

# KampuSajf

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## Call for Artistic Content Launch Date 2 April 2026

### 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 fourth edition of KampuSajf unfolds under the working title **Playgrounds for Emergence**.

The framework turns attention to the moment of beginning: the space before things fully take shape. It explores the early stages of artistic practice: the attempts, tests and explorations through which ideas gradually come into form. These moments of emergence are often unstable, provisional and open-ended, holding within them multiple possible directions. Rather than focusing on finished outcomes, the festival attends to the conditions from which artistic practices originate and evolve.

In this sense, the campus becomes a ground of initiation: a place where journeys begin and where different artistic practices intersect. Within educational environments, beginnings are constant. Methods are tested, approaches are rethought and new languages emerge through experimentation. KampuSajf embraces this dynamic by inviting artists to engage with the campus not only as a site of presentation, but as a context that can actively shape the development of their work.

Here, the notion of the playground becomes a guiding metaphor. A playground is not simply a place of leisure, but a semi-structured environment for learning through action. It is a space where rules exist yet remain flexible, where curiosity, risk and improvisation drive discovery. In this sense, the playground operates both as a place and as a

practice: an environment that supports experimentation and a mindset that embraces unpredictability. A playground is also shaped by those who enter it: by the encounters, frictions and collaborations that unfold within it. Play, in this context, becomes a method: a way of approaching artistic practice through exploration, negotiation and encounter.

KampuSajf activates the campus as a playground of practice. Classrooms, workshops, outdoor areas and transitional spaces become environments where artists can test ideas, adapt works and respond to the spatial and social dynamics of the site. These spaces invite works that move between disciplines, blur boundaries between rehearsal and presentation and encourage unexpected encounters between audiences, artists and processes of making.

In its 25th year, MCAST provides a meaningful context for this exploration. For generations of students, staff and alumni, the campus has long been a place where artistic practices first take shape and from which creative trajectories depart. This edition acknowledges that lineage by inviting past and present members of the MCAST community, alongside other creatives, to re-enter the space together, not through retrospection, but through shared experimentation and exchange.

Through multidisciplinary performances, installations, interventions, workshops and participatory encounters, KampuSajf proposes the campus as a terrain of beginnings: a site where practices intersect, where experimentation is welcomed and where new journeys can emerge. Rather than prescribing what art should become, this edition attends to the moment before it becomes: the space where it begins, the point of departure from which new artistic paths unfold.

### **Vision and Ethos**

KampuSajf reimagines the MCAST campus as an open civic space: a setting where artistic practice activates new forms of gathering, experimentation and exchange. Rooted in a commitment to sustainability, emerging practitioners, grassroots empowerment and the celebration of Maltese language, the festival seeks to dissolve boundaries between learning and public life, creating an environment where contemporary creative practices can be encountered, shared and developed collectively.

This year's edition invites artists to explore processes of experimentation, testing and emergence, responding to the campus as a site where new artistic trajectories can begin. The festival activates classrooms, workshops, gardens and rehearsal spaces as environments for site-specific and interdisciplinary work.

Collaboration is central to this edition. KampuSajf encourages cross-disciplinary proposals and partnerships between individuals, collectives, institutions and organisations, while fostering a working environment that brings together artists, performers, students, technicians and producers. The festival is conceived as a temporary community: a shared space for experimentation, exchange and collective care.

Given the festival's intimate scale and condensed timeframe, resourcefulness is embraced as a catalyst for creative problem-solving and collaborative making. Artists are invited to approach the campus not simply as a venue, but as a context for invention, encounter and experimentation.

KampuSajf 2026 will unfold across three evenings on the MCAST Mosta campus and is curated by Elyse Tonna and Justin Galea, who will accompany selected artists from proposal to development and presentation through a collaborative and responsive process.

**Festival Dates**

6th, 7th, 8th August 2026

**Location**

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

**Who Can Apply and What We Are Looking For**

KampuSajf will again be placing a strong emphasis on collaboration, encouraging cross-disciplinary proposals and partnerships between individuals, collectives, institutions and/or organisations. We also aim to foster once more a team environment that includes artists, performers, students, technicians and producers alike. The festival is imagined as a temporary community - a gathering supporting experimentation and collective care.

Last year, KampuSajf unfolded across the MCAST Mosta campus, activating gardens, workshops and studios in playful, unexpected ways. Building on that spirit, this year's edition, Playgrounds for Emergence continues to treat the campus as a living, creative terrain.

Artists are invited to approach Kampusajf not as a venue, but as a playground for collaboration, invention and encounter and a space where ideas, materials and people meet in motion. As before, the festival celebrates resourcefulness and collective energy, seeing constraint as a catalyst for imagination.

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-specific or context-sensitive approaches to the MCAST campus environment;
- Reflect diverse Maltese perspectives or involve the Maltese language;
- Encourage accessibility, inclusivity and community interaction.
- Reflect MCAST's twenty-five-year legacy through the participation of students, staff and alumni.

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 nonetheless, 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;
- Access to MCAST facilities and resources, including studios and workshops for prop building, construction and technical development;
- Opportunities to work closely with the festival team to prepare, adapt and refine projects in the lead-up to the event.

KampuSajf aims to continue 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.

By offering production resources, technical support, rehearsal space and collective energy, KampuSajf seeks to create conditions that empower artists to gather, create and share new possibilities.

### **What To Submit**

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

- Project Proposal (max 300 words): A clear description of the proposed project including the concept, format and how it relates to the conceptual framework
- 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, experimenting, 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 Playgrounds for Emergence, creating space for encounter, reflection or shared experience. Projects that invite audiences and/or MCAST students 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: 2 April 2026

**Application Deadline: 30 April 2026**

Selection Notification: First two weeks of May 2026

Preparation and Production Period: May - July 2026

Onsite Access for Rehearsals and Production: July and August 2026

Festival Dates: 6-8 August 2026

## **Submissions**

Submissions will be considered by the MCAST organising committee, together with the Artistic Directors and decisions will be communicated by the beginning of May 2026.

Queries can be emailed to [kampusajf@mcast.edu.mt](mailto:kampusajf@mcast.edu.mt)

**Applications via the following link:** [KampuSajf 2026](#)

## **Copyright and Usage Clause**

All works and concepts submitted remain the intellectual property of the applicant. By submitting a proposal to Kampusajf 2026 - Playgrounds for Emergence, 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.