

KampuSajf

Produced by MCAST. Powered by APS Bank

Call for Artistic Content Launch Date 22nd May 2025

Introduction

KampuSajf is a summer arts festival hosted by the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST), designed to transform its campus into a vibrant space for creativity and cultural exchange. MCAST invites the wider public to celebrate artistic diversity and experience the campus during the quieter summer months whilst fostering a sense of belonging among students and staff.

Supported by APS Bank, the festival began in 2023 as a platform to highlight Maltese talent and offer an alternative destination for art, culture, and literature. Held at the MCAST campus, the event features performances and exhibitions by Maltese creatives across disciplines, with past editions including theatre, live music, poetry, animations, and interdisciplinary collaborations.

Conceptual Framework

This year's edition of KampuSajf unfolds under the title Gathering of Possibilities.

Gathering of Possibilities evokes a space in flux: a site where ideas, bodies, practices and urgencies converge. At its core, the phrase suggests a coming together that is open-ended, generative and speculative. It is not only an act of assembly, but also the latent potential that arises from collective presence: a gathering not of fixed intentions but of emerging capacities.

The term gathering operates on multiple levels: it is both a communal act and a temporal marker - of harvest, of momentum, of shared attention. Gathering is also a living act: a seeding of potential, a condition for activation, a preparation for transformation. It resists the monumental in favour of the relational. Possibilities, meanwhile, foreground what is not yet determined, inviting experimentation. Together, the phrase proposes a framework that privileges activation, process, resonance and the potential of the in-between.

Gathering of Possibilities becomes a site to rehearse futures, reconfigure relations, transform and momentarily suspend dominant narratives. Artists, thinkers, communities and participants are invited to engage in acts of co-creation, speculation and reimagining - through installations, interventions, performances, dialogues and other situated formats. The festival welcomes practices that are inter-/cross-disciplinary, socially-attuned and if possible, ecologically-sensitive, fostering conditions for encounter.

This edition unfolds as a terrain - a living ecosystem - shaped by those who enter it. It invites discomfort and joy, interruption and emergence, contingency and care. In times marked by fragmentation and urgency, Gathering of Possibilities becomes an invitation to seed new ways of relating, to activate shared spaces and to imagine otherwise - not by prescribing what is possible, but by opening space to sense what might be.

Vision and Ethos

KampuSajf reimagines the campus as an open, civic space: a site where artistic practice activates new forms of gathering, expression and connection. Rooted in a commitment to sustainability, grassroots empowerment and the celebration of Maltese language, the festival dissolves boundaries between learning and public life, creating an environment where contemporary creative expression can be encountered, shared and developed collectively.

This year, KampuSajf places a strong emphasis on collaboration - encouraging cross-disciplinary proposals and partnerships between individuals, collectives, institutions and/or organisations. We also aim to foster a team environment that includes artists, performers, students, technicians and producers alike. The festival is imagined as a temporary community - a gathering of different energies working together in a shared spirit of support, experimentation and collective care.

We are actively working to activate new spaces across the campus, including gardens, workshops, and rehearsal studios, allowing the festival to ripple through MCAST and engage with the site in expanded, unexpected ways. KampuSajf invites artists to respond to the campus not just as a venue, but as a setting for collaboration, invention and encounter.

Given the festival's small scale and tight timeframe, resourcefulness is encouraged - not as a limitation, but as a catalyst for creative problem-solving, innovation and mutual support. KampuSajf is a call to come together - to contribute, to make space for one another and to celebrate the diversity of creative practices emerging from within and around the artistic and college community.

This edition of KampuSajf is curated by Elyse Tonna and Justin Galea, who will accompany the process from selection through to development and presentation. The Artistic Directors will work closely with selected artists to support the shaping and realisation of projects, fostering a collaborative environment that prioritises exchange, responsiveness and mutual support. This year's edition will spread across three nights.

Indicative Dates of the Festival

20th, 21st and 22nd August 2025

Location

The festival will be hosted on the MCAST Mosta Campus. The venue on campus may change depending on the type of artistic event being hosted.

Who Can Apply and What We Are Looking For

KampuSajf welcomes proposals from individual artists, collectives, creative practitioners and/or organisations working across disciplines including visual arts, performance, music, theatre, movement, literature, film, socially-engaged practices and interdisciplinary formats.

We are particularly interested in proposals that:

- Foster moments of exchange, dialogue or collective experience;
- Explore inter-/cross-disciplinarity and collaboration across forms;
- Engage with contemporary realities and urgent cultural, social or ecological questions;
- Propose site-responsive or context-sensitive approaches to the MCAST campus environment;
- Reflect diverse Maltese perspectives or involve the Maltese language;
- Encourage accessibility, inclusivity and community interaction.

KampuSajf prioritises projects that align with its ethos of grassroots approaches, sustainability and relational practice. Projects can be intimate or large-scale, structured or

open-ended. The emphasis is on proposals that activate shared spaces, invite connection and open possibilities for new encounters.

Applications are open to artists based in Malta or connected to the Maltese context. International collaborations are welcomed.

The Artistic Directors may suggest or propose collaborations between selected proposals where synergies are identified. Artists are encouraged to remain open to possible collaborations and exchanges during the development phase.

What We Offer

KampuSajf is committed to providing artists with meaningful support to realise their projects.

Selected participants will be offered:

- A project budget (maximum of EUR 2,000) to support the development and presentation of their work;
- Production assistance and access to a dedicated production team;
- Use of onsite rehearsal spaces throughout the summer period;
- Opportunities to work closely with the festival team to prepare, adapt and refine projects in the lead-up to the event.

This year, KampuSajf aims to start transforming the MCAST campus into a living, creative hub - a space not only for final presentations, but for experimentation, collaboration and preparation. Artists will be encouraged to engage with the site and its people throughout the process, contributing to the festival's evolving atmosphere and building momentum towards the final public events.

What To Submit

Applicants are asked to submit the following (in one single .PDF file - not larger than 10MB).

- Project Proposal (max 500 words): A clear description of the proposed project including the concept, format and how it relates to the theme Gathering of Possibilities
- Project Team: A bio and a portfolio for all individual artists and/or collectives.
- Technical and Spatial Needs: Information on any technical, space or site requirements. This includes the need for any human or material resources or spaces which could be provided on campus by MCAST ICA.
- Supporting Material: Up to 5 images, links to previous work or short video/audio samples.
- Project Timeline: Indicate how the development of the project fits in the suggested timeframes.
- Project Budget Breakdown
- Contact Information: Name, email address, phone number and website/social media.

Proposals may be sent in English or Maltese. If you have any access needs, or if you'd prefer to submit your application in an alternative format (for example a voice note or video), feel free to reach out.

Selection Criteria

Submissions will be assessed against the following criteria

1. Creativity and Originality (30%): We value fresh perspectives and innovative approaches that open new ways of thinking, gathering or connecting. Originality in both concept and execution is highly regarded.
2. Artistic Merit (25%): The quality of the idea, the strength of the artistic vision and the demonstrated skill or thoughtfulness behind the proposal will be considered.

3. Relevance and Engagement (20%): Submissions should resonate with the spirit of Gathering of Possibilities, creating space for encounter, reflection or shared experience. Projects that invite audiences into meaningful engagement will be prioritised.
4. Diversity and Inclusivity (10%): We welcome proposals that reflect diverse voices, approaches and experiences and that contribute to creating an inclusive festival environment.
5. Feasibility and Practicality (15%): The ability to realise the project within the available time, space, resources and festival context will be assessed.
6. Alignment with Festival Goals: Submissions should align with the overarching goals and mission of the festival, which include providing a platform for diverse artists to showcase their talents and fostering a sense of community and cultural enrichment.

By evaluating submissions against these criteria, we aim to curate a diverse and compelling line-up of artistic content that celebrates creativity, fosters dialogue, and enriches the festival experience for all attendees.

Timeline

Open Call Launch: 22nd May 2025

Application Deadline: 13th June 2025

Selection Notification: 30th June 2025

Preparation and Production Period: July - August 2025

Onsite Access for Rehearsals and Production: July and August 2025

Festival Dates: 20-22 August 2025

Submissions

Please submit your application via

<https://forms.office.com/e/BhG6AzXXG7> or scan the QR code

Submissions will be considered by the MCAST organising committee, together with the Artistic Directors and decisions will be communicated by the 30th June 2025. Queries can be emailed to sharon.vella@mcast.edu.mt



Copyright and Usage Clause

All works and concepts submitted remain the intellectual property of the applicant. By submitting a proposal to KampuSajf 2025 - Gathering of Possibilities, applicants grant the organisers permission to use excerpts of the submitted material (such as text or images) for internal review and communications related to the open call. For selected projects, further permissions for documentation and dissemination will be outlined in a separate agreement.