



# Premju għall-Arti

**GUIDELINES & REGULATIONS**

ISSUED: DECEMBER 2024

## 1. Context

Premju għall-Arti is Arts Council Malta's celebration of the main achievements of Malta's cultural and creative industries. As highlighted in the National Cultural Policy 2021 this is a high-profile national event awarding excellence in the field of culture and the arts, while encouraging more professionalism and distinction within the sector. This aligns with ACM's first guiding principle as stipulated in its Strategy2025 which is to champion the advancement of the status of the artists, and cultural and creative practitioners.

Artistic expression is to be recognised, celebrated, and cherished as a core value of contemporary cultural life, reflected in a commitment towards the principles of cultural rights. The award sheds light on some of the key protagonists that have demonstrated the power of artistic expression to present new perspectives and ideas in an ever-changing social and cultural context.

Excellence in the arts is characterised by the creation of the most daring, original, innovative, and impeccably executed works. This encompasses a broad spectrum of artistic expressions, from traditional to contemporary, wide-reaching to niche, from low-budget to high-budget. Excellence lies in its impact on both the creative practitioners and audiences, marked by depth, vision, and innovation through equitable and inclusive processes. It involves integrity, resonance, originality, proficiency, ambition, imagination, and long-term thinking. Excellence embraces fair practices within the processes that bring to fruition artistic projects, which include respecting health and safety regulations, non-discrimination, equal access and opportunities, accountability, decent working conditions and adherence to intellectual property regulation. This award aspires to recognise the highest artistic standards achieved through fair practices, while embracing the ongoing potential of societal and technological changes that impacts artistic processes and outcomes.

The main aim is, therefore, to recognise and reward excellent, innovative, and outstanding work premiered throughout the seasons of the past two years and/or showed significant progress in the approach towards production.

As from 2023, il-Premju għall-Arti will take place on a biennial basis. This edition will be happening in 2025, with the next one happening in 2027.

## 2. Categories

In 2025 there are 14 competitive categories in all. These are divided as follows:

1	Best artistic programme or season 2023/2024	L-aqwa programm jew staġun artistiku 2023/2024
2	Best artistic programme or season 2024/2025	L-aqwa programm jew staġun artistiku 2024/2025
3	Award for national artistic excellence	Premju għat-tiŝiħ artistiku nazzjonali

The nominees for the above categories must be Public Cultural Organisations.

4	Best work for young audiences	L-aqwa xogħol għal tfal u żgħażaġh
5	Best project in the community	L-aqwa proġett fil-komunità

6	Best Production: theatre	L-aqwa produzzjoni: teatru
7	Best Production: dance	L-aqwa produzzjoni: żfin
8	Best Production: visual art	L-aqwa produzzjoni: arti viżiva
9	Best Production: multidisciplinary	L-aqwa produzzjoni: multidixxiplinarja
10	Best Production: music	L-aqwa produzzjoni: mużika
11	Best international achievement	L-aqwa kisbiet internazzjonali
12	Best creative and innovative enterprise	L-aqwa intrapriża kreattiva u innovattiva
13	Young creative practitioner award	Premju għall-prattikant kreattiv żagħżuġħ/a
14	Creative practitioner award	Premju għall-prattikant kreattiv

The nominees for the above categories must be individuals, entities, cultural NGOs, companies and/or collectives, so long as they are the Intellectual Property Owner of the project being presented - Public Cultural Organisations can be partners in the project.

The below are non-competitive honours:

1	Lifetime achievement award	Unur għall-karriera artistika
2	Honour for cultural promoters	Unur għall-promoturi kulturali
3	Honour for artistic legacy	Unur għall-wirt artistiku
4	Ambassador of the Arts Award	Premju għall-Ambaxxatur fl-Arti

Nomination for the honours categories are being accepted. These will then be evaluated by an internal board. Refer to section in relation to honours for more information.

The Ambassador of the Arts award will be open for adjudication every four years.

### **3. Timeframe**

The eligibility period is between 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2025.

Nomination forms may be submitted until the 19th September 2025(noon). Nominations which are submitted after the deadline will not be accepted. Nominations for the consecutive Premju għall-Arti edition will be accepted from the 19th September 2025, after noon.

### **4. Nomination Process**

The nomination process for each of the categories mentioned in section 2, is based on an open call on **www.premju.mt**.

Nominations may be submitted by Maltese or Malta-based individuals, organisations as well as public and/or private entities, depending on the category. Self-nominations are also accepted. All nominees should be Maltese or Malta-based individuals, organisations and public and/or private entities. In the case of groups or collectives, these need to be primarily based and operating from the Maltese islands.

In the case of the competitive categories 1 to 12, the work proposed may be original or adapted. For works which are based on, or adapted from existing works, partly or entirely, the relevant licensing and authorisation documentation needs to be submitted together with the application form.

Members of the Premju għall-Arti management team may not nominate a candidate and/or themselves for the awards. Members of the evaluation board who have nominated a candidate and/or themselves for the awards may not serve on the Jury of that award.

In the case of the honours the Jury reserves the right to nominate individuals if the nominations received do not fulfil the requirements of the category.

Any queries about the nomination process and/or the Awards are to be sent to **awards@artscouncil.mt**.

#### **4.1 Nomination forms**

To submit a nomination, follow these instructions:

1. An online nomination form is found on [www.premju.mt](http://www.premju.mt).
2. Fill in the online form (this can be concise).

N.B. One nomination is enough to qualify for the award.

#### **4.2 Application process**

The Premju għall-Arti team will process the nominations and contact the artist or producer of the work via e-mail.

To accept the nomination, nominees will be given instructions via e-mail to submit an application form including the required information and documentation through an online form within the required timeframe (kindly refer to template in Appendix A).

**N.B. The nominees reserve the right to decline the nomination.**

## 5. Selection process

All application forms are evaluated according to established criteria, as outlined in these Guidelines and Regulations.

Eligible application forms will be assessed by a Jury composed of external evaluators and Arts Council Malta representatives. The Jury members will be selected on the basis of their professional experience related to the categories and specific art forms. Jury members may assess more than one category. In the case of the three honours the Jury will be composed of Arts Council Malta representatives.

All application forms will be scored by the Jury. In order to qualify for an award, the application needs to obtain at least 60 marks. In case of one application for a specific category, the submission would still need to obtain the minimum mark in order to qualify for the award. In case only one application from that specific category obtains the 60 minimum required mark, then that submission would automatically be considered as the winner of the category.

In case of a tie between two or more submissions that may impact the rank order of the application at evaluation stage, the evaluators will be invited to reassess the submissions and a second updated ranking order is established. This process may be repeated until a clear shortlist is established.

The highest five ranking submissions in categories 1 to 14 will be announced online in November 2025. Applications received for the below 4 categories will go through a further stage of selection – Public Voting. The public will be invited to select their choice amongst the highest five ranking submission, per category:

- Best work for young audiences
- Best project in the community
- Best international achievement
- Best creative and innovative enterprise.

Public voting will take place on **www.premju.mt**. Each person will be entitled to one vote per category, on the basis of their ID card number. The public voting will carry 25% of the final mark.

Nominations for the honours' categories are being accepted. These will be evaluated by an internal board.

In the eventuality of only one nominee in a specific category, then this nominee will not be announced online, but will be announced directly during the awards' ceremony. Nominations for the Honours categories will not be announced online but will be announced directly during the awards' ceremony.

The application with the highest mark in every category will be announced as the winner during the Awards Night.

No information on the selection process will be released before the official result notification. Any form of soliciting will automatically disqualify a nomination.

All information received by Arts Council Malta, any appointed coordinators and the Jury will be considered confidential, both during and after the evaluation process.

## 6. Trophy

On the Awards night, the winners will be presented with a prestigious Arts Council Malta trophy created and developed by artist Kane Cali.

## 7. Awards Categories

### 1. Best artistic programme or season / L-aqwa programm jew stagun artistiku 2023/2024

These awards recognise the most outstanding artistic programme presented in terms of the quality of the work proposed, its impact on the arts sector, nationally, and its overall critical acclaim.

Nominated programmes or seasons, may be festivals, artistic programmes related to specific venues or programmes proposed by Public Cultural Organisations occurring between 2023 and 2024

To make a strong case for this award, the nominee needs to consider the following:

- Has the work reached the highest levels of excellence in artistic and production levels?
- Has the nominated programme received significant positive critical acclaim?
- Has the nominated programme captured the attention of audiences who witnessed the works proposed?
- If relevant, has the work proposed relevant and significant collaborations with other artists, entities and/or partners?
- Has the programme made an impact on the national creative ecology?
- Has the programme in any way contributed to the implementation of Arts Council Malta's ongoing strategy?

### 2. Best artistic programme or season / L-aqwa programm jew stagun artistiku 2024/2025

These awards recognise the most outstanding artistic programme presented in terms of the quality of the work proposed, its impact on the arts sector, nationally, and its overall critical acclaim.

Nominated programmes or seasons, may be festivals, artistic programmes related to specific venues or programmes proposed by Public Cultural Organisations occurring between 2024 and 2025.

To make a strong case for this award, the nominee needs to consider the following:

- Has the work reached the highest levels of excellence in artistic and production levels?
- Has the nominated programme received significant positive critical acclaim?
- Has the nominated programme captured the attention of audiences who witnessed the works proposed?
- If relevant, has the work proposed relevant and significant collaborations with other artists, entities and/or partners?
- Has the programme made an impact on the national creative ecology?
- Has the programme in any way contributed to the implementation of Arts Council Malta's ongoing strategy?

### 3. Award for national artistic excellence / Premju għat-tishih artistiku nazzjonali

This award will recognise the most outstanding artistic production or project organised by a Public Cultural Organisation in the eligible timeframe. The award acknowledges the PCO which has strived to further strengthen the local cultural and creative ecology through its work, by leaving a positive impact on the sector.

To make a strong case for this award, the nominee needs to consider the following:

- Has the work reached the highest levels of excellence in artistic and production levels?
- Has the work proposed an innovative artistic concept?
- Has the nominated work received significant positive critical acclaim?
- If relevant, has the work proposed significant collaborations with other artists, entities and/or partners?
- Was the work engaging for its target audience?
- Has the artist or work left an impact on the national or local community creative ecology?
- Has the work in any way contributed to the implementation of Arts Council Malta's ongoing strategy?

#### **4. Best work for young audiences / L-aqwa xogħol għal tfal u zghazagh**

This award gives recognition to an artistic project of excellence specifically created for young audiences. The award is aimed at productions which engage creative professionals producing artistic works of excellence which inspires and engages children and young people aged 0 to 16.

Nominated projects may be art projects, performances, concerts, exhibitions, films, interdisciplinary artistic works, and audio-visual works created specifically for young audiences between 0 and 16 and presented through public presentation and/ or schools.

Nominees may be projects led by individuals, groups, independent organisations, or public entities.

To make a strong case for this award, the nominee needs to consider the following:

- Has the work reached the highest levels of excellence in artistic and production levels?
- Has the nominated work received significant positive critical acclaim?
- Was the work proposed appropriate for the target audience?
- If relevant, has the work proposed important and significant collaborations with other artists, entities and/or partners?
- Has the work proposed contributed to the development of the arts for young audiences?
- Has the work in any way contributed to the implementation of Arts Council Malta's ongoing strategy?

#### **5. Best project in the community / L-aqwa proġett fil-komunità**

This award is designed to encourage, honour, and promote excellence in artistic projects with communities. The award focusses particularly on outstanding arts-driven social engagement, social and cultural exchange, inclusivity, and participatory creative process.

Projects proposed may be art projects, performances, concerts, exhibitions, films, interdisciplinary artistic works, and audio-visual works created specifically with and for a community.

To make a strong case for this award, the nominee needs to consider the following:

- Has the work reached the highest levels of excellence in artistic and production levels?
- Has the nominated work received significant positive critical acclaim?
- Was the work proposed relevant to the target audience?
- Has the work proposed relevant and significant collaborations between various artists as well as the community?
- Has the work made an impact on a local community level?
- Has the work proposed contributed to the development of the community engaged?
- Has the work in any way contributed to the implementation of Arts Council Malta's ongoing strategy?

#### **6. Best production: theatre / L-aqwa produzzjoni: teatru**

This award recognises the most outstanding artistic production in theatre, presented in terms of the quality of the work, its impact on the arts sector both nationally and, if relevant, internationally as well as the overall critical acclaim.

Projects proposed may be theatrical artistic projects, performances, drama, artistic works, and audio-visual works a play and/or other activity or presentation considered in terms of its dramatic quality, presented through any form of public presentation.

To make a strong case for this award, the nominee needs to consider the following:

- Has the work reached the highest levels of excellence in artistic and production levels?
- Has the nominated work received significant positive critical acclaim?
- If relevant, has the work proposed relevant and significant collaborations with other artists, entities and/or partners?
- Has the nominated work provided opportunities for artistic development to the artists and collaborators involved?
- Has the work left an impact on the national creative ecology?
- Has the work in any way contributed to the implementation of Arts Council Malta's ongoing strategy?

### **7. Best production: dance / L-aqwa produzzjoni: żfin**

This award recognises the most outstanding artistic production in dance, presented in terms of the quality of the work, its impact on the arts sector both nationally and, if relevant, internationally as well as the overall critical acclaim.

Projects proposed may be dance artistic projects, performances, artistic works, and audio-visual works and/or any other activity or presentation considered in terms of its dance quality, presented through any form of public presentation.

To make a strong case for this award, the nominee needs to consider the following:

- Has the work reached the highest levels of excellence in artistic and production levels?
- Has the nominated work received significant positive critical acclaim?
- If relevant, has the work proposed relevant and significant collaborations with other artists, entities and/or partners?
- Has the nominated work provided opportunities for artistic development to the artists and collaborators involved?
- Has the work left an impact on the national creative ecology?
- Has the work in any way contributed to the implementation of Arts Council Malta's ongoing strategy?

### **8. Best production: visual art / L-aqwa produzzjoni: arti viżiva**

This award recognises the most outstanding artistic production in visual art, presented in terms of the quality of the work, its impact on the arts sector both nationally and, if relevant, internationally as well as the overall critical acclaim.

Projects proposed may be artistic projects, exhibitions, artistic works, and audio-visual works presented through any form of public presentation, including but not limited to art forms that create works that are primarily visual in nature.

To make a strong case for this award, the nominee needs to consider the following:

- Has the work reached the highest levels of excellence in artistic and production levels?
- Has the nominated work received significant positive critical acclaim?
- If relevant, has the work proposed relevant and significant collaborations with other artists, entities and/or partners?
- Has the nominated work provided opportunities for artistic development to the artists and collaborators involved?
- Has the work left an impact on the national creative ecology?
- Has the work in any way contributed to the implementation of Arts Council Malta's ongoing strategy?



## **9. Best production: multidisciplinary / L-aqwa produzzjoni: multidixxiplinarja**

This award recognises the most outstanding artistic production presented in a multidisciplinary manner, presented in terms of the quality of the work, its impact on the arts sector both nationally and, if relevant, internationally as well as the overall critical acclaim.

Projects proposed may be artistic projects, performances, concerts, exhibitions, films, artistic works, and audio-visual works presented through any form of public presentation which combine one or more artistic disciplines.

To make a strong case for this award, the nominee needs to consider the following:

- Has the work reached the highest levels of excellence in artistic and production levels?
- Has the nominated work received significant positive critical acclaim?
- If relevant, has the work proposed relevant and significant collaborations with other artists, entities and/or partners?
- Has the nominated work provided opportunities for artistic development to the artists and collaborators involved?
- Has the work left an impact on the national creative ecology?
- Has the work in any way contributed to the implementation of Arts Council Malta's ongoing strategy?

## **10. Best production: music / L-aqwa produzzjoni: mużika**

This award recognises the most outstanding artistic production in music, presented in terms of the quality of the work, its impact on the arts sector both nationally and, if relevant, internationally as well as the overall critical acclaim.

Projects proposed may be musical projects, performances, concerts, musical works, and audio-visual works and/or other activity or presentation considered in terms of its musical quality, presented through any form of public presentation.

To make a strong case for this award, the nominee needs to consider the following:

- Has the work reached the highest levels of excellence in artistic and production levels?
- Has the nominated work received significant positive critical acclaim?
- If relevant, has the work proposed relevant and significant collaborations with other artists, entities and/or partners?
- Has the nominated work provided opportunities for artistic development to the artists and collaborators involved?
- Has the work left an impact on the national creative ecology?
- Has the work in any way contributed to the implementation of Arts Council Malta's ongoing strategy?

## **11. Best international achievement / L-aqwa kisbiet internazzjonali**

This award celebrates outstanding work by Maltese or Malta based artists that has demonstrated an extraordinary effort in pushing boundaries and in building international bridges. This award seeks to acknowledge artist/s who, regardless of the various obstacles, managed to break through the international sphere and achieved international success.

Projects proposed may be artistic projects, one-off performances/concerts/exhibitions, tours, films, interdisciplinary artistic works, international collaboration projects, and audio-visual works presented through any form of public presentation on an international level during the eligible period.

To make a strong case for this award, the nominee needs to consider the following:

- Has the work proposed reached the highest levels of excellence in artistic and production levels?
- Has the work attained significant critical recognition internationally and had an important impact on the arts through public presentation?
- Has the work involved collaboration with other international artists/platforms strengthening international relations?
- Has the artist/s leading the work demonstrated innovation and vision and managed to enter new international markets?
- Has the work in any way contributed to the implementation of Arts Council Malta's ongoing strategy?

## **12. Best creative and innovative enterprise / L-aqwa intrapriża kreattiva u innovattiva**

This award seeks to recognise the creative and innovative enterprise that achieved the outstanding performance in areas such as sustainability, economic growth, job creation, collaboration with enterprises in other sectors, access to new national and international markets, and the diversification of its creative output.

It also acknowledges the development of an innovative creative product, business model, process, methodology, or service.

To make a strong case for this award, the nominee needs to consider the following:

- Has the work proposed an innovative approach in the methodology through the research, development, and implementation of the project?
- Through the project has the artist or artists experimented with the appropriation of new media and technologies within the arts?
- Has the project served as a catalyst, triggering innovative processes and production within the arts?
- Has the project enabled the establishment of new networks and alliances between different creative and social agents?

## **13. Young creative practitioner / Il-prattikant kreattiv żaġżuġ/a**

The young creative practitioner award acknowledges the most outstanding young practitioner whose artistic formation, achievement and commitment have distinguished them.

This category may consider individuals or a group. In the case of group submissions, the majority of artists must be between 13 and 30.

The eligible age group for this award is 13 – 30 years (by the end of the year 2025).

To make a strong case for this award, the nominee needs to consider the following:

- Has the young creative practitioner produced work of excellence that has received significant positive critical acclaim during the eligible timeframe?
- Does the young creative practitioner show evidence of a clear artistic vision and the potential for continued excellence?
- Has the young creative practitioner captured the attention of audiences who witnessed his/her work?
- Has the young creative practitioner shown the ability to be an inspiration and role model to other artists?
- Has the work in any way contributed to the implementation of Arts Council Malta's ongoing strategy?

## **14. Creative practitioner award / Premju għall-prattikant kreattiv**

This award recognises the most outstanding creative practitioner based on the quality of the work in terms of presentation and execution, impact on the arts sector and overall critical acclaim. The award acknowledges the artist, who through his/her work, has pushed artistic boundaries and contributed to the advancement of the arts in the Maltese islands across any art form.

This category may consider individuals or independent collectives. Public entities are not eligible to be nominated for this award.

In order to make a strong case for this award, the nominee needs to consider and respond to the following questions:

- Has the creative practitioner produced work of excellence that has received significant positive critical acclaim in the eligible timeframe?
- Has the creative practitioner captured the attention of audiences who witnessed his/her work?
- Has the creative practitioner collaborated with other artists from other genres or art forms to create new work that has been considered successful whether its aims were for research purpose or as a final product?
- Has the creative practitioner made an impact on the national arts community? Has the work in any way contributed to the implementation of Arts Council Malta's ongoing strategy?

## **8. Honours Categories**

### **1. Lifetime achievement Award / Unur għall-karriera artistika**

This award will recognise an individual, who, during their lifetime has made significant creative contributions to Malta's cultural and creative sector.

The public is invited to nominate who they believe is the most deserving artist in terms of the award criteria below. Once nominated, nominees will be evaluated by the Jury. The board reserves the right to nominate a winner in the case where none of the nominees fit the nomination criteria.

Only individuals may be nominated for the award.

### **2. Honour for cultural promoters / Unur għall-promoturi kulturali**

This award will recognize individuals, groups or organizations who have left a significant mark on the creative local and / or international sector. Those receiving the award are those who in their personal or professional capacity triggered, influenced, financed, and had a positive impact on the national and / or international creative ecology.

### **3. Honour for artistic legacy / Unur għall-wirt artistiku**

This award will recognize individuals, groups, or organisations who through their activities promote the Maltese cultural scene. Those receiving the award are individuals or organizations who promote national social values, traditions, customs, practices, and aesthetics that highlight Maltese culture and hold tradition at the very heart of their activity.

### **4. Ambassador of the Arts Award / Premju għall-Ambaxxatur fl-Arti**

This award will recognize the outstanding contribution of an individual in advocating for and contributing to the cultural and creative industries in the Maltese islands. Those receiving this award are individuals who through their professional capacity have elevated and promoted the Maltese artistic and cultural sector locally and internationally.

Only individuals can be nominated for this award.

## 9. Complaints

All complaints will be treated with confidentiality.

Nominators or nominees 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 policies and procedures of Arts Council Malta or of the Government of Malta.
- The merits of the nomination in terms of the criteria stipulated in these Guidelines and Regulations.
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Only nominators or nominees may file complaints concerning the nomination.

### 9.1 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 these Guidelines and Regulations 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 Funding and Strategy at Arts Council Malta within five (5) working days of receipt of the decision. 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 nomination or submission to address the complaint. The decision of the Board is final.

## 10. Contact us

For more information, you may call us on 23347201/02 or send us an email on [awards@artscouncil.mt](mailto:awards@artscouncil.mt).

**Appendix A (application form for nominees' template)**

Documentation requested from NOMINEES.

Nominee:

\_\_\_\_\_

In the case of productions this should be the intellectual property right holders

Email:

\_\_\_\_\_

Mobile:

\_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of production, project or season nominated:

In the case of nominations for Creative Practitioner Award or Young Creative Practitioner Award kindly attach a short biography.

Reasons why should you be considered for this award:

Please consider the questions listed under the category in the Guidelines & Regulations.

Relevant links to the audio-visual documentation, websites and any other resource focusing on the artist, project, production, or season being nominated. You can also include critical feedback and reviews: