norbert is one of Malta's leading contemporary poets, a professor at the English Studies Department of the University of Malta (UoM), and Head of the UoM's Mediterranean Institute. His poems have been translated into many languages, including French and Arabic, and published in magazines and anthologies.

EUNIC VIENNA

In February 2024, the Maltese movie *Carmen* was screened at EUNIC Austria's European Film Festival in Vienna. Malta's participation was organised by ACM in collaboration with the Embassy of Malta in Vienna.

Also in collaboration with the Embassy of Malta in Vienna, ACM participated in the EUNIC Music Festival in April 2024. The annual music festival provides a framework for intercultural connections between cultural institutes and international musicians. The programme in 2024 revolved around the genre of jazz and hosted musicians from 17 different countries. The festival's four evening concerts were accompanied by special events, such as film screenings, lectures and performances.

The festival also explored new trends in the European jazz improvisation scene. The Ġużè Camilleri Quintet represented Malta with their performance *Anecdotes of Maltese Early Jazz*, an audiovisual show that delved into the history of jazz in Malta and captivated the audience in Vienna. The music performed consisted of original compositions by Maltese jazz pioneers, mainly by Malta's first jazz trio, arranged for a quintet by Dominic Galea. The performance's participants were Ġużè Camilleri (drums), Warren Galea (guitar), Anthony Saliba (double bass), Alex Bezzina (trumpet), Walter Vella (saxophone and flute) and Cedric Vella (visuals).

Furthermore, in November 2024, Maltese author Jen Calleja participated in the European Literature Days Festival in Vienna, an opportunity facilitated by ACM in collaboration with the Embassy of Malta in Vienna.

EUNIC DUBLIN

In partnership with Dublin City Libraries, EUNIC Ireland presented the EUNIC European Film Club 2024, a series of free screenings of European feature films in four library branches across Dublin, as well as in the Goethe-Institut, Instituto Cervantes, Istituto Italiano di Cultura and Alliance Française. A total of 20 screenings took place in April and May 2024, showcasing films from the following 10 EU countries: Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal and Spain. ACM, in collaboration with the Embassy of Malta in Dublin, showcased the Maltese feature film *Carmen*.

For the 2024 edition of EUNIC Ireland's Short Shorts from Europe Film Festival held in Ireland, Maltese visual artist and filmmaker Fabrizio Ellul presented *Somewhere*, an animation that follows Vincent, a researcher at the Halo Space Research Centre, who makes a detour to Planet Earth to retrieve an item. *Somewhere* is a story about memory, remembering and loss. The animation was screened in Galway, Limerick, Dublin and Cork.

EUNIC BERLIN

In collaboration with the Embassy of Malta in Berlin, ACM took part in the Jazz for Europe concert on 30th April 2024, the eve of Malta's 20th anniversary of joining the EU. ACM joined nine other cultural institutes and embassies from fellow 2004 EU accession countries for the event organised by EUNIC Berlin – Die Europäischen Kulturinstitute – to commemorate the EU's enlargement in 2004. Held at the Quasimodo Berlin Jazz Club on the International Day of Jazz, the special concert featured musicians from each participating country, who came together in Berlin and gave a premiere performance as a European jazz band for the first time.

Maltese trumpet musician Adrian Brincat contributed to the concert, uniting with musicians from each of the 10 accession countries from 2004. The concert drew a significant audience, providing a platform for Adrian to connect and collaborate with peers from other participating countries. The cast of performers included Mirna Bogdanović from Slovenia (vocals), Nikolaj Nikitin from Slovakia (tenor saxophone), Jievaras Jasinskis from Lithuania (trombone), Ain Agan from Estonia (guitar), Agita Rando from Latvia (piano), Péter Nitsch from Hungary (bass), Enyalios Evangelou Papadopoulos from Cyprus (drums), Adrian Brincat from Malta (trumpet), Bára Zmeková from the Czech Republic (vocals and piano) and Michelle Palka from Poland (vocals), curated by Andrea Marcelli.

EUNIC NETHERLANDS

ACM collaborated with the Embassy of Malta in the Netherlands to take part in the European Literature Night on 14th May 2024. The event explored the theme of "Writers as Travellers" and Malta was represented by Lorraine Vella, who participated in a panel discussion on travelling through language, during which she also read an extract in Maltese from her book *Rokit*. Lorraine (b. 1972) is a Maltese writer, translator and performer based in Brussels. She has been awarded the Malta National Book Council's National Book Prize on several occasions, as well as the award for Best Novel in Maltese or English for *Rokit* (2018) and *Marta Marta* (2023). Lorraine is also co-editor of the Maltese-language literary journal *Aphroconfuso*. European Literature Night concluded with an excellent performance by Lorraine, as she delivered a literary piece in Maltese, originally written by herself and translated into English by Joe Gatt. The work recounts her journey through the eyes of a young child walking around the salt pans of Birżebbuġa.

On 5th June 2024, ACM, in collaboration with the Embassy of Malta in the Netherlands, also participated in Europe's Finest Hours, an event organised by EUNIC Netherlands. The programme focused on European stories, told through talks, films, workshops and performances, a day before the European Parliament elections. Malta was represented by songwriter and musician Alexandra Alden, who performed some of her music during a full-day event celebrating European culture.

EUNIC STRASBOURG

In May 2024, ACM participated in the Youth Slam for the Future poetry slam, in collaboration with the Permanent Representation of Malta in Strasbourg, for the EUNIC Strasbourg event, organised in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe. Representing Malta and opening each artistic show was Maltese poet Sam Vassallo with her poem *I can't write these kinds of poems*. Sam is a writer and journalist living between Berlin and Malta. She is drawn to exploring the political in the personal, through autobiographical and confessional works in paint, poetry and performance.

The two-day event started with *Confidence in Tomorrow*, a surprise performance organised by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe and the Liechtenstein Presidency. The event attracted over 100 participants, consisting of enthusiastic, young contributors and members of the diplomatic community. Artists from six countries – France, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta and Portugal – took to the stage to perform. On the second day, following a morning performance outside the Council of Europe, the six young poets delivered another round of vibrant and thought-provoking performances, captivating colleagues of the Committee of Ministers as well as members of the Secretariat.

In November 2024, Bradley Cachia represented Malta at The Poetry Slam for Diversity, a new edition of the EUNIC Poetry Slam event. Malta's participation was also made possible by ACM in collaboration with the Permanent Representation of Malta in Strasbourg.

EUNIC ANKARA

In September 2024, Maltese musician Alexia Micallef participated in the EUNIC Sound of Europe Festival. The festival's third edition was held in Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir, brought to life as an initiative from the Istanbul and Ankara clusters of EUNIC, together with the participation of the municipalities of Çankaya, Kadıköy and Izmir. The

aim of the festival was to bring together new European voices and artists at the start of their careers and who are beginning to make their names heard across different geographies. The 2024 programme featured over 25 concerts, with musical groups from 13 European countries, as well as some local Turkish bands. Every concert was free and open to the public, attracting crowds of all ages. The event focused predominantly on female artists, and the Maltese musician Alexia Micallef, accompanied by guitarist Robert Muscat, represented Malta. Their participation was made possible by ACM in collaboration with the Embassy of Malta in Ankara.

EUNIC NEW DELHI

On 24th September 2024, the High Commission of the Republic of Malta in India, together with other members of EUNIC India, participated in the Long Night of Literatures, a literary festival, primarily held in New Delhi, India, where authors from various European countries gather to present readings of their works in both their native language and English translations. The opportunity was facilitated by the Cultural Diplomacy Fund of Malta's Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade. Maltese author Lorraine Vella represented Malta at the event.

EUNIC MALTA

In its fourth edition, Malta's EUNIC film festival was held in collaboration with the arts house cinema Spazju Kreattiv in Valletta. Along with films from other EUNIC members, the Maltese film *Carmen* was screened at the event.

EUNIC DOHA

On 8th December 2024, ACM, in collaboration with the Embassy of Malta in Doha, participated in the Katara European Jazz Festival, an annual music event held at the Katara Cultural Village in Doha, Qatar. The festival was organised by the Katara Cultural Village Foundation in collaboration with the EUNIC cluster. Maltese musician Warren Galea participated in the event.

EUNIC ETHIOPIA

EUNIC Ethiopia won the EU-funded EUNIC Spaces of Culture project with *Stations of Culture – Stations of Dialogue*, which will be implemented in 2025. In collaboration with the Embassy of Malta in Addis Ababa, ACM is a partner on this project.

The project nurtures dialogue with the purpose of building social cohesion and peace in times of reduced

space for civic society and creative expression. By curating engaging cultural experiences on sites along the first Addis Ababa–Djibouti train line and related sites across Ethiopia (and possibly Djibouti), the project will create innovative platforms for cultural exchange, artistic expression and open dialogue for a period of six weeks between March and April 2025. Despite the current inoperable state of the first Ethiopia-Djibouti line constructed over 100 years ago with strong European involvement, the hubs and spaces across the iconic line remain active to this day.

The EUNIC Mobility Scheme

The EUNIC Mobility Scheme supports job-shadowing initiatives within the EUNIC network. In 2024, ACM participated once again as one of the scheme's hosts, welcoming six representatives from other EUNIC members. The participants of the first scheme held at ACM were Miroslava Pířová (Department of Cultural Diplomacy, Bratislava), Maja Balant Slobodjanac (Head of Department for Public Diplomacy and International Cooperation in Culture, Ljubljana) and Alejandra Montemayor Loyo (Arts Manager at the British Council, Mexico City). The participants of the second scheme held later in 2024 included Iveta Gonzálezová (Deputy Director, Czech Centre, Madrid), Esther Domínguez Marín (Academic Department Director, Instituto Cervantes, Brussels), Paramita Chaudhuri (Senior Arts Manager, British Council, Kolkata).

EUNIC Clusters Knowledge Sharing Forum

ACM organised its first online EUNIC Clusters Knowledge Sharing Forum on 4th November 2024 with speakers from ACM's Internationalisation Directorate, EUNIC Global in Brussels and representatives from Maltese Embassies and Consulates around the world who are active in EUNIC Clusters, namely in Abu Dhabi, Addis Ababa, Ankara, Beijing, Berlin, Brussels, Cairo, Casablanca, Doha, Dublin, Jeddah, New Delhi, Strasbourg, Vienna and Warsaw.

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 2024, ACM actively participated in several meetings with IETM.

An open call for 2024 IETM memberships and participation in IETM events was launched by ACM 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. Two Maltese performing artists – Pamela Kerr and Ana Carolina Tanti – were selected to attend IETM events in 2024.

International Exchanges

International Cultural Exchanges Scheme (ICE)

The International Cultural Exchanges Scheme (ICE), managed by ACM, addressed international cultural exchanges in 2024, focusing specifically on the outgoing mobility of Maltese and Malta-based artists aged 18 and over, as well as their artworks and cultural productions. The Council 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.

The total amount of funds made available for this scheme was €100,000, with successful applicants receiving a maximum of €8,000 per project.

The International Participation Scheme (IPS)

The International Participation Scheme (IPS) forms part of ACM's internationalisation strategy for Malta's cultural and creative sectors. The objective of the IPS is to support the mobility of artists and cultural operators to create, showcase and expose their works to international audiences and receive global feedback, as well as to explore and develop skills, build networks and engage in international collaborations.

In 2024, the IPS addressed the outgoing mobility of Maltese and Malta-based artists aged 18 and over, as well as their artworks and cultural productions. It supported their participation in international festivals, exhibitions, showcases, international networking events, films, conferences, artist residencies and fairs, meetings with international agents, producers, curators, publishers, artistic directors and festival managers, and it facilitated partner searches for international exchanges and collaboration.

Creative Entrepreneurship

Several noteworthy strategic actions addressing the development and support of creative enterprise were implemented in 2024. Arts Council Malta (ACM) successfully ran and implemented a number of initiatives and internal research exercises in relation to key strategic actions targeting cultural infrastructure, capacity building, artist residencies, business incubation and alternative taxation systems. The highlight of the year was the launch of the first national Charter for the Status of the Artist.

Training and Development

The first Apprenticeship Scheme aimed at creating new opportunities for early career creatives seeking hands-on learning and extended mentorship experiences was launched in 2024. The initiative matches established practitioners – individuals, organisations and companies – with apprentices for a 12-month commitment during which the apprentice is fully immersed into the business on a full-time basis.

Another capacity-building programme was the latest edition of Creative and Social Entrepreneurship (CASE) Malta, held in the first quarter of 2024. It was developed and implemented by In Place of War in collaboration with ACM. The CASE Programme is an opportunity for training and mentorship, inviting budding creative entrepreneurs from any cultural and creative sub-sector to workshop their ideas in a sharing environment in the spirit of critical reflection and peer knowledge and skills exchange.

In 2024, there were 13 applicants in total. While 10 participants were selected, nine completed the programme due to one participant dropping out. After several online training sessions, the participants were invited to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of their ideas, fine-tune them and work them into a basic business plan to be implemented. The CASE Programme,

therefore, not only empowers participants to kick off a creative business idea but also provides an elementary understanding of how to run a creative business.

Clustering: Networking and Support

ACM once again supported the participation of two local artists in the Salzburg Global Forum held in May 2024 in Salzburg, where thinkers, innovators, disruptors and creative practitioners from all over the world met to share their perspectives and explore possible solutions to current and urgent topics. In 2024, the seminar was titled *Creating Futures: Art and AI for Tomorrow's Narratives*, and all participating fellows could contribute to a final statement about the implications of the rise of AI in the cultural and creative sectors, among others. The statement dealt with a broad range of topics including the legal and ethical implications of AI.

Sustainable Practices

Following the launch of ACM's draft Charter for the Status of the Artist for public consultation in June 2024, the final version was released during the third edition of ACM's The State of the Arts – Malta National Symposium, held in Valletta in late October 2024. The Charter, which provides a frame of reference for any legislation, policy or initiative which directly or indirectly impacts workers and any operators in the cultural and creative sectors, is the first document of its kind in Malta and was endorsed by all the Public Cultural Organisations that fall under ACM's remit. The Charter is rooted in the Council's Strategy 2025, which calls for improved efforts at elevating, protecting and advocating for optimal conditions for all artists, including all sectoral operators. Part of the Charter's longer-term vision is for it to be a catalyst for more direct investment in the resources, knowledge and skills that are unique to the cultural and creative sectors and to highlight their value and contribution to quality of life in general.

The highlight of the year was the launch of the first national Charter for the Status of the Artist.

Research & Evaluation

Cultural and Creative Practice Survey

In 2024, the second Cultural and Creative Practice Survey (CCPS) report was published in collaboration with the National Statistics Office (NSO). The publication was launched during The State of the Arts – Malta National Symposium in October 2024. The findings present a valuable analysis of the conditions under which artistic, creative and cultural practitioners operated in the wake of the changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and other national and international challenges, as well as the attitudes, desires and self-perceptions of practitioners. This follow-up survey ensured comparability and a longitudinal understanding of the trends that determine cultural and creative practice in Malta.

A stratified random sampling process (without replacement) was employed. In addition, quotas were used throughout the data collection phase to ensure that the required number of people from each sub-group were selected. A total of 2,428 people were contacted for the survey. In all, 1,007 participated and 1,251 were found to be ineligible to participate. Data was collected by means of Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI) between 22nd January and 1st February 2024.

Malta Music and Nighttime Economy Strategy

During 2024, ACM built on the first Malta Music and Nighttime Economy (NTE) Strategy, developed by Sound Diplomacy in partnership with ACM, which had been finalised in 2023. The report compiles all research and stakeholder engagement that Sound Diplomacy

completed in the past two years for the Malta Music and Nighttime Economy Strategy.

The strategy demonstrates 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 for creatives 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. In 2024, the definition and initial implementation of the recommendations made in the strategy were set in motion. The process was particularly highlighted in discussions with local and national stakeholders especially in the tourism sector, as in the case of the Malta Tourism Authority (MTA) and the Tourism Zones Regeneration Agency (TZRA), promoters of the Purple Flag initiative for sustainable centres.

Right to Culture and Charter for the Status of the Artist: The State of the Arts – Malta National Symposium 2024

Between 24th and 25th October 2024, ACM hosted the annual symposium addressing the theme of "Renewing Common Pathways" as part of its sustained commitment towards its long-term strategic theme of "Right to

Culture" in alignment with its ongoing campaign on cultural rights. The event allowed the 150+ participants to actively contribute towards an exchange of ideas, proposals, actions and recommendations on how to further sustain the efforts of ACM and its partners and sectoral stakeholders in promoting the development of cultural and artistic practice. The launch of the first-ever Charter for the Status of the Artist was an important effort to further these aims.

The event took place at the University of Malta – Valletta Campus.

ACM Internal Projects

In 2024, the Research & Statistics Unit continued addressing ACM's operations leading to positive and encouraging results, focusing on:

- ▶ Informing the upcoming strategy cycle ahead of the next period starting in 2026.
- ▶ Addressing a long-term review of the funding mechanism.
- ▶ Advising on the establishment of a Sectoral Working Group and an Inter-Ministerial Working Group to accompany ACM's policy and strategy development processes.
- ▶ Supporting the project management of the Artistic Research & Development Scheme.

Research Commissions

Several research programmes were launched to support the development of joint studies and the implementation of important measures impacting various sectors in Malta. These included the research involved in the newly launched Screen Support Scheme, bolstering local film and TV production, which included a consultation process with sectoral representatives during the first two quarters of 2024. Other research commissions are ongoing and will be launched in 2025 as part of the delivery of the upcoming strategy cycle.

Public Sector Commitment

As a Public Sector Organisation championing culture and the arts, ACM was active in delivering a range of research projects in 2024, aiming to support the further development of the public sector. These included drawing up a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Commission for the Rights of People with a Disability (CRPD) to address the accessibility of cultural sites, venues and events.



Funding

During 2024, Arts Council Malta (ACM) invested a total of €4,471,960 on artistic projects. The Council managed a funding portfolio with a total of 22 funding schemes. In all, 672 eligible applications were submitted through 33 calls for financial support; 377 applications were successful and received funding in 2024.

Furthermore, the multiannual programmes invested a total of €550,000 in cultural organisations in 2024. As part of the investment, 15 cultural organisations continued their three-year programme of activities supported by the Investment in Cultural Organisations Malta programme in 2023–2025. These organisations are being supported to invest in capacity-building by further progressing 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. In 2024, a call for applications identified the eight voluntary organisations that will be supported in 2025–2027.

A set of guidelines and regulations were issued for each scheme and made available on 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, regional councils 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.

For the first time around, ACM took on the management of six new schemes that addressed several strategic actions targeting the current needs of Malta's cultural and creative sectors.

The Regional Cultural Cooperation Programme supported four regional councils with a total of €72,170 to collaborate with creative practitioners and cultural operators. Supported projects actively involved participants within the various cultural regional areas, helping to maintain and foster new and existing strategic partnerships to further opportunities for artists and practitioners.

The Apprenticeship Scheme included two calls, with the first one identifying hosts active in Malta's cultural and creative sectors, digital technologies, design, iGaming (excluding betting companies), crafts and social sectors. The call for hosts identified a total of 13 opportunities that were made available to the apprentices. A total of 10 apprentices were selected through a separate call applicable to creative practitioners, who would each benefit from €18,000. These apprenticeship opportunities will be carried out in 2025 and will also enable a mentorship programme that includes target goals and measurable achievements addressing the development of the apprentices' skill sets.

The Screen Support Scheme supported independent audiovisual entities in developing and producing quality-driven, cultural audiovisual productions. A total investment of €1,000,000 was disbursed among 23 beneficiaries. Through its five strands, the scheme offered financial assistance for projects' pre-production phase consisting of screenwriting and development, as well as the production phase for short films and feature-length productions. The audiovisual works that will be produced through these funds include animation, fiction and documentaries.

In 2024, 116 voluntary organisations active in at least one of the following areas benefitted from financial support:

feast band club music, health and safety in fireworks factories, and semi-permanent feast decorations. A total investment of €1,072,400 was disbursed through the Artistic Heritage Scheme, which recognises the importance and value of the intangible heritage of feasts that are annually celebrated in Malta's towns and villages.

The Restoration Funding Scheme, which originally supported cultural property immovables within the confines of a parish church under the Archdiocese of Malta and the Diocese of Gozo, was extended to movable artefacts in 2024. The scheme supported 13 projects with a total investment of €82,999.

Artists and cultural operators also received funding from the International Participation Scheme to create, showcase and expose their works to international audiences. They also received international feedback, aimed at developing their skills, building networks and engaging in international collaborations. In all, 20 beneficiaries received a total of €35,795 in 2024.

Key Figures

FOR FUNDING PROGRAMMES IN 2024

Access Support Scheme	
Applicants	15
Beneficiaries	11
Success Rate	73%
Amount Allocated	€15,990.00

Apprenticeship Scheme	
Applicants - Hosts	18
Applicants - Apprentices	11
Beneficiaries	10
Success Rate	91%
Amount Allocated	€180,000

Artistic Heritage Scheme	
Applicants	118
Beneficiaries	117
Success Rate	99%
Amount Allocated	€1,080,400

Artistic Research and Development	
Applicants	33
Beneficiaries	10
Success Rate	30%
Amount Allocated	€125,000

Artivisti	
Applicants	11
Beneficiaries	5
Success Rate	45%
Amount Allocated	€20,000

Arts in Schools Scheme	
Applicants	13
Beneficiaries	10
Success Rate	77%
Amount Allocated	€45,000

Arts Support Scheme	
Applicants	79
Beneficiaries	25
Success Rate	32%
Amount Allocated	€650,000

Arts Support Scheme (Right to Culture)	
Applicants	36
Beneficiaries	9
Success Rate	25%
Amount Allocated	€225,000

Ex-Rampol Birkirkara Bands (One-Time) Support Scheme	
Applicants	6
Beneficiaries	6
Success Rate	100%
Amount Allocated	€16,200

IETM Membership for Maltese Performing Artists	
Applicants	2
Beneficiaries	2
Success Rate	100%
Amount Allocated	€4,000

International Cultural Exchanges	
Applicants	33
Beneficiaries	16
Success Rate	48%
Amount Allocated	€99,838

International Participation Scheme	
Applicants	46
Beneficiaries	20
Success Rate	43%
Amount Allocated	€35,795

International Spring Orchestra Festival	
Applicants	1
Beneficiaries	1
Success Rate	100%
Amount Allocated	€70,000

Investment in Cultural Organisations, Gozo	
Amounts Awarded Each Year for Three (3) Consecutive Years (2022-2024)	
Applicants	9
Beneficiaries	7
Success Rate	78%
Amount Allocated	€250,000

Investment in Cultural Organisations, Malta	
Amounts Awarded Each Year for Three (3) Consecutive Years (2023-2025)	
Applicants	17
Beneficiaries	15
Success Rate	88%
Amount Allocated	€300,000

London Design Biennale	
Applicants	4
Beneficiaries	1
Success Rate	25%
Amount Allocated	€100,000

Micro Grant	
Applicants	52
Beneficiaries	38
Success Rate	73%
Amount Allocated	€108,186

Mobility Guarantee Scheme	
Applicants	0
Beneficiaries	0
Amount Allocated	€0

Newspaper Support Scheme	
Applicants	6
Beneficiaries	6
Success Rate	100%
Amount Allocated	€105,613

Regional Cultural Co-Operation Programme	
Applicants	6
Beneficiaries	4
Success Rate	67%
Amount Allocated	€72,170

Restoration Funding Scheme	
Applicants	8
Beneficiaries	7
Success Rate	88%
Amount Allocated	€85,822

Restoration Funding Scheme (Movable Artefacts)	
Applicants	25
Beneficiaries	13
Success Rate	52%
Amount Allocated	€82,999

Screen Support Scheme - Strand 1 (Screenwriting)	
Applicants	23
Beneficiaries	7
Success Rate	30%
Amount Allocated	€137,087

Screen Support Scheme - Strand 2 (Development)	
Applicants	10
Beneficiaries	6
Success Rate	60%
Amount Allocated	€199,998

Screen Support Scheme - Strand 3 (Short Films)	
Applicants	17
Beneficiaries	8
Success Rate	47%
Amount Allocated	€149,880

Screen Support Scheme - Strand 4 (Production; Feature-length)	
Applicants	8
Beneficiaries	2
Success Rate	25%
Amount Allocated	€513,034

Screen Support Scheme - Strand 5 (Cultural Programmes)	
Applicants	0
Beneficiaries	0
Amount Allocated	€0

Theatre Support Scheme	
Applicants	6
Beneficiaries	4
Success Rate	67%
Amount Allocated	€300,000

Training and Development Support Scheme - Strand 1 (aged 18 and over)	
Applicants	48
Beneficiaries	21
Success Rate	44%
Amount Allocated	€34,000

Training and Development Support Scheme - Strand 2 (aged 8 to 17)	
Applicants	28
Beneficiaries	9
Success Rate	32%
Amount Allocated	€15,948

Amounts Awarded

IN 2024

Access Support Scheme		
Angela Bettoni	Inclusive dance for Venere in Teatro dance festival	€1,670
Dance Beyond Borders	Refugee Week Malta 2025: Empowering Voices	€1,705
Nikolai Azzopardi	Irrid Nghix	€1,100
Luke Saydon	Il-Każin tal-Imqarbin	€2,000
Epiclectic Ltd	World Fusion Festival	€2,000
Angela Bettoni	"Inner Demons" from Page to Stage	€1,120
Michelle Gruppetta	Misophonia	€1,269
Rubberbodies Partnership	The Rubberbodies Collective at Kinasaki Arts Centre and Kyoto Experiment, Japan	€1,700
Port Regional Council	United in Diversity Through the Arts	€2,000
Sarah Jayne Lee Portelli	Cats of Malta film advance theatrical screenings in Tokyo, Japan	€126
Sam Vassallo	Rituals	€1,300

Apprenticeship Scheme		
Friends of the Earth	Rachel Abdilla (Resercher and Communications Assistant)	€18,000
Moveo Dance Foundation	Alexia Bugeja (Dancer)	€18,000
Stargate Studios Malta	Elisa Abela (CG Generalist / Animator)	€18,000
Fondazzjoni għall-Patrimonju Kulturali tal-Arċidjoċesi ta' Malta	Sera Galea (Delegate for Culture)	€18,000
The Malta Trust Foundation	Luigi Buhagiar (Administrative Assistant and Supporting Musician)	€18,000
Culture Venture	Gianluca Mifsud (Creative Associate)	€18,000
Teatru Selesjan	Alex Weenink (Audiovisual Operating Assistant / Apprentice Technician)	€18,000
Nocemuskata	Dean Saviour Muscat (Business Development Producer)	€18,000
Gillian Zammit	Nikolai Azzopardi (Project Manager)	€18,000
Epiclectic Ltd	Francesca Zerafa (Assistant to the Festival Director)	€18,000

Artistic Heritage Scheme		
Għaqda tan-Nar VMB 1973 - Marija Bambina, Xagħra	Procurement of metal barrels	€2,500
Għaqda tan-Nar Santa Liena 18 ta' Awwissu, Birkirkara	Sigurta waqt il-hruq tal-loghob tan-nar	€2,500
Għaqda tan-Nar 20' ta' Lulju, Sannat	Proposal for procuring mortar tubes and machinery for enhanced firework safety and efficiency	€2,500
Kummissjoni Festa Madonna tar-Rużarju ta' Fatima, Gwardamangia, Pietà	Bidu ta' sett pavaljuni artistici	€4,170
Għaqda Festa Esterna Madonna ta' Lourdes San Gwann	Pavaljuni - Il-Ħajja ta' Ommna Marija	€4,580
Ħamrun Liberty Sports Club	Armar ġdid għal Triq Zimelli, Ħamrun	€4,950
Għaqda Armar Triq il-Kappillan	Nippreservaw il-Wirt ta' Wistin Camilleri	€4,980
Socjetà Piroteknika 15 ta' Awwissu, Mosta	Għodda sigura fil-kumpless tan-nar	€4,997
Għaqda Armar Fontana	Restawr tal-Bandalori tad-Dawl, u sistema ġdida għall-bozoz LEDs	€5,000
Għaqda Għajn Tuta ta' Kercem	Restawr u intervent estensiv fuq l-istatwa ta' San Girgor il-Kbir	€5,000
Grupp Armar San Gejtanu	Sett ta 5 Bandalori għal tREI	€5,000

Artistic Heritage Scheme		
Kumitat Festi Esterni San Gorg Martri	Arti fi Triqatna	€5,000
Għaqda tan-Nar 25 ta' Novembru - Żejtun	Sigurta w efficjenza fil-manifattura	€5,000
Għaqda Armar San Sebastjan	Decorative banners (pavaljuni)	€5,000
Kummissjoni Festi Esterni San Pawl il-Bahar	Tishih tal-identita artistika fil-festa Titulari	€5,000
Valletta 450 Creative Hub	Konservazzjoni u Renovazzjoni: Pedestall Uniku u Artistiku	€5,000
Għaqda tan-Nar 23 t'April	Aktar sigurtà waqt il-hruq tan-nar	€5,000
Kumitat Festi San Duminku, il-Birgu	Inkomplu fejn halla l-artist Ġanni Darmanin fl-1879.	€5,000
Għaqda Piroteknika Qalb Ta' Ġesu Fontana Brothers Fireworks	Xiri ta' kanni pirotekniċi tal-hadid	€5,000
Arċikonfraternità ta' San Ġużepp	Inkomplu ninvestu fl-armar tal-festa	€5,000
Peace Band Club	Spazji aktar komdi matul is-sena kollha	€5,470
Socjetà Filarmonika Sliema	Tishih fl-infrastruttura tas-sala tal-kultura fil-każin tas-soċjetà	€6,840
Socjetà Filarmonika Nicolò Isouard	Rifless	€7,210
Socjetà Mużikali San Pawl	Insahhu t-tagħlim tal-mużika	€7,963
Socjetà Filarmonika Lourdes Qrendi	Rinovar fil-post tan-nar	€16,794
Għaqda Każin Banda San Filep A.D. 1851	Promozzjoni tal-kultura permezz tal-investment	€17,406
Socjetà Mużikali Beland A.D. 1861	Insahhu l-kultura u l-arti fil-komunita taż-Żejtun	€15,078
Każin Banda San Pawl Safi	Armar banda nar	€18,000
Għaqda Soċjali Mużikali Kristu Sultan Banda Paola	Nkomplu nkabbbru l-kultura	€13,000
Għaqda Mużikali Marija Assunta	Investiment f'apparat aktar sigur	€5,000
Għaqda Dilettanti Knisja ta' Lapsi, San Ġiljan VO/1891	Ikoni ta' Fidi fil-Festa Maltja: Qaddisin Pellegrini minn Kontinenti u Sekli Differenti	€5,000
Għaqda tan-nar San Mikiel Lija	Apparat għal aktar sigurta fil-kamra tan nar ta' l-Għaqda San Mikiel Lija	€5,000
Sezzjoni Żgħażaġh Pawlini Munxarin	Feast of Illumination: Celebrating Artistic Heritage and Cultural Values	€5,000
Kummissjoni Festi Parroċċa Santwarju Madonna tas-Sacro Cuor, Tas-Sliema	Indawlu t-toroq fil-festi tagħna	€5,000
Konfraternità ta' l-Immakulata Beata Vergni taħt it-Titlu ta' Lourdes	Bandalora ġdida għall-Festa tal-Madonna ta' Lourdes, il-Qrendi	€5,000
Socjetà Fil De Paule Banda Kristu Re	Enjoy the Music without Disturbance	€13,000
Għaqda Madonna tal-Grazzja Banda San Mikiel Żabbar	Insahhu l-arti u l-kultura f'Beltna	€13,000
Banda San Ġorg Bormla	Rediscovering Musical Gems in Our Archives	€13,000
Għaqda Mużikali Immakulata Kuncizzjoni	Harmony in Heritage: Empowering Voluntary Initiatives for Maltese Cultural Flourish	€13,000
Circolo San Giuseppe Filarmonika Sagra Familja A.D. 1897	Insahhu l-ghodod mużikali u nsebbhu triqatna - Tishih tal-infrastruttura tal-Planċier tal-Banda flimkien mal-hidma ta' Sett Pavaljuni	€13,000
Għaqda Melita Banda San Ġużepp Msida	Proġett għall-armar dekorattiv ta' sitt armi tat-trofej bl-aċċessorji tagħhom. Restawr ta' Sala għat-tagħlim tal-Mużika, kuncerti u attivitajiet kulturali	€13,000
Socjetà San Pawl Banda Konti Ruggieru	Tibdil tas-struttura tal-hadid (delu) li tintuża biex jigi mghamul il-faham mid-dwieli għal-manifattura tal-loghob tan-nar u manutenzjoni fuq saqaf fil-workshop tal-kartun	€13,000
Santa Maria Philharmonic Society of Mosta	Kuncert Mużikali flimkien man-nar	€13,000
Socjetà Mużikali Spinola A.D. 1987 VO 2026	Digitising and recording of festive marches and popular hymns to St Julian and the conservation and restoration of the statue of St Julian	€13,000
Socjetà Mużikali San Lawrenz - Belt Vittoriosa	Restoration of the archival hall	€8,000

Artistic Heritage Scheme		
Socjetà Filarmonika Madonna ta' Fatima	Oratorio mużikali fl-okkażjoni tal-inkurunazzjoni tat- Titular tal-Madonna ta' Fatima	€8,000
Socjetà Mużikali Santa Margerita VM	Tishih tal-facilitajiet amministrattivi	€8,000
Ghaqda tal-Mużika San Gejtanu	Strengthening the artistic heritage of St Cajetan's Band Club through the 2024 socio-cultural and musico-literary festivities commemorating the 500 years anniversary of the foundation of the Teatini monastic order	€8,000
Società Filarmonica Maria Mater Gratiae Żabbar A.D. 1883	Insahhu u nkabbru l-festa Żabbarija	€8,000
Società Filarmonica Vilhena - 1874	Akkademja Mużiko Letterarja	€8,000
Sigġiewi Brass Band and Social Club (Festival)	Patrimonju b'futur sostenibli	€8,000
Ghaqda Mużikali Mount Carmel - Gżira	Kunċert tal-festa	€8,000
Socjetà Filarmonika King's Own	150 Sena King's Own - Mawra Bologna	€8,000
Ghaqda Santu Wistin Valletta	Restoration of decoration and statues (RODS)	€5,000
Ghaqda Armar Ghajnsielem	Disinn u manufattura ta' żewġ statwi għal Triq Fawwara	€5,000
Ghaqda Mużikali Sant' Andrija - Luqa	Armar, nar u banda, wirt komuni	€18,000
Ghaqda Karmelitana Banda Queen Victoria, Żurrieq	Banda, nar, armar Ghaqda Karmelitana Banda Queen Victoria Żurrieq	€18,000
Socjetà Mużikali Madonna tal-Ġilju	L-Arti u l-Ħsejjes tal-Festa fl-Imqabba	€18,000
Ghaqda Mużikali San Ġuzepp Ħal-Ghaxaq	Ninvestu fl-aspetti kollha tal-festa tagħna	€18,000
Socjetà Mużikali Santa Marija Qrendi	Inkomplu nsahhu l-wirt artistiku	€18,000
St Leonard Band Club	Aktar armar ġdid, avvanz fil-post tan-nar u kantata mill-Banda San Leonardo	€18,000
Socjetà Filarmonika l-Unjoni	Keeping Our Intangible Heritage Alive	€18,000
Socjetà Mużikali San Ġuzepp Ħal Kirkop A.D. 1886	Festa - Atmosfera Kulturali Majestuża li Theġġigna	€18,000
Socjetà Mużikali Santa Katarina V.M. Zurrieq	Socjetà Mużikali Santa Katarina V.M.	€18,000
Ghaqda Filarmonika Prince of Wales Own	Musical and Cultural Exchange with Banda Fedirco II - Città di Augusta	€8,000
Socjetà Filarmonika Santa Marija	Tuning Traditions...Crafting Futures	€12,654
Socjetà Mużikali San Pio X, Ħal Lija	Tishih u mmodernizzar fl-estetika tal-banda u konservazzjoni u restawr tal-Patron tas-Socjetà Mużikali San Pio X - Ħal Lija	€12,990
Socjetà Filarmonika San Pietru Banda Birzebbuġa	Insahhu l-wirt artistiku għal Banda Birzebbuġa	€14,016
Socjetà Mużikali La Stella Levantina A.D. 1894	Inkomplu nsahhu dak li hallew ta' qabilna	€14,155
Ghaqda Banda Żejtun	Inkomplu nsahhu il-wirt artistiku	€14,560
Socjetà Filarmonika Marija Annunzjata Ħal Balzan A.D. 1890	Insahhu l-kultura mużiko-letterarja u artistika fil-komunita Balzanija	€7,981
Ghaqda Mużikali Santa Marija - Dingli	Investment fil-livell bandistiku u fis-sigurta til-ħruq tan-nar	€10,324
Socjetà Filarmonika Marija Mtellgħa s-Sema	Kuntatt u effiċjenza	€8,000
Ghaqda Mużikali u Soċjali Madonna tal-Karmnu Fgura	Fgura L-Iskema għall wirt artistiku	€8,000
Ghaqda Mużikali Marija Annunzjata - Ħal Tarxien A.D. 1862	Ambjent xieraq ta' tagħlim	€8,000
Socjetà Filarmonika San Bartilmew	Improving our music hall; continuing handmade wrought iron art for the festa	€8,000
Anici Band & Social Club	Is-Sehem tal-Mużiċisti fis-Socjetà Tagħna	€8,000
Ghaqda Mużikali San Girgor	Ghaqda Mużikali San Girgor	€8,000
Socjeta Mużikali Sant' Antnin	Restoration and upgrade	€8,000
Socjetà Filarmonika Pinto Banda San Sebastjan	Inġeddu u ninvestu fl-arti mużikali	€8,000
Leone Philharmonic Society	Socjetà Filarmonika Leone Festa 2024/25	€15,500
Socjetà Filarmonika La Stella - Gozo	Tishih u investment ġdid fl-oqsma ewlenin tal-hidma u l-identità tas-Socjeta Filarmonika La Stella (Kazin, Banda u l-Festa)	€15,500
Societa Filarmonika Stella Maris	Nippreservaw u nġeddu Wirt Missirijetna	€15,500

Artistic Heritage Scheme		
Socjetà Mużikali San Girgor Sliema A.D. 1987	Insahhu dak li bdejna. Konsolidazzjoni u tkabbir fil-qasam tal-mużika letterarja, kultura u armar, w prevenzjoni tal-ħruq tan-nar	€15,500
Ghaqda Mużikali Madonna tad-Duttrina Ħal Tarxien	Inpoġġu l-pedamenti ta' banda ġdida waqt li nsahhu festa antika	€15,500
Socjetà Santa Marija u Banda Re Ġorġ V, Mqabba	Iktar hidma fost l-ghaqdiet	€16,502
Ghaqda Mużikali Sant'Elena	Ghaqda Mużikali Sant' Elena - Skema Wirt Artistiku	€13,000
Ghaqda Piroteknika 11 ta' Frar, San Ġwann	Miżuri ta' Tishih għal Ғażna Sostenibbli tal-Ilma tax-Xita	€5,000
Socjetà Filarmonika Victory	Insahhu l-Kultura tal-Festa Maltija permezz tal-Banda	€4,604
Senglean Organisation of Culture and Ecclesiastical Patrimony	Bandalori Inkurunazzjoni Marija Bambina	€5,000
Ghaqda Festi Esterni SSma. Trinita' Marsa	Nkomplu nżommu ħajjin w insahhu it-tradizzjonijiet Maltin	€5,000
Arcikonfraternita tas-Santissmu Kurċifiss, il-Belt Valletta	Decorative street banners and other decorations for the Valletta Good Friday procession	€5,000
Ghaqda Armar Xewkija	Arti li Tghix fit-Toroq tal-Festi	€4,620
Socjetà tan-Nar San Bartilmew, Gharghur	Sigurta waqt il-ħruq tan-nar	€5,000
Ghaqda Mużikali Santa Marija, Ħal-Ghaxaq	Nkomplu ninvestu fl-oqsma tas-Socjetà tagħna	€18,000
Kummissjoni Festa Esterna 16 ta' Lulju Fgura	Restawr u konservazzjoni fl-armar tal-festa tal-Fgura	€5,000
Ghaqda tal-Pawlini	Restawr ta' żewg angli ta' Carlo Darmanin	€5,000
Societa Filarmonica La Valette	Investing in our band and 'bandisti'	€8,000
Kazin Banda San Nikola	Restawr tal-planċier	€6,950
St Gabriel Band Club	Insahhu l Festa Marija Annunzjata	€15,500
Ghaqda Mużikali San Ġorg Martri	Smart Harmony - 'Enhancing with Modern Tech'	€5,538
Ghaqda Mużikali Marija Bambina, Banda Vittorja, Naxxar	Investing in a new storage room for the school of music and in the safety of our fireworks team	€10,500
Socjetà Mużikali Trinita Qaddisa	Investing in the future of the younger generation	€7,568
Ghaqda Mużikali L'Isle Adam	Nirrinovaw il-planċier tal-banda	€8,000
Grupp Armar Festa Immakulata Kunċizzjoni Ħamrun A.D. 1982	Sett pavaljuni artistici	€5,000
Kumitat Festi Esterni Santa Venera	Preserving Our Cultural Heritage	€5,000
Kumitat Festa Esterna Santa Marija Ħad-Dingli	Sett ta' trofej godda għall-pjazza prinċipali ta' Ħad-Dingli (l-1 Fażi)	€5,000
Socjetà Filarmonika Santa Venera V.M.	Nsahhu s-sehem tal-banda fil-festa	€8,000
St Gabriel Fireworks Tarxien	Ninvestu f'aktar sigurta waqt il-ħruq tan-nar	€2,500
Kazin Santa Liena, Banda Duke of Connaught's Own, Birkirkara	Band concert and new festa decorations	€8,000
Armar Sigġiewi	Inkomplu nżewqu l-patrimonju	€5,000
Ghaqda tan-Nar San Nikola	Insahhu s-sikurezza fis-siti tal-ħruq	€5,000
Ghaqda Armar Triq San Ġwann Nadur	Pedestalli u Mudellatura li tikumplimenta mal-armar esistenti	€5,000
Kazin San Ġuzepp u Banda De Rohan	Restawr ta' statwa u kunċert mużikali	€18,000
Banda San Ġiljan	l-kompli l-iskambju mal-Banda San Ġiljan	€8,000
Socjetà Filarmonika La Stella, Il-Gudja	Insahhu l-festa flimkien	€18,000
Ghaqda Filarmonika Mnarja	Rabtietna	€8,000

Artistic Research and Development		
ARC Research & Consultancy Ltd	Bridging the Gap: Connecting Key Stakeholders in Culture and Well-Being	€14,302
Chewing Productions	SAFE HAVEN An R&D Project Expanding Interdisciplinary Artistic Practice	€15,000
Andrew Borg Wirth	Cities of Subversion (working title)	€14,400
Masquerade Malta	YOU, ME & the Rest of the World	€14,877
Raphael Vella	Post-Anthropocentric Futures: New Designs for Integral Ways of Living	€14,714

Artistic Research and Development		
Kristina Zammit Endrich	The Maltese Multi-Hyphenate	€7,752
Andrew Pace	Knyahinya 1866	€12,000
Fleur Sciortino	Frances and Ġorġ: Summer Camp Quest - A roleplaying game for early childhood kids	€12,879
Fondazzjoni Socjo-Kulturali Ambjentali	SIMBIOSI: Studying Sicilian Influences on Maltese Artistic Background and Interpreting Stylistic Impact	€11,070
Andre Agius	MADE IN MALTA: A Case Study on the Research and Development of an Organisation Prioritising the Touring of Performance-based Productions in Malta, Especially in Rural Areas, and Internationally	€8,006

Artivisti		
Andre Mifsud	Serenati fis-Silenzju (Working Title)	€4,000
Klara Vassallo	Dahri Darek	€4,000
Duellza Ilgner	Mitwelt	€4,000
Jake Gialanze'	Eki tad-Dar, Dokumentazzjoni ta' Narrativa Viżwali tal-Housing Soċjali f'Malta	€4,000
Matias Cassar	Meta l-Ġmiel Jieħu Pawża	€4,000

Arts in Schools Scheme		
Gzira Learning Support Centre	Giving Sound to Our Feelings	€2,375
Migrant Induction Hub	Voices in Motion	€5,000
St Benedict College, Kirkop	Folji Imnaqqxa	€5,000
MRC Learning Support Centre - Naxxar	ReThread Revolution	€4,483
St Nicholas College Rabat Middle School	Luminous	€4,916
St Paul's Missionary College	Devised Theatre Puppetry Project	€5,000
St Albert the Great	Il-Canteen u l-Qaddisin	€4,902
Maria Regina College, Naxxar Middle School	From Paper to Wall	€5,000
University of Malta	Interdisciplinary Murals: Exploring Malta's Past Through Art and Science	€4,600
St Thomas More College	Kuluri u Riflessi	€3,724

Arts Support Scheme		
Margerita Pulè	Fictive Archives Investigations; Two Moons and Two Suns	€30,000
Paul Scerri	The Sound of You Dreaming	€30,000
Ruth Borg	ILSNA: Songs and Stories of Lovers	€30,000
Culture Venture	Live Journalism	€30,000
Daniel Azzopardi	It's True, It's True, It's True	€30,000
Melanie Erixon	Maltese Diptych	€30,000
Elaine Falzon	Set building and painting: weekend intensives	€20,800
Dance Beyond Borders	Decolonisation: The Story of All of Us	€27,993
SLAM Boards	Bringing Elora to Life: An Immersive Sci-Fi Board Game Exhibition	€30,000
Miguel Formosa	Il-Manifest tal-Qlub Maqsuma	€29,688
Rebekah Camilleri Kamsky	Great Ideas Start Somewhere: Inspiring Creativity and Integration	€16,635
Teodor Reljic	The Pity Party	€21,589
Inclusive Limited	A Multi-Sensory Theatre Project for Autism and Neurodiversity	€30,000
Conrad Thake	The Memorialization of the Loss of Human Life in War Revisiting Antonio Sciortino's 'Temple of the British Empire to the Unknown Soldier'	€22,067
Edward Mifsud	School of Rock - Musical and Youth Mentorship Programme	€30,000
Steven X. Haber	'The Dance of Death' - A Longform Graphic Novel and Exhibition Inspired by the Dancing Plague of 1518	€28,779
Vikesh Godhwani Chatlani	Blanket Ban	€9,490

Arts Support Scheme		
Karl Fiorini	From Tradition to the Zeitgeist: The Evolution of Maltese Mandolin Music Throughout the Ages	€30,000
Mireille Estelle Camilleri	Kritikarti	€30,000
Du Theatre Foundation	Kif Tghallimt Insuq/ How I Learned To Drive	€30,000
Banda San Ġiljan	Bootcamp to Conservatorio Rossini	€24,000
Angele Galea	Borma Tbaqbaq - Il-Lingwa tal-Kċina	€28,491
Yasmin Kuymizakis	Production and Development of JOON's Second Album	€22,396
Laughing Matters Ltd	Bocci, The Musical	€30,000
Ivan Coleiro	Project Polyphony	€8,072

Arts Support Scheme (Right to Culture)		
Angela Bettoni	"Inner Demons" from Page to Stage	€10,464
Michelle Gruppetta	Misophonia	€28,545
Dance Beyond Borders	Refugee Week Malta 2025: Empowering Voices	€22,564
Luke Saydon	Il-Każin tal-Imqarbin	€30,000
Ghaqda Mużikali Viżitazzjoni, Għarb	Gozo Puppet Festival 2024	€28,954
Nikolai Azzopardi	Irrid Nghix	€30,000
Mirjana Batinić	Ħela (working title)	€30,000
Tyrone Grima	Id-Dnub tal-Maghżulin	€30,000
Epiclectic Ltd	World Fusion Festival	€14,473

Ex-Rampol Birkirkara Bands (One-Time) Support Scheme		
Karl Friggieri	Sonic Storm	€2,700
DALAM	DALAM	€2,700
James Byrne	Rankin Support Scheme	€2,700
Drowning Sorrows	Drowning Sorrows - Gordon O'Reilly	€2,700
Kill The Action	Rehearsal Space Support Scheme	€2,700
Aidan Somers	Relocation to New Practice Space	€2,700

IETM Membership for Maltese Performing Artists		
Pamela Kerr	IETM Membership Application	€2,000
Ana-Carolina Tanti	IETM Membership Application	€2,000

International Cultural Exchanges		
Magna Żmien Foundation	Magna Żmien Toronto	€8,000
Francesca Grima	Stasis	€6,160
Bettina Paris	Sisyphean Quick Fix by Bettina Paris at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe '24	€8,000
Claire Tonna	Claire Tonna collaborating with Grammy Award Winner Producer Jon-John Robinson (USA)	€7,953
The Rubberbodies Partnership	The Rubberbodies Collective at Kinosaki Arts Centre and Kyoto Experiment, Japan	€7,960
Jesmond Vassallo	The Nagasaki Transcriptions	€8,000
Mighty Boards Ltd	Mighty Boards Releasing Fateforge: Chronicles of Kaan, Art Society and Introducing New Game Rebirth at International Convention Gen Con 2024	€8,000
Yasmin Kuymizakis	JOON UK Tour	€913
Maria Rosa Thornhill	Black Room, Berlinale & Acquiring an Agent	€4,130
Michelle Gialanze	From Nature	€3,437
Patsy Chetcuti	Genetic Threads	€8,000
Mark Xuereb	Atacama Desert Ceramics	€5,801

International Cultural Exchanges		
Warren Galea	Jazz Trio for Malta National Day in Beijing	€8,000
Wioletta Kulewska	Cobertizo Art Residency	€4,484
Karl Friggieri	Angelcrypt European Tour 2024	€5,500
Viper Soup Complex	Viper Soup Complex on Tour 2025	€5,500
International Participation Scheme		
Angela Bettoni	Inclusive Dance for Venere in Teatro Dance Festival	€2,000
Carlo Muscat	Workshops and Concerts in Canada	€2,000
Charlene Galea	When Good Enough Is Enough: Impulstanz Festival	€1,970
James Azzopardi Meli	Inner Development Goals Summit	€2,000
Rebecca Hall	Maltese Flute; International Stage Showcasing Maltese Contemporary and Baroque Music in America	€2,000
Simone Ellul	Participation in Two International Improvisation Festivals Held in the USA	€2,000
Fabrizio Ellul	EUNIC - In Short, Europe Film Festival 2024	€998
Double Standard	Double Standard - Italy Tour	€1,750
Yasmin Kuymizakis	JOON Live in New York City	€1,157
Aidan Somers	AISO at ADE - International Networking	€2,000
Raphael Vella	Zoocratic Zones	€1,028
Emma Mattei	Bahar Biss - International Premiere of Short Film Directed by Franziska Stenglin	€1,379
Katie Sims	Artist Residency at The Arvo Pärt Centre, Estonia	€2,000
808 Association	808 Association, the organisers of Malta Design Week (MDW) to participate in Dutch Design Week (DDW) 2024	€1,965
Sarah Jayne Lee Portelli	Cats of Malta film advance theatrical screenings in Tokyo, Japan	€2,000
Tara Mansell	Munich Jewellery Week 2025	€2,000
Janelle Borg	GENN Supporting Canadian Band Metz in France	€2,000
Joseph Smith	Photogravure Residency and Barcelona Photo Biennale	€1,548
Sam Vassallo	Rituals	€2,000
Kerry-Ann Calleja McGregor	GPS Hollywood Fellowship	€2,000
International Spring Orchestra Festival		
International Spring Orchestra Festival	International Spring Orchestra Festival 2024	€70,000
Investment in Cultural Organisations, Gozo - Amounts Awarded Each Year for Three (3) Consecutive Years (2022-2024)		
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	Cittadella Arts Festival	€10,000
Investment in Cultural Organisations, Malta - Amounts Awarded Each Year for Three (3) Consecutive Years (2023-2025)		
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 Profing	€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

Investment in Cultural Organisations, Malta - Amounts Awarded Each Year for Three (3) Consecutive Years (2023-2025)		
Ghaqda 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-Ghanja tal-Poplu	L-Ghanja tal-Poplu - Festival tal-Kanzunetta Maltija	€23,000
Ghaqda Nazzjonali Każini tal-Banda	Maltese Band Music Festival	€17,700
Ghaqda Mużikali San Ġuzepp Hal Għaxaq	Summer Lust Music Festival	€20,000
Ghaqda tal-Mużika San Ġejtanu - Ħamrun	Insahhu I-kultura bandistika, I-ilsien Malti u I-irwol tal-każini f'Malta u Ghawdex	€25,000
London Design Biennale		
Andrew Borg Wirth	URNA	€100,000
Micro Grant		
Quentin Falzon	The Lounge Conjecture	€3,000
Reuben Pace	Reuben Pace in Concert	€3,000
Yan Pirotta	Memories of China	€1,514
Riccardi-Zani Simon	And the others	€3,000
Jamie Barbara	Naqara Release and Maltese artist VA	€2,771
Tara Formosa	Confessional	€2,500
Francesco Vella	The Unbroken Circuit	€2,849
David Schembri	David Schembri Album	€3,000
Adrian Sciberras	In Hora Mortis Christi - Cd ta' Marċi Funebri	€3,000
Megan May Caruana	Love me	€3,000
Michela Agius	My EP	€3,000
Bettina Farrugia	Orphic - Classical Music Album	€3,000
Branko Stojakovic	Recording of Latin Salsa version of Xemx	€3,000
Jonathan Azzopardi	Cabal	€3,000
Roderick Bugeja Calleja	Double Album Recording	€3,000
Daniel Ganado	Music Video for "My Mechanical Hand", an upcoming single from band All in Flux	€3,000
Bruce Busuttil	Live Guitar Music Recording	€3,000
Martina Darmanin	Random Encounters	€2,976
Matthew Joseph Casha	Retapestry	€2,945
Robert Tomasuolo	Album Project Package	€2,836
Aidan Falzon	Album Project Package	€2,830
Karen Micallef	Album Project Package	€2,467
Owen Micallef	Together People Project	€3,000
Sarah Calleja	Ċirku	€3,000
Kristabel Ann Spiteri	Solo Concert	€3,000
Christopher Azzopardi	Bronze sculpture	€3,000
Isaac Boldarini	My First Solo Concert	€3,000
Kyle Drakard	KYLO - A Fusion of Musical Artistry	€2,450
Joseph Bezzina	Auntie's Yellow Sofa - Debut Album	€3,000
Kristina Pace	Comedy Skits on Screen	€2,750
Wesley Ellul	Meet The Performer - A podcast about what it takes to make it in performing arts in Malta	€3,000

Micro Grant		
Justine Sammut	Incunabula: A curatorial research project by Justine Balzan Demajo, with the participation of artist Francesca Balzan	€3,000
Julienne Restall	Website Building	€2,054
Martina Spiteri	VIVID VOID: Navigating a Monotone World	€2,693
Chelsea Muscat	Mother Dearest Editing Suite	€3,000
Rakel Vella	Medium Horizons: Malta in Medium Format	€2,551
Denise Mercieca	Collaborative and Immersive Songwriting camp	€3,000
Daniel Vella	Pieces of Malta	€3,000

Newspaper Support Scheme		
Union Print Co Ltd	Pagni Kulturali	€20,000
Allied Newspapers Ltd	Arts and Entertainment, The Sunday Times of Malta	€19,613
Standard Publications Ltd	Culture Scan by TMIS	€20,000
Azzjoni Kattolika Maltija (AKM)	Canvas of Culture: Promoting Arts, Culture and Heritage in Il-Lehen	€14,000
MediaToday Co Ltd	MaltaToday & Illum Culture Pages	€20,000
MediaToday Co Ltd	Outsourcing of linguistic services - proofreading services	€12,000

Regional Cultural Co-Operation Programme		
Port Regional Council	United in Diversity through the Arts	€20,000
Kunsill Reġjonali Tramuntana	Nisġa ta' Lwien - Texture of Colours	€13,520
Kunsill Reġjonali Punent	Art for Social Change, Empowering Artists, Transforming communities.	€20,000
Kunsill Reġjonali Lvant	A theatrical tour of the Eastern Region	€18,650

Restoration Funding Scheme		
Għaqda Dilettanti Knisja ta' Lapsi, San Ġiljan VO/1891	Introibo ad Altare Dei: Restoration and Conservation of Altars in the Old Parish Church of St Julian	€10,760
Fondazzjoni Għall-Patrimonju Kulturali Tal-Arċidjoċesi Ta' Malta	Restoration of the Altar of the Chapel of Saint Ann - Jesuits Church, Valletta	€15,000
Socjetà Storiko Kulturali Vittoriosa	Conservation and Restoration of the altarpiece of the Assumption of the BVM	€15,000
Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Siggiewi	Restoration of Lady Immaculate painting	€11,564
Socjetà Dun Filippu Borgia	Completing the restoration of clock at Saint Paul's Church, Birkirkara	€3,500
Għaqda Mużikali Sant' Andrija - Luqa	Biebna	€15,000
Fondazzjoni Wirt Kulturali Vittoriosa	Restoration of the Bradella St Lawrence Statue	€14,998

Restoration Funding Scheme (Movable Artefacts)		
Fondazzjoni Soċjo-Kulturali Ambjentali	Significant movable assets restoring our treasures	€4,255
Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Siggiewi	Conservation and Restoration of one of the oldest Statutes in Malta	€8,000
Fondazzjoni għall-Patrimonju Kulturali tal-Arċidjoċesi ta' Malta	Conservation and restoration of the Painting of the Baptism of Christ at Jesuits' Church Valletta	€8,000
Għaqda Kulturali Wirt Naxxari	Via Crucis - Naxxar	€8,000
Socjetà San Pawl Banda Konti Ruġġieru	Fumagazzjoni u konservazzjoni tal-Arkivju u l-Bibljoteka Parrokkjali	€8,000
Assoċjazzjoni Rotunda	19 th Century Antependium (altar frontal)	€8,000
Fondazzjoni il-Hajja f'Għawdex	Restoration of 17 th Century Painting of Our Lady of Sorrows in Taż-Żejt Church in Għarb	€2,944
Socjetà Filarmonika La Stella - Gudja	Canvas of Faith - Restoration of the Painting of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary: Gudja Parish Church	€8,000
Socjetà Filarmonika l-Unjoni	Legacy Restored: A Project of Renewal and Preservation	€7,602
St Leonard Band Club	Restawr tal-Ventartal tal-Knisja Matriċi ta' San Leonardu, Ƨal Kirkop	€6,205
Għaqda Karmelitana Banda Queen Victoria, Żurrieq	Restawr tal-Pittura tal-Artal tal-Madonna tal-Karmnu, Knisja Arċipretali, Żurrieq	€6,205

Restoration Funding Scheme (Movable Artefacts)		
Fondazzjoni Wirt Kulturali Vittoriosa	Restoring the Gilded Beauty of a Baroque Pedestal	€3,894
Socjetà Storiko Kulturali Vittoriosa	Structural Conservation of St Joseph's Baroque Pedestal	€3,894

Screen Support Scheme - Strand 1 (Screenwriting)		
Falkun Films	Wahda Minna	€21,000
Culture Venture	Paramm Paramm: TV għall-Bravi u l-Imqarbin	€21,000
Kerry-Ann Calleja McGregor	Mother Earth's Redemption	€19,320
Jonathan Farrugia	The Life in Berlin-Hohenschönhausen (Working Title)	€12,967
Solari Productions Limited	Untitled Sky Film	€21,000
Cassian Camilleri	Gwerra	€20,800
Strada Reali	Being Caravaggio	€21,000

Screen Support Scheme - Strand 2 (Development)		
Malta Production Hub Ltd	Fillide	€33,333
Falkun Films	Riħ Isfel	€33,333
Motion Blur Ltd	Waiting to Hear from Julia	€33,333
Turi Ltd	Mastru Gerefex	€33,333
THWDD Ltd	The House Where Devils Danced	€33,333
Tetrad Productions Ltd	Naffed X'Imkien	€33,333

Screen Support Scheme - Strand 3 (Short Films)		
Michael Bonello	My Dearest Mother	€17,397
Henry Zammit Cordina	Nannu	€12,484
Nizza Films Ltd	Ċikwejra Selvaġġa (Dandelion)	€20,000
Sharon Gatt	Ted Talk (working title)	€19,999
Emma Mattei	Revisiting	€20,000
Iris Productions Ltd	Il-Promotion	€20,000
Sajjetta	Stratum (Working Title)	€20,000
Matthew Maggi	A Song for Her Future	€20,000

Screen Support Scheme - Strand 4 (Production; Feature-length)		
Pellikola	Burbank Syndrome	€300,000
Toontuloon Ltd	Ƨbieb Tasew ma' Fonzu L-Fenek	€213,034

Training and Development Support Scheme - Strand 1 (aged 18 and over)		
Francesca Bartolo	Berlin Opera Academy	€2,000
Carla Mifsud	Northern Ballet Summer Intensive	€1,596
Christine Vella	The Learning Conductor - a short course led by Peter Stark	€2,000
Rachelle Deguara	Internship Program at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection	€2,000
Cledia Micallef	International Summer Course 2024	€1,770
Raisa Marie Micallef	Oxenfoord International Summer School	€2,000
Stephen Micallef	Sustainable, Healthy Cities: Building for the Future	€2,000
Franciska Stefania Kovessi	Wayne McGregor Creative Lab	€570
Ryan Falzon	Professional Development - Marketing and Branding	€492
Kyle Xuereb Cunningham	The Rock Retreat Gibraltar Residency	€2,000
Chris Dingli	Screen and Stage Combat Training	€572
Stephanie Sant	La Selva 3 rd Film Accelerator with Werner Herzog: Under the Volcano	€2,000
Sera Galea	PhMuseum CURAE 2024/25 Online Masterclass On Curatorial Practice	€1,750

Training and Development Support Scheme - Strand 1 (aged 18 and over)		
Andrew Borg Wirth	Coaching with Kathleen Soriano	€2,000
Gilbert Gauci	Advancing Music Publishing Skills: Professional Development with Steve Collom	€2,000
Christine Xuereb Seidu	Attendance of 'How to Run a Contemporary Art Gallery' to be more up to date with trends	€1,468
Brandon Terribile	Masterclass in Acting for Film	€2,000
Jo Tabone	Wsg	€1,890
Audrey Rose Mizzi	NFTS - Script Reading and Reporting	€420
Denise Perini	Driving Systemic Change through Art: EMIC Artist Training	€2,000
Adrian Buckle	Process Drama Classes	€1,472

Theatre Support Scheme		
Ghaqda Banda Żejtun	Rehabilitation and upgrade of the Pandora Theatre roof	€100,000
Assoċjazzjoni Rotunda	Tejatron Giovanni	€69,740
Leone Philharmonic Society	Safe enviroment and conservation of the Teatron tal-Opra Aurora	€60,520
Socjetà Filarmonika La Stella – Gozo	Enhancing the experience of Teatron Astra's patrons and the theatre's operational capacity	€69,740

Training and Development Support Scheme - Strand 2 (aged 8 to 17)		
Gabrijel Cordina	American Protégé International Concerto Competition 2024	€1,948
Kristina Mifsud	Chetham's International Piano Summer School 2024	€2,000
Noa Ng	Overseas Ballet Summer intensives 2024	€2,000
Kellyann Spiteri	Participation in the Vienna International Arts Festival (Masterclasses and Competition)	€2,000
Marianna Micallef	Enhancing Dance Technique and Artistry through Prestigious Summer Intensives.	€2,000
Christa de Gray	Widening Ballet horizons	€1,891
Emma Kate Mifsud	Golden Piano Talents Competition - N. Macedonia	€640
Caden Meilak	The International Dance Festival 2024	€2,000
Ella Pace	YAGP Semi Final	€1,469



KunsillKafè: What is essential for a fulfilling artistic career pathway?
Photo credit: Pink Olive

SECTION 3

Communications

Communications

Arts Council Malta (ACM) places high importance on effective and transparent communication as a public entity.

By prioritising accessibility, the Council ensures that the public remains informed about its initiatives, funding opportunities and strategic objectives. Clear and consistent messaging is delivered through diverse channels, including social media, online platforms and publications, such as the *Encore* and *Circle* magazines, as well as TV features. This multifaceted approach fosters ongoing engagement with both the arts community and broader public.

ACM also offers tailored brokerage services, acting as a key point of contact for creatives exploring funding opportunities. Through these services, potential beneficiaries can receive personalised guidance, enhancing their experience with ACM's programmes. In 2024, the team also maintained an active public presence by disseminating updates on funding schemes and their outcomes through information-sharing sessions, social media campaigns and regular newsletters.

In 2024, the Brokerage Section received a total of 3,357 queries, out of which 923 were answered by phone and 2,434 by email. This results in an average of 13 to 14 queries per working day and is equivalent to an increase of 49.35% in phone and 30.79% in email queries, compared to queries received in 2023. The team provided prompt and effective support with expert advice to the Cultural and Creative Sectors, completely free of charge. We remain committed to delivering a service of excellence, ensuring that each query is addressed with the highest level of care and service quality.

Further enriching its offerings, the team also hosted three ACMLabs sessions in 2024. These assemblies

delted into topics such as project management, sustainability in the arts, and crafting compelling artistic proposals. Additionally, two KunsillKafè sessions were held, providing artists and creatives with a relaxed space in which to exchange ideas and reflect on topics like career development and the evolving nature of artistic expression – whether as a personal journey or reflection on institutional frameworks.

The third edition of The State of the Arts – Malta National Symposium was held in October 2024. It achieved record-breaking attendance as it explored the theme of “Renewing Common Pathways”. A key highlight of the event was the launch of the first national Charter for the Status of the Artist, following a draft version released earlier in the year for public consultation. Another major milestone in 2024 was the release of the Cultural and Creative Practice Survey (CCPS) during the symposium. This detailed report, developed in collaboration with the National Statistics Office, provided a comprehensive analysis of Malta's cultural and creative landscape, organised into four thematic sections. The full report is available for download, offering invaluable insights to researchers, policymakers and practitioners.

Additionally, ACM published a summarised report on the Screen Support Scheme, based on research conducted by Culture Venture. This report, following the Budget 2024 announcement to integrate Creative Malta funding under ACM, provides a critical examination of domestic screen production. It highlights the sector's challenges, including limited public investment and policy biases, and proposes strategies to foster sustainable growth aligned with Strategy 2025.

ACM also hosted a one-day seminar titled *Towards the Formation of the Academy of the Performing and Visual Arts: Mapping the Sector* on 30th April 2024 at the Valletta Design Cluster. The seminar brought together educators and practitioners from various disciplines – dance, music, theatre and visual and interdisciplinary arts – for intensive discussions and collaborative workshops. These sessions provided a platform for envisioning a sustainable and accessible future for Malta's cultural and creative sectors through inclusive and informed dialogue.

Building on previous conversations, ACM organised a one-day forum on 22nd February 2024 to explore the intersection of culture and well-being. It provided a space for creative practitioners and healthcare professionals to delve deeper into the links between artistic engagement and holistic well-being. The day was divided into two segments: panel discussions with local and international experts and a collaborative session focused on actionable proposals. The event reinforced the transformative role of the arts in promoting mental and physical health, community cohesion and societal progress.

In 2024, ACM launched the ArtWorks campaign, designed to raise awareness about arts education and career opportunities within the creative sector. The initiative emphasises the role of the arts in education, combining digital and traditional marketing strategies with educational activities. The campaign fosters a deeper appreciation for the arts and cultivates a more vibrant, inclusive creative community in Malta. The Council also continued to champion the Right to Culture initiative, striving to ensure that cultural experiences remain accessible and inclusive for all.

In 2024, ACM participated in the 60th edition of La Biennale di Venezia. In anticipation of the event, ACM organised an engaging webinar that brought together distinguished speakers to share their insights and experiences regarding Malta's participation in the event in years past. The session offered a unique opportunity for attendees to ask questions and actively contribute to the conversation, enriching the dialogue on Malta's artistic presence on the global stage.

In all, 700,000 tickets were sold for the event, averaging approximately 3,300 visitors a day, with 27,966 visitors attending the preview. In 2024, 59% of the public came from outside Italy and 41% from Italy. There was strong attendance by young people and students under the age of 26, totalling over 190,000, or 30% of all visitors. There was also a significant 20% increase in visits from primary schools, while 35% of the schools came from outside Italy. In terms of participation, 331 artists took part in the International Exhibition and there were 86 National Participations.

There were 4,289 accredited journalists for the preview period alone, from both the Italian and international press, in addition to reporters from agencies, television, radio, daily newspapers, periodicals and online news sites, who received accreditation during the months of the exhibition. The press review highlights extensive coverage across all geographic areas, with over 2,500 articles, in addition to numerous reports and specials on TV, radio, international online platforms and in specialised magazines.

The content published during Biennale Arte 2024 on La Biennale di Venezia's social media platforms – Facebook,

X, Instagram and YouTube – obtained around 101 million views overall, generating about 1.7 million interactions.

Malta participated with its own National Pavilion and a solo show by Maltese artist Matthew Attard, entitled *I Will Follow the Ship*. Malta's entry was featured in the international press as follows:

- ▶ 62 pieces of coverage, including online, offline and social clips
- ▶ 1.52M estimated views of coverage, based on audience reach and engagement rate on social media
- ▶ 1.06B audience size, combining a total of publication-wide audience figures for all outlets featuring coverage
- ▶ 4.87K engagements, combining a total of likes, comments and shares on social media platforms

The media platforms that covered *I Will Follow the Ship* include:

- ▶ *Aesthetica Magazine*
- ▶ *Art Frame*
- ▶ *Artdaily*
- ▶ *ArtReview*
- ▶ *ARTZID*
- ▶ *designboom*
- ▶ *Die Presse*
- ▶ *Elle Décor*
- ▶ *exibart*
- ▶ *Forbes*
- ▶ *HERO Magazine*
- ▶ *Inside Telecom*
- ▶ *New Scientist*
- ▶ *The Art Newspaper*
- ▶ *The Collections*
- ▶ *The Guardian*
- ▶ *The Observer*
- ▶ *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*

ACM is once again returning to the London Design Biennale in 2025. Malta will be represented by *URNA*, an innovative project that explores the subject of cremation, with a proposal that merges design innovation and creativity. The project's multinational team includes Andrew Borg Wirth, Anthony Bonnici, Tamil Raif, Matthew Attard Navarro, Anne Immelé, Stephanie Sant and Thomas Mifsud. Here is a cross-section of press coverage:

- ▶ [Malta back at the London Design Biennale with URNA](#) (*Times of Malta*, 20th June 2024)
- ▶ [Cremation sets stage for 'URNA', Malta commission for London Design Biennale](#) (*Malta Today*, 20th June 2024)
- ▶ [URNA: London Design Biennale 2025](#) (*e-flux*, 28th June 2024)
- ▶ ['A New Ritual': Cremation-Inspired URNA To Represent Malta At Upcoming London Biennale](#) (*LovinMalta*, 8th October 2024)
- ▶ [URNA to represent Malta in the London Design Biennale 2025](#) (*TVMnews*, 18th October 2024)
- ▶ [URNA: Bonding Flame](#) (*THINK Magazine*, 7th January 2025)
- ▶ [Maltese Quarry Sets The Scene For URNA: Malta's Pavilion At The London Design Biennale](#) (*LovinMalta*, 12th January 2025)

Digital Presence 2024

Website

The ACM website hosted 95,925 sessions with 77,027 users in 2024. The average duration per session was 6:03 throughout the year. There were 2.15 page views per session.

Newsletter

In 2024, 12 newsletter issues were published, and each issue was opened by an average of 308 people, with a total of 3,756 opens throughout the year. The number of ACM newsletter subscribers was 563 at the end of 2024.

Social Media Insights

ACM's Facebook page grew by an average of 22.5 new likes per month in 2024. Total likes on Facebook stood at 14,312 at the end of 2024, representing an increase of 270 since the beginning of the year. ACM's Instagram page reached 28,273 people in 2024.

Contact

Arts Council Malta

TG Complex Suite 1, Level 1,
Triq Il-Birrerija, Zone 3,
Central Business District,
Birkirkara CBD 3040

Tel +356 2334 7201/02
Email fundinfo@artscouncil.mt





ARTS
COUNCIL
MALTA

Contact

Arts Council Malta

TG Complex Suite 1, Level 1,
Triq Il-Birrerija, Zone 3,
Central Business District,
Birkirkara CBD 3040

Tel +356 2334 7201/02

Email fundinfo@artscouncil.mt

