

en

**international open call
emerging and mid-career
artists
performing arts
in public space
2027**

imaginarium



santa maria da feira
câmara municipal

more info
256 331 075
program@imaginarius.pt
www.imaginarius.pt

Introduction

Imaginarius is a cultural project of the Municipality of Santa Maria da Feira dedicated to artistic creation in public space. It unfolds continuously throughout the year, articulating creation, programming, critical thought, and engagement with the territory, assuming public space as a place of experimentation, encounters, and transformation. Its most visible expression takes place through the annual festival of performing arts in public space held in Santa Maria da Feira (Portugal), which brings together artists and audiences from different geographies in a context of strong international visibility. More than an event, Imaginarius builds a continuous movement of creation, experimentation, and critical thinking, where different artistic languages intersect and where public space ceases to be a backdrop and becomes an active material for creation. Artistic practice develops in direct relation with the context, with people, and with the present moment, generating new forms of perception, participation, and experience of the shared space.

At a time when artistic production tends towards acceleration and the repetition of formats, Imaginarius values the live, situated, and shared experience, welcoming proposals that introduce risk, singularity, and a critical relationship with the shared space. The festival's programme is built through aesthetic diversity, openness to new approaches, and the inclusion of artists from different backgrounds and geographies. The 2027 edition, taking place from 20 to 22 May, develops within this framework, reinforcing the festival as a territory of encounter between emerging practices and trajectories in consolidation within the national and international circuit. In this context, Imaginarius launches an open call to integrate new voices into its programme, welcoming proposals that stand out for their artistic relevance, their relationship with public space, and their ability to engage with diverse audiences, contributing to a strand of the programme that aims to provide space for emerging creators and for projects seeking to strengthen their visibility within the national and international programming circuit.

This open call represents an opportunity to be part of the programme of a festival with strong international visibility, within a demanding, carefully curated, and artistically driven context, where each proposal is supported and integrated into a coherent curatorial vision and a shared urban experience. It is addressed to projects with a clear artistic approach and a grounded relationship with public space.

1. Purpose

This open call is intended for the selection of artistic projects to be included in the programme of Imaginarius 2027, a festival of performing arts in public space.

Proposals are accepted across the fields of theatre, dance, music, circus, performance, intervention, installation, new media, and multidisciplinary practices, including projects that combine languages and explore non-conventional formats. Particular value is given to proposals that incorporate a performative component.

Beyond alignment with a specific discipline, emphasis is placed on how each proposal engages with public space as a site of creation, its capacity to generate experience, and its

relevance within the contemporary artistic context.

Different presentation formats are accepted, including fixed, itinerant, durational, or continuous works, provided they are suited to the context of public space.

Selected projects will be included in the official festival programme, in dialogue with national and international artists, contributing to a plural, demanding, and constantly evolving vision of artistic creation in public space. Up to 18 projects are expected to be selected for the 2027 edition.

2. Participants

This open call is open to national and international artists, collectives, and organisations working within the field of artistic creation in public space.

It is addressed to creators at different stages of their trajectory, including emerging artists, early-career creators, and projects in the process of consolidation within the national and international circuit, whose work demonstrates consistency, singularity, and a meaningful relationship with public space.

Projects that have already premiered or are in an advanced stage of development are eligible, provided they present clear conditions for presentation within the festival context.

Participants must ensure their availability to present their projects between 20 and 22 May 2027, according to the schedule defined by the festival.

Each selected project will be presented between three and five times during the festival period, depending on its characteristics and in coordination with the artistic direction. In the case of urban interventions or installations, the presentation model will be defined on a case-by-case basis.

Participants are responsible for the artistic integrity of their proposals, as well as for all elements required for their implementation, ensuring their suitability for presentation in public space contexts.

Artists participating in the festival may not carry out any form of direct donation collection from the public during the festival (this restriction includes the use of hat collecting/busking, or any other public contributions associated with the presentation).

3. Applications

Applications are open from 25 May to 30 July 2026 and must be submitted through the form available on the Imaginarius website.

Through the application form, candidates must provide elements that allow for their identification and a clear understanding of the project, its artistic approach, and its conditions of presentation.

To this end, the following must be included:

- description and specifications of the artistic project;
- biography(ies) of the company and/or members of the collective;
- images of the project;
- video (preferably);
- artistic and technical credits;
- technical rider and production requirements.

The application must reflect the current stage of the

project, as well as its suitability for presentation in a public space context.

Selection will be based on the submitted information and supporting materials. Therefore, in the event of selection, it will not be possible to introduce significant changes to technical requirements or presentation conditions. Applicants are therefore strongly encouraged to ensure that their dossier is as complete and accurate as possible.

Applications must be submitted exclusively in Portuguese or English.

Only complete applications submitted within the established deadline will be considered for evaluation.

4. Selection of proposals

The selection of projects will be carried out by the artistic direction of Imaginarius, taking into account the overall coherence of the programme and the positioning of each proposal within the festival context. Rather than being assessed in isolation, each proposal is considered in relation to the programme as a whole, to the territory, and to the overall experience of the festival.

The selection will take into account the following criteria, articulated with the festival's curatorial vision:

- artistic quality and consistency of the proposal;
- singularity of the approach and clarity of the artistic positioning;
- relationship with public space as a context for creation, rather than merely presentation;
- capacity to generate experience, activation or engagement with diverse audiences;
- capacity to take artistic risks and propose new approaches within public space;
- suitability to the festival context, presentation conditions and the overall programme.

The selection does not follow a competitive logic, but a curatorial one, valuing the diversity of proposals and their relationship with the context. The choice of projects will take into account their relevance to the 2027 edition of the festival, considering programme balance and the overall audience experience.

Proposals with formats and teams suited to the presentation conditions and support defined in this open call will be prioritised.

The results will be communicated to all applicants by 15 October 2026, through direct contact with all artists and applicant organisations.

5. Support for participation and presentation

Imaginarius ensures hosting conditions and financial support for the presentation of the selected projects, integrating them into a context of professional production and high artistic and international visibility.

5.1. Financial conditions

Financial support for the presentation of the works is granted under the following terms:

- 150€ per person, per performance during the festival;
- 200€ per person, per programming day in the case of installations.

For eligibility purposes, the number of participants considered corresponds to the number of performers on stage, plus one technician per project.

Each project will present a minimum of three and a maximum of five performances during the festival. The final number of performances will be defined according to the characteristics of the proposal, the information provided in the application, and the overall programming framework.

5.2. Travel support

The festival provides a fixed contribution towards travel costs, in order to support the participation of artists, under the following terms:

- 150€ per person, for projects originating from mainland Portugal;
- 400€ per person, for projects originating from other European territories, including Madeira and the Azores, as well as from North Africa, according to the list defined in the footnote¹;
- 1.200€ per person, for projects originating from other countries (not included in the lists above).

For eligibility purposes, the support is calculated based on the number of performers on stage, plus one technician per project.

5.3. Hosting conditions

Imaginarius ensures the following hosting conditions:

- accommodation (in twin rooms) and meals for the artistic team. Except in duly justified situations, this support covers arrival on the day before the first performance and departure on the morning following the last performance;
- shuttle service to and from Porto Airport, in the case of participants travelling by air;
- technical equipment and production support, in accordance with the characteristics of the venues and the technical rider submitted during the application process;
- inclusion in the festival's communication, including printed materials, digital platforms, and press;
- access to the Imaginarius PRO professional programme, including the participants database.

¹ Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

5.4. Payment

The payment will be made after the festival, corresponding to the total amount resulting from the sum of the financial contribution defined in section 5.1. and the travel support defined in section 5.2. Although the calculation is based on the number of participants, the payment will be made as a single amount per project, to the entity or individual who signs the participation agreement.

6. Questions and unspecified cases

Any questions or requests for clarification regarding this open call should be sent to program@imaginarius.pt.

Situations not covered in this document will be analysed and decided by the Imaginarius organisation..

Application form

Access [here](#)