

## **Culture Directorate: Influss - An Artistic Residence**

### **What is Influss - An Artistic Residence all about?**

Influss is a multidisciplinary residency programme dedicated to the intrinsic value of creative work. The Culture Directorate invites creative practitioners to inhabit a space where creative inquiry can take wing, whilst being grounded in the specific cultural and physical landscape of Malta.

The primary objective of the Artistic Residence is to move beyond the traditional production-focused model. Instead, the Culture Directorate seeks to champion the intrinsic value of artistic and creative processes.

Guided by the three pillars of **inquiry, immersion and experimentation**, the residency aims to:

**Foster Critical Inquiry:** To provide a dedicated platform for creative practitioners to pursue a specific creative direction and explore it thoroughly. Both practice-based work and theoretical/material research is welcome.

**Facilitate Contextual Immersion:** To ensure that international practice intersects meaningfully with the local context. The goal is to move beyond passive observation and encourage active engagement with Malta's creative ecology, its heritage sites, its communities, and its industry professionals.

**Enable Experimentation:** To encourage the evolution of artistic practice. We invite residents to explore their work in a new light - whether by testing new methodologies or applying established techniques to a unique environment. We value the depth of the creative process, prioritising the integrity of the exploration and the development of the creative practitioner.

This programme is funded by the Culture Directorate, in collaboration with the Malta Society of Arts and the Valletta Design Cluster through the Valletta Cultural Agency.

### **Key Dates and Timelines**

Publishing of Call	30 March 2026
Call Deadline	21 April 2026
Call Results	5 June 2026

The programme accommodates a maximum of **four artists**, distributed across two distinct cohorts. Applicants will be asked to specify their availability to one or both of the following periods for a minimum of three weeks and maximum of four weeks:

- Cohort 1: 31 August - 30 September 2026
- Cohort 2: 15 October - 15 November 2026

**Note on Flexibility:** The dates listed above are indicative. Exact arrival and departure dates will be finalised with the selected beneficiaries, subject to flight schedules and logistical availability.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

- This residency is designed for **individual practitioners**; applications from duos or collectives will not be accepted.
- The call is open to individual artists and cultural professionals, with a minimum of **2 years of proven experience** and practice in their respective field.
- Applicants must be active in one of the following sectors: Architecture, Cultural Heritage, Design and Fashion Design, Literature, Music, Performing Arts, and/or Visual Arts.
- Applicants must be at least **18 years of age** at the time of application.
- The application procedure is not open to artists who benefitted from an artist in residency program offered by the Government of Malta in the past five years.
- Whilst the programme is aimed at international artists, applicants need to show effective operational proficiency of the English language (reading, writing, speaking). Proof of language comprehension should be included in the C.V.
- Applications seeking funding purely for travel to present previously created work (e.g., touring exhibitions, concerts, or performances) will not be considered.

### **Financial Support**

The Residency Programme allows for a **maximum grant of €5,000 per beneficiary**.

This amount is all inclusive and intended to cover:

- Return economy class flight tickets from the country of residence to Malta.
- Accommodation rental costs for an apartment or self-catering room in Malta for the duration of the residency (if not provided in kind).
- Artist remuneration: A gross fee for the resident's time and work.
- Subsistence: A daily allowance to cover food, local groceries, and basic living expenses. To facilitate management and ensure equal treatment, this is calculated at a fixed rate of **€35 per day**. This is a lump sum and does not require receipts at the reporting stage.
- Production/research costs: these vary significantly according to the discipline and the nature of the project. Whether the budget allocates funds for canvas and clay (Visual Arts) or for software subscriptions and site access fees (Architecture/Research), all are considered eligible provided they are justified in the proposal.
- Collaborators: Any local collaborators engaged by the artist must be fairly remunerated in line with sector standards. These must be supported by an invoice addressed to the Culture Directorate.

The below are ineligible costs:

- **Accompanying Persons:** Travel, food, or accommodation costs for partners or family members are the responsibility of the beneficiary. The Culture Directorate will not cover such costs.
- **Double Funding:** Costs that are already covered by another grant or funding body for the same project.
- **Capital Expenditure (Equipment):** The purchase of equipment or assets that outlast the duration of the residency (e.g., laptops, cameras, tablets, drones, musical instruments). Rental of such equipment is permitted.
- **Transport of Works:** Shipping costs for transporting materials or finished artworks to/from Malta.

### **Disbursement of Funds**

To support the beneficiary's cash flow, the grant will be disbursed in two tranches:

- **Tranche 1 (60% - €3,000):** Advanced upon the signing of the Grant Agreement along with the submission of flight booking confirmation and the first invoice.
- **Tranche 2 (40% - Max. €2,000):** Released upon the successful completion of the residency and the approval of the Final Report (including financial reconciliation of real costs).

### **Financial Reconciliation:**

- **Subsistence:** No receipts required (flat rate), to be included in the invoice.
- **All Other Costs:** Valid tax receipts and invoices for flights, accommodation, production, and fees must be submitted to the Culture Directorate with the Final Report. Tranche 2 will be adjusted based on actual eligible expenditure (but never exceeding the total of €5,000).

### **Buddy System**

The Buddy System has been newly introduced to Influss as a support structure designed to enhance the residency's three pillars of inquiry, immersion and experimentation. By pairing each artist with a locally based peer, it aims to facilitate and deepen engagement with the Maltese cultural context while encouraging horizontal relationships between local and international practitioners. Matching between international and local peers will be done on the basis of the following elements, including but not limited to discipline, process, thematics, context and practical experience, as shown in the application.

### **Proposal Checklist: Key Deliverables**

Applicants must ensure that their project plan accounts for the following mandatory engagements:

[ ] **Project Implementation / Research Inquiry:** Dedicate the core of the residency timeframe to the specific line of inquiry, research, or artistic experimentation outlined in the proposal.

[ ] **Public Engagement Sessions:** Plan and deliver at least two moments of knowledge transfer or public interaction. These can take the form of workshops, public conversations, open studio sessions, or lectures, amongst others.

[ ] **The Buddy System:** Actively engage with the local peer assigned by the Culture Directorate to foster meaningful exchange and connect with the local creative sector.

[ ] **Process Documentation** Maintain a visual or written record of the residency process (e.g., photos, sketches, logbook, or video clips) to be shared with the Directorate for archival and communication purposes, to be submitted at the latest by the reporting stage.

[ ] **Visibility & Acknowledgement** Ensure that any public output or communication regarding the residency acknowledges the support of the Culture Directorate and its partners using the correct terminology and logos.

[ ] **Final Reporting** Commit to finalising and submitting a comprehensive report (narrative and financial) within the below stipulated timeframe after the residency concludes.

### **Mandatory Documentation**

Applications must be submitted online by the deadline. To be considered eligible, the application must include the following documents:

- **Project Proposal:** A detailed description of the inquiry, methodology, and engagement plan (answering the specific questions outlined in the application form in English).
- **Identification Document:** A copy of a valid passport or national identity card.
- **Curriculum Vitae (CV):** A professional profile (max. 3 pages) highlighting relevant experience and education.
- **Portfolio / Track Record:** A professional portfolio or sample of work demonstrating experience relevant to the proposal. Depending on the discipline, this may take the form of a visual dossier (PDF), writing samples, research abstracts, or a publication history.

**Note:** Failure to submit any of the mandatory documents listed above will result in automatic disqualification during the Administrative Check.

### **Selection Process & Evaluation**

The Culture Directorate will appoint a selection board to assess applications and select awarded artists. The Board's decision is final.

Applications will be evaluated competitively according to the following criteria:

#### **1. Quality of Creative Inquiry**

- 2. Relevance to Context & Immersion**
- 3. Value of Experimentation & Professional Growth**
- 4. Feasibility & Management**

The selection process is divided into the below stages:

- **Stage 1: Administrative Check**

Applications are checked for eligibility and completeness. Incomplete applications or those missing mandatory documentation will be automatically disqualified.

- **Stage 2: Pre-Selection (Shortlisting)**

The Selection Board reviews the Professional Portfolio/Track Record and the Motivational Letter.

- **Stage 3: Main Assessment & Interview**

The Board reviews the full project proposal in detail. Shortlisted candidates may be invited for an online interview to discuss their project's feasibility and their engagement plan.

- **Stage 4: Notification of Results**

All applicants will be notified of the outcome via email by **5 June 2026**.

All personal details received upon application stage will be deleted at the end of the selection criteria.

This is an equal opportunity call, and all efforts will be employed to ensure a fair and accessible selection process.

## **Reporting**

Following the completion of the Residency, the beneficiary must submit an activity report in English. This entails the answering of a set of questions, as well as a set of documents proving the implementation of the project.

The report must be submitted within a maximum of **30 days** following the completion of the residency.

Failure to submit the report within this timeframe constitutes a breach of contract. The Culture Directorate reserves the right to withhold the final tranche (40%) and seek reimbursement of the initial tranche (60%).

## **Part 1: The Narrative Report**

### **1. The Trajectory of Inquiry (Reflecting the "Inquiry" Pillar)**

- *For Project-Based Residency:* Describe the development of the work produced. Did you achieve the results you anticipated?
- *For Research-Based Residency:* Describe the evolution of your research question. How did your original hypothesis change once you engaged with the specific context of Malta?

## 2. Contextual Engagement (Reflecting the "Immersion" Pillar)

- **The Buddy System:** Describe your exchange with your assigned buddy. How did this relationship support your integration?
- **Local Ecology:** List the specific organisations, sites, archives, or communities you engaged with. How did the physical or cultural reality of Malta influence your project or research findings?

## 3. Experimentation & Methodology (Reflecting the "Experimentation" Pillar)

- You were invited to "step beyond established routines." Describe a specific moment where you tested a new material, technique, or way of working.
- What were the technical or conceptual challenges you faced? How did you navigate them?

## 4. Public Engagement

- Provide a brief summary of the knowledge-transfer delivered.
- Who was the audience, and what was the key takeaway from these interactions?

## 5. Future Outcomes

- How has this residency impacted the direction of your future practice? Have any concrete partnerships or commissions emerged from this time?

## Part 2: The Financial Report (Reconciliation)

Beneficiaries must submit a **Financial Statement** (using the template provided) listing all actual expenses.

## Part 3: Mandatory Attachments (The Evidence)

*To validate the residency, the following proofs must be attached.* All documents submitted must be labelled as follows: **surname\_name\_type of proof.**

### 1. Proof of Mobility

- Boarding passes (inbound and outbound) clearly showing the complete itinerary and dates.

## **2. Evidence of Process and Output**

- *For Project-Based Residency:* A visual dossier (PDF) of the work-in-progress, sketches, prototypes, or site mappings created during the residency, as well as high-resolution images/videos of the final project.
- *For Research-Based Residency:* A "Research Log" or dossier containing field notes, archival findings, data collection, or interview transcripts, and/or a snippet of the writing produced (e.g., a draft chapter, an essay, or a synopsis of findings).

## **3. Proof of Public Engagement**

- Evidence of the knowledge transfer sessions (e.g., photos of the workshop, screenshots of the event listing).