

Desejar

Open Call

Participatory and Community
Artistic Proposals

Mar 18 – Apr 15, 2024

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Why this call?

This call aims to receive proposals for projects that could be part of DESEJAR. There will be a moment of public presentation between the 10th and 14th of June 2025. We are looking for community-based participatory artistic creations that start before June 2025, and that bring together collectives, national and international artists with experience in participatory and community art, with agents from the region of Braga.

What are the objectives of this call?

→ Stimulate an integrated approach to culture and artistic creation; → Value projects inspired by the theme – fragility and the lack of desire in Western societies; → Support, present and value national and international artistic projects of a participatory and community nature; → Promote practices based on a horizontal relationship with nature; → Prioritize proposals that relate to local communities, their social and political realities, where projects can be developed within Braga's territory; → Contribute to the deepening of a space for reflection and action, regionally, nationally and internationally on participatory, community and sustainable artistic practices; → Encourage decentralized proposals that are part of the public space.

What is DESEJAR?

Social apathy and low rates of conventional citizen participation in western societies is a great problem at the moment. In this context, the space for the emergence and consolidation of populist narratives has been intensifying, weakening therefore our democracies. Citizen participation is, at present, permeated by a widespread feeling of ineffectiveness and inconse-

quantuality. Fragile participatory acts affect our ability to desire, in the sense of imagining other worlds, other possible modes of relationships, of being and producing. It is in the space of vital drive, which is desire, that this movement is intended to support. In this 1st edition we seek to investigate mechanisms that can rescue the practice of desire as something essential for life – the reinvention of arts, places and common ideas.

It's an organic and fluid national and international movement of arts and common places, integrated into Braga 25 Portuguese Capital of Culture, launched in 2024 with a program that integrates a wide range of actions. DESEJAR focuses on action and reflection around participatory, community-based and sustainable artistic practices. In its 1st edition, it aims to promote experimentation and knowledge focused on contemporary artistic and cultural creation and production. DESEJAR is supported by an idea of common, sustainable art, based on sharing of resources in which human and more-than-human elements of an ecosystem establish horizontal relationships.

The main principles are: → **Artistic creation and experimentation** – an approach that is centered on artistic practices that privilege the idea of experimentation and transdisciplinarity; → **Participation and communities** – development of participatory and community artistic practices based on different formats, levels and intensities; → **Horizontal relationship with nature** – focus practices on symbiotic exchanges between human beings and ecosystems that go beyond them; → **Exchange of knowledge** – favor the involvement and intersection of local communities, development agents, thinkers and professionals from different areas;

Who can apply?

All individual or collective groups, local, national and international, with activity in the field of this call. The projects to be presented must bear in mind the specific characteristics of Braga's territory.

When can I apply?

This call runs from the 18th of March until the 15th of April 2024. DESEJAR – Arts and Common Places Movement will take place from the 10th to the 14th of June 2025.

Note: The time window for working on the participatory dimension naturally precedes the latest defined here and will be adjusted project by project.

How to present the proposal?

To participate, applicants must fill out the form available here: <https://forms.gle/hdFDYLGEtQod3R4Z8>.

What type of projects will be accepted in the open call?

This call aims to receive proposals (shows, installations, performances, workshops, residencies) in the following areas: Theatre, Dance, Music, Circus Arts, Performance, Painting, Sculpture, Video, Photography, New Media, Installation, Design, Architecture, among others. Transdisciplinary proposals that activate participatory, community and sustainable dimensions aimed at public space across the entire territory of Braga will be privileged.

When will the results be communicated?

The proposals received in this call will be analyzed by a Jury invited for this purpose. Between 2 to 4 proposals will be selected. The results of the selection will be communicated electronically to all applicants individually by email informing whether or not the project was selected. The results will be communicated to participants in June 2024.

Who is the jury?

→ **Francis Wilker** – Curator, theater director and special advisor to the presidency of the National Arts Foundation – Funnarte; → **Hugo Cruz** – Artistic Director of DESEJAR – Arts and Common Places Movement; → **Luís Fernandes** – Artistic Director of Teatro Circo; → **Raquel Ribeiro Santos** – Culturest Programmer; → **Teresa Amorim** – Activist.

What conditions are guaranteed by the organization?

Each selected project will be entitled to a grant, stipulated from the global amount for this edition. The total amount for this call is 40.000€.

The support granted covers fees for the artistic and technical team, production, travel expenses, food and accommodation;

Support with technical needs of the projects (based on what is indicated in the application form and depending on the availability of material);

The development of the project will always be in dialogue with the DESEJAR team.

Do you have questions?

Please clarify them by April 8, 2024, via this email:
desejar2025@gmail.com.

Note: Participants data in this call will not be publicly shared and, as such, a public report will not be presented.