

VALLA
EUROPEAN CAPITAL
OF CULTURE
2018

2016 Cultural Programme



MEETINGS



EDUCATION



LITERATURE



COMMUNITY



DANCE



DESIGN



VISUAL ARTS



FESTIVALS



MUSIC



EXHIBITIONS



PERFORMANCE



FILM

THE OBJECTIVE OF VALLETTA 2018 IS TO STIMULATE CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REGENERATION IN MALTA'S VILLAGES, TOWNS AND CITIES, THROUGH DIALOGUE AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICE.



Meaningful dialogue is challenging. It requires the engagement of many people, willing to deliberate new perspectives on matters they consider important. Matters such as creativity, public engagement, cultural dialogues, community spaces, international relations, education, among others, are at the heart of this programme.



ŻfinMalta 'Erbgħa' c. Niels Plotard



WELCOME TO OUR CULTURAL PROGRAMME THAT STRETCHES OUTWARDS FROM THE CAPITAL, ACROSS THE MALTESE ISLANDS, INVITING ALL TO PARTICIPATE.

This booklet offers a glimpse of the great things yet to come for the year 2016. We continue to refine our programme with each passing year, in preparation for 2018 when Valletta will be European Capital of Culture.

For a successful cultural programme, we strive to balance many considerations, both for those producing or participating in the work, as well as those enjoying results. Access to resources, both material and skills-based, are crucial for the development of the high-quality projects which make up our programme.

The programme presented here embraces these challenges and opportunities. It seeks to engage with Malta's vibrant past, full of cultural traditions embedded in the daily lives of the Maltese, whilst fostering a contemporary focus on innovative practices that will continue to develop until 2018 and beyond.

Notte Bianca c. Chris Mangion

The Year 2018

The European Capital of Culture is about a programme of cultural projects and events developed for schools, communities, and people from different backgrounds, taking place between January and December 2018. The programme is open, engaging and diverse, inviting you, your friends and family to be part of it.

Valletta 2018 is an opportunity for people to come together and connect with each other, regardless of differences in culture, abilities, race and age.

Being part of a European Capital of Culture, we are invited to take part in international culture festivities, sharing our local talent overseas, collaborating with international artists and fostering debate on cultural challenges. The Valletta 2018 programme is open to participation from all. Through dialogue, creative confrontation, curiosity and play, you are invited to open up beyond Malta and the Mediterranean, to Europe and the wider world.

As we continue this unforgettable journey, along the many routes that we chart together, we hope you will join us in any way that you can.



Valletta Pageant of the Seas

The Valletta Pageant of the Seas will start a new tradition on the 7th June 2016. The whole nation is invited to participate in a huge celebration in the Grand Harbour. Several marine vessels will be dotting the port, while a swim between Fort St. Angelo and Fort St. Elmo commemorates the historical figure Toni Bajada. Several races and acrobatic shows are also planned for the event.

The first edition is being organised as part of celebrations of the 450th anniversary since Valletta's founding. The harbour's past, present and future, along with the sea, the people and Carnival floats, will all be ingredients of this memorable spectacle. This event will also be taking place in 2018 as one of the main events for the European Capital of Culture year.



Building Infrastructure & Networks

3D Architectural Mapping
c. Jonathan Borg

In order for Malta to grow as a cultural and artistic hub in the Mediterranean, it requires adequate infrastructure and networks. For this purpose, a number of Valletta's treasured but underused spaces are being restored and renovated for use and a series of festivals will be co-produced and promoted internationally throughout the year. Some of these festivals represent initiatives which began years ago and expanded through experience, others are new to the Valletta 2018 programme.

Of importance in terms of infrastructural development are the establishment of MUŻA – the national museum of art, the Valletta Design Cluster, the indoor market on Merchants Street, and the regeneration of Strait Street.

MUŻA will relocate to the Auberge d'Italie, a historic building dating back to the late sixteenth century and used as the seat and residence of the Italian knights of the Order of St John. Converted into a museum space, the Auberge allows the collection to be more accessible and in 2016 this is combined with the project, Naqsam il-MUŻA.

Strait Street
c. Chris Mangion

Throughout this project, community representatives from different localities will have their favourite works from the collection reproduced in various community spaces, bringing them closer to the general public. In this context, **MUŻA** becomes a resource for dialogue and encounter with the arts.

Located at the Old Abattoir site, at the centre of a residential area in the lower part of Valletta, lies the **Valletta Design Cluster**. It will address the need for consultation services in this field, including business development, legal support, international collaboration and capacity building as from 2018.

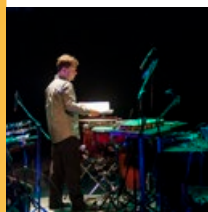
The regeneration of **Is-Suq**, located in Merchants Street, will serve as a hub of activity. The restored market will not only sell fruit and vegetables, but it will also host cultural activities.

Strait Street, popularly known for its night life past and present will encourage people to visit Valletta for entertainment purposes. A programme of cultural events and artistic activities is likewise being developed by Strada Stretta Concept under the artistic direction of Giuseppe Schembri Bonaci.

Activities include exhibitions, theatre productions, seminars, symposia, talks, street theatre, jamming sessions, outdoor concerts, fashion shows, networking meetings with artists and poetry and literature evenings.

Celebrating our Calendar

JANUARY



Modern
Music Days

Fragmenta



Quintessence

Blitz

FEBRUARY

Valletta
Forum



Culture
Matters:
Valletta
2018 Initial
Findings

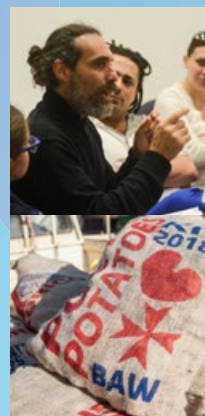
Blitz



Karnival
ta' Malta

MARCH

Fragmenta



Storyworks

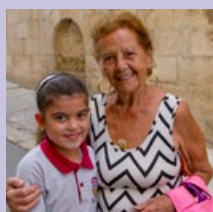
Poetry in
Potato Bags

Darba
Waħda...

Blitz

APRIL

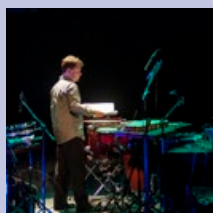
**Il-Warda
tar-Riĥ**



**Darba
Waħda...**

**Cultural
Mapping
Book
Launch**

Fragmenta



**Modern
Music Days**

MAY

**Darba
Waħda...**



**Malta
Fashion
Week**



**Valletta
Green
Festival**

**Valletta
Forum**

JUNE

**Valletta
Pageant of
the Seas**

**Valletta
Film Festival**

Blitz

**Il-Warda
tar-Riĥ**



Għanafest

Celebrating our Calendar

JULY



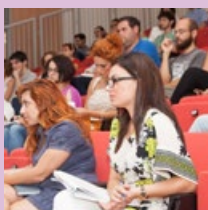
**Malta
International
Arts Festival**

Blitz



**Malta Jazz
Festival**

AUGUST



**Poetry on
Film – Malta
international
Literature
Festival**

**Curatorial
School –
Curating
the New**

SEPTEMBER

**Darba
Waħda...**

**Curatorial
School –
Curating
the New**



**Valletta
Forum**

OCTOBER

Il-Warda
tar-Riĥ

Darba
Waħda...

L-Ikla
t-Tajba

Notte
Bianca

Poetry in
Potato Bags

The Three
Palaces
Festival



NOVEMBER



Darba
Waħda...

Valletta
Forum

Teatru
Manoel
Youth
Opera

Cities and
Community
Spaces

The Three
Palaces
Festival

DECEMBER

Il-Warda
tar-Riĥ

Darba
Waħda...

Digital
Projections



Malta
International
Arts Festival

Valletta
Green
Festival

Valletta
Film Festival

Malta Jazz
Festival

Notte
Bianca

Malta
Mediterranean
Literature
Festival

Carnival

Ghanafest

Three
Palaces
Festival

FESTIVALS

Displaying a broad spectrum of activities, themes and disciplines Malta's festivals provide something special. 2016 will feature nine main festivals, some of which will feature special activities as a result of Valletta 2018's artistic projects.



Valletta Green Festival
c. Chris Mangion

Carnival

FEB 

Carnival transforms the streets of Valletta with its wild costumes, colourful floats, parades, booming music, dancers in character, and the sound of children's laughter. In 2016, Carnival features a themed float boasting historical figures from local history to commemorate the 450th anniversary since the foundation of Valletta.

Valletta Green Festival

MAY 

The Valletta Green Festival introduces a green and colourful element to the otherwise urban area that is Valletta. This weekend-long event transforms one of the largest open spaces in Valletta, Pjazza San Ġorġ, into a huge floral carpet of some 80,000 potted plants and brings the square, and other parts of the city, to life with activities for adults and children alike.

Valletta Film Festival

JUN 

Organised by the Film Grain Foundation, the Valletta Film Festival is Malta's largest film event with over 40 feature films and 25 short films screened at various venues around the Capital city. Free screenings are held at Valletta's Pjazza San Ġorġ, while masterclasses, conferences and debates about various subjects concerning our society, culture and other contemporary affairs are held during the event making the festival a live and communal affair.



Valletta 2018 is also collaborating on a number of festivals organised by Arts Council Malta, namely Carnival, the Malta Jazz Festival, the Three Palaces Festival, The Malta Jazz Festival, Għanafest, the Malta International Arts Festival and Notte Bianca.

Għanafest

JUN  

Għanafest is now in its 9th edition. This year the festival is expanding its focus to include world music and the promotion of Maltese bands using Maltese as the language of expression in their song writing. It offers local talent the opportunity to perform alongside international artists of high repute, allowing for global networks to form and new influences to enter the Maltese scene.

Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival

JUN   

The Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival, currently in its 11th edition, celebrates Maltese language and literature in all its forms. Through a collaborative project, organised by Valletta 2018 and Inizjamed, titled Poetry on Film, one of these forms is the audio-visual interpretation of Maltese poetry into short films.

Malta Jazz Festival

JUL  

The Malta Jazz Festival, featuring local and foreign jazz musicians performing side by side, celebrates its 26th edition this summer. Part of this year's programme will include free concerts, contests and activities held around various venues in Valletta.



Notte Bianca
c. Chris Mangion

Malta International Arts Festival

JUL 

The Malta International Arts Festival champions the best that the local arts scene has to offer, providing Maltese artists, both established and emerging, a dynamic platform to showcase their art and engage with broader audiences. It also hosts well-established foreign acts at various venues in and around Valletta.

Three Palaces Festival

OCT 

The Three Palaces Festival is set in the three Presidential Palaces: the Verdala Palace in Buskett, San Anton Palace in Attard, and the Grandmaster's Palace in Valletta, offering a feast of classical, modern and jazz music in rich settings that combine history with the timeless relevance of the music performed.

Notte Bianca

OCT 

Notte Bianca encourages thousands of people to enjoy numerous museums and cultural spaces that, for one evening, are open to the public free of charge. A number of free performances, street activities and music gigs also take place on the night.

TELLING OUR STORIES

Through interaction, play, imagination and passion, we include all generations and sections of the community in the Cultural Programme. Each individual has a story to tell, each unique in its own way.

**Il-Warda
tar-Riħ**

**Naqsam
il-MUŻA**

**Darba
Waħda...**

**Valletta
Forum**

MAR - MAY
SEP - DEC



Darba Waħda...

Darba Waħda... bridges the generational gap through drama, games, arts, crafts, storytelling and improvisation sessions led by applied drama practitioner Anna Formosa and other artists. Held in various locations around the Maltese Islands, it brings young and older people together to share, learn, create and most of all, have fun.

APR, JUN,
OCT, DEC



Il-Warda tar-Riħ

Il-Warda tar-Riħ, is an interdisciplinary community project developed by Valletta 2018 in collaboration with the Rubberbodies Collective. This year four wind vanes, shaped according to one-to-one consultations with locals, will be erected and will serve as the basis for an ongoing collaboration with local communities in reinterpreting the historical, mythological and living presence of the winds and their importance in Mediterranean culture through the creation of artefacts. Il-Warda Tar-Riħ instigates an exchange of cultural and artistic ideas, knowledge and skills in Għarb, Marsaxlokk, Mgarr (Malta) and Sliema.



Darba Wahda...
c. Anna Formosa

FEB, MAY,
SEP, NOV



Valletta Forum

Valletta Forum invites residents from all walks of life with different interests, such as sport, music, painting, religious festivals and others to join in a series of creative workshops. During these workshops, participants will share their experiences of the city. Their stories will be curated into a performance that is open to the public.

FEB – DEC



Naqsam il-MUŻA

Naqsam il-MUŻA wants you to bring the MUŻA collection out into your community. The Project builds on MUŻA's work of creating a two-way dialogue between the community and the collection where art becomes a resource for everyone and the community becomes a curator of the MUŻA collection. Well-known people from different communities display their favourite works from the national collection at the National Museum of Fine Arts in their community spaces as, after all, the national collection belongs to the public. Keep an eye out for visuals of objects from the national collection in your locality.

CULTURE should be celebrated in all its forms. Emerging forms of the arts such as contemporary visual art and design are strongly developing into unique platforms. Our visual arts and design projects include capacity building initiatives as well as accessible public exhibitions and events in places you would least expect.

FRAGMENTA

Curatorial School

Malta Fashion Week

3D Architectural Mapping

JAN, MAR, APR



FRAGMENTA

FRAGMENTA Malta, led by Bettina Hutschek, consists of a series of Pop-Up Exhibitions located in different public and semi-public spaces around the islands. Each exhibition lasts a maximum of 24 hours, offering the public and random passers-by an opportunity to engage with art and some of the relevant, complex issues of our time.

MAR - MAY
SEP - DEC



Curatorial School

The Curatorial School, organised by Valletta 2018 in collaboration with Fondazzjoni Kreattività, was set up as part of the VIVA Valletta International Visual Arts Festival. It invites practitioners and students in a variety of related areas like contemporary art, art education, arts administration and history of art to engage in a programme of lectures and workshops with internationally renowned contemporary curators. The 2016 edition 'Curating the New', they will investigate how curators of contemporary art commission new work from artists, how ideas are negotiated, what the 'new' means to curators and artists, the ownership of 'new' ideas in curated exhibitions and much more.

Malta Fashion Week
c. Noel Fenech



MAY



Malta Fashion Week

Malta Fashion Week showcases some of Malta's best talent in the fashion industry. Fashion designers, models, stylists and make-up artists come together to engage in activities that highlight both the economic and artistic aspects of fashion. It also contributes to generating international interest in local work.

DEC



Digital Projections

The Digital Projections project, developed in collaboration with MCAST Institute for the Creative Arts, presents a magical kaleidoscope of colour, created every Christmas season. BA Graphics and Interactive Media Students in their final year present 3D architectural mapping projections that illuminate and transform Valletta's Grandmaster's Palace into a colourful storybook.

EDUCATION

Through engagement with young generations, we are creating our greatest and most lasting legacy by equipping our children and young people with tools that will allow them to be active participants in cultural activities.

Discover
Valletta

Ohloq
Kultura

Sounds
Out Loud

Kanta
Kantun

The Box

Discover Valletta



Discover Valletta takes students on a journey through the fascinating history of Valletta, in a series of brief narratives about people and places related to the capital city. Written by Trevor Zahra, these stories are available in audio format through MP3 players accompanied by fact cards, which are distributed in schools. The stories are presented in a way which encourages students and their teachers to discover different aspects of Valletta.

Ohloq Kultura



Led by More or Less Theatre, Ohloq Kultura introduces primary school children to different aspects of what makes culture. In a series of tutor-led workshops, children are encouraged to think creatively and to use crafts, art and presentation skills to create their own fantasy culture and to share it with other children their age during an end-of-year event.

Discover Valletta
c. Chris Mangion

KantaKantun



KantaKantun, led by Alex Vella Gregory, is aimed at secondary school students. It focuses on an exploration of the relationship between music and architecture. The students are encouraged to combine soundscapes with architectural designs to create audio-visual works with a variety of materials placed at their disposal. At the end of the project, student creations will be exhibited in public.

The Box



The Box is a project developed in collaboration with Studio 18, which encourages Form 3 and Form 4 students to devise a performance inspired by a variety of stimuli found in boxes. It is a 3-year project which will involve numerous schools and will run until 2018. At the end of each year, participating schools will participate in a final showcase.

Sounds Out Loud



Sounds Out Loud, led by the Johan Strauss School of Music helps children from the San Miguel Resource Centre work towards their self-development through music. Throughout the workshops children develop musical skills culminating in a performance. The workshops will be held at the School of Music in Hamrun.

FILM & LITERATURE

An essential part of the European Capital of Culture title is international collaboration. Valletta 2018 strongly believes in cultural exchanges between Malta, Leeuwarden – the other European Capital of Culture in 2018 – and the rest of the world.

Storyworks

Poetry in
Potato Bags

MAR



Storyworks

Storyworks, organised by Valletta 2018 in collaboration with the Malta Film Commission is a project dedicated to those seeking to develop their screenwriting and film production skills. The programme provides workshops, masterclasses and practical sessions, delivered by some of the top professionals in the international film industry, to small groups of aspiring film producers and screenwriters with the participation of MCAST. For the first time and in collaboration with Arts Council Malta and the KulturaTV fund, in 2016 Storyworks will also be targeting scripts and screenplays for productions for the small screen. With the support of Spazju Kreattiv, a public talk will be dedicated to pitching scripts for funding and production.

Storyworks
c. Jonathan Borg



MAR, OCT



Poetry in Potato Bags

Poetry in Potato Bags is a project organised in collaboration with Inizjamed, and Leeuwarden 2018, that focuses on the exchange of language, poetry and potatoes! Twice a year, Malta and Leeuwarden exchange potato crops and seeds but as of 2015, hidden in the potato sacks, buyers find Maltese and Dutch poetry that has been translated into their language. A number of Maltese and Frisian schools are also engaged in the project, whereby children from one school write their own poetry for their counterpart school.

PERFORMANCE

Platforms, audiences and networks are essential for the growth and development of the creative sector and the professionalisation of artists and creatives. Our Cultural Programme includes a variety of rich performances created by local and international artists working together.

Quintessence

Tafal

Teatru
Manoel
Youth Opera

Jump

MAR, OCT



Quintessence

Organised in collaboration with Open Works Lab, Quintessence consists of a solo performance by Renzo Spiteri, best described as an experience that wraps the audience in an alluring world of sound. It is created through the use of sampling and live electronic manipulation, a large suspended metal sheet, a fishing line, vocal phrases, and a sculptural array of acoustic instruments lifted from everyday life. The performance is then opened up during a story lab that translates the city into a playground, encouraging participants to tell their own stories, their own experiences of the city through sound sampling and electronic manipulation. These stories will be digitally archived and linked to those told by people in other European cities. Quintessence is Valletta 2018's touring project.

MAR, OCT



Tafal

Arising from the metaphor of clay, Tafal is a collaborative project between ŻfinMalta and Valletta 2018, whereby maritime memories documented during Qatt ma Ninsa 2014 are re-told and moulded by contemporary choreographers and dancers. Re-tellings were filmed and produced by Cedric Vella of Hangar.

Quintessence
c. European Central Bank

MAR, OCT



Teatru Manoel Youth Opera

Teatru Manoel Youth Opera provides artistic development and support to aspiring opera singers. This long term collaboration between Teatru Manoel and Valletta 2018 consists of weekly sessions which offer valuable opportunities for young singers to receive professional training in all aspects of opera through workshops and masterclasses, and to take part in rehearsals and performances alongside established practitioners.

MAR, OCT



Jump

Jump offers a contemporary dance experience to talented teenagers who have never had the opportunity to follow formalised dance training. Developed by ŻfinMalta, two companies, Jump (Boys) and Jump (Girls), will be formed to engage participants in intensive training with company dancers. The journey of these youngsters will be the subject of a documentary set to be screened in 2018.



Dancers from Naupaca DanceFactory at Pjazza San Frangisk, Gozo c. Inigo Taylor

Modern Music Days – Powerhouse
c. Joe Smith



MAR, OCT



Modern Music Days

Modern Music Days is a Valletta 2018, Teatru Manoel and Malta Association for Contemporary Music collaboration, presents a series of musical performances, promoting appreciation of twentieth-century repertoire and contemporary music in Malta. It supports and facilitates the collaboration between local and international artists and institutions.

MAR, OCT



VRBE NOVA

Led by composer Ruben Zahra, VRBE NOVA is an online choir community project in which choristers are invited to record a short musical phrase via webcam technology from anywhere in the world. The webcam footage will be used for a video projection with choristers singing at the same time.

Cultural Mapping Conference
c. Elisa von Brockdorff

MEETINGS

Let's Get Together

An integral part of any European Capital of Culture programme includes opportunities for people to meet and discuss ideas, processes and outcomes.

FEB



During the '**Culture Matters: Valletta 2018 Initial Findings**' seminar, the Valletta 2018 Foundation will present the results of the Evaluation & Monitoring research. This multi-disciplinary research explores the long-term impact of the European Capital of Culture across a number of sectors, including cultural activity, education, employment, tourism, and community belonging, amongst others.

APR



The Foundation will also launch its **Cultural Mapping** publication presenting its research into the use of space for cultural purposes across the Maltese islands. This publication and the accompanying seminar will be addressed by academics from various fields who, over the past two years, have been exploring the use of different cultural spaces from several thematic perspectives.



NOV



The third international conference '**Cities as Community Spaces**' will take place in 2016. It will explore the social dynamics through which space – public, private and virtual – within a city serves as a site of discourse, contestation, and critical reflection within and between communities, with a particular reference to the Euro-Mediterranean context and Valletta 2018.

ONGOING

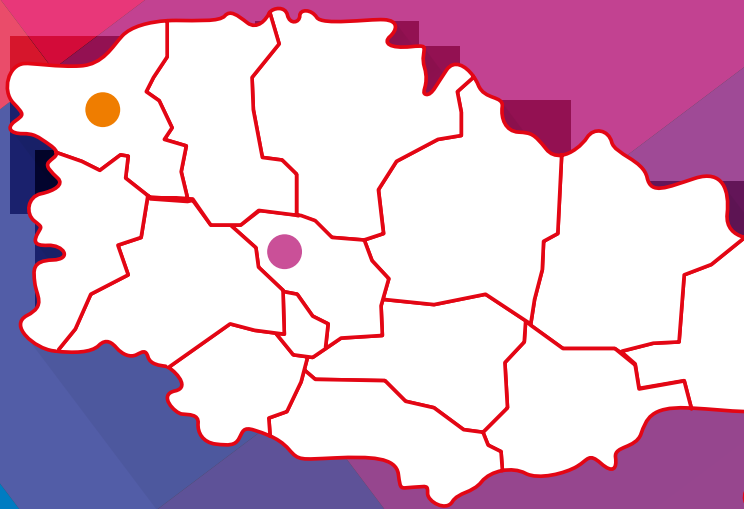


In order to increase networking opportunities, Valletta 2018 has also partnered with the international **Roberto Cimetta Fund**. The fund facilitates collaborations between artists and cultural operators living and working in the Euro-Arab geographical region. A series of open calls for mobility grants are being issued till 2018 in a bid to aid artists in this region.

ONGOING

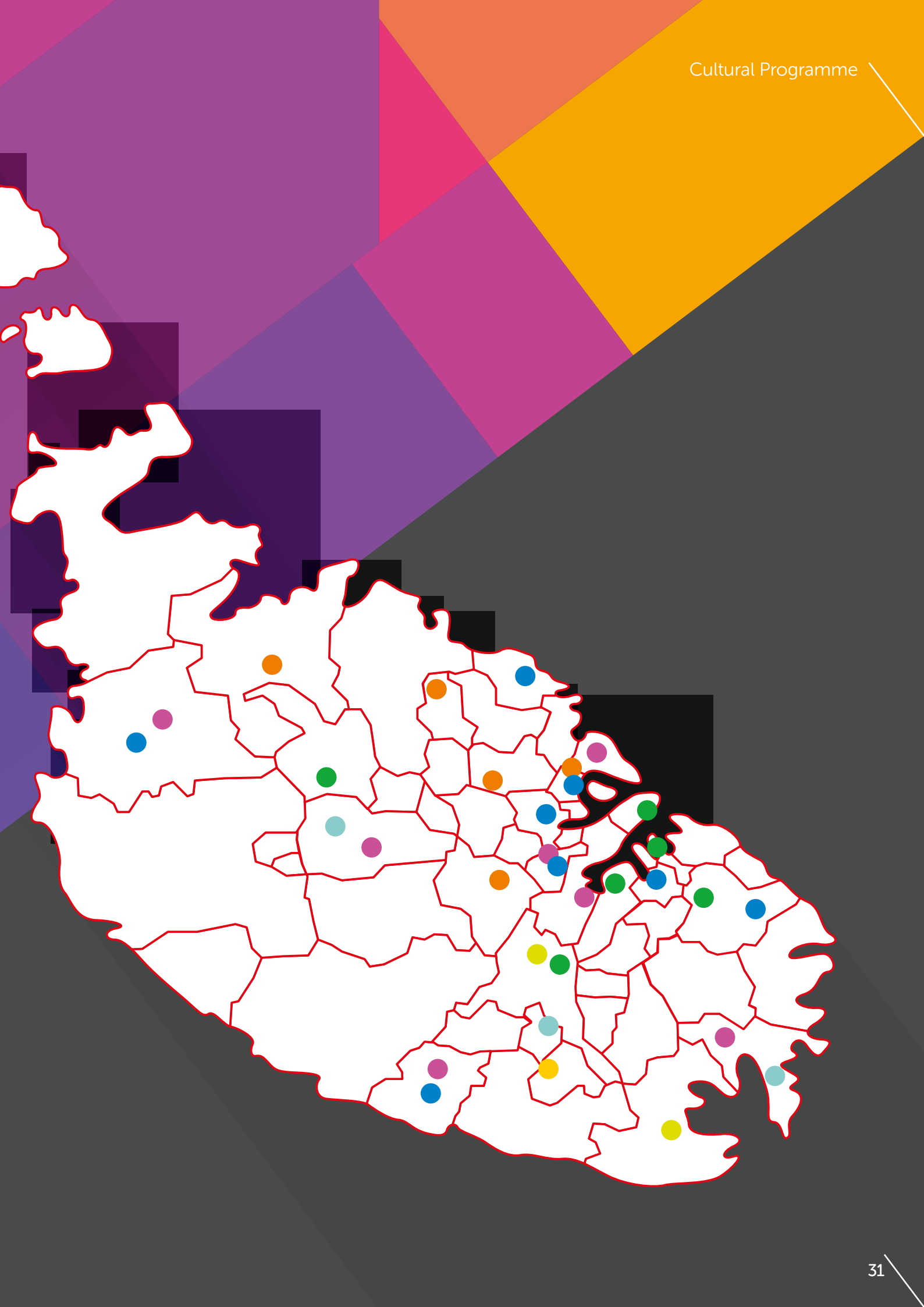


Valletta 2018 and Fondazzjoni Kreattività in collaboration with Arts Council Malta are hosting an **Artist in Residence** programme (AiR) which provides artists with the unique opportunity of immersing themselves in the national cultural scene for a set period of time, while encouraging cross-cultural dialogue, the exchange of ideas and the broadening of cultural borders. In parallel, Valletta 2018 is also supporting the **Blitz Residency** programme that will take place at Blitz, an independent contemporary art space in Valletta.



WE WILL BE IN

Project	Locality
Darba Waħda	Sigġiewi
Darba Waħda	Sliema
Darba Waħda	Żabbar
Il-Warda tar-Riħ	Għarb
Il-Warda tar-Riħ	Sliema
Il-Warda tar-Riħ	Marsaxlokk
Il-Warda tar-Riħ	Mġarr
Tafal	Birgu
Tafal	Bormla
Tafal	Gżira
Tafal	Msida
Ohloq Kultura	Ħamrun
Ohloq Kultura	Paola
Ohloq Kultura	Pembroke
Ohloq Kultura	Żabbar
KantaKantun	Blata l-Bajda
KantaKantun	Mġarr
The Box	San Ġwann
The Box	Kirkop
The Box	Mġarr
Sounds Out Loud	Ħamrun
Sounds Out Loud	Pembroke
Artist in Residence (AiR)	Għarb
Poetry in Potato Bags	Qrendi
Valletta Pageant of the Seas	Grand Harbour, Birgu
Gozo Regional Office	Victoria





TAL-KULTURA²⁰¹⁸
VOLUNTEERS

Volunteering with Valletta 2018

An important part of Valletta 2018's role as European Capital of Culture is to foster the shared universal values behind volunteerism in the cultural sector, as elsewhere - free will, commitment, equity, engagement, solidarity, compassion, empathy and respect for others. For this reason, in collaboration with SOS Malta, a Maltese NGO with a long history of promoting volunteering and civic participation in Malta, Valletta 2018 has launched Tal-Kultura.

The Valletta 2018 Foundation and SOS Malta aim to mobilise large numbers of people as volunteers for the various projects and/or events that feature within the 2016-2018 cultural calendar. The main objective behind Tal-Kultura is to establish volunteering as a staple ingredient and common practice within the arts and culture sector in Malta.

If you are interested in getting involved, we'd like to hear from you.

Contact details: talkultura@valletta2018.org

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