



Premju għall-Arti

GUIDELINES & REGULATIONS

ISSUED: January 2022

Context

Premju għall-Arti is Arts Council Malta's celebration of the main achievements of the Maltese 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 Strategy 2025 which is to champion the advancement of the status of the artists, and cultural and creative practitioners.

The main aim is, therefore, to recognise and reward excellent, innovative and outstanding work premiered throughout last year's season and/or showed significant progress in the approach towards production.

Categories

In 2021/2022 there are 10 competitive categories in all:

L-aqwa xogħol għal tfal u zgħażaġh	Best work for young audiences
L-aqwa proġett fil-komunità	Best project in the community
L-aqwa programm jew staġun artistiku	Best artistic programme or season
L-aqwa produzzjoni tas-sena	Production of the year
L-aqwa kisbiet internazzjonali	Best international achievement
L-aqwa intrapriża kreattiva	Best creative enterprise
L-artist zaghżuġh/a tas-sena	Young artist of the year
L-artist tas-sena	Artist of the year
Premju għall-innovazzjoni	Innovation award
L-għażla tal-pubbliku	Audience's choice

There are also three non-competitive honours:

Unur għall-karriera artistika	Lifetime achievement award
Unur għall-promoturi kulturali	Honour for cultural promoters
Unur għall-wirt artistiku	Honour for artistic legacy

The Ambassador of the Arts award will be open for adjudication every three years. The succeeding Arts Council Malta Ambassador of the Arts will be appointed in 2024.
Timeframe

The eligibility period is between 1st October 2019 and 14th March 2020 and 1st October 2020 to 30th September 2021.

In the case of categories awarding projects and productions, nominations will only be accepted for those projects/productions premiered or launched in the Maltese islands or internationally between between 1st October 2019 and 14th March 2020 and 1st October 2020 to 30th September 2021.

Nomination forms for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 season may be submitted until the 28th of February 2022(noon). Applications for the 2019/2020 season and the 2020/2021 season which are submitted after the deadline will not be accepted. Nominations for the 2021/2022 season will be accepted throughout the year, during or after their production.

The nomination process for the awards is based on an open call for nominations. Nominations received for the Audience's choice award will go through two stages: first a shortlisting by the adjudication board and then through public voting. Public voting will happen on the www.premju.mt website. Each person will be entitled to one vote on the basis of their ID card number.

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

AWARDS CATEGORIES

1. Best work for young audiences / L-aqwa xogħol għal tfal u żgħażaġħ

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 nominator needs to consider and respond to the following questions:

- 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?

2. 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 nominator needs to consider and respond to the following questions:

- 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?

3. Best artistic programme or season / L-aqwa programm jew staġun artistiku

This award recognises the most outstanding artistic programme presented during the year in terms of the quality of the work proposed, its impact on the arts sector, nationally, and its overall critical acclaim.

Nominated programmes may be festivals, artistic programmes related to specific venues or programmes proposed by public cultural organisations or entities, cultural NGOs, companies and/or collectives occurring between 1st October 2019 and 14th March 2020 and 1st October 2021 and 30th September 2021.

To make a strong case for this award, the nominator needs to consider and respond to the following questions:

- 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?

4. Production of the year / L-aqwa produzzjoni tas-sena

This award recognises the most outstanding artistic production presented during the year 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, interdisciplinary artistic works, and audio-visual works presented through any form of public presentation.

To make a strong case for this award, the nominator needs to consider and respond to the following questions:

- 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?

5. Best creative enterprise / L-aqwa intrapriża kreattiva

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

Only registered companies based in the Maltese islands may be nominated.

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

- Has the business showed signs of sustainability in the shape of resilience over time in terms of financial, social and environmental risks, obligations and opportunities?
- Has the business created economic value and contributed to healthy ecosystems?
- Did the business lead to economic growth and an increase in employment?
- Has the business collaborated with other enterprises both in the CCS and other industrial and economic sectors?
- Did the business research and develop new innovative creative products or services aimed at increasing the current market share?
- Has the business made an attempt at entering new markets?

- Did the business diversify its product or service with the aim of increasing market share or servicing/accessing an industry or market which it is not currently in by acquiring new skills and knowledge in product/service development as well as new insights into market behaviour?
- Has the work in any way contributed to the implementation of Arts Council Malta's ongoing strategy?

6. 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 during this past year.

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 nominator needs to consider and respond to the following questions:

- 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?

7. Young artist of the year / L-artist zagħżugh/a tas-sena

The young artist of the year award acknowledges the most outstanding young practitioner whose artistic formation, achievement and commitment have distinguished them during the year. 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 2021).

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

- Has the young artist produced work of excellence that has received significant positive critical acclaim in the past year?
- Does the young artist show evidence of a clear artistic vision and the potential for continued excellence?

- Has the young artist captured the attention of audiences who witnessed his/her work?
- Has the young artist 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?

8. Artist of the year / L-artist tas-sena

This award recognises the most outstanding artist 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 in the past year.

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 nominator needs to consider and respond to the following questions:

- Has the artist produced work of excellence that has received significant positive critical acclaim in the past year?
- Has the artist captured the attention of audiences who witnessed his/her work?
- Has the artist 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 artist 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?

9. Innovation award / Premju għall-innovazzjoni

This award recognises the most innovative artistic project of the year based on the methodology of research, implementation, display, and representation. The award acknowledges projects who through the use of innovative concepts and practice have pushed artistic boundaries and contributed to the advancement of the arts.

Projects proposed may be artistic projects, performances, concerts, exhibitions, films, interdisciplinary artistic work, and audio-visual work.

To make a strong case for this award, the nominator needs to consider and respond to the following questions:

- 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?
- Has the work in any way contributed to the implementation of Arts Council Malta's ongoing strategy

10. Audience's choice / L-ghazla tal-pubbliku

This award will recognise the most outstanding artistic production of the year based on the audience's opinion and experience. The public is invited to nominate who they deem is the most deserving production in terms of quality, impact and positive experience.

Following nomination, projects will go through two stages:

Stage one: shortlisting by a professional adjudication board. On the nominees night, the three selected projects will be announced and pass on to stage two.

Stage two: voting by the public, through online voting. Public voting will happen on the www.premju.mt website. Each person will be entitled to one vote on the basis of their ID card number.

To make a strong case for this award, the nominator needs to consider and respond to the following questions:

- 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?

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 adjudication board. 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.

Nominations

An online nominations form is found on www.premju.mt

Fill in the online form, nominations for the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 season will be accepted until Monday the 28th of February 2022 at noon. Forms sent after the deadline for the season 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 will not be considered. Nominations for the 2021/2022 season will be accepted throughout the year.

The Premju għall-Arti team will process the nominations and contact the artist or producer of the work via e-mail. The nominees may decline the nomination. To accept the nomination, nominees must follow the instructions received via e-mail to submit the required information and documentation through a form within the required timeframe (kindly refer to template in Appendix A).

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, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9 and 10 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 nomination form.

Members of the Premju għall-Arti organisation team may not nominate a candidate and/or themselves for the awards. Members of the board who have nominated a candidate and/or themselves for the awards may not serve on the adjudication board 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@artscouncilmalta.mt.

Selection process

All nominee submitted forms are evaluated according to established criteria and questions, as outlined above.

Eligible submissions 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 submissions will be scored by the Jury. In order to qualify for an award, the submission needs to obtain at least 60 marks. In case of one nomination 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 submission from that specific category obtains the 60 minimum mark, then that submission would be the automatic winner of the category.

In case of a tie between two or more submissions that may impact the rank order of the nominees 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 three ranking submissions in categories 1 to 10 will be announced online. 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 nomination 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.

Trophy

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

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.

Only nominators or nominees may file complaints concerning the nomination.

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.

Contact us

For more information, you may call us on 23347201/02 or send us an email on awards@artscouncilmalta.mt.

Appendix A (submission 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 Artist of the Year or Young Artist of the Year 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: