



WORK

WITH

WORTH

EDUCATION & CAREER
PATHWAYS IN THE ARTS.
A GUIDEBOOK.



EDUCATION & CAREER PATHWAYS IN THE ARTS.

A GUIDEBOOK

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Dear all,

WELCOME.

It is a great pleasure for me to present this guide to you, an essential part of the ArtWorks campaign. This initiative was born from an understanding that the arts have a fundamental role in education and professional life. As such, it is geared towards placing creativity at the heart of teaching and as a natural part of the everyday professional experience.

Our aim is to create spaces where art and learning meet, where students and educators discover the value of the workings of the imagination, and where all those who are interested in the creative sector find the support and opportunities they deserve.

This guide is not only intended to serve as a practical tool, but also as a source of inspiration for all those who wish to take the next step on this journey. Through this guide, we wish to turn the spotlight on those who have already chosen their creative voyage, while urging others to see in the arts a tool and a road towards a stronger and more sustainable future.

I hope that, as you are browsing these pages, you will find the energy and motivation to embrace the arts not only as a personal and professional experience, but also as part of a collective future.

With best wishes,

Dr Luke Dalli
Executive Chairperson
Arts Council Malta

INTRODUCTION

WELCOME TO A LIFE IN **THE ARTS.**

The cultural and creative sectors in Malta are thriving. With ArtWorks, Arts Council Malta is promoting and investing in the arts as a dynamic learning tool and a diverse career path. If you are thinking about turning your passion into a career and wondering where to start, **we are here to guide you.**

Where do I start?

Who do I talk to?

What can I study?

We understand that the questions are plentiful, that every art form offers a lot of career paths and that this may seem like the road less travelled. However, just think, most inspirational people who work in the arts nowadays were once just like you, asking the same questions and dealing with the same doubts.

Throughout this guidebook you will meet some of them – people who create, teach and inspire every day of their lives. Read the stories of these professionals who successfully pursued paths in the cultural and creative sectors. All roads are long and winding, colourful and exciting, and no story is like another!

Can I get funded?

This guidebook is an informative starting point – listing local resources, funding schemes and contact points. May it guide you and inspire to pursue a life in the arts!

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

ANTONELLA GALEA LOFFREDA

Actor, Presenter and Producer

What do your jobs entail?

I switch between three roles as Actor, Presenter and Producer; even though I am primarily an actress at heart, and would love to dedicate more time to it. Since this is my full-time employment, I need to strike the right balance to be able to make a living. With acting there is learning the script and a lot of character work involved, role analysis and researching the period or context the story is set in, followed by the rehearsal process which usually takes around six to eight weeks. When it comes to presenting and producing for radio and/or TV, I research and write scripts before delivering the work. Each project brings its own set of demands to the table and each role gives me something different—acting lets me explore characters in depth, producing allows me to create my own project, and unlike acting, where I am stepping into someone else's shoes, presenting allows me to be myself and I really value that connection with the audience.



"DO NOT SHY AWAY FROM TRAINING AND ACCREDITED COURSES IN THE ARTS – THEY GIVE YOU A SOLID FOUNDATION AND OPEN DOORS ONTO MORE AND MORE OPPORTUNITIES"

Who or what inspired you to follow this career path?

Throughout my career, I have met many inspiring people, but a major turning point was my three years of intensive drama training back in 1996, where I got to train with some of the best mentors in the local theatre scene. They were a huge inspiration and really helped me hone my craft at a time when theatre and media were still just hobbies. However, the real turning point came when my then-boyfriend, now husband, who had completed the same actor training but also had a very robust backstage and production background, and I realised that together, we could join forces and create our own productions. That is when I knew I had to take the leap and fully commit to this career.

Can you share something you are proud of?

One practice I am proud of is collaboration. I actively seek out opportunities to work with people from diverse creative backgrounds. I believe the best results come from sharing ideas and respecting each other's strengths. This approach not only enhances outcomes but also fosters growth for everyone involved.

But first...

WHAT IS ARTWORKS?

The educational and professional role of the arts needs to be championed and enhanced. This is the reason why the ArtWorks campaign was conceived by **Arts Council Malta**.

Arts Council Malta engages with key players and stakeholders in the Educational and Cultural sector to identify common challenges and opportunities for development being addressed by the campaign.

ENHANCE CREATIVITY

To help foster educational environments wherein creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration are integral to learning.

BRIDGE THE GAPS

To create spaces and opportunities for dialogue between educational settings and the cultural and creative industry to aid both sectors in finding synergies.

SUPPORT EDUCATORS

To encourage creative pedagogical methods and best practices to enhance teacher and student wellbeing and performance.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

SEAN BORG

Freelance Artist

What do you do as a freelance artist?

A number of things! I am a performer – a musician, singer and actor - but I also write. I am also a marketing professional. I graduated in Marketing from University, and nowadays I do marketing almost exclusively for the cultural sector. My interests and my skills overlap and inform each other and I will always feel like marketing is my safety net and my thing to fall back on. When I was younger, I did not think it was possible to be a freelancer and had few role models to look up to who were doing it sustainably. However, working with V18 was my first taste of making a living working full-time in the cultural sector and I never looked back.

What challenges do you encounter as a freelancer?

Even though the arts scene has experienced a lot of infrastructural growth, freelancers still feel like they need to take on a lot to make sure they make ends meet and that may lead to burnout. Wages and rates are also hard to quantify for creative processes. That said, both problems are not reserved exclusively to the cultural sector. Another challenge is the lack of resources in terms of rentable and affordable spaces for rehearsal and performance purposes.

Are there any attitudes towards the arts you wish to challenge?

Working abroad was an eye opener for me. I have performed twice at the Edinburgh Fringe and seeing Maltese talent in that context, it very apparently matched foreign talent in this arena. The idea that Maltese talent is lagging behind its foreign counterparts is a defeatist and frankly erroneous stance.

**"BE SMART, HAVE A PLAN,
WORK HARD, HAVE FAITH
AND INVEST BIG IN
TRANSFERABLE SKILLS."**

Why the

ARTS?

Positive changes in education and the working world can happen by promoting the transversal value of the arts in fostering skills such as critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration, in multiple contexts that go beyond specific jobs and industries.

An educational tool.

Today's educational landscape is focusing on collaborative and experiential learning, as well as the holistic wellbeing of students and educators. ArtWorks promotes the various art forms and art as a dynamic tool that enhances both teaching and learning experiences for all ages.

A transformative force.

Art in education can enhance problem-solving, empowerment, and resilience. By addressing educational challenges with a multifaceted approach, ArtWorks advocates for the transformative power of the arts and the fostering of the latest skills and approaches.

A diverse career path.

Arts education opens up multiple career pathways that empower each person with unique forms of expression. Artistic career paths can open up a dynamic and vast range of opportunities in disciplines ranging from performing arts, filmmaking, visual arts and design to stage and production management, sound and light design and beyond.

An innovation facilitator.

Creativity is key to boosting entrepreneurial success in any workplace. Creative thinking allows individuals to develop new and innovative ideas, challenging norms and conventional ways of thinking within and beyond the arts themselves.

To this end,
Arts Council Malta has...



Initiated a process to establish and develop the foundations for a **Charter for the Status of the Artist**. This Charter aims to establish standards and frameworks to reflect the many realities of the local artist, providing a dynamic frame of reference for any legislation, policy, or initiative which directly or indirectly impacts artists and CCSs, and ensuring that any action is aligned with the ultimate long-term vision of elevating the status of artists in Malta in line with their tangible value to society.



**CHARTER FOR
THE STATUS OF
THE ARTIST**



Launched the **Right to Culture campaign**: an initiative aimed at helping people engage through culture and the arts, and strengthening cultural exchange, inclusion, accessibility and participation quality in cultural life. The Right to Culture Arts Support Scheme which forms part of Arts Council Malta's support portfolio, invests in the mainstreaming of everyone's right to access, participate in and enjoy culture, cultural heritage and cultural expression, and in the development of Malta's cultural and creative sectors. The Right to Culture resource package is also available online in Maltese and English.



**RIGHT TO
CULTURE**



Visit the **About Us** section in the Arts Council Malta website or scan the QR code for more information on **resources, toolkits, and handy templates that can help you on your journey!**

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

★ FLORINDA CAMILLERI ◆

Dance Artist

Can you tell us about your journey in dance?

The arts were always part of my upbringing. I started ballet at three years of age and attended summer school and dance workshops to supplement my formal training. I started to find my realm when I joined Contact Dance Company – the only local contemporary dance company at the time. I later met and performed with Mavin Khoo and joined ŻenMalta as a full-time dancer for four years. I still felt that there were parts of me that I could not tap into and I needed to find my own voice. This is when I started freelancing in everything related to dance. What I was really curious about is dance outside of traditional spaces – dance as a tool to exercise citizenship. This is what led me to an MA in Performing Public Space and the many projects I now dedicate my life to.

How do you find balance in your career?

Aside from my career as a dance artist I am also a pharmacist. My scientific training as a pharmacist champions the rational, regulatory and systematic – contemporary dance, on the other hand, flourishes in a freer and unsystematic realm that is not bogged down by too many rules. However, in my life, each practice informs the other, and both the empirical way of seeing the world and the embodied way, thrive when relationality is invested in. You can excel at being a specialist in your field but you can also excel by being an interdisciplinary artist – both types of professionals are needed in the context of innovation.

Can you recall an inspirational moment?

My father used to record dance documentaries for me on VCR so I always had a solid library of inspiration to consult; but this one video tape of The South Bank Show stands out. In it, Sylvie Guillem can be seen going about her day as she rehearses and performs 'Sissy' by Maurice Bejart. I was six or seven years old and Guillem's crude yet sublime treatment of this intense character brought me face to face with the artistry in dance for the first time.

"CELEBRATE GROWTH IN YOUR PEERS – DO NOT BE THREATENED BY THEIR SUCCESSES. INVEST TIME IN FOSTERING YOUR COMMUNITY – YOU FORM PART OF THE SAME COMMUNITY YOU HELP RAISE UP!"

A CAREER IN THE ARTS

WHERE DO I START?

1. WHERE DO MY INTERESTS LIE?

Consider all artistic disciplines. Consider emerging trends and developments: increasing focus on digital art, news media, art therapy & community-based art projects.

2. WHAT ARE MY VALUES AND GOALS?

What are your core values and priorities in life? Where do you see yourself in 5 to 10 years?

3. WHAT KIND OF SKILLS DO I HAVE?

Are you more creative or technical?
Do you enjoy collaborative work?
How are your communication skills?
Are you willing to learn and adapt?

4. STOP – CONSIDER POTENTIAL SHORT OR LONG TERM CHALLENGES!

Financial instability, Competition, Rejection, Unsustainability...

5. WHAT TRAINING OPTIONS DO I HAVE?

Locally or Abroad? Full-time or part-time? Academically or casually?
Mentorship or internship? Check out degrees, post-grad pathways, workshops, online courses in and around your chosen subject but not exclusively.

6. WHAT KIND OF CAREER OPTION APPEALS MOST TO ME?

Freelancing? Employment with a company?
Public sector? Entrepreneurship?
Do you want to teach or do? Both?
All of the above?

7. HEY! IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY OR TOO LATE TO START NETWORKING AND CREATING CONNECTIONS.

Join art communities, Volunteer in the sector, Connect with art professionals on social media platforms, Brand yourself...

8. WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT IS THERE?

Research and be up to speed with available resources and support options. Think – grants, workshops, residencies, funding opportunities.

9. AND MY FINANCES?

Consult an accountant from the get-go and put your mind at rest re: Taxes, VAT, NI contributions etc.

10. ...AND BREATHE.

Take it one step at a time. It's exciting!



WHAT KIND OF JOBS

ARE OUT THERE?

Here are just some examples in the performing, media, literary, visual and applied arts...

LITERARY ARTS

- Nonfiction writer
- Fiction writer
- Screenwriter
- Copywriter
- Poet
- Playwright
- Editor
- Proofreader
- Literary agent
- Publisher
- Freelance writer
- Content writer/blogger
- Game writer
- Literary translator
- Literary critic
- Book reviewer
- Speechwriter
- Scriptwriter for film/television
- Script consultant
- Creative writing coach/instructor
- Spoken word artist
- Technical writer

FILM & MEDIA

- Film director
- Camera operator
- Cinematographer
- Screenwriter
- Storyboard writer
- Director of photography
- Photographer
- Film editor
- Sound designer
- Producer
- Production designer
- Production assistant
- Casting director
- Location manager
- Gaffer
- Construction manager
- Costume Designer
- Visual and special effects artist
- Colourist
- Post-production supervisor
- Audio engineer
- Intimacy coordinator

PERFORMING ARTS

- Theatre director
- Actor
- Musician
- Conductor
- Composer
- DJ
- Songwriter
- Lyricist
- Dancer
- Choreographer
- Comedian
- Make-up artist
- Lighting designer
- Producer
- Stage manager
- Sound engineer
- Stunt double
- Circus performer
- Voice actor
- Puppeteer
- Dramaturg

VISUAL ARTS

- Painter
- Sculptor
- Ceramist
- Mixed media artist
- Photographer
- Installation artist
- Printmaker
- Moving image artist
- Calligrapher
- Cartoonist
- Animator
- Comic book artist
- Illustrator
- Graphic designer
- Conservator
- Mural artist
- Art installer
- Art handler

APPLIED ARTS

- Architect
- Landscape architect
- Urban planner
- Exhibition designer
- Industrial designer
- Product designer
- Interior designer
- Furniture designer
- Fashion designer
- Costume designer
- Tailor, Seamstress
- Textile designer
- Stylist
- Jewellery designer
- Jeweller
- Video game designer
- Book binder
- Gilder
- Glass blower
- Tattoo artist

ARTS MANAGEMENT

- Project manager
- Cultural strategist
- Exhibition curator
- Museum curator
- Art director
- Arts manager
- Arts administrator
- Archivist
- Art programmer
- Art technician
- Development director
- Grant writer
- Public relations specialist
- Venue manager

ARTS EDUCATION

- Art teacher
- Art historian
- Performing arts historian
- Literary scholar
- Museum educator
- Art Education coordinator
- Curriculum developer for art programmes
- Gallery educator
- Education consultant for art organisations
- Online art instructor
- Art researcher
- Workshop leader
- Arts librarian



ARTS AND HEALTH

- Art therapist
- Music therapist
- Drama therapist
- Dance therapist
- Art psychotherapist
- Art psychologist
- Expressive arts therapist
- Environmental design psychologist
- UX designer
- Community arts worker
- Cultural mediator
- Medical illustrator/ animator

ART BUSINESS

- Cultural entrepreneur
- Art dealer, Auctioneer
- Art appraiser
- Art consultant
- Art lawyer
- Art gallery professional
- Marketing manager for arts organizations
- Art fair coordinator
- Art critic and writer
- Art market research analyst
- Art economist
- Arts investment advisor
- Brand manager for art products
- Fundraising director for art institutions
- Art logistics coordinator
- Social media manager for artists or art organizations

KEEP LEARNING

GET SKILLED

In Malta, Art is incorporated into the national curriculum from primary school to post-secondary education. With so many options to consider, do keep in mind that your Art Education Pathway can vary and may not necessarily be linear!

→ PRIMARY EDUCATION

Starting out at Primary School (Years 1 - 6) level with a focus on basic drawing, painting, craft skills, music and performing arts, the curriculum encourages creativity, visual literacy and expression. At Middle School (Years 7 - 8) level, every student is introduced to Design and Technology as part of a four subject rotation system with Home Economics, Art and Drama.

→ SECONDARY EDUCATION

At Secondary School (Years 9 - 11) level, Design and Technology becomes optional along with Art, Drama, Fashion and Textile, Media Literacy and Music in preparation for O-Level (MATSEC) certification or as vocational subjects.

→ POST-SECONDARY & SIXTH FORM

At Post-Secondary & Sixth Form, Art, Graphical Design, Music and Theatre & Performance tuition is offered at A-Level and Intermediate Level where subjects cover advanced techniques and theory, and students get introduced to research-based work in the arts. Courses focus on production, criticism, history and aesthetics, with the aim of introducing students to the wide spectrum encompassed by the Arts and equipping them with formative skills to consider pursuing an artistic career later on.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

ALAN MONTANARO

Creative Education Director,
Teacher and Actor

**"NEVER TAKE 'NO' AS THE FINAL
ANSWER - IT OFTEN JUST MEANS
'NOT YET.' KEEP TRYING - PEOPLE
AND SITUATIONS CHANGE!"**

What do you do in life?

In life, I wear many hats. As co-founder and Marketing & Creative Director at Creative Education (CrEd) International, my mission is to raise awareness about the vital role of the arts in education. I am also an international trainer for teachers, which allows me to combine my love for travel with my passion for meeting people from diverse backgrounds and cultures. My academic background is in marketing and communication, but the stage has always been my big love. So, when the opportunity to run a drama school came along, I grabbed it with both hands. It was a thrilling learning curve - balancing business operations while also discovering innovative ways to teach children - and I have loved every second. When I am not working behind the scenes, you'll often find me performing on stage myself!



What made you choose this path?

I have always known that the arts have transformative power in education. While I understood the many careers tied to the performing arts, I never imagined I would become a teacher myself. That shift was inspired by two key influences: my mother, who often took me to see classic films and stage productions, and a wonderful English teacher who spotted a spark in me. He asked my best friend and me to write a short play for an intra-school competition. Sneezing Time in Camelot won first prize - and planted the seed for everything that followed.

What has your career taught you?

If there is one thing I have learned, it is that children everywhere are the same—they love to have fun! That joy is the gateway to learning. Play, laughter, and creativity are powerful tools to teach life skills. Yet, I still encounter the notion that the arts are 'just hobbies' or somehow less important than traditional subjects. I challenge that view every day. The arts nurture critical thinking, problem-solving, empathy, and emotional intelligence - skills our world needs now more than ever. It is time we gave creativity its rightful place in the classroom.



University of Malta

One may then continue to study at higher education institutions such as the **University of Malta** with different Departments offering BA, BA(Hons), MIA and PhD level tuition and certification as well as a number of certificate and diploma level courses in Maltese, English and foreign languages as part of the Certificate in Language Proficiency Programme and the DegreePlus Programme that could supplement your arts education pathway.

Check out the UoM Prospectus with special reference to options offered by the following Departments:

- Art & Art History – Faculty of Arts
- Arts, Open Communities & Adult Education – Faculty of Education
- Digital Arts – Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences
- Media and Communications – Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences
- Theatre Studies – School of Performing Arts
- Dance Studies – School of Performing Arts
- Music Studies – School of Performing Arts

MCAST

The MCAST (Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology) Institute for the Creative Arts in Mosta, offers a growing portfolio of courses, ranging from art and design to graphic design and printing, creative media production, photography and journalism, fashion design and performing arts, and cultural heritage skills. The Institute works closely with the industry to provide students with realistic assignment briefs and experiences. Programmes range from MQF Level 1 – an Introductory Certificate in the Creative Arts – up to Level 7 Masters in Conservation, Creative Media and Enterprise and Product Design.

Mikael Anton Vassalli College

The Mikael Anton Vassalli College is the national network of specialised schools for Visual and Performing Arts Education in Malta and Gozo, incorporating the schools listed below:

- The Malta School of Music in Hamrun offers over 40 different courses which cater for the young learner and for the advanced student.
- The Malta School of Art in Valletta is one of the oldest art schools in Malta, offering part-time and evening classes - courses in traditional arts such as drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and ceramics and specialized courses for children and adults. This is a great option for professional artists and hobbyists alike.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

ANN-MARIE BUCKLE

Musical Theatre Performer

What does being a Musical Theatre Performer entail and how did you fall in love with it?

It entails being able to sing, dance, act and perform all at once. Some performers excel in some or in all of the disciplines. All performers, locally or abroad, such as London's West End, are different and that is the beauty of it. I love Musical Theatre because it gives me so much energy. A lot of passion goes into performances where so many disciplines are involved. I fell in love with it at school, singing in Prize Days and Soirees at School and as part of a choir in School Plays such as 'The Tempest' and 'Macbeth'. I have been going to Stagecoach since I was eight years old and continued training with Stagecoach Further Stages as I grew older, completing two of the Malta and Oxford Musical Theatre Exchanges. I threw myself into performing every chance I could. Singing 'I Could Have Danced All Night' from My Fair Lady for Stagecoach's 25th Anniversary Concert was a highlight. Carrie Hope Fletcher, Shan Ako, Dom Simpson, Laura Pick, Katie Ramshaw and Djavan Van De Fliert are some of my favourite West End Musical Performers and are the reasons I wanted to do Musical Theatre in the first place. They remind me to keep trying every day!

"DON'T LET ANYONE TELL YOU WHAT YOU ARE CAPABLE OF OR STOP YOU FROM DREAMING BIG, NO MATTER HOW SLOW."

What obstacles do you encounter as an AuDHD Musical Actor?

It is definitely not plain sailing. I believe that Musical Theatre Companies need to make more accommodations and invest in more accessibility for Autistic, ADHD and AuDHD Musical Actors. I was also told I will never make it in musicals, but that pushed me even more to get out of my comfort zone. I want to prove to society that even Autistic and AuDHD Actors can do it. I counter these attitudes by keeping at it, I keep auditioning and keep going for singing and dancing lessons. I can only pray and hope for Musical Theatre Companies locally and abroad to hear this plea and start including and accepting Autistic and ADHD musical theatre actors in their musical and opera productions. Inclusion and acceptance are precious everywhere, on and off stage.

- The Malta School of Drama and Dance, offers interdisciplinary art programs for children, young people and adults.
- The Gozo Visual and Performing Arts School (MAVC) incorporates four departments, that of art, music, drama and dance under one roof. This makes it possible to offer a broad range of subjects across the four disciplines via accredited courses leading up to MQF level 5.

Other schools and institutions which teach art or subjects in related fields do exist and licensed providers are listed on the [Malta Qualifications Database by the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority](#).

Malta Society of Arts

One example being Malta Society of Arts (MSA), a not-for-profit organisation based in Valletta which offers classes in a large number of visual, applied and performing arts. Access the course list from the QR code.

Similarly, several Public Cultural Organisations (PCOs) offer non-formal arts education in the form of courses, workshops and residencies throughout the year.



Look out for opportunities by [Festivals Malta](#), [Malta Philharmonic Orchestra \(MPO\)](#), [Malta International Contemporary Arts Space \(MICAS\)](#), [National Agency for the Performing Arts \(includes KorMalta, TeatruMalta and ŻenMalta\)](#), [Spazju Kreattiv](#), [Teatru Manoel](#), and [Valletta Design Cluster](#).

Other national entities offer educational and professional development opportunities, including: [Heritage Malta](#), [National Book Council](#), and [Aġenzija Żgħażaġh](#).

Higher education institutions offer Erasmus+ and international opportunities ideal for expanding one's educational journey further.

- Note to parents and guardians! You can benefit from a tax deduction scheme on courses in crafts, media and culture, and the performing and visual arts, attended by children and youth under 16 years of age, if the course was provided by an entity or individual recognised by Arts Council Malta. More information and a list of cultural and creative entities providing courses that qualify for this initiative can be accessed here: [Tax Deduction on Fees paid for Cultural and Creative Courses – Arts Council Malta](#)
- Pro tip for parents and guardians! Here are some pointers for when you are considering private tuition in the arts for your young ones.
 - Ensure that schools are licensed.
 - Check out the range of facilities offered.
 - Make sure that instructors are qualified and experienced.
 - Enquire about the health and safety standards of the school and its equipment.
 - Look out for accreditation systems that students may choose to follow as they progress.

A good start in the arts lays the right foundations for specialisation, avoids injuries that may compromise further development in the field and offers a safe, creative, professional and encouraging space for the young artist to dream and explore.

That said...

Do not underestimate the power of non-formal and/or community-based arts education too - it is an effective, fun and engaging way to learn. Non-formal education programmes are adaptable and can meet the needs and preferences of a wide range of learners, providing alternatives to standard classroom-based instruction which may be costly. Exposure to different art forms outside of formal education structures from a young age is great preparation for a life in the arts. Sign up for workshops and short courses, visit exhibitions, go to the theatre, attend seminars and tours.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

DARREN TANTI

Artist and Educator

Can you tell us about your art?

I come from a tradition of painting and drawing. As a teenager, I was obsessed with Hyperrealism and Photorealism, which led me to focus heavily on technique. Eventually, as I matured and furthered my art studies at both post-secondary and tertiary levels, I continued to pursue technical excellence with a more developed outlook, supported by a deeper historical and philosophical understanding of art. The MFA in Digital Arts gave me a significant leap forward, allowing me to explore art on a more theoretical level and experiment with various media to expand my artistic skills. Over time, I stopped considering myself exclusively a painter and began incorporating mixed media, sculpture, and installation into my practice. Today, I am happy to identify as a multimedia artist. Eventually, I developed a genuine passion for education—not just as a career, but as a vocation. The combination of art and education became the natural path for me. Today, I consider my specific role in the art world to be that of the artist-educator. Being an artist is not just a job designation—for those truly invested in it, it becomes a way of life. I often find myself seeing the world through the lens of an artist. I think about art constantly, in one way or another.

"LEARN THE BASICS OF RUNNING A BUSINESS EARLY. BEING AN ARTIST IS ONE THING—BUT MANAGING YOUR CAREER LIKE AN ENTREPRENEUR IS ESSENTIAL IN AN INCREASINGLY COMPETITIVE INTERNATIONAL SCENE."

In life—or rather, to make a living—can you only make art?

The Maltese cultural and economic landscape has changed dramatically over the past decades, and employment opportunities in the creative field have increased. Several artists have managed to build enough momentum and clientele to work full-time in the arts. Many others remain active part-time, balancing their artistic careers with other jobs. While full-time creative careers are becoming more viable, self-employment poses a number of challenges. To succeed as a self-employed artist, one must be prepared to engage with a competitive free-market economy. Other key factors include the type of art one produces—whether contemporary gallery-oriented, commercial, sacred/religious, or targeting local vs. international markets. Artists should also keep abreast with and tap into available funding for the cultural sector. Institutions in Malta recognize the importance of supporting the arts, and several funding schemes exist to help artists and cultural workers thrive.

FIND SUPPORT

FUNDING, GRANTS &

INITIATIVES

ARTS COUNCIL MALTA manages a diverse funding portfolio which supports the development of Malta's cultural and creative sectors.

Funding Schemes eligibility criteria may vary according to the individual scheme. For more information always consult the guidelines and regulations. Moreover, Arts Council Malta has its finger on the pulse of the arts, and to this end, funding schemes are often revised to accommodate the ever-changing needs of the sector. Here are just some examples of funds, grants and initiatives by Arts Council Malta which could apply to you:

The **Training and Development Support Scheme** focuses on nurturing creative potential and supporting continuous professional development. The Scheme is divided in two strands according to the age of the applicant (18+ and 8-17) and supports activities such as: training or short courses, workshops, masterclasses, internships, apprenticeships, residencies, job shadowing, auditions for educational institutions, auditions for artistic or cultural projects and networking.

Arts Council Malta also offers the **Arts in Schools Scheme**, intended to sustain and support the cultural and creative ecology with a focus on arts education. The scheme is intended for cultural institutions, encouraging them to collaborate with creative practitioners to explore innovative pedagogical approaches for the application of the arts in schools.



**TRAINING AND
DEVELOPMENT
SUPPORT SCHEME**



**ARTS IN
SCHOOLS
SCHEME**

The **Culture Pass Scheme**, on the other hand, is designed to provide high-quality professional cultural and artistic experiences to students, from kindergarten to post-secondary schools, as well as to educational institutions which provide education up to MQF level 4. The scheme also helps creative practitioners to create and develop new work for these young audiences. The Culture Pass Scheme complements the National Curriculum Framework. Calls for Expressions of Interest for the submission/proposal of events of a cultural and artistic nature, are issued yearly on the Arts Council Malta Website.



**CULTURE
PASS
SCHEME**

The Arts do not exist in isolation. Your calling may lie where different areas of interests and professions cross paths...

The **Culture and Health platform fund for the Maltese islands** (co-funded by the European Union, Culture Action Europe and 14 European partner organisations) is part of an international initiative aimed at supporting emerging European artists working at the intersection of culture, health, care, and the social sectors. This two-strand fund nurtures inter-sectoral collaborations at local, national, and international levels and sees artists partnering up with healthcare or social care entities/organisations.

Other Arts Council Malta opportunities worth looking into to develop your projects and career are:

- Arts Support Scheme
- Arts Support Scheme – Right to Culture
- Access Support Scheme
- International Participation Scheme
- International Cultural Exchanges Scheme
- Artistic Research and Development Scheme
- Screen Support Scheme
- President's Fund for Creativity
- Sabbatical for Artistic Research Grant

The **Malta Arts Scholarships Scheme** is administered by the Scholarships Unit within the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation (MEYR). The scheme promotes professional performance specialisation in the arts by supporting individuals who are exceptionally talented in their respective fields. Those who wish to further their studies in the following areas of expressive arts, are encouraged to apply: Fine Arts and Design, Photography, Fashion, Architecture, Dance and Choreography, Music, Theatre Studies, Acting, Film, Creative Writing, or any combination thereof. Calls and Regulations are published yearly on their website.



**MALTA ARTS
SCHOLARSHIPS
SCHEME**

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

DAVID SERGE

Filmmaker

What do you do exactly as a Filmmaker?

Over the past 20 years, I have held a variety of roles within the film industry, with my core expertise lying in three key areas: as a Cinematographer, shaping the visual language and aesthetic of each project; as a Camera Operator, collaborating on international productions shot in Malta; and as a Visual Effects Supervisor, overseeing the full VFX pipeline from concept through to final delivery in post-production. I am also a producer and director of documentary projects.

How did you fall in love with film?

My love for film was deeply rooted in childhood, thanks in large part to my grandfather. He had a small private cinema tucked away in the back garden of his house, complete with a 35mm projector and screen. I grew up helping him wind reels of celluloid as he hosted intimate screenings for friends and family. I still remember the magic of watching Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade and the original Superman films on that big screen, with the steady rhythm of film spooling through the projector in the background. There was something utterly captivating about it all. Those early moments made me fall in love with cinema. I often felt like the character Toto from Cinema Paradiso.

What advice would you give someone starting out in the field?

The industry has changed dramatically, and in such a short time. When I was starting out, there was no formal training available, no YouTube tutorials, and no local DPs to mentor me. I had to teach myself, recording episodes of MovieMagic on TV and obsessively studying the inner workings of film sets to understand the “why” behind every decision. And yet, despite how much the tools and

resources have evolved, I believe the core requirement remains the same: passion. No film school or training course can create that inner fire. It has to be there from the start. That same fire that pushed me forward years ago is still burning today. My advice is simple: feed that passion relentlessly. Keep learning, stay curious, and do not wait for permission to create. In my own journey, I never felt ashamed of being in the arts, and I never gave much weight to those who doubted me. Whether in life or in art, carve your own path.



**“FEED THAT PASSION RELENTLESSLY.
KEEP LEARNING, STAY CURIOUS,
AND DO NOT WAIT FOR
PERMISSION TO CREATE”**

MEYR offer other scholarships for various areas of study that could complement your career pathway in the arts, covering up until post-doctoral stage. Many of their scholarships accept new applicants during the second quarter of each year, however you are encouraged to check throughout the year for new calls for application.

Do consider international funding schemes too!

For example, **EU Calls for Funding in the Cultural and Creative Sector**.

Moreover, by answering a set of questions on the **Creatives Unite: Funding** online platform, cultural or creative professionals or organisations get a tailored overview of the different financing sources available.

The **Creative Europe Programme** is divided into two strands, Culture and Media, and is supported by a cross-sectoral strand. Each year a number of calls and funding opportunities are issued and published on the website and Creative Europe Desk – Malta offers guidance and consultancy to all prospective applicants.



MEYR



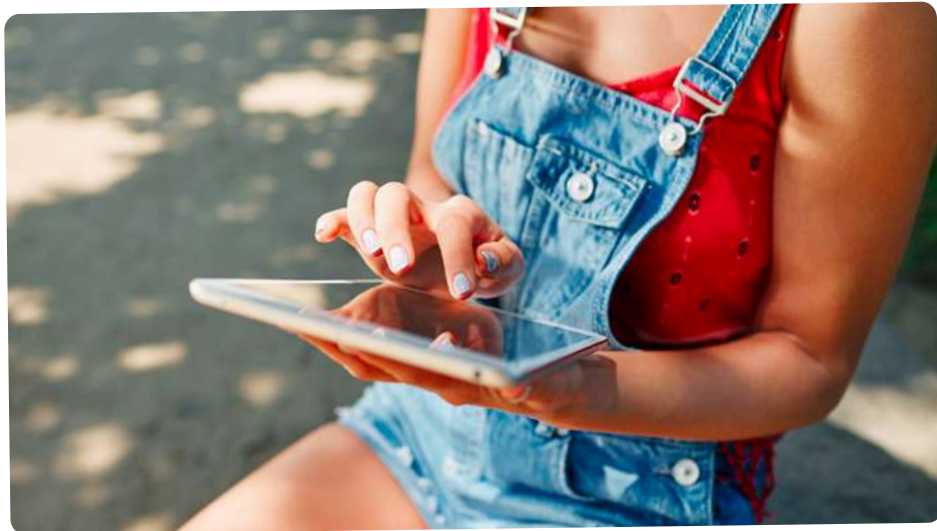
EU
CALLS



CREATIVES
UNITE



CREATIVE
EUROPE
PROGRAMME



Arts Council Malta regularly issues international opportunities too. **Check out the 'Opportunities' section on our website.**

CONTACTS

ASK FOR HELP

WHEREVER YOU ARE.

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IN THEIR OWN WORDS

LEE-N ABELA

Theatre Practitioner

**"I BELIEVE IN TRIAL
AND ERROR. GO FOR IT!
MAKE MISTAKES! FEEL
THE HURT! YOU WILL
ONLY LEARN BY DOING."**



What was it that made you gravitate towards the theatre specifically out of all the arts?

That is a mystery to me – going to the theatre was never in my life as a child. When I was younger, acting was not considered 'a job' per se; I had no role models to emulate. I used to put on performances for my family and was often chided for 'clowning about' at school instead of being encouraged to pursue this path or directed to the right places to express myself. Thankfully, I listen only to my inner voice. My gravitational pull towards the arts was a feeling I could not ignore. So, when I grew up and stopped 'playing', I felt something was missing. Nowadays, as a Theatre Practitioner, I get to try my hand at every role: I act, I direct, I produce. The sky is not the limit!

In life, or rather, to make a living, can you only do theatre?

YES, you can! But do bear in mind some things. A job in the arts is not a stress-free job. The arts are professional spheres too and require the same drive, discipline and perseverance as any other job. Just like in any other sphere, you are more likely to make it in the arts if you diversify and open up your skill set. What being an actor is portrayed as on social media could not be further from the truth. Do not be fooled into thinking it is all fast cars and a one-way ticket to Beverly Hills. Be wary of fantasies portrayed on socials and online platforms and ask more realistic questions instead. Try your hand at anything and everything you can, experience realistically - go to that play, try that workshop. Remember, your best teachers are trial and error!

At Arts Council Malta
we want the arts to be at the

HEART OF MALTA'S FUTURE.

Driven by our commitment to
cultural rights, we invest in
the arts to strengthen Malta's
creative and cultural ecology.

The ArtWorks Campaign is one link in a long chain of opportunities designed by Arts Council Malta to support artists and artists-in-the-making throughout their career, bringing together a diversity of strategic fields, including education and development, public investment, diversity and communities, as well as creative entrepreneurship. For the future, keep Arts Council Malta platforms handy for the latest information.

artscouncilmalta.gov.mt



You can also visit us at

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