



ARTS
COUNCIL
MALTA

Call for an Artistic Team for

The Malta Pavilion at the 16th Gwangju Biennale 2026

Issued by:
Arts Council Malta

Submission Date and Time: 1st July at noon (CET)

ARTS COUNCIL MALTA

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Section A

Definitions and Instructions

Arts Council Malta

- Arts Council Malta is the Commissioner and the Contracting Authority of the Malta Pavilion at the 16th edition of the Gwangju Biennale in South Korea in 2026. The Commissioner/ Contracting Authority is here being referred to as **'Arts Council Malta'**.

Call for An Artistic Team

- The Call for an Artistic Team for the Malta Pavilion at the 16th Gwangju Biennale in 2026 is here being referred to as a **'Call for An Artistic Team'**.

Artistic Teams

- Artistic Teams may be composed of a mixture of curators, artists, architects, designers, engineers, performers, set designers, fashion designers, scriptwriters, filmmakers, and curatorial assistants. The Team **must** include an artistic director and a project manager/s. Applicants are here being referred to as **'Artistic Teams'**.

Responses to this 'Call for An Artistic Team' are to be submitted **online** by not later than **1st July at noon (CET)**

- *please see full details under Section B (6: Submission Instructions) below*

Late submissions will not be accepted and will be deemed ineligible.

All submissions will be acknowledged and will be dealt with in strictest confidence.

Section B

General Information

1. Purpose

Any information received in response to this 'Call for An Artistic Team' will assist Arts Council Malta in finalising the scope of work and requirements which will be used in the selection of the winning proposal. Submitting a response to this 'Call for An Artistic Team' is not a guarantee in any way that the applying Artistic Team will be selected for the shortlisting and the pitching session, nor does it preclude any of the applicant Artistic Teams from responding to future procurement opportunities.

The issuance of this 'Call for An Artistic Team' does not constitute a commitment to issue a request for bids, award a contract, or pay any costs incurred in preparation of a response to this 'Call for An Artistic Team'.

2. Issuing Office

The issuing office, being Arts Council Malta, is the point of contact for this 'Call for An Artistic Team'. Please refer any inquiries or request for clarifications to Arts Council Malta, by sending an email to: gwangju-biennale@artscouncil.mt

Any clarifications and addenda/updates regarding this 'Call for An Artistic Team' will be published on Arts Council Malta's website: www.artscouncil.mt. Any requests for clarifications may be sent to Arts Council Malta up to five days before the deadline of this 'Call for An Artistic Team'.

3. Artistic Team Presentations

Arts Council Malta may request the Artistic Teams to provide a presentation on the information provided in response to this 'Call for An Artistic Team'. All costs associated with such presentations will be borne by the Artistic Teams.

4. Confidentiality and the 'Call for An Artistic Team' Ownership

This 'Call for An Artistic Team' is both confidential and proprietary to Arts Council Malta and Arts Council Malta reserves the right to recall the 'Call for An Artistic Team' in its entirety or in part. The Artistic Teams shall not include or reference this 'Call for An Artistic Team' in any publicity without prior written approval from Arts Council Malta. The Artistic Teams accept all of the foregoing terms and conditions without exception. All responses to the 'Call for An Artistic Team' will become the property of Arts Council Malta and will not be returned.

5. Disclosure of Proposal Contents

The cost and price information provided in information proposals will be held in confidence and will not be revealed or discussed with competitors, except to the extent required by law.

All other material submitted becomes the property of Arts Council Malta and may be returned only at Arts Council Malta's discretion. Information proposals submitted to Arts Council Malta may be reviewed and evaluated by any person other than competing Artistic Teams at the discretion of Arts Council Malta. Arts Council Malta may share or disseminate conceptual or contact information subject to the written consent of the respective applicant/s

6. Submission Instructions

Follow these steps to apply:

- a) Read this document very carefully;
- b) Press the link that will take you to the online application system;
- c) Create a profile for the Artistic Team with Arts Council Malta by clicking on 'Register' and filling in the details;
- d) From the 'Open Calls' section, select the online application for this Call;
- e) Follow the instructions step by step. Fill in all the required information from the online application, including the budget and attach the supporting documentation;
- f) Submit the application. You should receive an automatic acknowledgement by the system. If you do not receive such a notification, contact us on gwangju-biennale@artscouncil.mt.

Section C

Description of the Contracting Authority and Background Information on the Gwangju Biennale in South Korea

1. Arts Council Malta

Arts Council Malta, under the auspices of the Ministry for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government, has been entrusted to act as the Commissioner and the Contracting Authority of the Malta Pavilion at the 16th edition of the Gwangju Biennale in South Korea. Arts Council Malta is the national agency for development and investment in the cultural and creative sectors.

2. Gwangju Biennale: A Platform for Contemporary Art Discourse

Over the past 30 years, the Gwangju Biennale in South Korea has solidified its reputation as a platform for visual arts and a vital hub for cultural exchange between nations. Since its inception in 1994, the Gwangju Biennale has evolved into one of the world's premier biennial exhibitions and a pivotal platform for contemporary art discourse. Every two years, an internationally renowned artistic director is appointed to curate a significant space for exploring contemporary art that

showcases works by artists from around the world. By consistently addressing urgent political and social issues while fostering creative artistic dialogues, the Gwangju Biennale has solidified its position as a leading hub of contemporary art in Asia and beyond.

With the participation of Palais de Tokyo (France), HIAP – Helsinki International Artist Programme (Finland), and the Contemporary Art Network (Philippines), the Gwangju Biennale Pavilion has steadily expanded its reach. In 2021, it welcomed contributions from Kunsthaus Pasquart (Switzerland) and the Taipei Contemporary Culture Lab (C-LAB) (Taiwan). By 2023, the Pavilion had grown to include participants from nine countries. In 2024, it saw a significant expansion, with 31 cities, institutions, and countries—including Argentina, Denmark, Finland, and Germany—joining the initiative. This remarkable growth highlights the Pavilion’s increasing importance as a platform for global artistic exchange and collaboration.

The Gwangju Biennale is a distinctive project where international cultural and art organisations present independent exhibitions in Gwangju during the Biennale. Participation from institutions representing diverse nations is integral to its success. Collaborating with local artists and experts, these participants identify meaningful connections with Gwangju, offering a platform to showcase contemporary art from their respective countries. Through this growth, cultural and art institutions from around the world present distinctive contemporary art projects in Gwangju, addressing issues unique to their countries, cities, and institutions through different artistic forms.



Germany's Pavilion at the Gwangju Biennale

Showcasing National Contemporary Art to the World

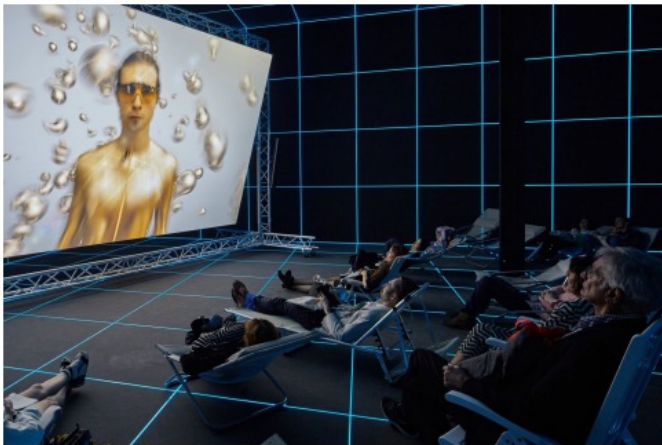
The Gwangju Biennale Pavilion upholds respect for cultural diversity by allowing each pavilion to independently curate its exhibitions, offering an opportunity to display their nation’s contemporary art on a global stage. Artists from around the world address pressing global issues such as the climate crisis, capitalism, and care systems, expressing these challenges through their unique artistic perspectives and expanding them within an international context. Through this process, the Pavilion serves as a bridge for artistic dialogue, connecting South Korea and the world by exploring diverse themes that resonate universally. It fosters a platform where different approaches converge, creating meaningful exchanges and shared understanding through art.

Strengthening Collaboration with Local and International Cultural and Art Institutions

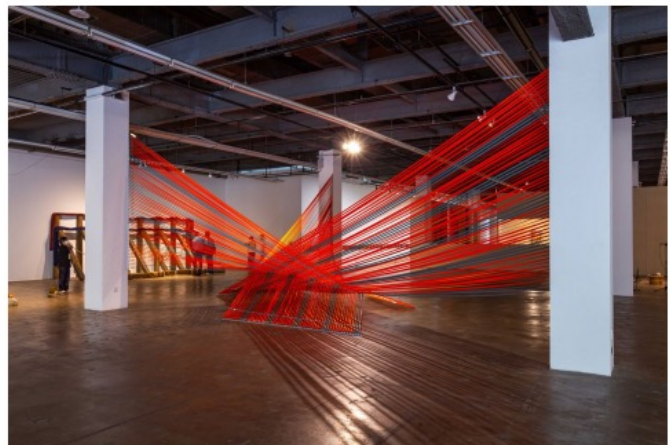
The Gwangju Biennale has established a robust framework for collaboration between local cultural and art institutions and international institutions, actively supporting mutual exchange to ensure the seamless execution of each pavilion. For the 2024 Gwangju Biennale, artists and curators prepared exhibitions and performances based on research conducted in Gwangju, collaborating closely with local communities to create works that intertwine their histories and cultures with the city.

A Venue to Encounter Masters of Contemporary Art and Global Artists

The Gwangju Biennale serves as a stage for eminent contemporary artists to present experimental and innovative works. Since its inaugural edition in 1995, the main exhibitions of the Gwangju Biennale have featured works by such notable figures as Harun Farocki, Thomas Hirschhorn, Roni Horn, Cindy Sherman, Mike Kelley, and Haegue Yang. The Gwangju Biennale also provides a stepping stone for emerging and established artists from around the globe to gain recognition in the contemporary art scene, such as the Mataaho Collective, which participated in the 14th Gwangju Biennale in 2023 and garnered significant international attention by winning the Golden Lion at the 60th Venice Biennale in 2024.



11th Gwangju Biennale
Hito Steyerl, *Factory of the Sun*, 2015

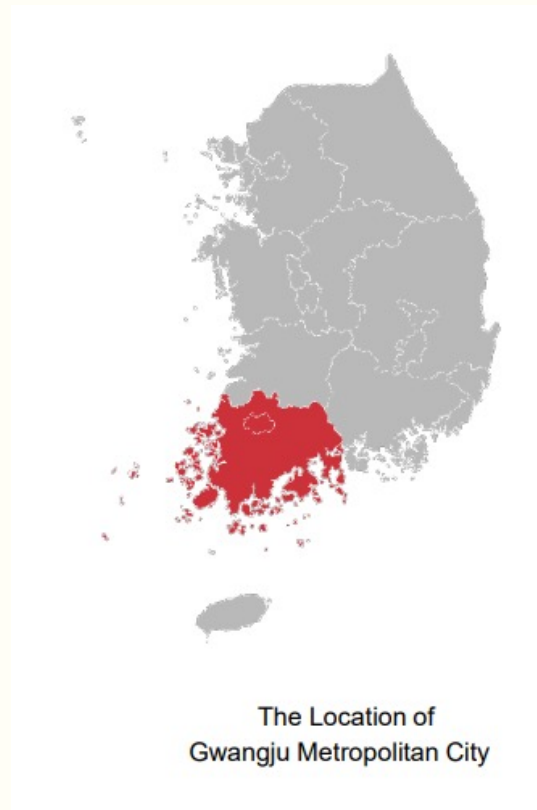


14th Gwangju Biennale
Mataaho Collective, *Tuakirikiri*, 2023

About the Metropolitan City of Gwangju

Located in the southwestern region of South Korea, the metropolitan city of Gwangju is steeped in a rich tradition of art and culture. It is the fifth-most populous city in the country, with some 1.4 million residents, and is often referred to as the “City of Art, Gastronomy, and Culture.” Home to numerous well-preserved cultural heritage sites, Gwangju is a testament to Korea’s historical and artistic legacy.

In 1980, the city was the epicentre of the May 18 Gwangju Democratization Movement, a civil uprising in which hundreds of citizens tragically lost their lives due to military oppression. The Gwangju Biennale was established in 1994 to heal the wounds of this tragedy and commemorate the “Spirit of Gwangju”, using art as a medium to convey messages of democracy, human rights, and peace to local and international audiences.

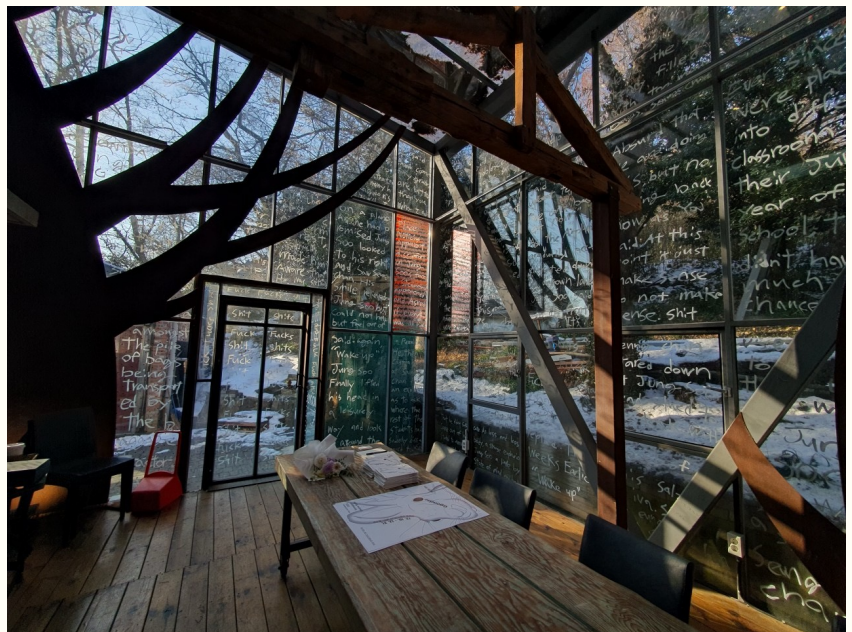


3. The Malta Pavilion at the Gwangju Biennale

The declared aim of the Malta Pavilion is to offer a platform through which the best Maltese contemporary artistic practices can be exposed and presented to an international audience through collaborative practices with the local community in Gwangju.

The selected Artistic Team will actively engage with the community and the artists in Gwangju, creating and showcasing artworks that could only emerge from this unique location, while at the same time also reflecting Malta.

The Artistic Team will stay in Gwangju for several weeks, creating their multi-disciplinary artworks on site and will create a programme of events for the duration of the Gwangju Biennale. Artworks could include immersive and site-specific performances, installations, set designs, music events, film and/or documentary projections, poetry readings, and dance choreographies. During the artistic residency, the Artistic Team will have the opportunity to engage with local artists and residents in Gwangju, providing them with an exchange of our cultures, and opportunities for interaction and collaboration through their art.



Horanggasy Artpolygon Gallery

Arts Council Malta aims to provide Maltese artists with a creative challenge by utilising this unconventional space surrounded by its natural environment and residential homes, rather than a traditional theatre or art museum. The Malta Pavilion is located at the Horanggasy Art Polygon Gallery, 20 Jejung-ro 47beon-gil, Nam-gu, Gwangju, South Korea. The space consists of two ground floors with glass walls and wooden flooring, and one basement. You can find more information on this website: <http://www.horanggasy.kr/wpage/index.php>

Its location may be found here: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Nikxn3tD8WQxpqwm8>

Plans of the Malta Pavilion can be found on the Arts Council Malta website under the open call for the Gwangju Biennale. More images of the Malta Pavilion can be found at the end of this document.

4. The Artist Residency

The Malta Pavilion will also include an Artist-in-Residence programme for up to three months at the Horanggasinamo Hill Guesthouse which is located a few steps away from the Malta Pavilion at Horanggasy Art Polygon Gallery. By engaging Maltese artists with the local communities in Gwangju, Arts Council Malta aims to provide opportunities for further cultural collaborations, exchanges and co-creations. Arts Council Malta will be covering the costs of this residency for the Artistic Team.

The artist residency includes bedrooms and use of the kitchen and living areas.



Kitchen at the Horanggasinamu Hill Guesthouse artist residency in winter.

5. The Gwangju Biennale shall provide the following for the Malta Pavilion in 2026:

Marketing & Promotion

- Pavilion website on the Gwangju Biennale official website;
- Promotion in South Korea and internationally;

- Press releases and organised press tours;
- Pavilion publication: Overview of all pavilions;
- Installation view photographs.

Coordination

- Assistance with logistics and overall exhibition operations (all requirements must be discussed in advance);
- Coordination with the Gwangju Biennale team on event-related procedures;
- Consultancy support;
- Connecting with local companies specialising in exhibition services (fees not included);
- Overseeing installation to ensure compliance with historic building regulations and obtaining necessary approvals.

Venue & Facilities

- Security surveillance for indoor and outdoor spaces throughout the exhibition period;
- On-site staff during opening hours (1 to 3 people, depending on venue size);
- Basic electrical and general lighting system (220V socket inside the exhibition space; electricity usage may be charged based on the contract);
- Maintenance of security and electrical systems.

6. Theme

Immersive, performative, multidisciplinary, and interactive narratives that are emotional, inspiring, and thought provoking, reflecting the world's new contemporary realities. If the applicants are including live performances, the application needs to include a detailed plan of when the performances will be held, whether they will be held during the full duration of the exhibition, or for example for the press week launch, closing and/or during certain periods of the exhibition.

The Malta Pavilion must also take into consideration the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the actual space in which the installations will be set up in.

The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint for achieving a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice. Arts Council Malta believes that the arts can lead the way and have a constructive dialogue on sustainable development. Thus, proposals which adopt sustainable practices in line with these principles will be given preference. For more information refer to: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>. This is also in line with Arts Council Malta's Strategy 2025.

7. Set Budget

The allocated budget for the Artistic Team to successfully deliver the exhibition at the Malta Pavilion is EUR120,000 and will be secured by Arts Council Malta. Please also refer to Section D (3) below.

8. Artistic Team Requirements

- The Artistic Team shall have a strong international track record and shall include an artistic director as well as a project manager, along with the rest of the team of artists;
- Multi-national Artistic Teams must include Maltese individuals in the team and must include Maltese artist/s or performers;
- The Artistic Team shall be answerable to Arts Council Malta;
- Following the announcement of the selected Artistic Team, the team will be requested to attend regular update meetings with Arts Council Malta and any changes or additions to the submitted proposal need to have the written approval of Arts Council Malta.

9. The Artistic Team shall be responsible to:

- Travel to Gwangju and all or part of the team participates in the residency programme for at least 3 months;
- Deliver the concept, design, production, and execution as well as programming of the Malta Pavilion, including but not limited to any materials, equipment, lighting, sound, and any other technical requirements to produce and deliver the project;
- Select the artwork/ installation/ performances to be exhibited in the Malta Pavilion;
- Handle the communication and contracts with the selected artist/s and/ or organisations, including any ancillary intellectual property agreements with third parties;
- Appoint an artistic director as well as a project manager, who will also be part of the proposed Artistic Team. The project manager will be working very closely with the artistic director and the rest of the team on the logistics, the administration, the fundraising, the accounting, co-ordination, organisation and production management of the Malta Pavilion, and any other requirements needed for the successful delivery of the exhibition;
- Curate the exhibition catalogue, including choice of contributors, and liaise directly with the publishing house with regards to layout and other editorial requirements as necessary. The design, production, and printing of the catalogue will also be the responsibility of the Artistic Team in close consultation and agreement with Arts Council Malta;
- Rent and co-ordinate the space for the mock-up of the Malta Pavilion in Malta, if needed;
- Purchase the insurance and the transportation service of any objects and materials required for the Malta Pavilion;
- Be responsible for the travel arrangements of the team in Gwangju;
- Setting up and dismantling of the Malta Pavilion as determined by the rules and regulations of the Gwangju Biennale;
- Co-ordinate the interns and/or site officers running the Malta Pavilion in Gwangju;
- The Artistic Team, as well as the artists, shall be expected to participate in media interviews and any promotional activities;
- Assist and support marketing, PR requirements, and communications as required by Arts Council Malta and make sure to mention Arts Council Malta as commissioner in all the communications;
- Document and advertise the Malta Pavilion through social media in liaison with Arts Council Malta's International Cultural Relation Directorate and its communications team;
- Attend Vernissage Week (the Biennale's launch week) in Gwangju to promote the exhibition to the press and lead guided tours of the Malta Pavilion;
- Demonstrate that they have a history of working collaboratively on significant projects;
- Nominate a main contact person from the Artistic Team—based in Malta—and provide telephone and email contact details;
- Manage sponsors and patrons of the project;
- Fulfil any other requirements needed for the successful delivery of the exhibition.

10. Duties of Arts Council Malta:

- Arts Council Malta is responsible for the selection and the rental of the venue, which will be hosting the Malta Pavilion in Gwangju.
- Arts Council Malta is responsible for the selection and the rental of the Artist Residency which will accommodate the artistic Team in Gwangju for four months. One month before the opening of the Biennale and during the duration of the Biennale.
- Arts Council Malta is responsible for the communications of the Project in liaison and in collaboration with the Artistic Team.
- Arts Council Malta is responsible for the opening reception in Gwangju.
- Arts Council Malta is responsible for the travel and the accommodation of staff from Arts Council Malta to visit or inspect the Pavilion in Gwangju.

Section D

Details of Information Requested

1. Proposals

Proposals are to be submitted online and as explained under **Section D (6) Submission Instructions**.

They also need to include the following information:

Exhibition Concept

- The proposed curatorial concept, including the plans for the public programme during the 4-month artist residency in Gwangju;
- Supporting designs/ imagery/ sketches/ power point presentations/ videos;
- An understanding, as well as a reflection of the Maltese contemporary artistic and performing arts scene;
- Clarity on who the selected artist (s)/ performer (s) is/are and the artwork (s)/ performance to be showcased;
- Exhibition catalogue overview;
- An educational outreach programme;
- The proposed timeline;
- Any other information relevant to and required for a better and comprehensive understanding and evaluation of the submitted proposal.

Artistic Team

- Clarity of the roles of each member of the Artistic Team, including the details of any additional team members who will be involved in the project, e.g.: technical assistants, project managers and administrators, curatorial collaborators, costume designers, performers, set designers and exhibition catalogue contributors, and architects;
- An organisational chart for the team members showing clear reporting lines and division of responsibilities amongst team members;
- A full curriculum vitae for each team member including that of the curators, artists, performers, set designers, architects, designers, engineers, props and costume designers, and any other members of the project management team, highlighting previous experience in similar high-profile, international projects, as well as the capacity to undertake an exhibition of this international significance.

Budget

A draft budget breakdown detailing how the budget will be allocated that must include the following:

- the proposed fees for each member of the project management team (these should not exceed 10% of the total budget);
- the proposed artists' / performers' fees (these should not exceed 10% of the total budget);
- exhibition/ performance production costs including materials, fees for specialist labour etc.;
- insurance costs;
- costs for mounting and dismantling of the exhibition/ set design etc;
- catalogue costs, including fees for its design, printing, freight, duty, and taxes;
- travel and accommodation expenses for the Artistic Team members in Gwangju for any pre-Biennale visits to inspect and pre-plan the Malta Pavilion;

- travel to Gwangju for the Biennale and living expenses during the artistic residency;
- expenses for any special events held during the 4-month residency, such as screening of movies, performances, talks, workshops, etc;
- any other expenses.

If additional budgets are required, the proposal shall also include how these will be sourced by the Artistic Team, through private sponsorship as required in response to their submitted proposal. The proposal needs to also indicate a strong track record on how additional resources in similar projects were sourced.

Video Pitch

The aim of the video pitch is to create an opportunity for applicants to further present their projects to the evaluators. Should the Evaluation Board have any questions, the applicants will have the opportunity to provide their feedback, latest insights, and additions to the already submitted project description via e-mail.

The video pitch can be presented in a variety of formats, including but not limited to visual aids, PowerPoint presentation, audio, models, etc., and should not be longer than 20 minutes. During the video pitch, applicants are expected to explain the project's artistic vision and communicate how the project will be implemented as well go into detail on the roles of each team member.

2. Evaluation Process

The call is competitive. Submitted proposals will be initially screened for eligibility, after which the eligible candidates will be further assessed by a board composed of international and local experts, purposely appointed and chaired by Arts Council Malta. All applicants will be notified of the results via email.

3. Criteria

The evaluation board shall be guided by the following criteria throughout the process leading to the final selection:

Criterion 1. Exhibition Concept (40 marks)

This criterion considers the artistic idea(s) of the proposal and the relevance of the concept with regard to the theme set in this open call.

- What is the artistic concept and how do you intend to develop it during the residency programme in Gwangju with the local community there? (10 marks)
- How is the concept referring to the sustainable development goals? (10 marks)
- How do you intend to develop the proposed concept into a narrative which is immersive, performative, multidisciplinary, interactive, inspiring, thought-provoking, and experiential? Give an overview of the selected performance/artworks/audio-visuals, etc., of the proposed project. (10 marks)
- Will your concept reflect Malta and have an impact internationally? How do you intend to do that? (10 marks)

Criterion 2. Artistic Team (40 marks)

This criterion considers the level of commitment, the track record of all team members, as well as the proposed plan to deliver and achieve the aims targeted. Applicants are to include timeframes, workplan with collaborators involved, the skills and track record of the individual/group managing and participating in the project, their role(s) within the project, possible risks envisaged and contingency plans, health and safety measures.

- In what way(s) do you as a team intend to lead to a level of artistic excellence in the delivery of the proposed concept? Does the artistic director have a strong international profile and is she/he considered by the sector to be at the 'top of their game'? (20 marks)
- Explain the strengths and merits of the artist(s)/ performer (s) whose works you are selecting for the Malta Pavilion exhibition, with a particular focus on their track record. (20 marks)

Criterion 3. Budget (20 marks)

This criterion considers how well-planned and realistic the presented budget plan is. To make a stronger case in terms of this criterion, applicants are required to provide quotations where possible, to substantiate the budget items

- Is the project budget and logistics well planned and realistic? Is the project likely to achieve its ambitions and meet its targets? (20 marks)

4. Eligibility

Proposals with missing information, as specified in this call in the section under 'PROPOSALS', will be deemed ineligible (i.e. proposals with, for example, missing curriculum vitae, or with a missing budget forecast will be deemed ineligible.)

Applicants must qualify as one of the following:

- Creative professionals/individual artists;
- Entities registered with the Malta Business Registry (including companies, partnerships, foundations and organisations/associations);
- Groups, collectives, and consortia;
- Registered cooperatives;
- Voluntary organisations enrolled with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations.

Applicants who are applying as a registered entity must provide their registration number in the application together with a most recent Good Standing Certificate (this document is renewed annually by the Malta Business Registry and is proof of compliance).

Applicants who are applying as a voluntary organisation must provide their VO number and submit a signed statute in the application.

N.B. The chosen team will not be able to change their applicant category after the selection process is completed. Members of the Artistic Teams responsible for the Malta Pavilion in Venice in 2019, 2022, and in 2024 and / or members of the Design Team representing Malta for the London Design Biennale in 2023 and 2025 are not eligible to re-apply together as a team or as part of a team to curate the Malta Pavilion at the 2026 Biennale edition so that the opportunity is given to other Artistic Teams.

N.B. It is permissible to submit a proposal for both the Venice Biennale and the Gwangju Biennale taking place in 2026. Should an applicant be selected to represent Malta in the Venice Biennale in 2026, the proposal submitted through this Call will not be eligible and will not be evaluated further.

Response Format

Responses are to be straightforward, clear, concise, and specific to the information requested. In order for submissions to be considered complete, Artistic Teams must provide all the requested information mentioned in this document as well as any other comments, observations or suggestions which may potentially assist Arts Council Malta in shortlisting the applicants.

5. Complaints procedure

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

Grounds for complaints

Applicants can make a complaint regarding procedural anomalies and irregularities during the submission and evaluation

process in terms of the procedures stipulated in these guidelines and regulations. Complaints cannot be made concerning:

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

Only applicants may file complaints concerning their project.

Filing a complaint

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

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

Clarifications and FAQs

For Clarifications and FAQs, potential applicants should refer to the Arts Council Malta website or send an email to gwangju-biennale@artscouncil.mt.

Images of the Malta Pavilion in Gwangju: Horangasy Artpolygon Gallery



