

Guidelines

for applications of

Arts and Culture Spaces Program

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.**

For the last six years, YATF helped and supported the launching of a total of eight 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, most of which funded and operated by young artists and cultural operators to meet demands of artists and audiences from the region. Most of these spaces lack the basic funding resources for their running costs and professional staff that assure the sustainability of these spaces.

As a respond to these needs, YATF is offering, with the support of Ford Foundation- Cairo office, six grants that can cover either the running costs of these spaces or to renovate / rehabilitate or to build a new cultural and artistic space.

- **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.

- **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 performing arts, exhibitions or music concerts.

- **Type of costs covered and duration of the grant**

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.

- **Application form**

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

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

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

Applications must 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 so that it can be assessed properly. The applicant should be precise.

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

- **Deadlines and sending the applications**

The application and the requested documents can be sent by e-mail to info@yatfund.org or by post. (In case sending the application by post, a digital copy on a CD should be included in the envelope). We recommend strongly sending the application by e-mail.

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.

- **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 will 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.
- Have a realistic sustainability plan.

- **Notification of the selection committee decision**

A notification of the selection committee decision will be communicated to the applicants after six weeks from the deadline. (This period is indicative only)
YATF staff will inform the applicants by e-mail as soon as the selection committee finishes.

- **Submission of supporting documents for selected applications**

The selection committee and the YATF board may request supporting documents from some of the selected applications (such as official registration papers, a letter from the board... etc)
YATF team will communicate the request of the committee of such documents to the successful applicants.
After providing the necessary supporting documents, a contract will be sent to the applicants by post.

- **Indicative timetable of this call for applications.**

- **15 May 2008, deadline to receive the application forms**
- **30 June 2008, an indicative date to communicate the decisions of the selection committee.**
- **15 July 2008, an indicative date to send the contract to the successful applicants.**

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms Melodie Bardin at info@yatfund.org for further information concerning the filling the application form. However, please note that none of the YATF staff is participating in the selection process and therefore can not influence the committee during their sessions.