



ARTS
COUNCIL
MALTA

OPEN CALL

for **Illustrators**
and **Graphic Designers**

to lead live drawing sessions
at the Arts Council Malta stand
at the Malta Book Festival 2025

ISSUED: JUNE 2025

1 | Introduction

Arts Council Malta (ACM) is issuing a call for illustrators and/or graphic designers to lead live drawing sessions at ACM stand at the 2025 Malta Book Festival. The Festival will be taking place between 5–9 November at the Malta Fairs and Conventions Centre (MFCC) in Ta' Qali.

The ACM stand at the Malta Book Festival forms part of the ongoing strategic collaboration between the two entities, which seeks to create more opportunities for artists, illustrators, and graphic designers to pursue their interests in publishing-related artistic work, both locally and abroad.

We are committed to fostering a thriving artistic ecosystem where different voices and styles can shine. The participation of illustrators and graphic designers at the ACM stand is intended as a showcase of the diversity and variety of local talent, whilst also giving illustrators and graphic designers the opportunity to discuss their work with the public attending the Malta Book Festival.

1.1 PROJECT DETAILS

At the ACM stand, we would like to invite:

10 artists to join us
in **10** available time slots

Wednesday 5th November | 09:00-13:00, 17:00-21:00
Thursday 6th November | 09:00-13:00, 17:00-21:00
specifically Friday 7th November | 09:00-13:00, 17:00-21:00
Saturday 8th November | 10:30-15:30, 15:30-21:00
Sunday 9th November | 10:30-15:30, 15:30-20:00

renumerated at €40 excl. VAT hourly

Preference will be given to illustrators and graphic designers with experience in the publishing sector.

1.2 TIMEFRAMES

DEADLINE	RESULTS	TIMEFRAME
16 th July 2025	7 th August 2025	5 th – 9 th November 2025

1.3 ARTS COUNCIL MALTA STRATEGY

Arts Council Malta (ACM) promotes innovation within the Maltese cultural and creative sectors while also safeguarding the dynamic development of the cultural characteristics of the country. We have built a sustainable creative economy for artists and practitioners, facilitating participation and continuing to serve as a strategic leader and catalyst within the sectors. Furthermore, ACM also works to increase the accessibility of cultural and creative activities within Malta’s cultural ecosystem.

ACM has designed Strategy 2025 together with the people it will impact the most. Our participatory approach to the creation of the Strategy is already being practised with immediacy. Culture is where new narratives and mindsets develop and new societal shifts occur. Importantly, it is an enabler of long-term sustainability. Our mantra is *Care, Create, Flourish*, best capturing how ACM will enable and position the sustainable and inclusive growth of Malta’s cultural and creative sectors as being integral to the well-being of all. Sustainability and inclusivity are being endorsed holistically and comprehensively in policy directions, funding and investment. [Check out the Strategy 2025 here.](#)

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

Applicants are also required to consider the [Charter for the Status of the Artist](#) which may position their proposal more appropriately, as well as engender better and stronger methods of operation and programming as they create. This is particularly pertinent in the larger context of ensuring acceptable and decent working conditions for artists and creative practitioners which embraces artistic freedom, accessibility, formal/informal/non-formal skill recognition, decent socio-economic conditions, non-discrimination and equity, ethical considerations and adherence to intellectual property rights and international labour law. The Charter for the Status of the Artist is meant to provide a dynamic frame of reference for any legislation, policy, or initiative which directly or indirectly impacts artists and cultural and creative sectors, ensuring that any action is aligned with the ultimate long-term vision of elevating the status of artists in Malta in parallel with their tangible value to society.

2 | Eligibility

- Open to illustrators and graphic designers based in Malta.
- Artists are encouraged to submit a **CV and portfolio** showcasing their work.
- Illustrators and graphic designers with distinct styles are highly encouraged to apply, as the goal is to represent a wide range of artistic expressions.

a. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- **CV:** Detailing relevant experience and qualifications.
- **Portfolio:** A selection of previous work demonstrating your illustration skills.
- **Availability:** Indication of preferred time slot/s.

b. SELECTION PROCESS

Submissions will be evaluated based on artistic quality, style diversity, and relevance to the strategic themes of Arts Council Malta, as highlighted in Section 1.3. Selected artists will be notified by the 7th August 2025.

ACM will do its utmost to accommodate the preferred slots selected by artists. These will be decided according to availability and to the date and time of the submitted application.

c. EVALUATION CRITERIA

This evaluation criteria will ensure that selections are made based on artistic merit and the potential for creative diversity.

Submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. **Artistic Quality and Originality** (40 points)

This criterion assesses the overall quality of previous works presented in the portfolio, including technical skills, creativity, and originality. Emphasis will be placed on the unique artistic language of the illustrator and graphic designer.

2. **Style Diversity and Innovation** (30 points)

This criterion evaluates how distinctive and innovative the artist's style is, and how well it brings diversity to the project. The project seeks to promote a range of visual styles.

3. **Professional Experience and Qualifications** (30 points)

This criterion reviews the CV, focusing on relevant experience, education, and past projects. Priority will be given to illustrators with experience in the publishing sector.

3 | Submitting the application

Follow these steps to apply:

1. Read these guidelines and regulations of this Call very carefully.
2. Check whether you are eligible to apply.
3. Follow this [link](#) to access the online application system.
4. If you do not have a profile, create your profile with Arts Council Malta by clicking on 'Register' and filling in the requested details. Applicants are required to register a profile on the ACM's CRM at least two weeks prior to the deadline of the call.
5. From the Open Calls section, select the application for the Call for Artists.
6. Fill in all the required information from the online application and attach the supporting documentation.
7. Submit the application. You will be receiving an automated acknowledgement following the submission. If you do not receive such a notification, contact us on applyforfunds@artscouncil.mt.

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

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

4 | Implementation of Project

Following the selection of the artists, ACM will enter into an agreement indicating the time slots chosen for their participation at the stand, and the amount to be disbursed.

The total amount due to the artists will be disbursed following the successful delivery of the event, and the closing of the Malta Book Festival 2025.

Need advice?

Arts Council Malta offers pre-submission consultation services to help secure support for your project. We are there every step of the way. We can help you determine whether the core concept and profile of your project are in line with the targeted support mechanism, and provide feedback on the way you plan to present your project. Plan ahead and get in touch with us at least four weeks before the submission deadline, to make the best of our services.

You are welcome to call us on 2334 7230 on weekdays between 09:00 and 16:00 or to send us an email on fundinfo@artscouncil.mt.

Guidelines updated on **10th June 2025**.