

ARTIVISTI

Guidelines and Regulations 2026



ISSUED: February 2026

TIMEFRAMES

SUBMISSION DEADLINE	ANNOUNCEMENT	IMPLEMENTATION TIME FRAME			
		30th March 2026	14th May 2026	ARTIVISTI development	ARTIVISTI project proposal submission deadline
		June to October 2026	1st November 2026	November 2026	December 2026 to December 2027

PROJECT ALLOCATIONS

SESSION BUDGET	MAXIMUM ELIGIBLE AMOUNT PER PROJECT
EUR 20,000	EUR 4,000

CO-FUNDING	DISBURSEMENT
The fund may cover up to 100% of total project costs	70% upon signing of grant agreement following successful proposal submission. 30% following approval of final dossier.

1 Introduction

ARTIVISTI is an intersectoral collaboration between Arts Council Malta and Aġenzija Żgħażaġh. It forms part of a portfolio of initiatives to maximise the potential of Malta's creative growth by investing in excellence in Malta's cultural and creative sectors, encouraging further career opportunities in the sectors, facilitating cultural exchange, as well as promoting inclusivity and active cultural participation.

ARTIVISTI is linked to the implementation of the National Youth Policy and Arts Council Malta's ongoing strategy, with a particular focus on providing more opportunities for young people to be more active in society through creative engagement and development.

The programme is developed to encourage young artists to hone a focus on bringing change and leaving an impact on society through art and creativity. The programme is designed to provide the necessary incentive to young ARTIVISTI and to support their participation in creative endeavors, providing opportunities for creative growth.

ARTIVISTI aims at:

- Identifying and giving recognition to outstanding young talent;
- Instilling social responsibility through arts and creativity;
- Serving as a platform for critical thinking, innovation, and practice-based research;
- Investing in transformation through knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and creative exchange.

Requirements in line with Arts Council Malta's ongoing Strategy

In line with its commitment to supporting the arts through its sustainable and accountable approach to public investment, ACM draws applicants' attention to the following in line with its Strategy 2025:

Applicants are required to consider the [Right to Culture – Resource Pack](#) when developing their proposal in relation to how they engage with communities and the considerations of everyone's cultural rights in their work. The resource pack is aimed at increasing awareness regarding inclusivity and supporting the implementation of cultural rights in our day-to-day practice.

Applicants are also required to consider the [Charter for the Status of the Artist](#) when proposing their operational and programming activities to ensure acceptable and decent working conditions for artists and creative practitioners which embraces artistic freedom, accessibility, formal/informal/non-formal skill recognition, decent socio-economic conditions, non-discrimination and equity, ethical considerations and adherence to intellectual property rights and international labour law. The Charter for the Status of the Artist is meant to provide a dynamic frame of reference for any legislation, policy, or initiative which directly or indirectly impacts artists and cultural and creative sectors, 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.

2 Definitions

Applicant

- An applicant must be an individual. Applicants cannot be employees of Arts Council Malta or Aġenzija Żgħażaġh.

Application

- An application is a submission, inclusive of all mandatory documents and any annexes to the application form made by an eligible applicant.

Beneficiary

- The beneficiary is the recipient of the initiative. The beneficiary is responsible for the implementation of the proposal supported by Artivisti. The beneficiary of the grant may not be changed throughout the duration of the funded programme and until the final disbursement is issued. The disbursement of the grant may only be issued on behalf of the beneficiary. The beneficiary is responsible to ensure that any VAT invoices are issued on behalf of the beneficiary and include the beneficiary's VAT information. In the case of a beneficiary who does not carry out economic activity and as a result is not registered for VAT the beneficiary has the duty to ascertain that they will receive a fiscal receipt for the goods and services received.

Disbursement of Funds

- The grant will be disbursed as indicated on page 3 of these guidelines and regulations. A cheque payment will be issued on behalf of the beneficiary. The beneficiary must have an active bank account when submitting the application.

Endorser

- An endorser is a person or organisation that supports your application.

Eligibility

- Applications will first be screened in terms of technical and artistic eligibility by the administrators and managers responsible for the scheme. Proposals which are not considered eligible in terms of the set criteria shall not be processed further and shall not undergo evaluation.

Selection Board

- Arts Council Malta and Aġenzija Żgħażaġh appoints sectoral experts to select beneficiaries of the initiative, based on established selection criteria. The appointed board may be composed of local or foreign professionals.

Individual

- Individuals applying for the programme must be Maltese citizens; or be in possession of a Malta residence permit; or of a Maltese citizenship certificate; or of a Maltese passport.

Management and Administration

- Arts Council Malta and Aġenzija Żgħażaġh are responsible for the management of this initiative. All official correspondence, including the online submission of applications, must be sent to the address indicated in these guidelines.

Maximum Funding

- There is a ceiling amount of €4,000 per project to be allocated. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis depending on the project proposal submitted in the second phase of the programme.

3 Benefits of the Initiative

A maximum of five beneficiaries will be selected. Each selected beneficiary will be granted:

- Participation in an 18-month multidisciplinary mentorship programme (a brief description is provided in Section 5 of this document);
- The opportunity to receive mentorship and a grant of up to €4,000 towards the implementation of an ARTIVISTI project by the young creative (a brief description is provided in Sections 6.1 and 6.2 of this document);
- Opportunity to access, and learn from, a nourishing pool of creative talent and a rich network of peers;
- A visible ambassadorial role for the arts;
- Membership to alumni community and a lifetime of encouragement, opportunity and support (a brief description is provided in Section 8 of this document).

3.1 The Components of the Multidisciplinary Programme

Participants are obliged to attend all activities as part of their commitment to the ARTIVISTI Programme.

3.1.1 Three-day Residency programme

The three-day multidisciplinary residency will focus on the intersection of professional arts practice and social responsibility. It is designed to maximise the creative development of participants. The residency will consist of workshops and activities aimed at providing a space for reflection on

developing artist practices. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in exciting discussions with each other and with arts professionals.

The residency will be held from the 7th to the 9th of July 2026 at Villa Psaigon in Dingli.

3.1.2 Skills Development Sessions

The programme will offer a series of eight learning, networking, and development opportunities, giving participants the chance to build skills, share ideas, and connect with others in the creative sector. These opportunities will not be limited to activities within the programme itself, but will also include wider training and learning experiences. This ensures that participants can benefit from a broader range of personal and professional development opportunities.

Aġenzija Żgħażaġh and Arts Council Malta will ensure that participants can benefit from a broader range of personal and professional development opportunities throughout the duration of the programme.

3.2 ARTIVISTI project

The ARTIVISTI who is selected on the programme will be given the opportunity to apply for a project to be implemented during the latter phase of the programme.

Eligible period: From notification date of ARTIVISTI project grant until end December 2027.

3.2.1 Budget allocation

Projects submitted during this phase of the programme may be allocated a maximum budget of €4,000 to each participant. ARTIVISTI may choose to collaborate and submit joint applications, thereby augmenting the eligible budget per project.

Beneficiaries will also be benefitting from mentorship as per para 3.2.2. Projects submitted will be evaluated by the Selection Board.

70% of the funding will be disbursed to the chosen creative upon approval of proposal submitted with the creative mentor; the remaining 30% will be disbursed upon completion of project and participation in residency programme.

3.2.2 Mentorship Framework

The Mentorship Programme is a laboratory for development of the creative as an ARTIVISTI and the creative's capacity to implement the ARTIVISTI project awarded through the ARTIVISTI project grant. The mentorships are designed to be a self-directed experience planned with the respective mentors. The mentors will provide the creative they are mentoring with broader access to the local cultural landscape by sharing ideas, advice, resources, and experiences.

The selection of the mentor ultimately lies with Arts Council Malta and Aġenzija Żgħażaġh.

Aside from mentorship, participants are offered continuous youth work services and professional development advice.

3.2.3 Alumni Community

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

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

4 Eligibility

Applications will first be screened in terms of eligibility. Ineligible proposals in terms of the points below shall not be processed further and shall not undergo evaluation.

Maximum eligible timeframe to implement the project: 12 months.

4.1 Who can apply?

The initiative is intended for young people whose age in the year 2026 will be between 18 and 25 years and who are interested in art and activism. The programme will expose young creatives to activism and drafting, proposing and managing creative projects rooted within an activist concept.

Applications for this initiative are open exclusively to individual creatives.

Applicants must be Maltese citizens; or be in possession of a Malta residence permit; a Maltese citizenship certificate; or a Maltese passport.

4.2 Who cannot apply?

Applicants whose profile is not verified due to it being incomplete for not having the below mandatory document:

- A copy of your Maltese ID card (including the front and back side); or your Maltese residence permit; or your Maltese citizenship certificate; or your Maltese passport;
- Applicants who do not qualify under the definition of applicant for this initiative;
- Beneficiaries who have not honoured previous funding commitments;
- Beneficiaries who did not submit or complete at least one final report related to a previous grant funded by Arts Council Malta within the established timeframes;
- Individuals under 18 years of age or who will be over 25 years of age by end of year 2026.

4.3 With reference to the project grant, what costs can be covered¹?

This grant may cover up to 100% of the following costs. These must form part of the final project components (up to a maximum of €4,000 per project, whichever is the lowest).

- Artistic fees - these may be artistic fees of collaborators and contributors, amongst others;
- Technical fees;
- Contingency, not exceeding 10% of the total cost;
- Digital initiatives including, but not limited to, subscription to software, service providers and the creation of online resources;
- Fees related to training and professional development;
- Health and safety measures;
- Hire/Purchase of equipment (Purchase of equipment will only be considered if deemed necessary to the project);
- Indirect costs, not exceeding 5% of the total cost. (Examples – Servicing: electricity, water, insurance, cleaning; telephone / fax / Internet connections; postage and mailing; paper, ink / cartridge, stationery, etc);
- Insurance;
- Marketing, PR and communications (not exceeding 10% of project total - these may include, but are not limited to, photography and videography which may be used for the young artists' portfolio);
- Other fees directly related to project implementation (including, but not limited to, legal, service providers, participation fees, linguistic fees etc.);
- Project Management (including, but not limited to, administration, coordination and/or development).

4.4 With reference to the project grant what costs cannot be covered?

- Costs already covered by public cultural organisations, or another public funding programme managed; or co-managed by Arts Council Malta or other public agency, government department or Ministry;
- Expenses that are not incurred during the time frame of the development programme stipulated in the agreement;
- Funding for the creation or upholding of bursaries, prizes or scholarships;
- Reimbursement of salaries, or part of;
- Subsistence, catering and hospitality.

¹ All costs will be considered only if these resources are not already covered/cannot be covered by the applicants or supporting/partner organisations.

4.5 What projects are not eligible for support?

- Activities that are not related to culture, arts and the creative industries;
- Activities whose objective is fundraising or political propaganda;
- Applications submitted by applicants who are not taxpayers in Malta
- Applications submitted after noon (12:00) of the respective day of deadline;
- Applications for funding the creation or upholding of contests, competitions, bursaries, prizes, or scholarships;
- Events held on a regular basis, including annual projects, annual festivals, school/annual shows, regular training programmes;
- Incomplete applications as explained under 'Section 6.1 – Checklist' of these guidelines;
- Individual modules credited as part of an education course, or research as part of established academic programmes;
- Initiatives eligible under the any other state-funded programme dedicated to Maltese arts/culture;
- Projects that would have already started and/or taken place before the result is notified to applicant;
- Projects whose duration does not entirely fall within the eligible timeframe;
- Training programmes required to renew professional licenses or accreditations.

Any other activity which may be developed outside the scope of ARTIVISTI is not eligible for support.

5 Selection

The Selection Board will base its decision upon the following criteria:

5.1 Criterion 1: Motivation and Level of Commitment (40 marks)

This criterion is to be addressed in not more than 200 words.

This criterion considers the level of commitment demonstrated by the applicant. Applicants should not necessarily have experience in activism however they should demonstrate an interest in related issues such as inclusivity, diversity, and the environment, amongst others.

We want to get to know you, your ideas, and what drives you as a creative person.

Please write one paragraph that reflects:

- What motivates you to apply for this programme? (20 marks)
- What excites you about it and why would you like to take part? (10 marks)
- Are there any social or environmental issues that matter to you, such as inclusivity, diversity, equality, mental health, climate change, or others? Have you used art to explore or express these topics (activism)? (10 marks)

5.2 Criterion 2: Vision and Mission Statement (20 marks)

This criterion is to be addressed in not more than 200 words.

This criterion considers the artist's ambitions, vision and point of view, and how these relate to the ethos of the Artivisti programme.

We want to understand your ambitions, vision, and your creative perspective, as well as your initial idea for your Artivisti project. Please write one paragraph that reflects:

- Your ambitions, your vision, and your creative point of view. (15 marks)
- How your vision connects with the Artivisti programme. (5 marks)

5.3 Criterion 3: Quality of Portfolio and Relevance of the programme (20 marks)

This criterion is to be addressed in not more than 200 words.

This criterion considers the relevance of the programme to the applicant and their professional development. It also considers the quality of the applicant's portfolio.

We want to understand your commitment and how your work connects to this programme.

Please write one paragraph that:

- Provides a short bio note about yourself. What are your interests, your previous work, and your future aspirations?

Attach a portfolio of your work to show the quality and scope of your creative practice. (20 marks)

5.4 Criterion 4: Video Pitch (20 marks)

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

- The video pitch is the face of the application, not only delivering vital information, but also displaying personality.
- The video pitch may be created using any medium, including a mobile phone, and uploaded (password-protected) on YouTube or Vimeo. It can be presented in a variety of creative formats but should not be longer than three (3) minutes. The pitch shall include a taster of the applicant's creative proficiency and the applicant's motivation towards activism
- A link to the uploaded pitch, as well as the relevant password (if the uploaded pitch is password-protected), are to be included in the application.

Please provide a video pitch that clearly shares your why you want to join the programme and the ideas that you would like to explore during the programme. You could also discuss the preliminary intention for your final project.

6 Submitting the application

Follow these steps to apply:

1. Read these guidelines and regulations very carefully;
2. Check whether your proposed idea can be addressed by this initiative;
3. Press the link that will take you to the online application system;
4. If you do not have a profile, create your profile with Arts Council Malta by clicking on Register and filling in the details;
5. From the open calls section, select the online application for the initiative you intend to apply for;
6. Follow the instructions step-by-step. Fill in all the required information from the online application including the budget and attach the supporting documentation;
7. Submit the application. You should be receiving an automatic acknowledgement by the system. If you do not receive such a notification, contact us on applyforfunds@artscouncil.mt.

Applicants are required to register a profile on the ACM CRM at least two weeks prior to the deadline of the call.

In case of difficulty, or if you would like to consult us regarding this fund, you can call us on +356 2334 7230, from Monday to Friday between 09:00 and 16:00, or send an email on fundinfo@artscouncil.mt.

It is your responsibility to present a complete application form as explained in these guidelines and regulations. If you do not present all the necessary information and documentation, your application will not be processed and evaluated.

Prior to the application deadline, Arts Council Malta representatives will not be checking your application forms. It is solely at Arts Council Malta's discretion to request that applicants provide any missing mandatory documentation following the call deadline.

Upon the submission of the application, applicants accept that should they be selected for the programme. Their name, and subsequently their project name and details, can be published by Arts Council Malta.

A decision on funding will be made on the strength of the submitted information and supporting documents.

Applications handed in after 12.00 (noon) of the respective deadline cannot be accepted.

6.1 Checklist

- A copy of the Maltese ID card (front and back) or Maltese residence permit or Maltese citizenship certificate of Maltese passport. This should be in the applicant profile;
- A copy of the Maltese VAT Certificate of Registration, if applicable;
- A copy of a document issued by the Office of the Commissioner for Revenue showing that the applicant is a taxpayer in Malta;
- Applicant biography/artistic CV;
- CV of endorsers;
- A complete and dated application form;
- A practice portfolio/links;
- A creative video pitch by the applicant, which includes:
 - A taster of the applicant's creative proficiency;
 - The applicant's goals and aspirations for the next three years;
 - Motivation for applying for the programme;
 - Why the applicant should be chosen for the programme;
- Any other supporting material if available.

7 Selection process

This initiative is competitive and participants will be selected according to established criteria.

As specified above, each criterion is allocated a number of specific marks. To be considered for support, applicants must obtain an average of at least 60 marks. A maximum of five applicants will be chosen as participants. The decision is based on the quality of the submitted proposals and on the availability of spaces. Therefore, obtaining 60 marks or more does not automatically mean that you will be selected. The Evaluation Board may decide to choose less beneficiaries if the applicants do not reach the required level in terms of the fund criteria.

Eligible applications will be assessed by a selection team appointed by the Council based on their professional experience. Arts Council Malta will select evaluators based on their independent and professional experience. The evaluators will present an assessment on each of the proposed projects, indicating the relevant ratings awarded.

7.1 Communication of results

On the day indicated on page 2, you will receive your result notification from Arts Council Malta. Together with the covering letter, we will also attach a copy of the feedback form, indicating the reasons and marks leading to the Selection Board's decision, according to the initiative criteria.

If you have any difficulties concerning your results, you should email us on fundinfo@artscouncil.mt within five (5) days of receiving your funding decision.

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

All information received by the Executive and Manager responsible for the scheme and Evaluators will be considered confidential, both during and after the evaluation process. Provisions on data protection and confidentiality for successful projects will be included in the Grant agreement.

8 Complaints procedure

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

8.1 Grounds for complaints

Applicants can make a complaint regarding procedural anomalies and irregularities during the submission and evaluation process in terms of the procedures stipulated in these guidelines and regulations. Complaints cannot be made concerning:

- The Arts Council's or Government's policies and procedures
- The merits of the application in terms of the criteria stipulated in these guidelines and regulations.

Only applicants may file complaints concerning their project.

8.2 Filing a complaint

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

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

Need advice?

ACM and Aġenzija Żgħażaġh offer pre-submission consultation services to help secure support for your application. We are there every step of the way. We can help you determine whether ARTIVISTI is the right programme for you and provide feedback on the way you plan to present your proposal. Plan ahead and get in touch with us at least four weeks before the submission deadline, to make the best of our services.

You are welcome to call ACM on +356 2334 7230, Aġenzija Żgħażaġh on +356 22586700 on weekdays, between 09:00 and 16:00, or send us an email on fundinfo@artscouncil.mt.

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