

ابتكر  
سوريا  
Create  
Syria

Fourth Edition

 Beyond  
the Now

**Socially Engaged Art in a (Dis)Connected World**

Create Syria: A Space to Explore Arts and Social Change | Fourth Edition

# General Guidelines

  
Ettijahat  
Independent Culture

**COUNTERPOINTS.**

## 1. Application procedure and criteria

- **How do I apply for Create Syria?**

You can apply by filling in the application form available on [www.ettijahat.org](http://www.ettijahat.org) and [counterpointsarts.org.uk](http://counterpointsarts.org.uk), and sending it with all the required documents to [createsyria@ettijahat.org](mailto:createsyria@ettijahat.org).

- **What are the required documents that I should send?**

- The completely filled Application Form in Arabic or in English
- The applicant's up-to-date CV with samples of previously implemented projects if applicable
- A clear copy of the applicant's ID or passport
- A portfolio of complete work, if the application is submitted on behalf of a team or group initiative
- Optional: A video of no more than two minutes in which the applicant explains their reasons for applying and how their proposal responds to the selection criteria

- **How can I share documents, images, videos, or other media files?**

- Samples of previous work can be sent by email as MS Word or PDF files. Their size must not exceed 5 MB.
- Applicants can send pictures in JPEG format. Their size should not exceed 10 MB.
- Applicants can send videos and voice recordings by email if they do not exceed 6MB. If the files exceed 6MB, applicants may send them via a link to a DropBox, WeTransfer or Google Drive file.

- **What is the deadline for the submission of applications?**

Applications may be submitted until the 17<sup>th</sup> of July 2022 (23:59 Beirut time). No applications received after the deadline will be accepted, regardless of the reason for the delay.

- **Will I receive a confirmation that Ettijahat has received my application form?**

You can be sure that we have received your application when you receive an **Electronic Receipt Notice**. If you do not receive this automatic response within a short period of submitting your application, please re-send your application.

- **Who is allowed to apply?**

All artists and designers of artistic programmes, regardless of whether they are emerging or established in their careers. Create Syria encourages the participation of individuals, teams, and group initiatives that are interested in artistic programming. The programme also encourages cooperation and partnership between different cultural agents and practitioners.

- **Is the call open for artists of all nationalities?**

Create Syria is open to all Syrian and Arab artists in the Levant, Egypt, Europe, and the UK working across all art forms. Ettijahat also encourages applicants to network with their peers from other nationalities, age groups, and backgrounds.

- **Are there any specific age criteria?**

Create Syria is open to all age groups

- **Is it possible to fill in the application form in a language other than Arabic?**

The application form can be filled in Arabic or English. All the other annexes and documents can be submitted in Arabic, English or French.

- **Is it possible to submit more than one application to the programme?**

No.

- **Am I allowed to apply to Create Syria if I have previously received a grant from a different programme/project organised by Ettijahat?**

Yes.

- **Am I allowed to apply to Create Syria if I am currently receiving a grant from a different programme/project organised by Ettijahat or Counterpoints?**

Ettijahat and Counterpoints aim to support as many different applicants as possible. As such, priority will be given to other new applicants.

- **Am I allowed to apply to Create Syria's fourth edition if I have received support under previous editions of Create Syria?**

Ettijahat aims to support as many different applicants as possible. As such, priority will be given to other new applicants.

- **Will all applicants be notified of the results of the evaluation?**

All selected applicants will be notified of their acceptance in the second half of August 2022. The results will then be published on Ettijahat's website [www.ettijahat.org](http://www.ettijahat.org), Counterpoints' website [counterpointsarts.org.uk](http://counterpointsarts.org.uk), and their social media pages.

- **How will my personal data be used by Ettijahat and Counterpoints?**

Ettijahat and Counterpoints take data protection very seriously and will use the information that you provide to process your application only. The legal basis for processing your information is agreement with the [British Council's data protection policy](#).

## 2. Evaluation process

- **How are the projects selected?**

A specialized technical committee consisting of arts and culture experts from the communities concerned shall examine and select proposals and ideas that will be supported throughout the programme. Participants selection shall be done in two stages:

The first stage begins with an individual evaluation conducted by each member of the committee. After that, the members will convene to discuss the proposals and compare the results of both the individual and group evaluations, to select ten applicants to participate in learning-exchange sessions. Only applications that fit the selection criteria will be evaluated. Proposals that do not comply with the general context of the programme or those that do not comply administratively and/or in content with the evaluation criteria shall be disregarded. The jury shall favour applications that are most likely to benefit from Create Syria programme, and that have or might have a social impact in the future. The names of committee members shall remain confidential until the results of the first stage are announced.

In the second stage and after completing the first part of the learning exchange sessions, participants are asked to resend their proposals, after making the necessary adjustments based on the knowledge they acquired. The committee shall then proceed to evaluate the applications. As a result, five projects shall receive seed-funding to be tested and two will be granted artist residency. Projects that include more than one participant are encouraged at this stage.

- **What are the criteria adopted by the Selection Committee in choosing the ideas to be supported?**

The Selection Committee will evaluate all the eligible applications based on the following principles:  
Relevance to the programme's objectives

- The applicant's understanding of the reality of their local community and their awareness and sensitivity towards community work and artistic practices
- The level of experimentation and innovation shown in the applicant's approach to arts and social change
- The opportunities for local community involvement within the idea presented

The applicant's or team's readiness for collaboration

- The opportunities to draw on local and international cooperation and the applicant's willingness to learn from one's environment and through exchange with other participants
- The applicant's willingness and desire to work creatively towards social change in an innovative way
- The extent to which the idea developer will benefit from Create Syria

- **Does the selection process exclusively rely on the quality of the application?**

Yes – the success of the Create Syria process relies on the commitment and participation of the idea owners. For this reason, we encourage applicants to be attentive in preparing their application and attaching documents, which will be evaluated seriously.

- **What would increase my chances of participating in Create Syria?**

Create Syria seeks to support art projects that achieve real cooperation between artists and their peers, and across other sectors. Priority will be given to ideas that adhere to the aforementioned advice with regard to collaboration (see **Evaluation Process**, above) and which link their content to the general framework of Create Syria.

- **What types of artistic ideas will be selected within Create Syria?**

The programme is open to projects in all artistic fields with no exceptions, and Create Syria welcomes all projects which are outside normal and traditional frameworks. The project should help beneficiaries to develop their artistic and technical skills and empower the potency of community arts.

- **What are the types of ideas that don't comply with the general framework of Create Syria?**

- Non-arts educational projects, development projects and art production projects
- Activities that do not involve communities through an efficient and genuine approach and projects that do not involve a collaborative approach
- Projects which offer capacity building trainings in a repetitive manner without a clear structure for development (i.e. weekly drawing training over a period of 6 months without a clear curriculum, path of progress or end goal)
- A specific part of a cultural institution or initiative's programme which has been already been designed in full and which doesn't require further development

### 3. General information about this edition's components

- **What is the Learning Exchange Component?**

This component will enable ten beneficiaries to take part in five-day-long learning exchange sessions, scheduled across 2022, with visiting facilitators. It will also include participation in a year-long guidance programme. Both aspects will offer tailored training with the aim of facilitating skills development and providing sustainable models for artists and arts organisations working in communities affected by crises. Additionally, participants will be invited to meetups, online training sessions, and community support frameworks organised within the Mozilla Festival (which is a yearly convening of artists, activists, and tech stakeholders interested in the intersections of creativity, technology, and community).

- **What will be expected of me if I get accepted?**

Selected applicants are expected to be committed, attend online learning-exchange sessions and communicate regularly with Ettijahat team. Sessions will be divided into two parts: three-day-long sessions in the first half of September and two-day sessions in the first half of December 2022.

- **What is the Idea Development Component?**

Five projects participating in the learning exchange component will receive seed funding of up to 4,000 Euros, to support the development and testing of new models and approaches developed alongside the training. This may include pilot editions of programmes, place-based research and development commissions, and more. The seed funding will be available for use for between three and six months.

Ettijahat and Counterpoints encourage recipients of this funding to collaborate with other participants within the group that will be supported, and link with other project ideas encompassing mutual interests shared by actors in multiple sectors (i.e. not limited to arts alone).

- **Do participants benefit from any artistic mentorship?**

Artistic mentorship is one of the main components of the support package received by participants selected for the idea development component. Through that, Create Syria provides opportunities for the participating artists to discuss and dialogue with artistic experts who have knowledge of artistic work and its delicate nature in real community contexts. This component provides participants with the opportunity to expand their orbit and to create safe spaces for artistic discussion.

- **How is the artistic mentor selected?**

Mentors will be selected based in close consultation with each participating artist/organisation and based on the following criteria:

- Previous experience in the field of community art, and having already completed artistic community projects (applicants can be former beneficiaries of Create Syria)
- Familiarity with the artistic field that has been proposed
- Availability and readiness to guide and follow up with the participant

- **When is the artistic mentor selected?**

The artistic mentor is selected directly after the first learning exchange component and the first online sessions upon agreement between the participant and the Create Syria team.

- **What are the international cooperation opportunities offered by the program?**

Two of the ten beneficiaries will receive opportunities to take part in artist residencies at Plymouth College of Art: this will include tailored studio spaces for artists to research and develop their work and to engage in dialogue with staff and students. The selection process will follow the methods described above in the Evaluation section. In addition, all ten participants of Create Syria will have the chance to participate in three public dialogue events in Beirut, Brussels and London, in partnership with international platforms. Ettijahat and its partners will spare no effort to help participants with their travel visa processes.

- **Who owns the artistic and intellectual rights of the proposed ideas?**

Participants retain full rights to their project ideas and all their products and results on the condition that participants stipulate later that the project is supported by Create Syria programme. Ettijahat and its partners retain the right to publicise and use any material from the applicant's project idea during its development and after the implementation phase if implemented for non-profit purposes on the condition that they state the name of the project owner or the organisation responsible.