

FEDEC

International network for
professional circus education

imaginarius

**festival de artes performativas
em espaço público**

FEDEC @ Imaginarius 2027 : OPEN CALL

20-22 May 2027, Santa Maria da Feira (PT)



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Imaginarius, the festival of performing arts in public space of Santa Maria da Feira (Portugal), and FEDEC, the international network for professional circus education, join forces to challenge a new generation of circus artists to create and present artistic work for public space.

As young graduates begin their professional careers, this collaboration invites them to **explore the artistic, spatial and social possibilities of performing beyond conventional venues**. It encourages emerging creators to rethink the relationship between circus, the city and its audiences, developing proposals that embrace the openness, unpredictability and diversity of public space today.

Through this collaboration, **Imaginarius and FEDEC encourage emerging artists to develop work that responds to the specific conditions, rhythms and characteristics of public space**. Selected projects will be presented as part of the official programme of Imaginarius 2027, allowing artists to test their creations in a real festival context alongside an international programme.

FEDEC

FEDEC - International network for professional circus education is a network dedicated to supporting, developing, and promoting professional circus education worldwide. Bringing together schools, training centers, and educators, FEDEC fosters collaboration, knowledge exchange, and innovation in the field of contemporary circus arts.

Since its creation in 1998, FEDEC has grown into a vibrant community where members share expertise, strengthen pedagogical practices, and advocate for the recognition of circus as both an art form and a profession. Through projects, research, artistic encounters, and continuous dialogue, FEDEC works to empower educators and students, ensuring that circus training responds to today's artistic, cultural, and social challenges.

At its heart, FEDEC is a meeting point: a space for collective reflection, creative exploration, and international cooperation – building the future of circus education together.

Imaginarius

Imaginarius is a cultural project of the Municipality of Santa Maria da Feira dedicated to art in public space, conceived as an ecosystem that integrates creation, presentation and critical thought within a single strategic vision. It is grounded in the understanding that public space is a political and cultural site, where art does not emerge as ornament, but as a language that intervenes, questions and builds community. In this context, artistic creation in public space is approached as a demanding contemporary practice, shaped by social, urban and symbolic dimensions.

The annual festival of performing arts in public space constitutes its most visible and internationally projected moment. Over few days, Santa Maria da Feira is transformed into an expanded territory of encounter between artists and companies from different geographies, sector professionals and diverse audiences. Streets, squares and buildings become stages for projects that cross disciplines, explore new dramaturgies and engage directly with the territory, affirming Imaginarius as a reference within the national and European landscape of performing arts in public space.



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1. Object

- This call aims to select **up to 4 original projects** to be presented as part of the official programme of Imaginarius 2027.
- Applicants are invited to submit **new artistic proposals conceived for public space**, specifically for outdoor urban settings such as streets, squares and parks in the historic city centre of Santa Maria da Feira.
- Selected projects will benefit from an on-site rehearsal period during the two days preceding the public performances, allowing artists to adapt and finalise their work in relation to the specific characteristics of the festival and its performance locations.

2. Participants

- Applicants must be **second-year students** or **recent graduates** (up to 24 months after graduation) from one of FEDEC's member schools.
- They must be available to attend the on-site rehearsal period (2 days before the performing dates) and to perform during Imaginarius 2027, taking place from **20 to 22 May 2027**.
- Projects may be created for one to four performers (solo, duo, trio or quartet).

3. Activities during the festival

- Selected projects will be **presented twice** during Imaginarius 2027, either on 20 and 21 May or 21 and 22 May 2027, according to the festival schedule.
- Performance dates, times and locations will be agreed between the selected artists and the festival.
- Selected artists will take part in a **two-day on-site rehearsal period** immediately before the performing dates, allowing them to adapt and finalise their work in relation to the performance site and festival context.
- Selected artists will **lead one workshop** for the local community during the two-day on-site rehearsal period. A brief workshop proposal must be included in the application.
- Selected artists are also invited to take part in the festival's professional programme (PRO), subject to the final schedule.

4. 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.

- **Financial conditions**
 - Financial support for the presentation of the works is granted under the following terms: 450€ per person, including 2 performances and 1 workshop.
 - For eligibility purposes, the number of participants considered corresponds to the number of performers on stage.

- **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 footnote*;
 - 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.

- **Hosting conditions**

- Imaginarius ensures the following hosting conditions:
 - accommodation (in twin rooms) and meals for the artistic team. This support covers arrival three days 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 (section 6.) 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.

- **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.

5. Presentation space and technical requirements

- Selected projects will be presented outdoors in a square or garden within the historic centre of Santa Maria da Feira. Performances must be suitable for outdoor public-space conditions, and no blackout will be available.
- The performance area will be equipped with a with a box truss structure suitable for aerial disciplines and a basic technical setup, including PA system and basic stage lighting. Technical equipment will be shared with other festival productions.
- Applicants must design their proposals in accordance with these presentation conditions and submit a detailed technical rider with their application. Technical or production requirements not included in the application may not be accommodated by the festival.

*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.

6. How to apply

- Applications are open from **1 October to 13 November 2026** and must be submitted through [this online form](#), also available on the [Imaginarius](#) and [FEDEC](#) websites.
- 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 of the project;
 - artistic credits;
 - technical rider and production requirements;
 - workshop proposal.
 - 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 English.
 - Only complete applications submitted within the established deadline will be considered for evaluation.

7. Selection process

- Applications will be evaluated by a selection committee composed of representatives from Imaginarius and FEDEC.
- Projects will be assessed according to the following criteria:
 - artistic quality, originality and coherence of the proposal (30%);
 - understanding of public space as a context for artistic creation (30%);
 - relationship with audiences and the surrounding environment (20%);
 - suitability for the festival context, performance conditions and technical feasibility (20%).
- The **results** of the selection process will be communicated to all applicants **by 15 December 2026**.

8. Calendar

- Open call: **1 October to 13 November 2026**
- Notification of results: by **15 December 2026**
- On-site rehearsal period and workshops: **18 to 20 May 2027**
- Festival performances: **20 to 22 May 2027**

APPLICATION FORM