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Arts and Culture Spaces Program Guidelines

The Young Arab Theatre Fund is an international organization designed to serve independent young Arab artists as well as emerging organizations. The long term goal of the fund is to **encourage the sustainability of the independent artistic scene in the Arab World and to nurture and maintain its development.**

Since its establishment in 2000, YATF helped and supported the launching of numerous cultural venues in the region, thus offering more possibilities for artists to perform and to reach out diverse audiences. These spaces form the basic infrastructure for mobility of artistic creations and regional exchanges among contemporary artists.

Recently, the number of new independent cultural spaces has been on the rise, mainly funded and operated by young artists and cultural operators to meet the demands of artists and audiences from the region. Most of these spaces lack the basic financial resources for their running costs and professional staff that assure their sustainability.

As a respond to these needs, YATF is offering, with the support of Ford Foundation- Cairo Office, six grants aiming at supporting:

- The running costs of the granted spaces
- Their rehabilitation or renovation
- Launching new spaces in the region.

1- Financial allocation provided by YATF and grant period:

Grants awarded under this program range between **12,000 Euros** and **24,000 Euros**.

No grant may exceed 80 % of the total cost of the project. The balance must be financed from the applicant own resources or from sources other than the YATF.

The initial planned duration of the grant should not be less than 12 months nor exceed 24 months.

YATF reserves the right to evaluate the appropriate amount to be allocated to the granted projects based on the submitted application and supporting documents.

2- Eligibility of applicants: Who can apply?

In order to be eligible for a grant, applicant must be:

- a non-governmental independent organization or an individual who is linked with a performing or exhibiting space located in any city in the Arab world
- directly responsible for the preparation and management of the space and not acting as an intermediary
- **or** an individual who is leading a group of at least five artists / cultural managers in order to establish a cultural space.

Spaces can be hosting different cultural activities including theatre, dance, music, exhibitions...

3- Type of costs covered

The grant may cover the running costs of the space that include salaries, administrative costs, rent, electricity...etc.

The grant may also cover the costs of renovation or rehabilitation of a new space, or help launching a new space dedicated to arts and culture.

4- Application form

Proposals must be submitted using the application form annexed to these guidelines.

The application form can be downloaded from the web-site of YATF and is widely distributed to organizations and artists all over the region.

Applicants should strictly respect the format of the application and fill in the paragraphs and the pages in order.

Applications can be written in Arabic, English or French. Hand written applications will not be accepted.

Please complete the application form carefully and as clearly as possible to facilitate the evaluation process.

The applicant should be precise and concise.

An applicant can submit two different applications for two different projects.

5- Deadlines and submitting the applications

YATF will widely announce the call 6 weeks before the deadline.

The application and the requested documents should be sent by e-mail to grants@yatfund.org

No extra material should be attached or included to the application, other than the ones requested within the application form.

No applications can be given by hand to any of the staff or board members of YATF.

6- Evaluation and selection of the applications

An independent selection committee will be reviewing the application forms.

The decision of the selection committee will be based on the quality of the project and not on geographical balance.

This committee consist of five members, including one member of the YATF board of directors, two critics and cultural managers, an expert in finance and an expert in legal matters.

Contacting any member of the selection committee before and during the process may cause the rejection of the application.

The committee will give priority to applications that are working towards:

- Presenting contemporary works by young artists
- Taking practical steps towards building a diverse audience
- Encouraging curatorial approaches
- Have a realistic sustainability plan.

7- The decision of the selection committee

The applicants will be informed by e-mail with the final decision of the selection committee within 8 weeks after the deadline of the current call. Kindly note that this period is only indicative.

8- Submission of supporting documents for selected applications

The selection committee and the YATF board may request extra supporting documents from some of the selected applicants (such as official registration papers, a letter from the board... etc).

Once all supporting documents fully received and validated, grantees will receive the contract to be signed and sent back by post to YATF premises in Brussels.

Upon the receipt of the contract, applicants will receive 70% of the grant's total amount, and the remaining 30% will be transferred upon the receipt of the required narrative and financial reports.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms Jumana Al-Yasiri at grants@yatfund.org for further information concerning the application process. However, please note that none of the YATF staff is participating in the selection process, and therefore cannot influence the committee during their sessions.