Create Syria: A Space to Explore Arts and Social Change

Home Edition

General Guidelines and FAQs

1. About Create Syria

Create Syria is a programme by Ettijahat – Independent Culture and the British Council which seeks to increase the capacity of artists to contribute to the development of stronger, more cohesive communities through the design and delivery of community arts initiatives that focus on experience and artistic quality. Create Syria supports individuals and initiatives to build new skills, grow their experience and network with creative practitioners interested in the relationship between arts and community practices.

Create Syria is open to all Syrian artists residing in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and Europe. Under the title of Home Edition, this third edition of Create Syria will enable artists to develop their technical and artistic skills in community settings through Idea Development Support. This is a new path of support that gives the opportunity for ten artists or creative practitioners to grow their experience and understanding of arts and social change. This strand provides a space for research and practical experimentation to those seeking to develop more mature creative proposals. The support package includes the following components:

- o An online participatory platform for idea sharing and mentorship from local and international experts
- o A package of financial support of up to $6,000 for ten artists to develop ideas and test them experimentally
- o Local and international peer to peer networking opportunities

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic challenges

The world is currently facing a crisis that examines its ability to resist and adapt. This crisis poses real dangers at the level of health and survival and reveals to us the fragility and weakness of existing social and economic protection networks. However, its effects on societies are felt more acutely in contexts where there is an absence of justice, the conditions of a decent life and the basics of health safety. In spite of this, arts and social change projects remain necessary in order to reflect on the current but also accumulated challenges we are facing in our societies and to confront what may come from them.

Arts producers have always felt that there are many limitations and sensitivities to be aware of when talking about arts and social change. There are assumptions that some art forms are more effective than others in this field, and this edition of Create Syria offers an opportunity to re-examine our assumptions and re-imagine the field and our ways of working across all artistic forms. This edition also offers a space for reflection and reimagining, and an opportunity to experiment and try new things that we hope can enrich lives and feed imaginations.

Objectives

Create Syria has the following objectives:

- To increase the capacity of artists and community organisations to deliver local artistic projects that have positive impact within their communities and contribute to greater inclusivity and cohesiveness
- To champion diversity and participation within communities (of Syrians and non-Syrians) in community arts initiatives that focus on experience and artistic quality
- To inspire and facilitate networking and collaboration between artists and community-based organisations working in the arts in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and Europe, as well as with the UK and international practitioners

2. 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**, and sending it with all the required documents to **createsyria@ettijahat.org**.

- **What are the required documents that I should send?**
  - The completed Application Form filled in Arabic (application forms completed in other languages will not be accepted)
  - The applicant's up-to-date CV
  - A video recording of no more than two minutes in which the applicant explains their reasons for applying for Create Syria and how it will benefit them on a professional level
  - A copy of the applicant's ID or passport
  - A copy of the applicant's valid Residency Permit
  - A portfolio of complete work, if the application is submitted on behalf of a team or group initiative
  - Samples of previously implemented projects if applicable

- **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 15th of July 2020 (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 are sent an **Application Received 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. This includes all Syrian artists, including Syrian-Palestinians, residing in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and Europe, aged between 22 and 40 years old.

Ettijahat and the British Council are looking for a diverse range of artists and creative practitioners to participate in this programme and strongly encourage disabled and/or D/deaf artists and creative practitioners to apply. Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

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

While Create Syria is aimed principally at Syrian artists, including Syrian-Palestinians, Ettijahat and the British Council also encourage collaboration between participating artists and their peers of other nationalities.

- **What is required from my side if I'm selected?**

If you are selected, you will need to commit to the following:
  - Engaging in the online platform sessions for ideas sharing and the artistic mentorship
  - Presenting reports which outline your idea and course of action
  - Continuous interaction with the Ettijahat team throughout the support period

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

The application form should be filled in Arabic only. However, 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 or the British Council?**

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 the British Council?**

Ettijahat and the British Council 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 third edition if I have received support under previous editions of Create Syria?**

Ettijahat and the British Council aim 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 mid-August 2020. The results will then be published on Ettijahat's website **www.ettijahat.org**, Ettijahat's **Facebook** page, the British Council website **syria.britishcouncil.org** and the British Council **Facebook** page.

- **How will my personal data be used by Ettijahat and the British Council?**

The British Council and Ettijahat 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**.

3. Evaluation process

- **How are the projects selected?**

Ideas seeking support will be evaluated and selected by a Selection Committee made up of artistic and cultural experts. The names of the members of the Selection Committee will be kept secret until the results are announced. The evaluation will be done in two phases: in the first stage, the members of the Selection Committee will evaluate proposals individually; in the second stage, the members will convene to discuss the proposals and select 10 proposals for Idea Development Support. Only applications that fit the aforementioned eligibility criteria will be evaluated. Proposals that do not comply with the general framework and objectives of Create Syria, or which do not comply with the evaluation criteria from an administrative standpoint, will not be considered eligible and will therefore not be evaluated.

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

Applicant's or team's Readiness
- o The ability of the idea developer to develop his/her proposal
- o The applicant's willingness and desire to work creatively towards social change in an innovative way
- o The applicant's willingness to learn from one's environment and through exchange with others
- o The extent to which the idea developer will benefit from Create Syria

- **Does the selection process rely exclusively 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.

Create Syria

4. General information about proposals and granting potential

- **What would increase my chances of receiving support from Create Syria?**

Create Syria seeks to support art projects that achieve real cooperation between Syrian artists and their peers, and priority will be given to ideas which 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 supported 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?**
  o Non-arts educational projects, development projects and art production projects
  o Activities that do not involve communities through an efficient and genuine approach and projects that do not involve a collaborative approach
  o 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)
  o 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

- **What is artistic mentorship?**

Artistic mentorship is one of the main components of the support package, through which 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:
  o Previous experience in the field of community art, and having already completed artistic community projects (applicants can be former beneficiaries of Create Syria)
  o Familiarity with the artistic field that has been proposed
  o Availability and readiness to guide and follow up with the project manager

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

The artistic mentor is selected directly after the acceptance phase and first online sessions upon the agreement of the participant and the Create Syria team.

- **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. Ettijahat and the British Council 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.

- **How many ideas will be supported through this programme?**

10 project ideas will be selected for support. This support will not be divided between specific artistic sectors; rather, the Selection Committee will focus simply on selecting the best applications they receive.

- **If a project receives Idea Development Support, does it have to be implemented in full upon completion of Create Syria?**

No, but the party responsible for the project should carry out a sample or part of what they developed. The results of this practical experiment must be presented to the Create Syria team and the other participants.