



GOVERNMENT
OF MALTA



Open Call for Artists: ***Where Traces Lead***

Call for Applications for Artists to participate in a
Residency Programme at San Lawrenz, Gozo, Malta

Issued by: *San Lawrenz Local Council*

Ref: SLLC/EOI-01/2025

Issue Date: *12th February 2025*

Response/Submission Date and Time: *5th March 2025 at 10:00am*



The European Agricultural Fund

For Rural Development:

Europe Investing in Rural Areas

San Lawrenz Local Council

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Open Call for Artists: **Where Traces Lead**

Residency Dates: 8th April - 27th April 2025

Deadline to Apply: 5th March 2025

Where Traces Lead is a three-week residency programme inviting **six** international artists to immerse themselves in the unique context of San Lawrenz, Gozo. This programme offers the opportunity to uncover hidden and unique aspects of the village's identity and collaborate with the local communities to develop site-specific projects.

Background

The San Lawrenz Local Council is inviting international artists to participate in this residency programme, which forms part of the project *Enhancing the Rural Artistic Characteristics of San Lawrenz*. This overarching initiative aims to explore the rural, natural, and cultural heritage of San Lawrenz while activating this quiet village during the shoulder months. The project is funded under the LEADER Rural Development Programme for Malta 2014-2020. The San Lawrenz Local Council is the administrative body responsible for governing and managing the needs and concerns of the community, working hard to preserve the village's heritage and promote its sustainable development.

San Lawrenz, located on the western side of Gozo, was historically known as *Ta' Ġangura*, and has roots dating back to before the Siege of Gozo in 1551. The village is surrounded by three prominent hills: *Ta' Dbiegi*, *Ta' Għammar* and *Ta' Gelmus*. Its proximity to Dwejra Bay, celebrated for its geological features, adds to its unique landscape. With fewer than 1000 residents, San Lawrenz is unique for its natural, cultural and rural heritage.

Where Traces Lead is a residency programme being developed in collaboration with the Local Council's Artistic Director for this project, Elyse Tonna. Artists are invited to respond to elements of San Lawrenz's identity, tracing connections between the past and present, the seen and unseen and the physical and ephemeral.

Eligibility

This call is open to **contemporary, non-Malta-based artists working in one of the following six media formats (one artist per medium):**

- visual arts - mural
- visual arts - sculpture/installation
- visual arts - textiles
- performing arts - sound
- performing arts - dance
- performing arts - theatre

Applicants must demonstrate a strong interest and ability to work with communities and be available to live and work in San Lawrenz for the entire residency period in April 2025.

Open Call for Artists and Proposals

The residency involves the creation of new site-/community-specific work with a strong storytelling element over three weeks, which will then be showcased at distinctive locations in San Lawrenz.

Submissions should demonstrate the artist's ability to develop site-specific work while engaging local communities. Proposals should focus on aspects of San Lawrenz's natural, rural, and cultural heritage and incorporate meaningful community involvement during the process.

What We Offer

- A standard artistic / production fee of Eur 1200 excluding VAT;
- A lump-sum for flights and accommodation – Eur 300 excl. VAT and Eur 900 exclu. VAT respectively;
- Dedicated workspace;
- A lump-sum for meals – Eur 400 exclu. VAT;
- A lump-sum for materials/equipment – Eur 500 exclu. VAT;
- Opportunities to engage with local artists and communities.

All the above are to be covered by a final invoice and submission of receipts. The artist must hold a valid VAT number.

Team

The small artistic team is being led by curator and artistic director Elyse Tonna and supported by the San Lawrenz Local Council for project management and coordination.

Application Requirements

The concept and work proposed remain the exclusive property of the artist. Proposals should clearly outline the intent and scope of the project, with consideration for methods of engaging local communities.

- **A proposal (maximum 500 words)**
Describe the project idea and how it aligns with Where Traces Lead. Make reference to the above-mentioned media formats and highlight how you intend to engage with the local community and context.
- **Portfolio - Up to 10 images, videos or links to previous work**
Make reference to similar projects
- **Artistic CV and Bio**
Make reference to similar projects
- **Motivation Letter (maximum 300 words)**
Describe why you would like to participate in this residency and how your work can contribute to raising further awareness about San Lawrenz

Selection Criteria

The selection committee will evaluate proposals based on the following:

- a) **Artistic Concept and Relevance to the Local Context (40%)**
Quality and clarity of the project idea and its scope, relevance to local community and context, originality of the concept, critical engagement with socially-relevant concepts
- b) **Community Engagement and Impact (25%)**
Quality and depth of community involvement, previous experience in working with communities, potential for long-term impact and sustainability
- c) **Project Plan, Feasibility and Practicality (25%)**
Realistic timeline for the three-week residency, alignment with available resources and budget, ability to work individually, project development and execution plan, budget forecast

d) **Outreach Plan (10%)**

Plans for documentation, knowledge-sharing, contribution to ongoing community development

Selected artists will be provided with an agreement outlining the conditions of participation. The Local Council has a small team with limited resources, and artists are expected to work independently to create and produce their projects. The location for each work will depend on the proposal and must adhere to health and safety protocols. Works are not for sale.

Timeline of Project

12th February: Launch of Open Call

5th March: Deadline for submissions. Late submissions will not be accepted

By 21st March: Notification of selected artists

8th April - 27th April: Residency period

It is suggested that the 1st week is dedicated to research, 2nd week to project development and 3rd to project creation. The first week will focus on research, the second on project development and the third on creation. Community participation should occur at one or more stages of the process.

26/27th April: Public events showcasing the works

How To Apply

Submit your application to sanlawrenz.lc@gov.mt with the subject line 'Where Traces Lead'

Application: NAME by 5th March 2025

For any questions, contact the San Lawrenz Local Council on sanlawrenz.lc@gov.mt

We look forward to receiving your proposals!