

Call for Pavilions for the Malta Biennale 2026

GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS

**Location of the Malta Biennale**

The Malta Biennale will celebrate its second edition in the spring of 2026, and will be held in various locations across the Maltese archipelago. Malta is notably a country that has been challenged in finding its place - geopolitically and artistically. Malta achieved its independence from the British Empire in 1964 and became a member of the European Union in 2004, following a long and complex history under different rulers. A geographic epicentre in the Mediterranean, Malta is strategically located at the intersection between Europe and Africa, between East and West.

**Issuing office**

The issuing office, i.e., Heritage Malta's MUŻA - the National Museum of Art in the Community, located at the Auberge d'Italie, is the point of contact for this call. Please refer any enquiries or requests for clarification to:

[info@maltabiennale.art](mailto:info@maltabiennale.art)

**Scope**

The Malta Biennale provides a unique opportunity for any country to showcase projects of artistic research and excellence in a city and / or cultural site of UNESCO status, and to be at the crossroads of the intersection between contemporary art and cultural heritage.

### **Who may apply for a pavilion within the Malta Biennale?**

This call is open to all countries interested in setting up a pavilion wishing to present projects in accordance with the conceptual framework of the second edition of the Malta Biennale.

### **Timeframe**

- Applications are to be submitted by no later than noon (CET) on August 29, 2025. Applications received before the closing date, will be analysed by the curatorial team. During this phase the curatorial team may ask for clarification.
- All submissions will be acknowledged and will be dealt with in strict confidence.

### **What support will pavilions receive?**

The organiser shall provide selected pavilions with the following:

- Access to exhibit in historical sites in Valletta, a World Heritage City, or in the historic city of Vittoriosa.
- Opportunity to form part of and exhibit in a prestigious international event.
- Consultancy services for shipping, insurances and accommodation.
- Technical assistance with installation through the organisers' offices.
- Technical assessment of the exhibition by the organisers' offices in order to verify compliance with the current Maltese security and safety regulations, and with restrictions related to historic buildings.
- A basic electrical and general lighting system.
- Internet connection.
- Daytime surveillance of outdoor spaces during closing hours of the exhibition.
- Night surveillance of outdoor areas.
- Exhibition signage.

- Marketing and promotion of the Biennale – including social media campaigns, a dedicated website, public relations including invitations to meet local / international key art and culture journalists.
- A general catalogue covering the entirety of the Biennale. Each pavilion will be entitled to include information about its concept and its artists (complete with installation views). The catalogue will be printed, and a number of free copies will be given to each pavilion. The catalogue will also be available for sale at the Official Book Shop of the Malta Biennale 2026.
- A calendar will be developed for the biennial mortar and a public programme of side / collateral events which will be organised in addition to the exhibition locations. Workshops, performances, talks and a rich programme of collateral events will complete the biennial frame of cultural actions.

### **Application process and conditions**

- Any country can apply for a pavillion.
- Must provide a complete application submission.
- Proposals with missing information, as specified in this call, will be deemed ineligible.
- Submitting a response to this call does not guarantee that the applying pavilions will be selected for participation in the Malta Biennale 2026.
- The issuance of this call for pavilions does not constitute a commitment to issue a request for bids, award a contract or pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this call.

### **Response format**

Responses are to be straightforward, clear, concise and specific to the information requested. For submissions to be considered complete, applicants must provide all the requested information mentioned in this document as well as any other comments, observations or suggestions which may potentially assist in the participation process of the pavilion.

**Online application**

Applications are to be submitted using the [online form](#).

**Evaluation process**

Proposals will be initially screened for eligibility. All applicants will be notified of their results by email.

**Selection**

The curatorial team will meet during an initial evaluation meeting in which all eligible applications will be discussed. The organisers may request the applicant(s) to present their project during a formal Zoom presentation. All costs associated with such presentations will be borne by the applicant(s). Any further clarifications and/or queries will be communicated to the applicant. All applicants, will receive their official result notification [by November 30, 2025](#).

**Selected pavilions**

- Following the announcement of the selected pavilions, the team may be requested to attend online meetings.
- Must nominate a main contact project manager from the team and provide their telephone and email contact details.
- Delivery of proposed and accepted concept, design, production and execution of the artwork/exhibition. This is not limited to any materials, equipment, lighting nor other technical requirements to produce and deliver the project.
- Select the artworks to be exhibited within the pavilion.
- Handle communication and contracts with the selected artist(s) and/or organisations - including any ancillary intellectual property agreements with third parties.

- The project manager will have to work very closely with the artist(s) and curator(s) on the logistics, administration, fundraising, accounting, coordination, organisation and production management of the project, and any other requirements needed for the successful delivery of the exhibition.
- Where necessary, seek insurance and adequate transportation for all required objects and material.
- Be responsible for travel and accommodation arrangements.
- The setting up and dismantling of the artwork/exhibition as determined by the rules and regulations of the assigned/confirmed site.
- To participate in media interviews and any promotional activities whilst supporting the marketing, PR and communications requirements as stipulated by MUŻA.
- Document and advertise the Biennale through social media in liaison with the Malta Biennale's communications team.
- Attend vernissage week in Malta to promote the exhibition to the press and lead tours.
- Fulfil any other requirements needed for the successful delivery of the exhibition.
- The pavilion organisers will cover all costs related to the respective exhibition and display.
- In agreement with their embassies, chosen artists can travel to Malta where they might be offered artistic residencies to create their site specific projects.
- MUŻA will only be responsible for marketing and PR.
- Any final decisions are strictly those of the Malta Biennale.

### **Clarifications and FAQs**

For any clarifications, potential applicants should refer to [www.maltabiennale.art](http://www.maltabiennale.art) or alternatively send an email to [info@maltabiennale.art](mailto:info@maltabiennale.art)

### **Confidentiality**

All proposal content provided by the applicant(s) in accordance with this call will be kept in strict confidence and will not be revealed, except to the extent required by law.

The below steps are necessary to guarantee appropriate submission:

- Read these clauses carefully and familiarise yourself with the entirety of this call.
- Follow the instructions step by step. Fill in all the required information on the online application and attach the supporting documentation.
- Submit the application. Applicants will receive an email acknowledgement to confirm the receipt of their application. Should any applicant not receive acknowledgement, kindly contact: [info@maltabiennale.art](mailto:info@maltabiennale.art)

### **Available spaces / site plans**

Applicants are requested to take note of the site plans provided for St Elmo in Valletta, and the Old Armoury of the Knights in Vittoriosa. The plans are an indication of available exhibition spaces for pavilions. The choice of each pavilion site / location, will be made by the curatorial team, according to the concept of the pavilion – in coherence with the Biennale theme and the history of the site. Please refer to our website for images and plans.

Final stages of the curatorial plan will be discussed and confirmed in writing.

### **Malta's national collection**

The curatorial team at MUŻA reserves the right to acquire one or more artworks to form part of Malta's national collection. Artworks may also be bequeathed or donated to the national collection, subject to the final decision of MUŻA's curatorial team.