

11 - 17 MARCH 2025 - BASQUE COUNTRY, SPAIN

Atelier Donostia / San Sebastián 2025

5 GRANTS

for Young Festival Managers
in Latin America & Africa

Open Call – Capacity Building Programme

11 - 17 March 2025 - San Sebastián, Spain

Apply before 10/12/2024!

The Festival Academy, an initiative of the European Festivals Association (EFA), in partnership with dFERIA - Performing Arts Fair and Victoria Eugenia Theater calls for applications from festival managers in Latin America and Africa the 23rd edition of the Atelier for Young Festival Managers, taking place from 11 to 17 March 2025 in San Sebastian (Basque Country), Spain.

The Network of Cultural Centers of Spain abroad (Red CCE), part of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), is offering 5 grants for festival managers in Latin America and Africa to participate in the Atelier. The selected participants will have the Atelier fee and travel expenses covered. To be eligible, festivals must be in one of the AECID – Red CCE cooperation regions.

The Atelier for Young Festival Managers will offer the opportunity to a group of festival leaders and curators from all over the world to spend 7 days together guided by experienced festival leaders, cultural activists, cross-sector experts and artists in San Sebastián. The Atelier facilitates a global conversation about today's challenges and the role that festivals, art and culture can play in these. The Atelier is about innovating leadership, gaining new perspectives, exploring the essence and impact of festivals in a global context, share and exchange experiences and reflect on the topics that concern the participants.

The Atelier starts from the very essence of festivals –the arts, the artist and the audience– and all issues tackled during the training and in one way or another relate to this essence, why we do things, for whom and with whom.

dFERIA & Victoria Eugenia Theater

The **Atelier will be hosted by dFERIA**, the Performing Arts Fair of Donostia/San Sebastián, which is a **Spanish national reference point for professionals in the performing arts**. Established in 1988 by the San Sebastián City Council and Donostia Kultura, dFERIA is a contemporary, innovative, committed and varied fair that focuses on **strengthening its Latin American and European markets**. At the same time, it is an extraordinary **meeting platform for different agents in the sector**, which promotes multiple opportunities for the **exchange of experiences and artistic collaborations**.

dFERIA 2025 will take place between **March 16th and 20th**, while the **Atelier will run from March 11th to 17th**, resulting in a **two-day overlap** of the events. During this period, we will **participate in the activities and cultural programs of the fair**. Participants who wish to do so are invited to stay for the fair after the conclusion of the Atelier. Conditions can be negotiated at a later stage after being accepted in the Atelier.

The iconic **Victoria Eugenia Theatre**, inaugurated in 1912, will serve as the **headquarters** for both the **festival** and the **Atelier**.

The Atelier will also provide an opportunity to get to know the **sociopolitical and cultural context of the Basque Country and Spain**, as well as to **connect with festivals, cultural professionals, and artists** from the region.





Who can participate?

This **seven-day long capacity building programme** targets **festival curators from all over the world**, regardless of age, gender and nationality, who are interested in **exchanging knowledge and experiences between professionals** active in the field of festivals and who wish to **improve their management skills, learn from renowned experts** and **exchange ideas** and **best practices** with other participants.

It is addressed at young leaders who are interested in the organization and in the **new ways of cooperation and sustainable production**. In addition, it is aimed at participants who are interested in becoming part of a network that focuses on **knowledge sharing and networking**. At the end of the programme, participants will leave with **expanded skills in festival organisation and curation** with a **wide new personal and professional network** and with inspiration for new ways of developing their festivals.

'Young' in the Atelier title refers first of all to **being young in the festival business**.

Participants represent a **broad diversity of cultural and professional backgrounds** – from students to young managers working for large **established organisations**, to **emerging curators** running their own innovative international festivals.

Topics

The Atelier for Young Festival Managers is a **tailor-made capacity building programme focused on the needs of the specific group taking part** in the programme, based on the **analysis of the expectations** of the selected participants. The topics and issues raised by the selected participants are further developed during the Atelier: in **panel discussions** guided by renowned festival leaders and cross-sector experts from across the globe, in small **working groups, thematic lunches, cross-discipline round tables and plenary sessions**. There is plenty of time and space for official and **informal one-to-one talks** during the programme and during meals and **cultural visits**, as the sharing of experiences and networking are key to the Atelier.

Topics to be explored could be amongst others:

- Innovative forms of leadership
- Different models of curating, focusing on building audiences/communities
- Digital innovation and new technologies
- The social, environmental and artistic impact of festivals: how festivals are/can be agents for social change and social cohesion
- Fundraising (beyond subventions)
- How and if festivals can contribute to strengthening global identities and values and tackle rising nationalism
- Decolonisation
- Equitey and Fair international collaboration (and trade) including the UNESCO 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions
- Festivals and the integration of underrepresented or fragile communities (people of colour, first nation people, migrant/refugees, LGBTQIA+, disabled people, children and youth, etc.)
- Sustainable festival-making on all levels
- Freedom of expression and the relevance of artistic boycott

All these food-for-thought and conversations will be developed in close relation with our partners and the context in which the Atelier takes place, serving as a source of inspiration and discussions by meeting local actors. You can find out more about the programme here.



Expected Results/Outcome

- **Capacity, leadership, skills and knowledge building within a global context:** In raising awareness and increasing the cultural and economic competitiveness and potential of the culture and creative sectors' main protagonists – cultural leaders -, organisations, participants and stakeholders are allowed a life-changing opportunity of walking away with skills, abilities and tools to essentially become more sustainable and socially and economically viable.
- **Digital toolkits** collecting the knowledge shared to distribute to a larger arts/festival community in a global level.
- A **platform for exchange in between arts and cultural colleagues** taking up different roles and coming from different regions
- Generating a **better understanding and knowledge** of the possibilities that may occur to festivals and cultural organisations.
- Offering time and space for imagining **new collaborations with people coming from very different backgrounds**, based on solidarity and incorporating fundamental universal values.
- Becoming part of a **global network of upskilled cultural and production** managers including Alumni and experts of The Festival Academy, today with 1400+ people from 100+ countries on all continents.

"The Atelier has become a place of safety where we can feel we are among professionals. We all felt open and supported. Some questions have become a challenge for us. It broadens your horizons when you hear the opinions and rationale of others."

Participant Atelier Elefsina 2023

Mentors and guest speakers

Renowned festival leaders and directors, cross-sector experts, cultural activists, and artists are guiding the participants throughout the 7 days. Mentors and facilitators are present for the whole period of the programme. Members of the Alumni community of The Festival Academy are also invited as speakers to join the Atelier and take initiative leading sessions and involving professionals from their own networks (find out more about our Alumni-led sessions [here](#) and about our previous experts [here](#)).



Practicalities

The Red CCE -part of AECID-, The Festival Academy, and dFERIA will select and grant 5 festival managers from Latin America and Africa to participate in the Atelier. The selected participants will have the Atelier fee and the travel expenses covered.

What the grant includes:

- **Round-trip airfare** from the country of origin to Spain.
- **Bus/train ticket** from the airport in Spain to San Sebastian.
- **Schengen visa.**
- **Accommodation for 7 nights** in San Sebastian.
- **Meals and beverages** during the 7 days of the Atelier.
- **Atelier registration.**
- Access to all **sessions.**
- **Working materials.**
- **Receptions.**
- **Local transport** to the program activities.
- **Cultural and artistic program.**
- **Follow-up activities.**

Requirements:

- **Proficiency in English** is essential, as it is the working language of the Atelier.
- Applicants must be directors, managers, coordinators, programmers, or producers of an **artistic festival in Latin America or Africa.**
- The festival must be **located in a country** that is **part of the cooperation regions** of the AECID - Red CCE. For more information, click [here](#).
- Applicants will be asked to provide **information about themselves**, their **work experience**, their **festival and organisation**, their **expectations** related to the program, and, most importantly, their **motivation** to participate.
- The willingness to develop leadership, programming, and international collaboration skills, as well as the motivation to explore the social role that art and festivals play in society as agents of change and transformation, will be positively valued.
- There is no age limit, although it may be interesting to note that the average age of participants in previous editions of the Atelier is 32-35 years.

Apply here!

Deadline for applications: 10/12/2024

Results will be announced by mid-December 2024. Don't hesitate to contact The Festival Academy at info@thefestivalacademy.eu for more information about the application and selection process.

Organizers & Partners

The Festival Academy believes festivals are bridging platforms with a direct link to people and civil society structures. We believe a critical reflection between artists, arts and cultural managers worldwide and cross-sectoral stakeholders can bring about positive change, informed awareness, ideas and proposals for actions through personal human relations and based on knowing, respecting and tolerating different value and belief systems. We are a global community of more than 1400 festival managers from 100+ countries today.

The Festival Academy receives a grant of **Open Society Foundations** for 2023-2025.

dFERIA is Performing Arts Fair of Donostia / San Sebastián, which is a Spanish national reference point for professionals in the performing arts. Established in 1988 by the **San Sebastian City Council** and **Donostia Kultura**, dFERIA is a contemporary, innovative, committed and varied fair that focuses on strengthening its Latin American and European markets. At the same time, it is an extraordinary meeting platform for different agents in the sector, which promotes multiple opportunities for the exchange of experiences and artistic collaborations.

Donostia Kultura is a Public Business Entity that aims to position culture as one of the main assets of development and projection of San Sebastian. It manages various municipal facilities and services, such as theaters (Victoria Eugenia, Teatro Principal), scenic spaces (Gazteszena, Imanol Larzabal...), the San Telmo Museum, 10 houses of culture in the neighborhoods and a wide network of Municipal Libraries.

It also programs events of all disciplines, organizes festivals and, above all, promotes new cultural platforms in the city, combining public and private initiatives. In addition, it organizes and collaborates in all kinds of festive activities in the city.

The Festival Academy is an initiative of the **European Festivals Association (EFA)** which unites distinguished music, dance, theatre and multidisciplinary arts festivals from Europe and beyond since 1952. It connects about 100 festivals and festival associations in 40 countries. EFA's activities are implemented with the support of the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union.

Thanks to the support of the **Open Society Foundations**, The Festival Academy is able to further extend its activities geographically as well as its global community of festival makers. More people worldwide will have the chance to participate in its programmes and will become part of its growing community.

The **Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)** is a Spanish autonomous agency responsible for the management of the Government international development cooperation policy. AECID has 51 Cooperation Offices (OCE) around the world.



OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS