

# 2021

ARTS COUNCIL MALTA  
ANNUAL REPORT



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# Foreword

ALBERT MARSHALL EXECUTIVE CHAIR

2021 represented the year during which the cultural and creative sector began to overcome the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, gradually moving towards a more familiar world where the lockdowns, social distancing restrictions and audience capping limits that brought the sector to a standstill throughout the previous year are an unwelcome memory.

**M**uch of Arts Council Malta's work throughout the year was directed precisely towards this goal, supporting artists and creative practitioners to overcome the difficulties brought about by the pandemic whilst carving out a path for the sector to return to a more sustainable, eventful and fulfilling reality.

The RESTART schemes – ACM's 12 arts investment and support schemes issued throughout 2021 – are a testament to this. Through these schemes, the Council allocated over €3.6m to support the sector's resilience, ensure its ability to overcome the obstacles it had to face, and empower it to emerge on the other

side with a fresh impetus to push the boundaries of artistic practice in Malta. Through the support received from the RESTART schemes, many artists and practitioners across the country were able to navigate the pandemic's uncertainties and plan longer-term projects with the peace of mind that this funding provided.

The RESTART schemes addressed the sector's longer-term development by rethinking and restructuring existing scheme to focus on practitioners' ongoing professional development, encouraging them to develop digital skills, engage in new forms of cultural exchange and invest in more sustainable project development. Meanwhile, we also introduced brand new schemes

to meet the sector's immediate needs, supporting artists in restarting their cultural programming and ensuring the financial sustainability of their events.

2021 was also the year during which we took decisive steps in shaping the Council's future direction through the development of ACM's Strategy 2025. Adopting a wholly participatory approach, ACM engaged in extensive conversation, consultation and dialogue with stakeholders and the general public, in an effort to understand the issues that the strategy needs to address, as well as to identify the most pressing priorities that the Council is to focus upon over the upcoming years. ACM's prior strategy, Strategy 2020, proved to be fertile ground for internal reflection and evaluation,



*2021 was also the year during which we took decisive steps in shaping the Council's future direction through the development of ACM's Strategy 2025*

ensuring that Strategy 2025 will be building upon the wealth of knowledge developed over the past years.

The year concluded with the publication of the draft strategy for public consultation, with the principles of Care, Create, Flourish at the strategy's forefront. We believe that these principles outline ACM's vision for a sustainable future of the arts sector in Malta, one in which all members of society are empowered to be creative in their endeavours and where the right to culture is embedded within the very fabric of our daily lives.

2022 will undoubtedly present new opportunities and new challenges, both for the broader creative sector,

as well as for ACM in particular. ACM looks forward to embracing these opportunities and beginning the newest chapter of its work, hand in hand with the artists, stakeholders and partners that have been instrumental in shaping Malta's creative and cultural ecology over the past years.

**Albert Marshall**  
Executive Chair, Arts Council Malta



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# Organisational Structure & Governance

## Board of Directors

**Executive Chair**  
Albert Marshall

Silvana Civelli  
Marquis Nicholas De Piro  
Amity Galea  
Ivan Gatt

Jackie Mercieca  
Joe Micallef  
Dominic Spencer

## Funding & Strategy Directorate

**Director Funding & Strategy**  
Mary-Ann Cauchi

**Education & Development Executive**  
Christabel Catania

**Support Administrator**  
Odette Micallef

**Head Strategy**  
Adrian Debattista

**International Outreach Coordinator**  
Christine Darmanin

**Creative Communications Broker**  
Eleonora Ruggieri

**Head Funding**  
Rita Falzon

**Internationalisation Executive**  
Romina Delia

**EU Projects Executive**  
Christopher Spiteri

**Research Executive**  
Neville Borg

**Support Administrator**  
Joelle Dimech

**Creative Entrepreneurship Executive**  
Maria Angela Vassallo

**Support Administrator**  
Claude Busuttil

**Administration Support Officer**  
Rityanne Gauci

**Creative Broker**  
Glen Zammit

**Fund Administration Executive**  
Annalise Buttigieg

**Diversity & Communities Executive**  
Simone Inguanez

## Staff at Pjazza Teatru Rjal

**Director**  
Christopher Muscat

**Administration & Operations Executive**  
Dorothy Camilleri

**Maintenance**  
Carmelo Vella

**Technical Executive**  
Carmel Aquilina

**Administrative Assistant**  
Mario Fardell

## Staff at ZfinMalta

**Agency Administrator**  
Rachel Vella

**Education & Administration Executive**  
Martina Zammit

## Executive Chair's Office & Corporate Affairs Directorate

**Director**  
Eric Fenech Sevasta

**Finance Senior Officer**  
Karen Farrugia

**Cleaner**  
Laurene Portelli

**Driver/Messenger**  
Diandra Agius

**Accounts Support Senior Officer**  
Rossella Farrugia

**Administration Senior Officer**  
Leonard Sciberras

**Support Officer**  
Ritienne Borg

**Administration Officer**  
Angie Felice

**Administration Officer**  
Martha Scicluna

**Officer**  
Oscar Briffa

**Operations Executive**  
Martin Gauci

**Finance Executive**  
Eileen Spiteri

**Finance Manager (Senior)**  
Karen Buhagiar

**Finance Senior Officer**  
Ritienne Grogen

**Reception**  
Tania Spiteri

**Driver/Messenger**  
Robert Camilleri

**Driver/Messenger**  
Selina Mallia

**e-Culture Administration Assistant**  
Jesmond Tedesco Triccas

**IT Executive**  
Sean Cockram

**Financial Controller**  
Gilmore Mercieca

**Finance Senior Manager**  
Joseph Zammit

**Administration Support Officer**  
Lorraine Cutajar

**Registry Administration Assistant**  
Elizabeth Muscat

**Legal Officer**  
Luke Dalli

**Assistant Director**  
Claudette Debono Farrugia

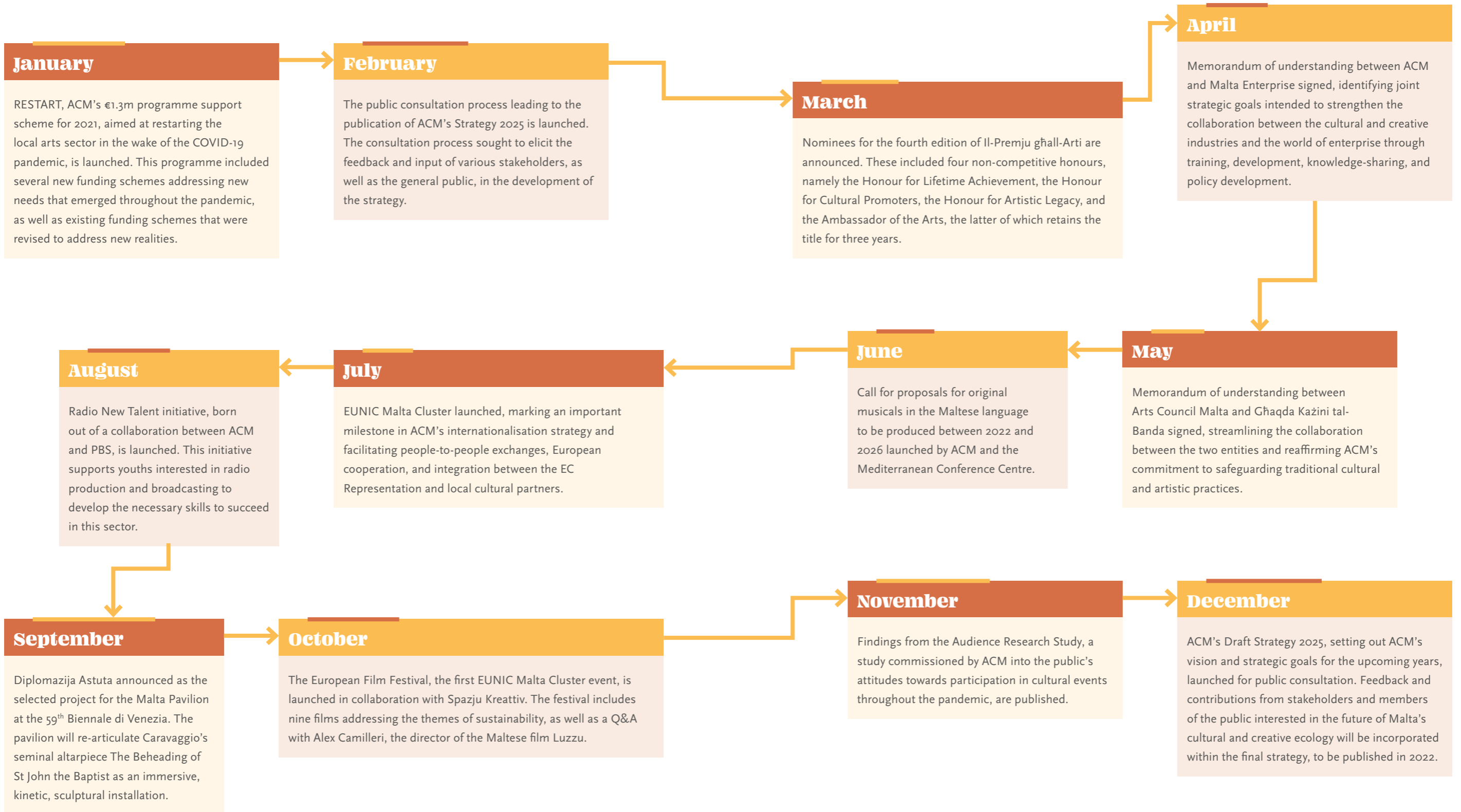
**Guest Relations Officer**  
Elaine Pickard

**Management Support Executive**  
Aida Daoud Bushra

**Administration & HR Executive**  
Kathryn Demicoli

**Projects Executive**  
Vincent Piscopo

# Arts Council Malta in 2021



# Government Budget Allocations 2021

## ACM Recurrent and Capital Expenditure 2021

Arts Council Malta	€3,700,000
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## ACM Funding Programmes and Initiatives

Malta Arts Fund	€400,000
Cultural Export Fund	€180,000
Cultural Partnership Agreement	€680,000
Kreattiv	€120,000
Creative Communities	€200,000
Il-Premju tal-President għall-Kreattività	€120,000
KulturaTV	€300,000
Malta Digital Games Fund	€100,000
National Fund for Artistic Excellence (includes Artivisti, Young Artist Development Programme, Young Talent Fund, Il-Premju għall-Arti, and the Professional Development Grant)	€150,000
Teatru Malta	€450,000
Malta International Contemporary Art Space (MICAS)	€1,800,000
KorMalta	€110,000
Support to Cultural NGOs/Enterprises	€200,000
Support to Local Theatre Spaces	€400,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€5,210,000</b>

## Public Cultural Organisations (PCOs) Recurrent and Capital Expenditure 2021

Festivals Malta	€4,130,000
Teatru Manoel	€4,790,000
Pjazza Teatru Rjal	€2,740,000
ŻfinMalta	€670,000
Fondazzjoni Kreattività	€2,015,000
Malta Philharmonic Orchestra	€3,100,000
Mediterranean Conference Centre	€980,000
Valletta Cultural Agency	€3,500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€21,925,000</b>



Aaron Bezzina - Double Catapult, UN/MUTE New York, 2021

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**Strategy**

# 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. Nurture creative potential and support its development into professional activity.
2. Invest in artistic excellence.
3. Connect Malta to the international artistic community.
4. Provide more opportunities for people to engage in creativity.
5. Build the capacity of public cultural organisations

# Funding

Throughout 2021, Arts Council Malta administered a total of 22 calls across 15 funding schemes. A total of 515 eligible applications were submitted to request financial support through the various schemes. 312 proposals were successful and received funding in 2021, amounting to a total disbursement of €4,910,733.

The Council's preparation for the administration of the RESTART Schemes began immediately following the announcement of the government's allocation of funds through the annual budget. The RESTART schemes were crucial to the sector's recovery and altogether provided a stimulus to reboot the creative and cultural sectors in 2021. RESTART schemes were adapted to help the sectors to face the challenges that arose from the COVID-19 pandemic. They provided support to implement the mitigation measures announced by the public health authorities. The application process was simplified to be more inclusive and to reach a wider range of applicants.

The funding process started with the planning of the RESTART Schemes' annual plan and its various deadlines.

A set of guidelines and regulations were issued for each scheme, together with the scheme's corresponding application template. Applications for each scheme were submitted online through the Arts Council Malta website and were open for a period of six weeks. ACM is carrying out ongoing upgrades to the online system used to receive and evaluate applications. The revamped system is more user-friendly and helps the Council to drastically reduce the printing of applications.

Applications were submitted by creative professionals, individual artists, entities registered with the Malta Business Registry, groups, consortia, collectives, and voluntary organisations enrolled with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations.

The applications submitted through the various schemes passed through several evaluation stages, starting with eligibility, whereby the funding team determined whether an application or an applicant was eligible to apply through that specific scheme, according to the eligibility criteria listed in the guidelines and regulations. Eligible applications were passed on to the respective fund manager, who determined whether the proposal met the aims and objectives of the specific scheme. In 2021, a total of 36 ineligible applications were submitted to the Council; these applications did not undergo evaluation according to the clauses established in the guidelines and regulations.

The evaluator is an important stakeholder in the funding process.

The Council regularly issues a call for evaluators for individuals who are competent and possess expertise in strategic areas within the cultural and creative sectors and who are interested in forming part of the evaluation boards. An evaluation board is composed of three external

evaluators and a fund manager who is an Arts Council Malta employee. The majority of the calls of the RESTART schemes appointed external evaluators who are not Arts Council Malta employees, and whose qualifications and expertise allowed them to evaluate the applications based upon the criteria established in the guidelines and regulations. In 2021, the Council appointed a total of 76 evaluators who contributed to the allocation of funds to beneficiaries.

Evaluators were given online access to go through the eligible applications individually. The evaluators submitted their marks and comments for each criterion as established in the guidelines and regulations. The evaluation board met to discuss the eligible applications during a minimum of one final evaluation and a maximum of four sessions that included a shortlisting session and pitching sessions spread over two days. During the final evaluation sessions the boards established a ranking order based on the average marks submitted by the evaluation board. In 2021, Arts Council Malta held a total of 35 evaluations and shortlisting sessions and a total of 270 pitching sessions.

In 2021, Arts Council Malta collaborated with various entities to implement and manage a number of programmes and initiatives.



Teatru Salesjan - Empty Floor 2022 - Daniel Bonello and Yasmin Dingli

## PROGRAMME SUPPORT SCHEME

# Recovery and Resurgence from Covid-19 at Teatru Salesjan

### TEATRU SALESJAN

Season 2021/2022 was a year where every effort was made to recover and emerge in the face of adversity. Through a varied programme of events targeting young and old alike, as well as outsourcing venues in order to reach out to the community, Teatru Salesjan has striven to generate stimulating artistic content whilst engaging both international and local artists in a programme integrating theatre, dance, and music.

*This programme of events has been invaluable, both to the theatre and its team, as well as the audiences with which it has engaged. Every project forming part of the programme of events presented its own challenges, as each event needed particular attention with regard to setting and delivery, especially due to the delayed opening of the theatre. The team therefore had to respond, finding creative solutions that would complement and enhance the artistic content, whilst collaborating with new entities. This process has left us truly enriched, as well as our audiences, who got to experience alternative settings for our productions. This was only possible with the support of Arts Council Malta.*

Five young artists were selected for the Artivisti programme, an initiative administered in collaboration with Aġenzija Żgħażaġh that aims to invest in emerging artists' training and development to continue building their skill sets as young creatives.

16 cultural organisations pursued their three-year programme of activities that started in 2020 and which is supported through the Investment in Cultural Organisations programme. The collaboration agreement with the Valletta Cultural Agency provides support to a further three organisations. These organisations are being supported to invest in capacity building by further developing their skills and to organise festivals, programmes, and events addressing artists' development and quality of artistic work. The Gozo Cultural Support Programme is a three-year programme that started in 2019 and supports seven organisations in Gozo focusing on and which are active in the cultural and creative sectors.

Thirty-six band clubs have been awarded funding to preserve, restore, rehabilitate, and renovate different movable items and structures owned by the band clubs in Malta and Gozo. Arts Council Malta is collaborating with the Għaqda Nazzjonali Kazini tal-Banda to implement the fund to strengthen cultural work done by band clubs.

A collaboration agreement between Arts Council Malta and the Restoration Directorate provides financial support for the restoration and conservation of



*Arts Council Malta developed a number of new funding schemes throughout 2021 in order to address and mitigate the effects brought about by the pandemic*

internal and external cultural property immovables of churches. Seven organisations were awarded funding to invest in immovable cultural property.

Arts Council Malta supported projects focused on professional development, artistic projects development, digital research and development, and community projects.

An investment of €1.2 million was dedicated towards the Professional Development Grant, Young Talent Fund, KulturaTV, Digital Research and Development Scheme, Project Support Scheme, Creative Communities, Il-Premju tal-President għall-Kreattività, Artistic Financing for Feast Associations and Health and Safety Standards in Fireworks Factories. A total of 141 beneficiaries received funding through these schemes in 2021.

Arts Council Malta developed a number of new funding schemes throughout 2021 in order to address

and mitigate the effects brought about by the pandemic.

The Programme Support Scheme provided financial support to implement 47 programmes of activities with a total investment of €1.3 million. The scheme supported new collaborations as well as regular activities and allowed beneficiaries to develop their skills, and explore new ways to engage their audience while minimising the risk of unexpected losses. The Arts Education Scheme funded 14 projects that support individual and independent arts schools to invest in research, resources, and knowledge sharing amongst other types of projects.

The Events Support Scheme increased the economic viability of cultural and artistic events which took place between July and December 2021 by supporting logistic expenses and ticket match-funding. A total investment of €1.275 million supported 49 applications that were funded through



Il-Familja Katastrofija – Operazzjoni Herkules

## KULTURATV

# Il-Familja Katastrofija

### NRGY CONCEPTS LTD.

Il-Familja Katastrofija is a mini series which follows the comic chronicles of 5 Maltese relatives. Based on real historical events, the episodes offer the viewers with 5 different scenarios; the set, the costumes and the characters' catastrophies transform according to the particular chapter in Malta's history (e.g. 1565, 1942 and 5000 BC). Il-Familja Katastrofija aims to give the local audience an original viewing experience that changes with each episode. With a tragicomic genre, this TV show hopes to be a springboard for future seasons both locally and internationally.

*The project was valuable as it provided its artists with the opportunity to experiment with genres and push forward an original concept to the Maltese audience. It brought together a group of talented artists that each contributed greatly in creating a cohesive universe that continuously transforms. The funds have given us and our collaborators a chance to showcase our strengths in our respective fields.*

this scheme. The International Cultural Exchanges Scheme is focused on the outgoing mobility of Maltese and Malta-based artists, over 18 years of age,

as well as their artworks and cultural productions. It supports cultural exchanges, participation in festivals and events abroad, and the production of

audiovisuals for international platforms. In 2021, the scheme supported 14 projects with a total investment of €100,000.

## RESTART Schemes

In 2021, Arts Council Malta established the RESTART funding schemes, a programme to support and enable beneficiaries to restart their programming and production activities and operate in a sustainable manner. This programme included several new funding schemes, as well as existing funding schemes that were revised and adapted to meet current needs.

The pandemic affected a huge number of projects that were awarded funds in 2020. As a result, ACM organised the COVID-19 transition arts task force which met—digitally—to discuss the impacts of the pandemic on the cultural and creative sectors. Key sectorial

experts and stakeholders discussed issues and provided suggestions to mitigate the current situation. RESTART Schemes 2021 were developed based on three fundamental actions addressing recovery and resilience of the cultural and creative sectors: Rethink, Recover, Reinvent.

The schemes consisted of three overarching principles. The first principle was that of adaptability, namely the need to adapt to the practices recommended by public health authorities to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. These included incorporating measures such as social distancing, hygiene and sanitisation,

splitting the audiences into bubbles, and keeping records for contact tracing purposes, where necessary. The second principle was survival and resilience, whereby a wider range of stakeholders was eligible to apply for funds. This more inclusive approach allowed stakeholders, such as registered companies, to access the schemes. The final principle was sustainability, whereby ACM invested in the sector's development and offered opportunities for the creation of new work and incentivised creative risk-taking and innovative approaches to creative work.



Hassartek - Credit Giola Cassar

## PROJECT SUPPORT SCHEME

### Hassartek

#### MATTHEW SCHEMBRI

Hassartek ('I Erased You') is the name of the second art exhibition and publication by Matthew Schembri. The publication, a partial erasure by the writer himself of his first novel, *Stessi* (Merlin Publishers, 2018; winner of The Literary Contest of Novels for Youth 2016), includes 231 erasure poems. The solo art exhibition of the same name, curated by Prof. Raphael Vella, served as an extension of this publication.

*Arts Council Malta was vital for the Hassartek project. The funds of the Project Support Scheme provided my team and me with enough financial support to be able to aim for literary and artistic excellence. Moreover, with this support, my dual-career—as a visual artist and a writer—developed further, while I look forward to future opportunities with more conviction because Arts Council Malta believed in my project and, once more, in myself.*

# Brokerage

Arts Council Malta's brokerage services support artists, creatives, and organisations in learning more about the creative sector to develop ideas and establish contacts with entities and stakeholders within the cultural sector. Furthermore, through its brokerage, ACM seeks to share knowledge and news about the sector through workshops and other information services.

These actions continued taking place throughout 2021 where, following internal discussions and external meetings with cultural practitioners, the need for Arts Council Malta to participate more actively in pertinent international debates around topics of interest was felt. This led to the launch of a new online conversation, 'A Global Exchange for Local Action', bringing together local practices with global perspectives. These online conversations took the form of quarterly webinars live-streamed through ACM's social media channels. The webinars sought to encourage artists, researchers, students, and cultural operators to interact with a number of international speakers in an exchange of views about both local realities and global contexts. The thoughts and experiences presented by speakers and participants throughout these webinars provided valuable insights into several issues that were of relevance throughout the year.

During 2021 Arts Council Malta hosted four sessions (February, May, September, November). The topics discussed were: (1) Joint Up Thinking: Collective Learning through the Arts, (2) Squaring the Circle: Social Solidarity and the Circular Economy, (3) Last orders, lost orders? Engaging with identity politics and cultural policy, and (4) Building bridges towards creative care and wellbeing. These webinars

were addressed by a broad range of local and international speakers hailing from different fields, including cultural policy, academia, civil society, and literature.

A total of seven ACMHangouts sessions were held throughout 2021, tackling a broad range of topics, including: Artificial intelligence and the Arts: How, why?; Sustainable practices in the creative industries; Policies and Strategies for the creative industries; Understanding intellectual property; Exploring Arts and Education; Safety in the creative industries; and Disability and the Arts. These sessions were recorded at the University of Malta, Valletta Campus Theatre and were disseminated on our social media platforms, the ACM website, as well as ACM's YouTube channel.

Similarly, seven ACMChats took place in 2021 spread out throughout 2021, addressing the following topics: Arts and Democracy; Maltese Theatre; Arts or Management; Arts and Artificial Intelligence; Traditions and the Arts; Art as a Form of Therapy; and Research on Arts and Culture. These were recorded on SoundCloud in collaboration with Campus FM.

For all the sessions, experts in their field of study were invited to discuss and find solutions as to how artists and

cultural institutions can work hand in hand and help one another.

Two targeted information sessions were held throughout the year. The aim of these meetings was to disseminate information about the various funding programmes. These were held with the Malta Youth Orchestra musicians and also with students from MCAST. The latter session took the form of a mock application in which students presented their artistic projects in the form of a pitching session, and guidance and advice was given to each applicant.

A total of 13 ACMlab sessions were organised in 2021. These sessions varied in terms of their format, ranging from talks, presentations, and hands-on workshops led by Malta-based and international speakers with the specialised expertise. These focused on a variety of subjects including Pitching Smart, Activism, African Connections, Cyber Security, Creating Business Ideas, Tomorrow's Performing Venues, Internationalisation, Bringing Practitioners Together, Artistic Trajectories in a Small State, Education, Self-care, and the Language of Arts. Given the pandemic and the consequent changes in artists' needs, we held an ACMlab on Cyber Security on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021. A number of matters were discussed, ranging from having meetings online to working on online projects. For this session we

# Education & Training

invited Mr Norbert Camilleri, Head of the Cyberthreat Intelligence Team at MITA.

An ongoing one-to-one brokerage service through multiple communication platforms was sustained through the funding & brokerage team. ACM's creative broker liaised between the Council and the

creative practitioners and offered a continued brokerage service through calls, emails, and direct meetings both in Malta and in Gozo. This service was also available at info sessions and ACMlab sessions both during and after office hours.

During 2021, the brokerage team worked hand in hand with ACM's head

of strategy to work on the drafting of ACM's Strategy 2025. Meetings between the two were held to discuss what the artists are actually facing and to find remedies as to how to tackle these issues. Several public consultation sessions were held to inform the way forward for the government to support the arts sector in Malta.

## Brokerage meetings

Brokerage meetings are a central function of ACM's brokerage services as they establish a direct and continuous channel of contact between ACM and the various creative practitioners and organisations that operate independently. These brokerage meetings are organised and directed by ACM's creative broker, who often elicits the support of fund managers or other ACM representatives, depending on the particular needs of the practitioner who has requested the meeting.

The scope of brokerage meetings can vary from addressing general queries related to ACM's activities, to detailed discussions about existing

funding opportunities. In many cases, prospective applicants approach the creative broker to discuss whether their project idea would be eligible for an existing funding scheme. In such cases, the creative broker (together with the respective fund manager), assist the applicant by explaining the funding scheme's objectives and eligibility criteria and encouraging the applicant to consider whether their project idea addresses these goals and criteria.

The creative broker also supports potential applicants in ensuring that they meet the scheme's administrative eligibility and that their application is being filled correctly. Other issues,

such as queries about what costs are eligible for funding, how the project's budgetary forecast is to be presented, and the various steps in the evaluation process, are often also discussed in some detail.

Through these brokerage meetings, creative practitioners have the opportunity to discuss their ideas directly with ACM representatives, as well as providing ACM with valuable insight into their own concerns, difficulties, and feedback.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges brought about to the sector, a new scheme, the Arts Education Scheme, was launched as part of the RESTART programme in order to support the education of the arts within formal and informal education as Kreattiv had been put on hold in 2021. Still, some projects from the Kreattiv 2020 call were still ongoing throughout the year. Two calls for the Arts Education Scheme were published, one in April—focusing on capacity building—and a call in September—focusing on cross-sectoral collaborations. Fourteen projects were funded, which looked at various aspects of arts education from research into the Montessori method, to electronic music workshops, and training for educators and students of the arts.

Meanwhile, the sixth call for applications under the Culture Pass programme was issued in 2021. This time, Culture Pass catered for all educational levels from early education to MQF Level 4. In view of the challenging circumstances faced by the sector all the productions in the 2020 programme were automatically retained and offered in 2021. The call for the 2021 programme was launched in August 2021 and in addition to the 30 productions that were offered in the previous scholastic year, an additional 10 new productions were evaluated and approved. Culture Pass is a joint initiative between Arts Council Malta and the Cultural Directorate within the Ministry for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government.

Further to our ongoing collaboration with the Malta Council of Science and Technology, two further memoranda of understanding were signed, one with the Malta College for the Arts, Science and Technology and one with the University of Malta's Department

of Open Communities and Adult Education. As part of our collaboration with the MCST, Arts Council Malta chaired the panel of evaluation of the first ever STEAM award, part of the National STEM awards held in June 2021. Our collaboration with the University of Malta materialized into a review of arts education within formal education through a research project on pedagogical approaches, which will kick off in 2022. Furthermore, a number of students have conducted placements at the various departments of Arts Council Malta, these students were either secondary students through a scheme with the Education Ministry or University of Malta and MCAST students.

Conversations with the public cultural organisations are ongoing, with regular meetings bringing together different entities to discuss various elements including the education programme. In 2021, Teatru Malta launched the second call for Atelier Francis Ebejer, originally launched in 2020 stemming from Premju Francis Ebejer and Progett

Francis Ebejer. The Atelier provides a safe space for several selected participants to discuss, debate, and produce theatre.

In 2021, several training initiatives were ongoing. These were related to business development, financial planning, marketing and audience research, and other topic of interest to the creative sector. These included ACMlabs and ACM Hangouts. Arts Council Malta also managed CREATE 2020 – Investing in cultural and creative capacity skills in Malta's public sector, a project which started in 2019 and will be concluded in 2022. The project provided specialised training programmes for public sector employees at Arts Council Malta, the Culture Directorate, Public Cultural Organisations, and the Department for Local Government, representing 68 local councils and six regional committees. The project has targeted 260 public employees through training in cultural strategy development, cultural leadership, and specialised skills programmes.



Nghidu Kelma ma' Di u Do - Credit Matthew Muscat Drago

## ARTS EDUCATION SCHEME

# Nghidu Kelma ma' Di u Do

NIKKI DEMAJO ALBANESE

This ten-episode project features two fun-loving characters Didi and Dodo, who find themselves in different situations that are identifiable with early years settings. Their young viewers are drawn into their fun-filled world and are encouraged to interact with the characters and to join in their catchy songs, together with their educators. Capitalising on the provision of real-life actors, rather than animation, early years children are likewise provided with aural exposure and opportunities for oral production in the Maltese language. Each 4-7 minute clip is purposefully designed to aid this development, thereby providing crucial stepping stones to the later development of literacy skills.

*When I was approached by Anna Paris and Abigail Falzon from Edu-Aide International about this project, I was intrigued and excited to see where this could go. Collaborating with the fantastic Laura Buhagiar and being supported by Arts Council Malta was the perfect combination to kickstart 'Nghidu Kelma ma' Di u Do' in the best way possible, and allowed us to launch from page to stage with ease. This project challenged me artistically and really pushed me to improve my script writing in Maltese.*

Despite the persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic, ACM was committed to continue its efforts to with the implementation of the ESF.04.079 project. In 2021, the following training activities took place:

- Training in cultural production was delivered on (i) stage management; (ii) sound design; (iii) lighting design; (iv) props and scenery; (v) set design. Four workshops were conducted in 2021 and the fifth in props and scenery will take place in 2022. This training will further enhance the participants' skills in cultural production hands-on applications through tailor-made workshops. As

a result, participants will provide a better and more efficient service to the artistic and cultural entities they work for and the public they work with.

- Specialisation in sector-specific, technical, or cultural policy components. This project also offered public employees the possibility to continue their professional development locally or abroad through short courses/masterclasses/networking and job shadowing events. A total of 11 grants were awarded in 2021, for a total of 108 grants awarded to 63 individual public employees throughout the project.



*Two further Memoranda of Understanding were signed, one with the Malta College for the Arts, Science and Technology and one with the University of Malta, Department of Open Communities and Adult Education*



## CREATIVE COMMUNITIES

### Let it Out!

PATSY CHETCUTI

'Let it Out!' promotes a form of therapy, which integrates the physical, emotional, cognitive, and social aspects into treatment. Its main aim is to provide mindfulness skills by paying attention to the experience of the body sensations, movements, and states, fostering the ability to verbalize these as well as the emotions and imagery relating to the body sensations. Through these sessions, the team aim to promote self-help tips and cognitive behavioural-based tools on how to manage and cope with anxiety in daily life.

The sessions involve two components – somatic movement and mindfulness techniques. The somatic movement component involves guided movement aimed at promoting self-awareness as well as non-judgemental and creative self-expression. The mindfulness component of the sessions involve an introduction to mindfulness, including: how to meditate; non-judgement; self-compassion; mindful communication; and self-awareness.

*I found this workshop to be very supportive of my journey despite it being an introductory course. It opened me to further self-care, to remember to inquire deeper into our nature, and to express emotions in a healthy and different way. I found that the mindfulness practices reminded me to start where I am, and to be even kinder and more patient with myself. Something that really struck me which I never experienced with somatic movement before was how getting in touch with body movement could lead to more than meets the eye. I am grateful that it was able to move the proverbial mud that settled in the seabed pretending to be sand, and for the mindfulness compassion that has helped me to support myself in this process. For this, I'd like to compliment our instructors, Danjela and Patsy. They did an excellent job of ensuring all participants were safe and comfortable, and provided so much knowledge.*

Nicole De Leonardo

# Community Cultural Exchange

Arts Council Malta is committed towards supporting and promoting the diversity of artistic and cultural expression in line with UNESCO's definition of cultural rights, and guided by the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the National Cultural Policy 2021, the EU Work Plan for Culture 2019–2022, and the Porto Santo Charter on Culture and the Promotion of Democracy. This fundamental commitment guided ACM's work throughout 2021.

Further instigated by the realities and inequalities which the pandemic brought to the surface, as well as the ensuing opportunities and narratives of hope, ACM established various community engagement and knowledge-development platforms, and deeply embedded inclusivity and diversity in Strategy 2025 including ACMChats and ACMHangouts, amongst others. An additional important platform during 2021 was the Strategy 2025 thematic conversations series. This series enabled a multifaceted reviewing of the Create2020 strategy with multiple stakeholders, as well as participatory planning, re-evaluation, and rethinking of the aims of the Strategy 2025 concretely, successfully, and realistically. The series was held and designed following multiple workshops with ACM's internal personnel, and with various public cultural organisations. The conversations then continued to shape the recommendations put forward to ACM and to directly inform Strategy 2025.

In the meantime, ACM continued to support inclusiveness and diversity through constant networking, intersectoral collaboration, knowledge

building, research-based policy development, and the implementation of its programmes, particularly Creative Communities and Il-Premju tal-President għall-Kreattività.

The projects supported under Creative Communities 2021 focused on cultural heritage and on mental health, whereas il-Premju tal-President għall-Kreattività enabled the recruitment of an officer at the Gabriel Caruana Foundation to help bring culture closer to different communities, develop engagement with communities, understand respective needs, and develop pertinent cultural experiences.

Beyond financial support, ACM continued to support artists, communities, and other stakeholders by providing consultation, facilitating networking, and sharing good practices and resources.

ACM also continued to sustain its collaboration with various networks and to provide regular updates relating to various strategies—including the EU Gender Equality Strategy in the Field of Culture and the National Strategic Policy for Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion.

Moreover, 2021 saw the consolidation of a resource pack – Right to Culture – aimed at raising awareness relating to diversity, equity, and inclusiveness.

This resource pack is primarily addressed at public cultural organisations, funding beneficiaries, civil society, and independent operators, and it includes:

- A user-friendly handbook (with examples of good practice);
- A complementary kit consisting of useful tools, templates, lists, and references designed to assist users in day-to-day practice

The participatory approach was given absolute priority throughout the project. After preliminary consultation with the Platform of Human Rights Organisations in Malta (PHROM), whose guidance was instrumental in identifying key diversity advocates, the research process followed 3 main steps:

- 8 focus groups with community members from diverse groups of society;
- 6 interviews with core group members;



Whereabout are you from? - Credit Gabriel Caruana Foundation

## IL-PREMJU TAL-PRESIDENT GĦALL-KREATTIVITÀ

# Whereabout are you from?

### GABRIEL CARUANA FOUNDATION

The Gabriel Caruana Foundation is a voluntary organisation engaged in bringing contemporary art, crafts, and culture closer to different communities—inspired by the legacy of pioneer artist Gabriel Caruana who saw in people the life and soul of art, culture, and creativity. The award enables the foundation to recruit a Community Engagement Officer in order to further develop engagement with communities, understand respective needs, and develop relevant initiatives.

*My journey as Community Engagement Officer with the Gabriel Caruana Foundation kicked-off in the past six months. Along with the team, I have started working towards a Community Engagement Strategy, through various methods of research and exploration.*

*This process means a lot not only to myself, but to the foundation too. It's not just about words on a paper. The past six months have helped me delve into and evolve existing relationships with those somehow involved with the foundation. From the artistic team, volunteers, artists, students, and people who live nearby – the list continues to grow.*

*Through the Foundation's support as well as that of Il-Premju tal-President għall-Kreattività, I am beyond eager to continue actioning steps towards this goal. In a positive atmosphere which is respectful of diverse communal needs, I enthusiastically foresee that this opportunity does not have a definite end, but will be a gateway to possibilities – personally, but especially for the Gabriel Caruana Foundation and its growing family.*

**Martina Camilleri**

- a cross-sectoral knowledge-sharing working group

The knowledge built along the way will enable ACM to better design initiatives in the coming years in its work with public cultural organisations, communities, and all stakeholders, placing importance on the right to culture across diverse communities.

Simultaneously, further opportunities for intersectoral collaboration, knowledge development, and networking continued to be explored, with a view to facilitating a dynamic forum for dissemination of knowledge and good practice relating to inclusivity, diversity, and culture. This is set to enable respective sectors to engage in creative synergies and accomplish goals that could be impossible for the sectors on their own.

The principle of the right to culture, as outlined in the Cultural Rights project, effectively became a cornerstone of Strategy 2025 and will continue to shape the core of ACM's approach to social engagement. Building on



*ACM continued to support inclusiveness and diversity through constant networking, intersectoral collaboration, knowledge building, research-based policy development, and the implementation of its programmes*

the conceptual framework developed over the past year, the new strategy is based on the recognition of cultural and creative engagement as a right, and is driven by a commitment towards cultural rights as a driver for social justice and sustainable development and regeneration—social, economic, and environmental.

The strategy specifically addresses the need to be mindful of structural inequities based on gender, ethnicity, class, and disability, in line with the EU

Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022, and culture's cross-cutting relevance to all of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those relating to inclusive and equitable education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), inclusive and sustainable economic growth, decent work and employment (SDG 8), reduced inequalities (SDG 10), sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), action towards combatting climate change and its impacts (SDG 13), and peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16).

# Business Development

Following the measures taken in 2020 to support the cultural and creative sectors to recover from the impact of the pandemic, ACM continued to engage in ongoing discussions with Malta Enterprise and public and independent cultural operators.

2021 saw the culmination of a memorandum of understanding with Malta Enterprise which lays the foundations for future agreements aimed at contributing to both strategic frameworks of the Arts Council and Malta Enterprise. This agreement will provide an enabling environment for the promotion of the creative economy, by encouraging more creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship. This will continue to offer career paths in different streams within the sector. Through this memorandum, both entities will create opportunities to harness collaborations and promote diffusion of knowledge and share best practices for the purpose of research within the sector by establishing connections between different sectors including enterprise, artists, and creatives. This collaboration between business and the arts leads to added value for all the parties involved and continues to bridge the gaps in areas of access to finance, skills, and incentives.

During 2021 there were also Covid Wage Supplement revisions which were overseen and issued from Malta Enterprise. As a result, the sectors' practitioners could continue benefiting from this measure, with the incentive being amended in 2021 to be based

upon the losses incurred during the pandemic rather than on the respective NACE codes, as was the case throughout 2020. In this way, cultural operators that were negatively impacted the most were ensured continued assistance, safeguarding of jobs, and less financial burden incurred from operating costs. In addition to this, the scheme supported more sustainable economic recovery for the cultural and creative sectors beyond the pandemic.

Arts Council Malta continued to strive to work towards the best benefits for local artists and creatives. ACM also collaborated with Malta Enterprise through an ACMLab entitled Creating Business Ideas Together which was focused solely on setting up a business in Malta during the pandemic through expert shadowing and support measures offered by Malta Enterprise as we want to continue enhancing the legal status of the professional. During the ACMLab session, reference was made to various incentives offered by Malta Enterprise from which creatives and cultural practitioners can benefit. These incentives include Business Start (B.Start), Business Development, the Micro Invest Scheme, and the Skills Development Scheme.

2021 brought with it a special focus on the increase of resilience of the culture and creative sectors by supporting opportunities towards business development and creative entrepreneurship. At the beginning of 2021, the Council launched the programme support scheme, with €1.3 million aimed at restarting the local arts sector by aiding organisations, collectives, or freelance collaborations to restart their programming and production activity wherever possible and for these to operate in a sustainable manner, even if the circumstances require postponing the reopening of certain activities to the public. The programme support scheme also served as seed funding in the context of the pandemic.

There was also the introduction of the Events Support Scheme, which was administered by ACM, and was supported by the Ministry for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government and the then Ministry for Tourism and Consumer Protection. This scheme was developed in response to the immediate restrictions of Public Health Authorities on mass events and was aimed towards making organised cultural and artistic more viable between September and December 2021. The scheme included assistance

through financial support for ticket match-funding and logistical assistance. This scheme was a rolling call on a first come, first served basis. In total, there were 49 beneficiaries who benefited from this scheme, with a total amount of €1,275,000 disbursed.

Throughout 2021, Arts Council Malta has continued working to foster connections between the creative industries and the business sector to further the development of fruitful collaboration between both sectors for the continued support of initiatives in the cultural and creatives sector. Discussions were held with the Central Business District to enhance the area through visual art, a collaboration which will come to fruition in 2022. ACM has also finalised a Creative Education and Entrepreneurship Programme together with In Place of War, a global organisation that uses creativity in places of conflict as a tool for positive change. This programme will launch in 2022 and will look into the developing of skills, competencies and knowledge in entrepreneurship, business, and technology in the cultural and creative sectors.

Another fruitful collaboration in 2021 in this regard was a training and mentorship programme aimed

at strengthening the entrepreneurial skills of local artists and creatives. This collaboration between the Foundation for the Promotion of Entrepreneurial Activities was possible thanks to the Investment in Cultural Organisations programme within the Council. This will also continue in 2022.

The 150% Tax Deduction on Donations to Culture scheme ran in 2021 for the sixth consecutive year. In 2021, 34 donations were carried out to various

registered cultural organisations, amounting to a collective tax benefit of €49,434.53, resulting in a total donation of €282,483 to cultural organisations.



*2021 brought with it a special focus on the increase of resilience of the culture and creative sectors by supporting opportunities towards business development and creative entrepreneurship*

# Internationalisation

Arts Council Malta's internationalisation programme continued throughout 2021, despite the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, with various initiatives aimed at connecting local practitioners with international partners and networks.

In 2021 the International Cultural Exchanges Scheme (ICE) was launched, replacing the Cultural Export Fund (CEF), whilst addressing the emerging needs of the sector. While the spread of COVID-19 made travel more difficult, it also gave digital cultural exchanges an enormous boost. This scheme addressed this by encouraging artists to exchange their artworks not only physically, but also through digital channels. Through this scheme, funds related to international marketing as well as the production of audiovisuals, websites, and demos of completed cultural productions have also been made eligible.

The total funds available for this scheme was €100,000. A total of 14 beneficiaries benefitted from this in 2021, with funds allocated to successful applicants not exceeding €10,000 per project.

Outgoing residencies in 2021 were funded by ACM through the International Cultural Exchanges Scheme. In 2021 the following artists residencies were funded: Artist Laura Besançon's participation in a residency at ZK/U Berlin - Center of Art and Urbanistics, and artist Wioletta Kulewska's participation in the Skopelos Foundation, Artist in Residence programme in Greece.

Throughout 2021, ACM continued its support and collaboration with

the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on cultural diplomacy and external cultural relations.

One example was the collaboration on the cultural event organised by the Embassy of Malta in Spain, which marked Malta's 57 years of independence, with the launch of an outdoor art exhibition at the Royal Botanic Garden of Madrid. The exhibition, called "Malta: Un Punto de Encuentro (Malta: a meeting point)", explored Malta's role as a place that historically acted as a meeting point for various world powers, including Spain.

In March 2021, in collaboration with the Embassy of Malta in Ethiopia, ACM organized and presented an ACMLab session focusing on Africa. This session actively challenged conventional notions of a singular African aesthetic and identity, and encouraged Maltese artists to further explore the African continent through collaborative artistic projects.

Presentations were delivered by Maltese and African artists, some of whom in previous years were funded by ACM to participate in projects held in Africa or in collaboration with African artists.

Throughout 2021, ACM retained its commitment to participate actively in its international partner networks.

ACM participated in the EUNIC Focal Points meetings as well as the AGM held online and in Brussels, and several knowledge sharing workshops and webinars. ACM also started to coordinate the next EUNIC Focal points meeting which is set to take place in Malta in 2022.

ACM is also a partner in an EU project funded by the Creative Europe Support to Networks, titled "EUNIC – Crossroads for Culture – Building a European Cultural Relations Sector", managed by lead partners EUNIC Global. The project has been awarded a grant of €250,000 yearly and is being implemented over 4 years (December 2017 - November 2021).

In July 2021, ACM officially launched the EUNIC Malta Cluster, along with other EU embassies and cultural institutes based in Malta. ACM in New York also continued its coordination of Malta's participation in the virtual project entitled UN/MUTE (2020-2022), a collaborative virtual project co-organized by EUNIC NY, the European Union National Institutes of Culture's New York Cluster.

UN/MUTE was the culmination of two online residencies launched in 2020 to provide European and NYC-based artists an opportunity for critical exchange and collaboration during the COVID-19 global pandemic. The residencies, titled 10001 and 10002,

paired artists who had never met before and challenged teams to overcome the limitations of lockdowns as they connected across artistic mediums, language, culture, generations, and time zones to find new forms of expression and meaning within art.

Two Maltese artists, composer Mariella Cassar-Cordina and film director Alex Camilleri, were paired with artists from a different EU country representing other cultural institutes, while Aaron Bezzina was paired with a NY-based artist. Their artworks were all exhibited in a live exhibition at the Austrian Cultural Forum in NY from September 2021 till January 2022.

Through the EUNIC Warsaw Cluster, Malta has been participating in the event entitled 'Poems in the City'

whereby poetry originating from several European countries is given international exposure in the streets of Warsaw. In the 2021 edition, poet Nadia Mifsud represented Malta with her work, which goes by the title 'qtar' (drops).

ACM also participated in the TRANSPOESIE poetry festival organised by EUNIC Brussels. Annually, the festival celebrates multilingualism by bringing poetry in as many languages as possible to Brussels. It marks the annual European Day of Languages and Linguistic Diversity on 26 September by organising a series of events in September and October. Miriam Calleja participated in 2021 with the following poem: "Xi ħadd pinga fjura"

Throughout the year, ACM actively participated in several online meetings with IETM, the International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts. ACM also invited Teatru Salesjan as its guest member for IETM 2021 and 2022.

In April and October 2021, ACM actively participated in online IFACCA (International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies) meetings. IFACCA provides programmes and services that respond to its members' needs, with a focus on international relationships, exchange, knowledge and evidence. In 2021 the meetings focused on the special report by UN Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennoune who had presented in the 46<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council "COVID-19, Cultures and Cultural Rights" surveying the effect of the pandemic on culture and cultural rights.

Through the commissioning, management, and coordination of Arts Council Malta, the Malta Pavilion at the Biennale di Venezia will open once again to the public in 2022.

The Malta Pavilion at the Venice Biennale will be curated by a specific team selected following an international call in 2021. An evaluation board assessed proposals and unanimously selected "Diplomazija Astuta" as the project to represent Malta in Venice.



*Arts Council Malta's internationalisation programme continued throughout 2021, despite the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic*



Essen SPIEL 2021

## INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGES SCHEME

### Essen SPIEL 2021

#### MIGHTY BOARDS

Essen SPIEL is the biggest European board game convention where designers, publishers, artists, and distributors gather to showcase their work. For us at Mighty Boards, this convention is particularly beneficial to build new relationships and explore new collaborations with new and existing partners. During the 4 days of the convention, about 25 new possible distribution and localization deals were made, new collaborations were formed on the spot for an upcoming title, artists were hired for games currently in their development phase, and new contacts were made with international press.

*The International Cultural Exchanges Scheme made our presence at Essen Spiel possible and in doing so gave Excavation Earth, Vengeance: Roll & Fight and Hamlet, as well as our previous games a solid list of industry contacts who not only are interested in the games themselves but also want to establish Mighty Boards amongst well-known international game publishers and developers. Establishing a solid route to market our board game creations is not only satisfying but gives us confidence to invest in future designs since we can continue to bring them to life internationally in an expanding and popular industry.*

Curated by Keith Sciberras and Jeffrey Uslip, through the creative collaboration of Giuseppe Schembri Bonaci, Arcangelo Sassolino and the composition of renowned Maltese conductor and musician Brian Schembri, this project will be re-articulating Caravaggio's seminal

altarpiece The Beheading of St John the Baptist (1608).

Preparations for Malta's participation at the London Design Biennale 2023 edition started taking place in 2021.

As part of the cultural programme of France holding the title of Presidency of the Council of the EU, ACM, through collaboration with the Embassy of France in Malta and Aġenzja Żgħażaġħ, facilitated the participation of two Maltese youths in the Night of Ideas event happening in Paris in 2022.

## EUNIC MALTA Cluster Launch 2021

In July 2021, Arts Council Malta kickstarted the first ever EUNIC Malta Cluster. EUNIC is the network for the European Union National Institutes for Culture. A number of European Embassies and Cultural Institutes active in Malta worked together to set up the EUNIC Malta Cluster. Currently, the EUNIC Malta cluster comprises of the following members: the Embassy of Austria in Malta (EUNIC Malta Cluster co-President); Italian Cultural Institute (EUNIC Malta Cluster co-President); British Council in Malta (EUNIC Malta Cluster Vice President); Arts Council Malta (EUNIC Malta Cluster Vice President); Embassy of Spain in Malta; Alliance Française de Malte – Méditerranée; Embassy of Poland in

Malta; Embassy of Hungary in Malta; and the French Embassy in Malta.

The EUNIC Malta Cluster's first event consisted of a film festival, in collaboration with Spazju Kreattiv at the St. James Cavalier Centre for Creativity in Valletta, in October 2021. The festival presented nine films whose main theme revolved around sustainability, whether social, economic, or environmental.

*Luzzu* is the local film which was showcased at this film festival. Following the screening, the public had the opportunity to interact with film director Alex Camilleri through a live Q&A session, moderated by Emma Mattei.

The EUNIC Malta Cluster envisages to facilitate people-to-people exchanges, European cooperation, and the integration between the European Commission Representation and local cultural partners. Its mission is to contribute towards the Sustainable Development Goals and to reflect the diversity of European cultures and common values through joint European events and projects.

# Research

Research remained a cornerstone of Arts Council Malta's work throughout 2021, playing an important role in supporting the creative sector's efforts to overcome the challenges presented over the past two years.

Throughout 2021, ACM's research focused primarily on gaining a deeper understanding of the ways in which the pandemic has affected the local cultural sector, particularly in terms of the public's response to health-related restrictions, closures, and distancing measures. This phenomenon was analysed through the Audience Research Study, which began towards the end of 2020 and carried on throughout 2021. This study sought to examine the ways in which the behaviours, attitudes, and perceptions of the general public towards attending cultural events has changed throughout the pandemic's progression, as well as to provide cultural organisations with recommendations into how they can address new realities that emerged from the pandemic. The study consisted of three surveys held amongst the general public at various points throughout the pandemic (November 2020, January/February 2021, and July 2021), with each survey asking the same questions in order to trace changes in behaviour at each different stage of the study.

In addition to these surveys, the study also involved a number of focus groups held with representatives of public cultural organisations, with the goal of understanding the challenges they faced throughout the pandemic, as well as the strategies they have adopted to meet these obstacles. The study's final report was launched in November 2021 at a launch event held at the University of Malta Valetta

Campus, during which a number of cultural practitioners discussed the study's findings in light of their own experiences throughout the pandemic. The study's findings indicated that the public's attendance of cultural events following the end of pandemic-related lockdowns remained low, however, the intention to attend increased over time, gradually approaching pre-pandemic levels. The study also found a relatively significant interest in financially supporting the work of cultural organisations through various methods, including donations, subscriptions, and membership schemes.

ACM's research work throughout the year also focused on the development of new research studies, as well as new, in-depth analysis of existing bodies of data.

In 2021, ACM finalised discussions with Sound Diplomacy, an international music policy consultancy and global expert in developing long-term and self-sufficient music strategies, in view of a new research study that will be carried out throughout 2022 and 2023. This study will involve mapping Malta's night-time economy, assessing the infrastructural and regulatory ecosystem, and developing strategic objectives which will then be taken forward by ACM. This study is set to begin in early 2022, spanning a two-year period during which several research activities, ranging from mapping to focus groups, will take place. This study marks a significant step in ACM's

ongoing efforts to develop a more comprehensive knowledge base about Malta's creative sector and to address the structural needs that will encourage the sector to grow further.

Amongst the existing bodies of data that ACM worked on analysing throughout 2021 is the Creative and Cultural Practitioner Survey. This dataset, which was gathered in late 2019 shortly before the onset of the pandemic, sheds light on the patterns of creative practice exercised by creative and cultural practitioners in Malta, highlighting issues related to their working conditions, income, and time spent on creative practice, amongst others. In 2021, it was decided that this dataset will be analysed in a more thorough and detailed manner by exploring the data in the light of a series of pertinent themes that reflect widespread beliefs about cultural practice. This analysis is set to be published in 2022, as part of ACM's ongoing efforts to develop a more holistic understanding of the individuals and groups that operate within the creative sector.

As in previous years, ACM has continued to provide funding opportunities for practitioners and organisations interested in carrying out research into artistic practice. In light of the accelerated need to develop digital skills and capabilities brought about by the pandemic, ACM launched the Digital Research & Development Scheme in late 2020, and held another

call for this scheme in 2021. This scheme sought to incentivise greater experimentation and research into the use of digital technology within artistic practice and audience engagement, through an allocation of up to €20,000 for projects that addressed these issues. A total of 7 projects were awarded in 2021, with an overall allocation of €135,924.

Finally, ACM kept up its ongoing relationship with the Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends, actively participating in various meetings and discussions throughout 2021, submitting regular updates about



*ACM's research work throughout the year also focused on the development of new research studies, as well as new, in-depth analysis of existing bodies of data*

COVID-19 restrictions and their impact on the cultural sector, and continuing its work on updating Malta's profiles within the Compendium. As in 2020,

these meetings—including the Compendium's annual plenary meeting in September 2021—took place online due to pandemic-related restrictions.

## Audience Research Study

The overall objective of this study was to gain an understanding of audience attitudes, perceptions, and behaviours in relation to participation in arts and culture in Malta, with a particular focus on the changes brought about by the pandemic and its related restrictions. A mix of both qualitative and quantitative research tools were adopted, including desk research and a number of focus groups with representatives from public cultural organisations. The quantitative research revolved around 3 waves of surveys that targeted the general public that were carried out through computer-aided-telephone-interviews (CATI). Each wave comprised a minimum of 500 completed surveys. The surveys

were carried out during November/December 2020, January/February 2021, and July 2021 in order to capture behaviours at different stages of the pandemic's progress.

The study found that while 73% of respondents have attended one or more of the arts and cultural events under review in the 12 months preceding COVID-19, many were still wary of returning to in-person events. The data showed that the intention to attend in-person events was increasing over time, gradually approaching pre-pandemic levels. On the other hand, online attendance for cultural events decreased over the period under review,

and respondents indicated that they were likely to further decrease their online engagement in the future.

Encouragingly, the study showed that the public seemed to appreciate the adverse effects that the pandemic had on the creative industry's income, and are willing to financially support the sector in a variety of ways. 44% of respondents indicated that they are willing to pay for events that were previously free, and 37% stated that they are willing to pay a price up to 10% higher than previous ticket prices. A further 59% indicated that they are willing to support cultural organisations through a one-time donation.



Zoom - Credit Ryan Galea

## DIGITAL RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

### Zoom

#### TYRONE GRIMA

Zoom was a hybrid performance staged at the Inquisitor's Palace in Vittoriosa between 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021. This project was co-produced by Tyrone Grima, Joseph Galea, and Keith Chetcuti, and written and directed by Tyrone Grima.

The objective was to explore multiple spaces in a performance. The audience could watch the play online, or choose between two spaces in the Inquisitor's Palace. Through the use of technology, the three spaces were interconnected in such a manner that whichever space the audience watched the performance from, they would watch the same play, but, of course, experience it differently.

*This project was a valuable experience for me because it allowed and supported me as a practitioner to experiment with a different way of doing theatre that responded to the needs that arose due to the pandemic. The support given to the project spurred me to get out of my comfort zone and to explore further the interface between technology and performance, which I firmly believe is the way forward. As a practitioner, the funding provided me with the required infrastructure to take calculated risks in a creative way.*

# Communication

Arts Council Malta's communication channels played a crucial role in the Council's efforts to engage with artists, stakeholders, and the general public throughout 2021. As in previous years, ACM made extensive use of social media to promote its projects, funding schemes and activities, as well as to engage with issues and debates in the public domain related to the arts in Malta.

One noteworthy new initiative in 2021 was the introduction of the Fund Alert system, whereby interested parties can subscribe to receive notifications related to funding schemes, particularly upcoming deadlines for schemes, as well as the opening of new schemes. This alert system was introduced following requests from potential applicants to receive more timely and proactive communication related to funding scheme deadlines.

ACM's communication efforts throughout 2021 also focused on updating and improving its website, ensuring that clear, consistent, and thorough information related to the Council's work, funding schemes, open calls, and other opportunities is available at all times. Furthermore, ACM's website is undergoing a process of translation which started in 2021 and will conclude with all content on the website being available in both English and Maltese.

ACM's newsletter continued to be an important tool through which to engage with the public in 2021. Eleven editions of the newsletter were issued digitally throughout the year (published in January, February, March, April, May, June, July, September, October, November, and December). The newsletter is sent to individuals and organisations subscribed to ACM's

mailing list, and contains information about projects, schemes, and activities that ACM is undertaking. Each issue of the newsletter was opened by an average of 245 subscribers throughout 2021.

Social media channels, including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Soundcloud remained central to ACM's communication strategy throughout the year. In 2021, ACM's Facebook following grew from 10,721 to 11,442, amassing 80,055 engagements (including likes, shares and comments from users). Meanwhile, ACM's Instagram account had a total reach of 35,178, consisting of the number of unique accounts that viewed any of ACM's posts or stories at least once, whilst ACM's Twitter page generated a total of 30,413 impressions throughout the year. ACM's Soundcloud channel consisted of 42 tracks within six different playlists, with a total of 320 plays throughout the year.

ACM also made use of other media channels throughout the year, including television and print media. Most prominently, daily TV programme MaltArti aired a total of 30 features related to ACM schemes, activities and projects, including projects supported through ACM funding schemes. ACM's funding opportunities and outreach channels also featured on several issues of Artpaper throughout 2021. ACM also reached an agreement with the *Times of*

*Malta* for each edition of ACMHangouts to be streamed on the *Times of Malta* portal, aside from ACM's own Facebook page.

ACM continued its transition towards a digital-first approach throughout 2021, placing greater emphasis on digital publications and minimizing the need for print publications, where possible. ACM's funding calendar for the year was published on the ACM website at the beginning of the year, enabling users to plan their potential applications well in advance of each fund's deadline. Likewise, other publications, including the Audience Research Study and the Strategy 2025 Draft for Public Consultation, were published in digital format through the ACM website. The final version of Strategy 2025 is due to be published in print throughout 2022.

# Strategy 2025

Throughout 2021, ACM continued the consultation and evaluation process towards the development of ACM's Strategy 2025. This was designed to evaluate the strengths and challenges of Strategy 2020 while gaining insight into the diverse needs, concerns and aspirations of those with direct or indirect involvement and interest in Malta's cultural and creative sectors. During the various initial conversations with ACM's partners and internal stakeholders, it was agreed that the next strategy must be even more adaptable, pragmatic, and ambitious to effectively reflect and handle the turbulent times that are being experienced globally.

By incorporating an open-ended, participatory and rapid qualitative research methodology, ACM conversed with over 200 people from across socio-demographic backgrounds, localities, and roles within Malta's creative ecology. The nine-month-long research process started with thematic discussions with internal stakeholders, including ACM staff and PCO representatives. These led to a further 10 thematic talks with the general public, which primarily included representatives of diverse practices from across Malta's cultural and creative sectors. Discussions were held online due to the pandemic; however, to maximise engagement, the public was encouraged to submit comments and suggestions before and after the sessions. In addition, five individual interviews with key experts who have worked with the ACM over the past six years were held during the final phase.

The research process was aimed at generating solution-oriented recommendations for topics highlighted by our initial desk research into reviews of national and European cultural policy documents, domestic and international academic research, annual reports, and conversations with stakeholders. Discussion points mainly revolved around issues such as the status of artists and creative practitioners, funding, career development in arts and culture, equality within the cultural and creative sectors, community cultural spaces, long-term sustainability, digitalisation, artistic research, internationalisation, education, and cultural governance. The stakeholders and members of the public involved offered valuable ideas on how our strategy could be better developed and delivered to address such pertinent issues.

The outcome was a set of key recommendations that underpinned

the development of our strategy for the years to come:

- To facilitate links across sectors and stakeholders by supporting participatory approaches to decision-making within cultural planning.
- To support sustainability within the creative and cultural sectors through measures that reflect new models of creation, production, and distribution.
- To harness the full potential of Malta's vibrant ecology of cultural expressions grounded in community-based activity which is localised and socially embedded.
- To distribute public investment more justly to provide for longer-term structural funding as well as infrastructural development, especially in the diverse pool of creative talent and expression in the cultural and creative sectors.
- To fulfil the role as a compassionate and proactive cultural leader and



*By incorporating an open-ended, participatory and rapid qualitative research methodology, ACM conversed with over 200 people from across socio-demographic backgrounds, localities, and roles within Malta's creative ecology*

ACM should be recognised as such across sectors and the general public.

By taking forward these recommendations, ACM aims to enact the required changes and further strengthen and build on the successes of Strategy 2020, allowing for closer alignment with the vision and mission of Malta's National Cultural Policy 2021, that is, "embracing culture for the well-being of all" by integrating "culture in national development with a global outlook that contributes towards sustainable development". This led to three overarching themes which shaped our strategy development being: Care, Create, Flourish. These themes capture ACM's commitment to prioritising cultural rights when implementing its strategy for the years to come.

Thus, in December 2021, a draft document for Strategy 2025 was launched for another phase of public consultation. This time, ACM invited

the public to send feedback or engage in conversation, based on what was being presented in the draft document. The aim is to gather all feedback by the first quarter of 2022, enabling a more comprehensive and refined Strategy 2025 for the years to come.



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# Funding & Brokerage

Artisti project: Tiles of Occupation by Sheldon Saliba. Credit Sarah Pisani

# Key Figures

## for Funding Programmes in 2021

Professional Development Grant	
Applicants	28
Beneficiaries	21
Success rate	75%
Amount allocated	€33,856

Digital Research & Development	
Applicants	10
Beneficiaries	7
Success rate	70%
Amount allocated	€135,924

Young Talent Fund	
Applicants	20
Beneficiaries	16
Success rate	80%
Amount allocated	€25,000

Arts Education	
Applicants	20
Beneficiaries	14
Success rate	70%
Amount allocated	€106,987

International Cultural Exchanges	
Applicants	21
Beneficiaries	14
Success rate	67%
Amount allocated	€100,000

Artisti	
Applicants	10
Beneficiaries	5
Success rate	50%
Amount allocated	€20,000

KulturaTV	
Applicants	9
Beneficiaries	7
Success rate	78%
Amount allocated	€240,000

Project Support	
Applicants	86
Beneficiaries	23
Success rate	27%
Amount allocated	€345,000

Programme Support	
Applicants	81
Beneficiaries	47
Success rate	58%
Amount allocated	€1,299,999

Creative Communities	
Applicants	6
Beneficiaries	2
Success rate	33%
Amount allocated	€8,261

Il-Premju tal-President għall-Kreattività	
Applicants	2
Beneficiaries	1
Success rate	50%
Amount allocated	€15,000

Restoration Funding	
Applicants	12
Beneficiaries	7
Success rate	58%
Amount allocated	€90,000

Event Support	
Applicants	48
Beneficiaries	48
Success rate	N/A
Amount allocated	€1,275,000

Investment in Cultural Organisations (ongoing projects)	
Amount allocated in 2021	€316,000

Co-Funding with Valletta Cultural Agency (ongoing projects)	
Amount allocated in 2021	€45,000

Gozo Cultural Support Programme (ongoing projects)	
Amount allocated in 2021	€315,000

Artistic Financing for Feast Associations	
Applicants	86
Beneficiaries	37
Success rate	43%
Amount allocated	€230,000

Health and Safety Standards in Fireworks Factories	
Applicants	27
Beneficiaries	27
Success rate	100%
Amount allocated	€134,761

Fund to strengthen cultural work done by band clubs	
Applicants	49
Beneficiaries	36
Success rate	73%
Amount allocated	€174,945

# Amounts Awarded in 2021

## Professional Development Grant

Carlos Debattista obo	Series' Women	€2,000
Abigail Mallia		
Rachel Gauci	International Piano Course in France - 'Music at Chateaux d'Aix'	€1,589
Kristian Spiteri	Orchestration	€2,000
Gabriel Luis Gordo Gaviria	Advanced steadicam course	€2,000
Yorika Attard	Tileyard's International Songwriting Camp in Marrakesh	€1,947
Marisha Bonnici	American Ballet Theatre Summer Teacher Intensive	€1,278
Matthew Maggi	Stella Adler Summer Conservatory	€2,000
Karl Camilleri	Porto Academy Summer School	€1,605
Ylenia Camilleri-Brennan	Cinematography certificate	€1,040
Lucienne Camilleri	Screenwriting - think film and write it!	€1,920
Wioletta Kulewska	Turps Correspondence Course 2021-2022	€1,870
Jade Zammit	Residency Programme in Barcelona	€2,000
Matthew Abela	Short film script consultation	€382
Marie-Madeleine Opouma Poupa	Grand Audition 2022	€2,000
Amy Vella	Mindful Music Making	€1,360
Erica Muscat	3-week, 'How-to-Teach' Intensive at the Kristin Linklater Voice Centre in Orkney, UK. January 2022	€2,000
Marcio Ghigo	Intensive classical realism course	€1,870
Marie Claire Galea	Music production	€1,495
Paolo Micallef	A Week in the Life	€2,000
Andrea Stegani	Energy flows in singing	€735
Alberto Favaro	Printing technique training	€765

## Young Talent Fund

Martina Galea Loffreda	Training with Stagebox Edinburgh Elite Team	€1,785
Destiny Casa	PNSD Spring Intensive 2021	€1,729
Julian Bondin	Hlas	€1,310
Claudia Santamaria Soriano	Vaganova Academy Summer Intensive 2021	€2,000
Nicola Marie Cachia	ABT Summer Intensive	€500

## Young Talent Fund

Alexander Bartolo	Royal Ballet School and American Ballet Theatre (online) Summer Intensive Courses	€783
Julia Gauci	Central School of Ballet - August 2021	€1,812
Ella Pace	Ella Pace - ABT Summer Intensive 2021	€498
Milly Bartolo	Milly Bartolo - Royal Ballet School and American Ballet Theatre Online Summer Intensive Courses - 2021	€783
Marianna Micallef	Tring Park Performing Arts School , Summer Intensives	€1,800
Sara Bianchi	Versatility	€2,000
Destiny Casa	ART of Zurich Ballet Summer Intensive	€2,000
Martina Galea Loffreda	ArtsEd Intensive Summer Musical Theatre Experience and Audition Technique Training	€2,000
Lexi De Martino	Stagebox - musical theatre, TV and film training and management for young performers	€2,000
Marianna Micallef	Pineapple Performing Arts London - Elite Team	€2,000
Michela Deguara	Training with Stagebox London Development Team	€2,000

## International Cultural Exchanges

Vince Briffa	Participation in Maritima2	€8,000
Wioletta Kulewska	The Artist in Residence at the Skopelos Foundation for the Arts	€3,239
Euchar Gravina	The Peter Reynolds Composer Studio (Cardiff, UK)	€989
Take 2	Triq is-Sebgħa	€7,000
Herman Grech	They Blew Her Up	€8,200
Francesca Balzan	Participation in International Conference Course	€2,556
Mighty Boards Ltd	Essen SPIEL 2021	€10,000
Alexandra Alden	Reaching New Audiences with 'Leads to Love' - The International Album Showcase Tour	€10,000
Aidan Somers	Ararara - African Collaborations	€9,970
Solid Eye Ltd	Kitchen Maps at City Telling Festival (Kaunas)	€8,000
Clint Spiteri	KNTRL Tour and EP release	€8,185
Jon Mallia	Series Mania Exhibition and Pitching	€7,566
Laura Besançon	Residency at ZK/U Berlin - Center for Art and Urbanistics	€6,500
Mariella Cassar-Cordina	Sonos Civitatem MMXX	€9,795

KulturaTV		
NRGY Concepts Ltd.	Il-Familja Katastrofija	€35,798
Take 2	Da Vinci's Dilemma	€30,000
Mad About Video Ltd.	The Local Traveller	€40,000
Sharp Shoot Media	Stromata	€30,000
Turi Ltd.	Id-Denfil	€24,202
Reel8 Productions Ltd.	Ħajjita Makkjetta	€30,000
DeeMedia.tv	Fid-Dell tal-Forka	€50,000

Programme Support		
Teatru Salesjan	Recovery and Resurgence from Covid-19 at Teatru Salesjan	€48,000
Reuben Spiteri	Earth Garden Seaside Sessions 2021	€42,000
Kinemastik	Little Rock People Children's Film Festival	€17,000
Għaqda Mużikali San Gejtanu - Ħamrun	Re-awakening our cultural and social mission	€28,000
Etnika	Days of Entropy	€30,000
The Travellers	Raising Awareness on psycho-social issues through music	€30,000
The New Victorians	Experiencing Live Music TNV 2021-22 Programme	€30,000
MACM	Modern Music Days	€42,000
Alexandra Pace	Blitz Valletta 2021-22 Programme	€30,250
Matthew Catania	Revive: A Programme of Serendipitous Encounters	€44,708
Thomas Scerri	Rooftops	€4,737
Culture Venture	Culture Venture Production House Theatre Programme	€25,000
Allura	Open art studios	€15,000
Staġun Teatru Malti	It-Teatru Ġdid Originali Malti	€21,000
5D Limited	Audio Visual Immersive Attraction	€15,000
Soċjetà Filarmonika Santa Marija	Music in sequence	€10,638
Malta Chamber of Scientists - Edward Duca	Sowing Seeds	€42,000
Zararti - Anthony Ellul	Drama for the Third Age and Special Communities	€12,285
TEN08 - Glenn Agius	Rock The Fort	€27,500
EPICLECTIC Ltd - Michael A Fenech	Bla Kondixin - The return	€40,000
YMCA Malta	D-inVISIBLE	€33,000
G7 Services Limited - Sarah Aquilina	The Magical Illuminated Trail	€27,000
Kixott Coop Ltd	He(a)rding CATS	€10,048
FM Theatre Productions Limited	Young Audience Programme	€30,000
Ignite	Ignite 2021/22	€18,000
Gozo Youth Wind Orchestra Foundation	BACK to BASICS – looking to a brighter FUTURE...	€35,000

Programme Support		
Masquerade Malta	Out of the Blue	€47,500
Culture Venture	Malta Spectacular: The Grand Return	€35,000
Adrian J. Mizzi	Fashion ♥ Art	€13,000
Peter Borg	Masterclass Malta	€18,000
Costantino Films Ltd	MedFilm Festival in Malta/We love the sea	€15,000
Nicola Said	Malta Opera	€30,000
Moveo Dance Foundation	Moveo Re-launch Programme	€26,000
Adrian Buckle	Adrian Buckle International Season	€51,000
Charlie Cauchi	Untitled Malta Moving Image Project	€46,000
Joseph Zammit	WhatsTheirNames Season 2022	€51,000
Roxanne Gatt	Rosa Kwir Presents	€31,000
The Insynk Collective	The Artist Empowerment Project	€25,000
Aidan Somers	Artistic expression using universal Concepts and collaboration	€25,000
District Entertainment	District Records	€31,000
William Smith	NOMAD	€6,000
Balzunetta Productions	Rerun and Restart / Maltese Musical Theatre	€31,000
Gozo Youth Wind Orchestra Foundation	Spreading Our Wings – Celebrating 20 years of innovative music concerts by Gozitan youth musicians	€21,000
Socjeta' Filarmonika L-Unjoni	Restart	€20,000
Allura	Open Art Studios	€26,000
Boing Ltd	Glitch Festival - A creative audiovisual experience	€23,000
Big Friends Guggen Musik Malta A.D. 2008	Inqajmu mill-ġdid il-ħajja soċjokulturali	€20,333

Digital Research & Development		
Nocemuskata	Inkontru	€20,000
Margerita Pule	Farfara 2031	€19,908
Ivan Coleiro	Memory and Perception_03	€20,000
Sezzjoni Żgħażaġħ Pawlini Munxarin	Embracing today's technology in artistic projects	€20,000
Wesley Ellul	Making digital audiences feel more than passive viewers in live performances	€20,000
Charles Paul Azzopardi	Malta Image Preservation Archive (MIPA)	€20,000
Fondazzjoni Soċjo-Kulturali Ambjentali	CHIPED: Cultural Heritage Interpretation Portal for an Enhanced Digitized Experience	€16,016

Arts Education		
Christine Zerafa	The Performance Class Series	€8,000
Għaqda Mużikali San Ġorġ Martri	Sinergija	€8,000

Arts Education		
Kurt Calleja	School Playscapes – Innovative Learning Approaches through Play	€7,997
Seed Dance Studios	Malta Connects	€7,703
Sawtooth Audio Academy	Beats of Knowledge	€7,947
Neal Camilleri	Awakening Inner Creativity through Vocal Expression	€8,000
Thea Cunningham	Summer Intensive Dance Workshops	€5,721
Studio 18	Studio 18 Sustainability Project	€6,605
Nikki Demajo Albanese	'Nghidu Kelma ma' Di u Do'	€7,957
Mirjana Batinic	The impact of Montessori method on the quality of art education at the primary school age	€7,998
Kristina Borg	You Are What You Buy – Dak ili tizra taħsad / Reap what you sow	€8,000
Sawtooth Audio Academy	A.D.S.R – An Introduction to Sound	€7,956
Patsy Chetcuti	Got Talent!	€7,076
6 <sup>th</sup> Symphony Productions	Serħan il-Moħħ	€8,000

Artivisti		
Miguel Formosa	Play	€4,000
Angela Bettoni	Changing perceptions	€4,000
Ġagħel Dingli	baħħara	€4,000
Martina Camilleri	Reflect, React, Resonate	€4,000
Kathryn Morrison	BRUDA	€4,000

Project Support		
Margerita Pulè	The Ordinary Lives of Women	€25,000
Matthew Schembri	ħassartek	€11,086
Cynthia Bonnici	Alessia's Project	€24,670
Katel Delia	Malta - Tunis - Marseille	€9,274
Joseph Smith	Spaces in Suspension	€9,841
Antje Liemann	Such Stuff as Worlds are Made On	€25,000
Albert Bell	Albert Bell's Sacro Sanctus - The Sword of Fierbois	€26,764
Clint Calleja	Anamnesis	€11,213
Selina Maria Scerri	Tomorrow's Blossoms	€17,876
Aidan Celeste	Hold On To The Air In Your Pockets	€11,776
Kristina Borg	RNH Bighi through Communities' Stories	€20,000
ARC Research & Consultancy	Medinea Gozo on Air	€20,000
Luke Saydon	It-Teatru tal-Miskin	€5,804
Dance Beyond Borders	Refugee Week Malta 2022	€20,000
Francesca Grima	"Butterfly in the Inkwel"	€10,000
Take 2	CASTILLO	€12,000

Project Support		
Francesca Balzan	Disrupt & Disturb: Shaking off the dust	€18,000
Nigel Baldacchino	Those Eyes, These Eyes, They Fade - Contemporary Photography Exhibition	€15,000
Rochelle Gatt	Horizontal vs Vertical: Cheek to cheek; Head to Toe	€10,000
Salt 'N' Pepper Project	Salt 'N' Pepper: The Comic for Agricultural Learning	€8,500
Michel Angelo Muscat	Song Cycle - Tama	€12,000
12 <sup>th</sup> May Band and Social Club	Reviving Our Music Heritage	€14,196
Julia Marta	Valletta-Varsavja-Vjenna: Bringing together three musical cultures	€7,000

Creative Communities		
Kumitat Festi Esterni San Ġorġ Martri	Inħarrġu fis-snajja	€3,313
Patsy Chetcuti	Let it Out!	€4,948

Il-Premju tal-President għall-Kreattività		
Gabriel Caruana Foundation	Whereabouts are you from?	€45,000*

\*€15,000 per year for three consecutive years starting in 2021

Restoration Funding		
Għaqda Dilettanti Knisja ta' Lapsi, San Ġiljan VO/1891	Restoration and conservation treatment of the titular painting depicting St. Julian, attributed to Antonio Catalano (1596)	€14,879
Soċjetà Filarmonika Santa Marija	It-Titular - Restore, Conserve and Revive!	€14,860
Soċjetà San Pawl Banda Konti Ruġġieru	Mattia Preti	€9,500
Assoċjazzjoni Patrimonju Tarxien	Restoration and Conservation of oil on canvas painting dedicated to Our Lady of Mount Carmel	€14,500
Konfraternità tal-B.V.M. tal-Karità	Conservation project for two altar paintings for the Collegiate Church of St Paul Shipwreck, Valletta	€14,500
Association of St Mary of Jesus, Rabat	Restoration of St. Mary of Jesus Statue	€8,456
Fondazzjoni Soċjo-Kulturali Ambjentali	Fresco restoration of the 18 <sup>th</sup> century recessed altar at St. Augustine's	€13,305

Event Support (self eligible on a first come, first served basis)		
Boing Ltd	Glitch Club Series (Seated)	€30,000
G7 Events	Summer in the Park	€29,500
Kurt Borg	OTR	€30,000
One Culture Group Ltd	Reunited with One Culture Group	€30,000
Carlo Gerada	The Guest List	€30,000

Event Support (self eligible on a first come, first served basis)		
EST1985 Co Limited	Pocci Hiphop & RnB	€30,000
Eleven Entertainment Ltd	Music Nights at Block 11	€30,000
HGK Company Limited	Ziggy Saturdays	€30,000
Isola Entertainment Limited	District Summer 2021	€30,000
Signature Entertainment Festivals Limited	Sunset Beach Expeditions with Palm Beach	€30,000
Andre Bajada	Dre Events	€30,000
Odel Ltd	Events at Uno Malta	€30,000
Michael Cini	Stand up in the South Vol. 2	€3,000
Darryn Portelli	Privé Fridays	€30,000
GMED Projects ltd	Lemonade at MedAsia Playa	€30,000
Andrew Pace	Pocci Hiphop & RnB	€30,000
Thomas Grima	Pixel MT	€30,000
Ooxgh Omol Ltd	Rocktober Concerts 2021	€9,000
Spacelab Ltd	Glitch Club Series	€30,000
Nicholas Morales	HOTS	€21,000
Greatt Company Limited	Malta Rocks	€30,000
Roberta Cutajar	Miss Roberta 2021 Winter Schedule	€30,000
Dario Vella Catalano	Music Event	€18,385
Music Tree	Tenishia	€30,000
Daniel Gatt	Yakuza – Rebirth	€30,000
Ryan Spiteri	Rewind 90s and Noughties	€30,000
Dennis Schwiembacher	Inmates X The Weekender	€30,000
Carlo Baldacchino	Electronic Dance Music Events	€30,000
Sean Cini	Wrecked	€11,000
Wayne Spiteri	Underground/Alive	€23,671
Filippa Grima	Havana Wednesdays	€20,100
Unknown Artist Limited	Midnite Snack Events 2021	€30,000
iCAN Ltd	Stripped – The Musical Journey	€30,000
M7Alpha Creative Studios Ltd	Of The Night Events	€30,000
NRGY Concepts Ltd	City Nights	€30,000
KRWN Malta	MYNT – Standing Series	€24,000
Kurt Saliba	Ziggy Saturdays at Uno	€30,000
Christian Azzopardi	Application for funding for an event at treehaus in UNO Village	€28,784
Clayton Barbara	Cultural Events in Valletta	€30,000
Mushroom & Mushroom	The Spooky Fort	€30,000
Steve Muscat	GrooveBox	€3,350
Stephanie Spiteri	Valletta Christmas Concert	€30,000

Event Support (self eligible on a first come, first served basis)		
Mint Media Limited	X Factor Malta – The Chair Challenge	€30,000
Ronald Briffa	Movologi	€5,175
Rodney Gauci	The Spooky Mansion	€30,000
Quinton Scerri	House of Horror	€30,000
Elvaston Co. Ltd.	The Guestlist	€30,000
Neil Hales	Acid Night_22_10_2021	5,676
SE Operations Limited	Sunbed Aperitivo Thursdays	€18,359

Investment in Cultural Organisations – amounts awarded over three years (2020 – 2022)	
Magna Żmien Foundation	€69,000
Inizjamed	€90,000
Wicked Comics	€90,000
Socjetà Muzikali Beland A.D. 1861	€90,000
Teatru Salesjan	€75,000
Moveo Dance Organisation	€75,000
Opening Doors Association	€81,000
Kinemastik	€75,000
Għaqda Muzikali San Ġuzepp Ħal Għaxaq	€60,000
Gabriel Caruana Foundation	€75,000
Electronic Music Malta	€45,000
Għaqda Muzikali Santa Marija Ħal Għaxaq	€60,000
FPEI Malta (Foundation for the Promotion of Entrepreneurial Initiatives)	€63,000

Co-Funding with Valletta Cultural Agency – amounts awarded over three years (2020-2022)	
BLITZ	€30,000
FTZ Community Foundation	€45,000
L-Għanja tal-Poplu	€60,000

Gozo Cultural Support Programme – amounts awarded over three years (2019-2021)	
Gaulitanus Choir	€165,000
Socjetà Filarmonika La Stella	€210,000
Leone Philharmonic Society	€210,000
Chorus Urbanus	€135,000
D Capitals	€30,000
Victoria International Art Festival	€165,000
Teatru Malta in collaboration with Gozo Creative Club	€30,000

Artist Financing for Feast Associations		
Għaqda Kultura Armar Marija Annunzjata Tarxien	Sett ta' bandalori artistici	€4,000
Arċikonfraternità ta' San Ġużepp Rabat	Restawr ta' skultura fl-injam	€4,000
Kummissjoni Festa Madonna tar-Rużarju ta' Fatima, Gwardamangia Pietà	Mudellatura tat-tafal għal skultura ta' fuq il-kolonna	€8,000
Valletta 450 Creative Hub	Kontinwazzjoni Proġett Festi Ċentinarji - Festa San Duminku, Il-Belt Valletta	€8,000
Għaqda Madonna tal-Grazzja Banda San Mikiel Żabbar A.D. 1883	Nippreservaw it-talent Żabbari	€6,000
Kumitat Festi Esterni Santa Venera	Il-proġett - fazi 2	€8,500
Grupp Armar Festa Immakulata Kuncizzjoni	Sett ta' sitt pavaljuni bil-pittura li jikkommemoraw il-100 sena mid-devozzjoni lejn l-Immakulata Kuncizzjoni fil-Ħamrun	€8,500
Grupp Armar San Gejtanu	Sett ta' pavaljuni artistici għall-festa	€8,500
Għaqda tal-Pawlini	Interventi strutturali meħtieġa fil-maħżen ta' Triq Sant'Ursola, fejn jinżamm parti mill-armar tal-festa ta' San Pawl Nawfragu, Il-Belt Valletta	€4,000
Il-Kumitat Festi Esterni Marija Regina A.D 1972	Insaħħu dak li writna	€8,500
Għaqda Festa Madonna Tal-Karmnu Valletta	Pavaljuni ġodda għat-triq	€8,500
1565 Community and Cultural Events	Community radio in the capital	€6,500
Pageant Group Marija Regina Marsa A.D.1970	New costumes and refurbishment	€8,500
Għaqda tan-Nar 23 t'April	Restawr ta' faċċata ta' sede ta' soċjetà	€9,000
Ċentru 19 ta' Novembru 1944	Inkomplu ngħożzu l-istorja	€3,000
Għaqda Festi Esterni SSma. Trinità Marsa A.D 1975	Rinovazzjoni ta' Dar Armar	€8,500
Armar Siġġiewi	Pavaljuni, Triq Santa Margerita	€2,510
Ħamrun Liberty S.C.1963	Set bandalori u statwi għal Triq il-Kbira, Ħamrun	€9,000
Immaculate Conception Band Club	Insaħħu dak li ksibna maż-żmien . Lejn 45 sena anniversarju	€8,000
Soċjeta Dun Filippu Borgia	Restawr ta' għaxar angli	€1,600
Għaqda Santu Wistin, Valletta	Manutenzjoni u konservazzjoni tal-armar Għaqda Santu Wistin Valletta.	€5,000
Fergħa Armar ta' Barra, Volontieri Parrocchia San Publu - Mark Ciantar	Pedestall u xenografija bi Tliet Statwi San Publu jikkonverti lil Malta	€8,200
Scout Association of Malta Island Head-Quarters	Investment fil-baned tal-Marsa Scout Group	€8,800

Artist Financing for Feast Associations		
Arċikonfraternità tas-Santissimu Kurċifiss, Il-Belt Valletta	Restoration of the Oratory of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Cross	€8,500
Soċjeta Filarmonica La Valette	Fondi għall-armar tal-festa 2022	€8,200
Red Boys Hamrun	Fondi għall-armar tal-festa 2022	€8,190
Kumitat Festi Esterni San Gorg Martri	Pjazza tal-Vitorja	€5,000
Għaqda Armar San Sebastjan	Tlestija tal-pedestalli artistici għall-istatwi li jirrapreżentaw il-Martirji ta' San Sebastjan	€5,000
Għaqda tan-Nar San Nikola, Siġġiewi	Santa Welcomes Christmas	€4,000
Għaqda Muzikali Sant'Elena	Dekorazzjoni tal-pedestall tal-istatwa ta' Malta Rebbieha	€4,000
(Julian Falzon) Soċjeta Muzikali Madonna tal-Ġilju	Modifikazzjoni u restawr ta' żewġ pedestalli mill-Għaqda tal-Armar tal-Ġilju	€7,000
Għaqda Muzikali San Ġorg Martri	Bandalora kbira	€2,000
Anici Band & Social Club	Inħarsu l-wirt artistiku tas-Soċjetà	€3,000
Jonathan Cini (Għaqda Muzikali San Ġużepp Kalkara AD 1987)	Tlestija tal-Kolonna Principali ta' San Ġużepp li tintrama f' Misraħ Arcisqof Gonzi, il-Kalkara	€4,000
Stella Maris Band Club	Bandalori bil-pitturi	€6,000
Grupp Armar - Paroċċa Sant' Anna	Armar tal-festa	€5,000
Għaqda Muzikali Marija Bambina, Banda Vittorja, Naxxar	Adding an artistic statue to Naxxar's cultural heritage	€5,000

Health and Safety Standards in Fireworks Factories		
Soċjeta Filarmonika 'L-Unjoni'	Investment in new machinery and maintenance of the Complex	€5,000
Għaqda Muzikali San Ġużepp Ħal Għaxaq	Inkomplu ninvestu fis-sigurtà tal-kamra tan-nar tagħna	€5,000
St Leonard Band Club	It-tkomplija tal-investment fl-infastruttura tal-post tan-nar	€5,000
Soċjeta Filarmonika La Stella Gudja	Manutenzjoni preventiva għal aktar sigurtà	€5,000
Soċjeta Santa Marija u Banda Re Ġorg V, Mqabba	Inkomplu l-ħidma b' mod sigur	€5,000
Għaqda tan-nar 25 ta' Novembru – Żejtun	Xiri ta' kanen tal-fibreglass għal aktar sigurtà	€5,000
Għaqda Muzikali Sant'Andrija	Upgrade to existing structures and stores	€4,950
Għaqda Każin Banda San Filep	Rinovar fis-saqaf tal-mgħollazza	€5,000
Għaqda Piroteknika 11 ta' Frar, San Ġwann	Pavimentar bil-Konkos tal-Entratura u l-Passaġġi f'Ta' Lourdes Fireworks Factory (It-tieni parti)	€5,000
St. Michael's Fireworks Complex	Ninvestu biex ntejjbu l-apparat waqt l-ħidma u ħruq tal-logħob tan-nar	€5,000
Għaqda tan-Nar San Nikola, Siġġiewi	Aktar sikurezza fil-kamra tan-nar San Nikola, Siġġiewi	€5,000

Health and Safety Standards in Fireworks Factories		
Għaqda tan-Nar 23 t'April	Lejn tishih tal-infrastruttura tal-kamra tan-nar	€5,000
Socjeta' Filarmonika Lourdes Qrendi A.D 1895	Bettiegħa ġdida fil-post tan-nar	€5,000
Socjeta' Piroteknika 15 ta' Awwissu Mosta	Saħħa u sigurtà fil-piroteknika.	€5,000
Għaqda Armar San Sebastjan	Rinovar ta' parti mir-rampa li tagħti access għall-post tan-nar	€5,000
Kažin San Ġużepp u Banda De Rohan	Manutenzjoni u tagħmir protettiv fil-post tan-nar	€5,000
St. Joseph Band Club Kirkop	Inkomplu nsaħħu s-sigurtà fil-kumpless tagħna	€5,000
Socjeta' tan-Nar San Bartilmew, Għarghur	Xiri ta' kanni biex jiffaċilita hruq tan-nar aktar sigur	€5,000
Socjeta' Muzikali Santa Katarina V.M.	Investiment fl-infrastruttura tal-kamra tan-nar	€5,000
19 <sup>th</sup> March Company Limited	Aktar hidma b'sikurezza	€4,990
Socjeta' Muzikali Santa Marija Bambina Qrendi	Tkomplija tal-proġett li sar fis-sena 2020	€5,000
Għaqda Muzikali Santa Marija, Ħal Għaxaq	Proġett lejn zamma ta' sigurtà aktar inklussiva permezz tal-konsolidament ta' parti mit-terren fil-kumpless tal-manifattura u l-ħażna tal-materjal pirotekniku, u l-aġġornament tas-sistema ta' hruq tan-nar wireless	€4,840
"Santa Maria" Philharmonic Society of Mosta	Sikurezza u titjib ta' għodda	€4,987
Socjeta' ta' San Pawl Konti Ruġġieru	Manutenzjoni tas-soqfa	€4,994
12 <sup>th</sup> May Band and Social Club	Manutenzjoni tal-post tan-nar	€5,000
Għaqda Piroteknika Qalb ta' Ġesu, Fontana Brothers Fireworks	Investing in a firing system to reduce let off	€5,000
Għaqda Karmelitana Banda Queen Victoria	Bdil ta' aperturi ġewwa l-post tan-nar	€5,000

Fund to strengthen cultural work done by band clubs		
Għaqda Muzikali Sant' Elena	Restawr tas-sala	€8,100
Socjeta' Filarmonika Nicolò Isouard	Restawr t'uniformi u 4 standards	€7,013
Socjeta' Filarmonika Pinto Banda San Sebastjan	Restawr ta' billiard table u għamara antika	€7,766
Għaqda tal-Muzika San Gejtanu	Restawr tas-sala	€6,922
Socjeta' Muzikali Santa Katarina VM	Rinovar tal-ħitan, tibdil ta' skirting u madum	€8,100
Socjeta' Filarmonica La Vittoria, Mellieħa	Restawr ta' pittura	€2,288

Fund to strengthen cultural work done by band clubs		
Għaqda Muzikali Immakulata Kuncizzjoni Ħamrun	Arkivju, tiswija ta' katuba	€7,088
Għaqda Muzikali Beland	Restawr tal-kappella	€8,100
Socjeta' Muzikali La Stella Levantina A.D.1894	Restawr ta' statwa, pedestal	€3,308
Għaqda Muzikali San Ġużepp Kalkara	Timpani	€3,510
Socjeta' Muzikali Trinita Qaddisa AD1949	Madum u għamara u gypsum	€4,566
Għaqda Muzikali San Leonardu	Restawr ta' 2 standards	€3,592
Għaqda Muzikali Imperial	Xogħol fuq il-baži tal-arblu	€3,375
Socjeta' Filarmonika La Stella, Gudja	Restawr ta' 4 statwi	€4,556
Socjeta' Filarmonika Santa Marija, Mosta	Bandalora, restawr ta' għamara antika. CCTV u xogħol ta' żebgħa	€1,519
Socjeta' Filarmonica Santa Venera V.M.	Timpani	€4,050
Socjeta' Muzikali San Pio X, Ħal Lija	Restawr tal-plancier	€3,075
Banda San Ġiljan	Restawr ta' 2 bandalori	€8,100
Għaqda Melita Banda San Ġużepp, Msida	Tindif tal-faċċata, restawr tal-bieb u aperturi	€3,266
Għaqda Muzikali Sant'Andrija	Restawr ta' standard, tac-ċentru u ġebli	€3,900
Socjeta' Filarmonica Maria Mater Gratiae A.D.1883	Restawr ta' statwa Malta Rebbieħa	€8,100
Socjeta' Muzikali San Girgor Sliema AD 1987	Restawr statwa ta' San Girgor	€3,983
Socjeta' Filarmonika San Bartilmew	Aperturi	€8,100
Socjeta' Filarmonika La Stella, Rabat, Għawdex	Two ceiling ACs	€3,881
Socjeta' San Pawl Banda Konti Ruġġieru	Timpani	€3,375
St Gabriel Band Club	Plancier	€2,068
Għaqda Muzikali San Ġużepp Għaxaq	Restawr ta' 4 pitturi	€3,900
Għaqda Muzikali Santa Marija Ħal Għaxaq	13 il-bieb tal-injam u twieqi fuq il-faċċata	€3,692
Kažin Banda San Nikola	Żewg lapidi bl-ismijiet tal-Mro.	€2,565
Socjeta' Santa Marija u Banda Re Gorg V	Boardroom: cabinet, mejda, u sigġijiet	€4,306
Għaqda Muzikali San Gorg Martri	Panelli akustiċi	€8,100

# Funding Programmes – Evaluations

Evaluators for the various funding programmes are selected from a pool of independent evaluators made up of individuals who have submitted their application following the open call for evaluators published on the ACM website.

They are appointed on the basis of the relevance of their sectorial expertise in relation to the respective funding programmes.

As part of our continuous effort at transparency and clarity, the names of the evaluators who have carried out evaluation duties during any specific year are published on the ACM website at the end of the year.

Evaluators who were also beneficiaries of Arts Council Malta funds during that same year are excluded from participating in the evaluation session of the funding programmes from which they have benefitted.

List of 2021 Evaluators		
Mario Azzopardi	Clayton Cutajar	Diane Portelli
Rugile Barzdukaite	Rosetta Debattista	Toni Sant
Albert Bell	Giselle Degiorgio	Annalisa Schembri
Alex Bezzina	Ramona Depares	Julienne Schembri
Krista Bonello Rutter Giappone	Deborah Falzon	Rachel Scicluna
Martin Bonnici	Elaine Falzon	Simone Spiteri
Kristina Borg	Yohann Floch	Charlotte Stafrace
Trevor Borg	Charles Flores	Annabelle Stivala
Vince Briffa	Maria Frendo	Elyse Tonna
Norbert Bugeja	Jessica Galea	Francesca Tranter
Paul Buhagiar	Rhoda Garland	Roderick Vassallo
Glen Calleja	Tyrone Grima	Daniel Vella
Marylee Camilleri	Jean Pierre Magro	Daniela Vella Blagojevic
Matthew Casha	Emma Mattei	Alex Vella Gregory
Mario Cassar	Caldon Mercieca	Valerie Visanich
Aidan Celeste	Denise Mulholland	Tanya Zahra
Ri Chakraborty	Erica Muscat	Edward Zammit

Fund to strengthen cultural work done by band clubs		
Għaqda Mużikali San Pietru fil-Ktajjen	Legiji, laptop, printer, desk, NAS HDD, TV	€2,476
Anici Band & Social Club A.D. 1988	Installazzjoni ta' partition	€4,506
Socjetà Mużikali Santa Margerita	Xiri u tqeghid ta' madum u aperturi	€4,215
Għaqda Mużikali Marija Bambina - Banda Vittorja, Naxxar	Cameras for live streaming & rebranding	€8,100
St. Philip Band Club AD 1851	Smart TVs u kotba tal-mużika	€1,384

# ACM Outreach Sessions 2021

## ACMlabs

The ACMlab series is Arts Council Malta's regular platform for information, networking and matchmaking sessions, as well as discussions and regular meetings with the sector. As part of our commitment towards active brokerage in the cultural and creative sector, ACMlabs will be our platform to share information and good practices, debate cultural matters, and

facilitate networking between peers and other stakeholders. In conjunction with these sessions, we will create and update a resource toolkit to support you as a creative professional or as an organisation active in the cultural and creative industries.

Date	Title	Venue
12 <sup>th</sup> January	Pitching Smart	Malta Postal Museum
8 <sup>th</sup> February	Let's Talk Art Activism	Pjazza Teatru Rjal
11 <sup>th</sup> March	African Connections: Bright Prospects	Valletta Campus Theatre
15 <sup>th</sup> April	Cyber Security	Online
28 <sup>th</sup> April	Creating Business Ideas Together	Online
11 <sup>th</sup> May	Creative Governance: A Paradox or a Way Forward?	Online
26 <sup>th</sup> May	Tomorrow's Performance Venues	Online
8 <sup>th</sup> June	Taking the Leap! Young Artists and Internationalisation	Malta Society of Arts
1 <sup>st</sup> July	Arts on Prescription: Bridging Practitioners Together	Mediterranean Conference Centre
9 <sup>th</sup> September	Artistic Trajectories in a Small State	Esplora
12 <sup>th</sup> October	Creativity and the Arts in Education	University of Malta Valletta Campus
4 <sup>th</sup> November	Self-Care in the Arts	Fort St Elmo
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Il-Lingwa tal-Arti	National Library of Malta

## ACM Hangouts

The ACM Hangouts series is Arts Council Malta's regular virtual platform for networking and knowledge sharing sessions as well as discussions and regular meetings with the cultural and creative sectors.

Date	Title
January	Artificial Intelligence and the Arts: How, Why?
February	Sustainable Practices in the Creative Industries
March	Policies and Strategies for the Creative Industries
April	Understanding Intellectual Property
May	Exploring Arts and Education
November	Safety in the Creative Industries
December	Disability and the Arts

## ACM Chats

ACM Chats are a series of discussions about art and culture presented by Arts Council Malta in collaboration with Campus FM.

Date	Title
January	Arts and Democracy
February	Maltese Theatre
March	Arts or Management?
April	Arts and Artificial Intelligence
May	Traditions and the Arts
June	Art as a Form of Therapy
July	Research on Arts and Culture

## ACM Webinar Series

The ACM Webinar Series is Arts Council Malta's platform for online conversations about developments across the cultural sector with global experts, artists, academics, and policymakers.

Date	Title
16 <sup>th</sup> February	Joint Up Thinking: Collective Learning through the Arts
27 <sup>th</sup> May	Squaring the Circle: Social Solidarity in the Circular Economy
16 <sup>th</sup> September	Last Orders, Lost Orders? Engaging with Identity Politics and Cultural Policy
18 <sup>th</sup> November	Building Bridges towards Creative Care and Wellbeing

# Digital Presence in 2021

## WEBSITE

- The ACM website hosted 82,955 sessions with 47,116 users.
- The average duration per session was 2:15 throughout the year.
- There were 2.41 page views per session.

## NEWSLETTER

- 11 issues published throughout 2021.
- Each issue was opened by an average of 245 people, with a total of 2,697 opens throughout the whole year.
- The number of subscribers to the ACM newsletter stood at 528 by the end of 2021.

## SOCIAL MEDIA INSIGHTS

- ACM's Facebook page grew by an average of 60 new likes per month throughout 2021.
- Total likes on Facebook stood at 11,442 at the end of 2021. This represented an increase of 721 since the beginning of the year.
- ACM's Twitter page garnered 87 new followers throughout 2021, with a total of 30,413 impressions.
- ACM's Instagram page had a reach of 35,178 throughout 2021.