



## OPEN CALL FOR CREATIVE MINDS TO DEVELOP THREE GREEN PLACES IN EUROPE

Deadline for submitting applications: 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2025 - 23.59 GMT+2h

# TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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"If we start treating the world as one big garden in which we are all gardeners, we will immediately change our attitude towards the entire planet."

-Gilles Clément

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## A. About PLACE (2024-2026)

**PLACE** is a small-scale collaboration project, co-funded by the Creative Europe Cultural Program. It seeks to develop three local projects for green spaces in three different locations in Europe and develop tools and networks for artists to work hands-on with nature in a sustainable way. Through a two year process we seek to develop artistic interventions that shift the notion of nature as a space (generic, disengaged) and foster a notion of nature as PLACE (specific, meaningful and emotionally infused).

PLACE seeks to engage in a core driver of the climate crisis; the alienation of citizens from nature. Research has shown that insufficient access to green spaces (nature deprivation), especially in urban areas, is important in health and mental health issues. It also contributes to the inaction on environmental protection as people do not feel motivated to protect what they are not personally connected to. In other words: Climate awareness alone is insufficient to create wide scale climate action. We need to (re)engage with nature on an emotional and practical level through establishing personal connections to green spaces and non-human lifeworlds.

PLACE believes the arts can play a key role in fostering such connections to nature. With this project we seek to foster, gather and share ideas and humans who are interested in exploring how this might happen.

So we invite creative minds to share, explore and develop artistic practices that connect human activity with the natural world in a direct and sustainable way. Through three pilot sites, one in Budapest (HU), one in Brussels (BE) and one that could be anywhere in Europe - we seek to test out some of these ideas and practices.

**NB: WE INVITE ALL APPLICANTS  
TO AN ONLINE OPEN HOUSE EVENT  
WITH THE THREE PARTNERS THE  
10<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH @18.00 GMT +2H  
[CLICK THIS ZOOM LINK TO JOIN THE EVENT](#)**

### OUR AIM IS TO DEVELOP:

**GREEN** can easily become an abstract concept. Yet, our future depends on that we are able to employ a wider care for the natural world in our everyday lives. To do this we seek eco-conscious creative minds who are eager to explore artistic involvement with the natural world that turns "green living" from something abstract and far away into something tangible, engaging and close by.

**PLACE** is hence what it is all about. We seek practices and ideas that treat land not as "space" but as "place". That is; nature filled with human emotional connection, knowledge and history, as well as well as non-human stakeholders with equal rights and functions. If you are a creative mind interested in how one can take part in sustainable placemaking strategies this call might be for you. Maybe you already have experiences from site-specific art practices, land practices, community gardening practices, or activating human connection to land and nature through dance, storytelling, or design.

**CONNECTIONS** and your ideas on how to engage wider communities to connect to nature is what is important to us. We seek practices and creative minds who wants to include the non-human world and local communities in the processes of developing new and sustainable habitats for a sustainable future. In other words; we seek artists that wants to connect humans to humans and human to non-human life in three pilot sites.



## B. The creative retreat

24th of July to the 2nd of August

As the first step of our project we invite 12 artists for a ten days creative retreat in Piemonte, Italy. By living together, sharing practices, experiences and ideas in an actual garden we will learn about how placemaking, nature awareness and ecology can evoke artistic creation. Acknowledging that most creatives in the forefront of tackling climate change are extremely hard workers, we invite you to reload, share and build networks and connection with like minded people. By providing lectures, field excursions and embodied garden practices we invite you to build knowledge and competence to further incorporate ecology, gardening and placemaking in your artistic endeavours.

We expect the selected creative minds to engage in the program with their skills, values and ideas. We want the group to build conversations around: art and biodiversity, permaculture,

- Accommodation, including possible stop-over accommodation due to long travels by land.
- Food during the stay in Italy ( provided based upon informed allergies and diets)

### For 12 selected artists we will offer:

- An artist fee of 500 EUR
- Accommodation, included possible stop-over accommodation due to long travels by land.
- Food during the stay in Italy (provided based upon informed about allergies and diets)
- All activities and local transport during the camp.
- All green travel costs to and from the camp. That is travel by train or car. (If you want or need to fly you are of course welcome to do so, but then you will have to cover the costs yourself)

## C. Three gardens - pilot projects

We call the pilot places 'Gardens' - places where humans connect to nature by investing their creative minds, time and energy. With artistic interventions the project interacts with local citizens and organisations and seeks to transform these places into utopian gardens, open for the public to explore, learn and engage in meaningful relationships with the natural world.

In line with our aim towards sustainability, we seek project with a durational impact beyond the initial pilot phase of one year. A clear plan on how the project can be up and running the first year and carry on after the project period is hence asked for at this stage. Based on the proposals of the participants of the creative retreat, three local projects, one per country, will be selected to be realised. One in connection to each of the three partnering organizations. This is why we ask you to specify in your application which of the three gardens you envision to develop.

### For each of the pilot projects we will offer:

- A grant of 8000 EUR to be spent by the artist(s)
- Organisational help based on the project plans and ideas
- Help with promotion of the project
- Networks and connecting you with stakeholders and knowledge providers.

## THE THREE GARDENS:

### GARDEN 1: Bethlen Square Budapest, Hungary

For this pilot we seek to develop a project that engages the local citizens, as well as the theatre in engaging with nature in the middle of the city. They garden we seek to develop is a small triangular green area outside theatre at Bethlen Square, in the 6<sup>th</sup> district of Budapest. Your proposed ideas and practice should hence relate to this place.

#### **Requirement for applying with this pilot:**

- An interest in the historic, social and natural context of this site.
- An interest in collaboration with the theatre and its partners, as well as local stakeholders and users of the space.
- Connection to Budapest and possibility to follow up the project hand on locally in the period sept. 2025 - autumn 2026
- Collaboration around the sustainability of the pilot beyond the pilot project.

More information about and images of this place can be found in the attached description.

### GARDEN 2: Hiatus Brussels, Belgium

Hiatus has already been involved in place development projects at two parks in Brussels: Donderberg and Parc Ouest. A project could connect to one of these two sites or you could propose another green space. For this project we seek to develop an artistic practice inspiring, connecting and empowering Brussels city residents in making a green space an inseparable part of their living environment.

#### **Requirement for applying with this pilot:**

- Be able to pay for their stay in Brussels or travels if that is needed.
- An interest in reciprocal collaboration and exchange with Hiatus, as well as local partners
- Time to follow up and work on this project from September 2025 to September 2026

More information about and images of this place can be found in the attached description.

### GARDEN 3: Norwegian Landscape Theatre Anywhere in Europe

We seek people who wants to generate their own garden or nature connection practice base in relationship to a site you connect to artistic connection. Unlike the other two gardens there is no geographical restrictions into where, beyond that the project has to take place somewhere in Europe. Your application must hence clearly describe why this place is important to you, what kind of a place it is today? What practice are you doing or want to do there? And what kind of a place you envision it to become?

#### **Requirement for applying with this pilot:**

- You must have a concrete green place you want to develop through artistic means and placemaking techniques
- You must implement your project on the suggested site from September 2025 to September 2026

More information about and images of this place can be found in the attached description.



## D. The three partners

PLACE is a small project co-funded by the Creative Europe program, with three partners:

**BETHLEN THEATRE** Bethlen Square Theater, with a 95-year legacy, has operated in its current form since 2012, supporting contemporary performing arts and local artists. Through programs, workshops, and collaborations, it engages the community and fosters cross-border artistic connections. Committed to regional performers, it aims to be a multidisciplinary hub for contemporary arts.

[www.bethlenszinhaz.hu/english/](http://www.bethlenszinhaz.hu/english/)

**HIATUS** is a Brussels based contemporary dance company of choreographer Daniel Linehan. Hiatus creates dance productions and participative projects fostering connections in the here and now and bringing attention to the urgent concerns of today. The word "hiatus" implies a space of possibility, an opening.

[www.hia-tus.org](http://www.hia-tus.org)

**NORWEGIAN LANDSCAPE THEATRE** is a creative production company of theatre maker, gardener and researcher Tormod Carlsen. The organisation works across Europe on a variety of projects with a belief in connecting humans to places. With roots in the field of performing arts they employ notions, tools and wisdom from this field to investigate how such practices might take form.

[www.norwegianlandscapetheatre.com](http://www.norwegianlandscapetheatre.com)

## E. Who are we looking for?

This call is open to any creative mind.

### People with creative ideas

We seek creative minds - that is any artist or creative thinker from any discipline, interested in developing sustainable green spaces for local communities.

### People with 'hands on' attitudes

We believe that any real change starts with concrete actions. So not only will you need to be a good creative thinker - we seek people who actively want to engage with both humans and non-human life as parts of their practice.

### People with experience

Experience with operating in or leading projects with various stakeholders, dealing with creative expressions in public space, community practices or interest in ecology will be needed to execute the final pilots.



## F. Timeline and dates

### 1 Open calls

The first step of this journey starts with you responding to this open call.

- Opens at: 14<sup>th</sup> of February
- Application deadline: 23<sup>th</sup> of March 2025 - 23.59 GMT+2h

ONLINE OPEN HOUSE EVENT FOR APPLICANTS, hosted by the partners:  
10<sup>th</sup> of March at 18.00 GMT+2h

#### SELECTION OF 12 PARTICIPANTS

### 2 The creative retreat

If selected to take part in the creative retreat you are expected to join our three preparatory and introductory online sessions in May.

24<sup>th</sup> of July to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August; the creative camp will take place close to Turin in Piemonte, Italy.

#### OUTCOME:

By the 15<sup>th</sup> of April the 12 selected artists for the creative retreat are notified and announced.

### 3 Development of 3 pilot projects

Following the creative retreat the participants from the workshop are offered two online sessions (or on-site) to develop a project proposal for their chosen garden/pilot by the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2025

#### OUTCOME:

During the Creative retreat we will launch the internal call for the three gardens/pilot projects.

#### SELECTION 3 PILOT PROJECTS

### 4 Implementation of the three pilots

If selected, you are expected to implement your project in the period 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2025 and 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2026.

#### OUTCOME:

During the Creative retreat we will launch the internal call for the three gardens/pilot projects.

### 5 Festivals and disseminations

Based on the whole project we will make a publication that will be published as part of the final festivities in Brussels in the autumn 2026.

#### OUTCOME:

During the Creative retreat we will launch the internal call for the three gardens/pilot projects.



## G. What do we ask of the participants?

**Participation:** We expect that you take part in and commit to contributing with your skills and knowledge to the program.

**Engagement:** We expect your commitment to the project's objectives. As success depends on the activation and engagement of European audiences, selected participants are encouraged to support Performing Landscapes' (PLACE) general communication by using their personal and professional communication channels and networks.

**Availability:** We expect you to consider the dates and timeline in this open call and that your calendar allows you to take part in the shared sessions as well as follow up your individual tasks.



## H. What do we offer?

**For the 12 selected artists for the Creative retreat will be provided:**

- All green travel costs to and from the camp. That is travel by train, car or public transport. (Green travel will be covered, the program does not provide airline tickets.)
- Accommodation, included possible stop-over accommodation due to long travels by land.
- Food, preliminary vegetarian, during the stay in Italy (provided based upon informed allergies and diets)
- All activities and local transport during the creative retreat in Italy.
- An artist fee of 500 EUR

**For selected candidates to each of the three pilots we provide:**

- A grant of 8000 EUR to be spent by the artist(s)
- Organisational help based on the project plans and ideas
- Support with promotion of the project
- Networks and connecting you with stakeholders and knowledge providers.



## I. Application and selection process:

### How to respond to this call?

Applications must be submitted in English (this includes all complementary material). No entry or administration fee is required to submit an application.

- Choose one of the three gardens/pilot sites. And check that you fulfil the requirements for applying to develop that site.
- You must fill in the form available here, and upload required attachments, by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2025 - 23.59 GMT+2h

**[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE APPLICATION FORM](#)**

### Assessment criteria:

All the applications will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

#### Artistic motivation and experience:

- Experience with, or ability to demonstrate a clear motivation to use ecological sustainability in their artistic exploration. Eg. by referring to existing practice.
- Shown ability to collaborate with other artists, various production teams and local communities as an integrated part of their practice. Eg. by mentioning with whom you envision to work or examples of how you have collaborated with various stakeholders in your projects before.
- Ability to verbalise thoughts on how your work connects to sustainability. Eg. By providing

#### Implementation skills:

- Communication skills: Experience with, or ability to demonstrate a clear wish to work with and involve local communities and other stakeholders into their projects.
- Knowledge around land practices, gardening skills or proven ability to work with a complex network of stakeholders. Eg. by suggesting various
- Problem solving attitude, that you can show some experience with or motivation for participatory artistic practices.

#### Local relevance:

- A genuine, clear and original interest in the sites proposed.
- A clearly expressed wish to involve oneself in the process. Eg. by explaining how one sees one's own role in implementing a project on a site.
- Artistic profile in relationship to the project framework.

### Jury

Applicants will be selected by a jury consisting of one member from each organisation. The three members, responsible for making the final decision will be:

- Tormod Carlsen (Norwegian Landscape Theatre)
- Helga Baert, (HIATUS)
- László Váczi, (Bethlen Theatre)





## Note

- The jury will exclusively assess the delivered material in the application, the artistic profile and their adequacy to the project.
- Based on their scores of the applicants, in relationship to the assessment criteria, the final decision will be made. In case of disagreements an emphasis will be given to the voice of the representative of the pilot project the applicant relates to.
- The jury declares that information provided in the applications will be treated with respect and confidentiality. Applications might be discussed internally in the organisations if there are doubts. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Feedback and evaluations of the various applications will not be provided. The jury selection decision is final and cannot be overruled. Any recourse to courts of law is excluded.
- You can only apply as an individual. Only one application per individual is accepted.
- Participation in the creative retreat is obligatory for artists seeking to develop the three pilots. If an applicant is unable to attend one or more of the introductory sessions, for whatever reason they comply to inform about this immediately.
- If a selected artist withdraws from the process after the contract has been signed they will have to return the sums received so far and compensate the producers for documented losses on their side.

## J. Legal terms, promotion and copyrights

The PLACE partners will consider submitted application material on the condition that the selected applicant irrevocably agrees that:

- A) The applicant agree to fill out the application to the best of their knowledge. By this they also accept the conditions of participation stated in this call. This implies flexibility to resolve any changes that might occur as a result of factors alien to the PLACE partners.
- B) Their names, can be published as part of the dissemination of this project on the partners website and social media platforms. This include images from the Creative Camp in Italy and references to applicants websites or social media sites. Beyond this the project reserve the right to share documentation from the applicants to any funding bodies upon request. Beyond this neither they, or the partners from the PLACE project, can re-publish or distribute any material from the applications without consent from the copyright owner.
- C) Selected participants will provide the project with additional material, as text, images or videos generated as part of this program.
- D) Participants may indicate which documents and data submitted are, in their view, considered confidential. The PLACE partners will respect the confidentiality of the information they are provided, when this is indicated.
- E) The partners in this project reserves the right to resolve any issues not covered by the Terms and Conditions of the project. They benefit from the prerogative to interpret the rules within reasonable limits and resolve any doubts that may arise from their execution.
- F) As copyright, ownership and responsibility is complex in projects like these, we already here inform you that any investments done with resources from these projects will have to include agreements around these issues as well as their ecological impact.
- G) The project does not offer employment, but pays a one-time fee. This means that the participant is responsible for covering personal insurance.
- H) The project leaders reserve the right to document all stages of the project as well as using this documentation as part of the dissemination of the project.



## What do we ask for in the application?

### **INFORMATION:**

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Residential address
- Citizenship
- Phone number
- E-mail
- Webpage
- Social media platforms

### **ARTISTIC WORK AND MOTIVATION:**

What garden/place do you want to work on?

- The Betlen Square (in collaboration with Betlen Theatre)
- A site in Brussels (in collaboration with HIATUS)
- Your own site (in collaboration with Norwegian Landscape Theatre)

### **Your connection to the place and possibly the organisation chosen?**

*Please describe why you want to engage with the chosen place and what you expect from collaborating with the affiliated partner.*

### **How you foresee to develop your connection to this site?.**

*Please describe some ideas, a practice or possible ways to approach this place.*

### **Experience and interest in working with ecology creatively:**

*Please present some examples of how you have engaged with nature in your work or your motivation to do so.*

### **Experience and interest in working with socially engaged practices:**

*Please present some examples of how you have engaged with local communities in your work or your motivation to do so.*

### **APPENDIXES:**

- A motivation letter clearly referring to your interest and ideas in relationship to the place you apply for. No comprehensive project description is expected, rather we ask you to describe your work and consider what inspires you. (Max. 1 A4 page with text or 3 A4 pages with text and images, or video of max. 5min)
- Some documentation of previous experiences in art and ecology. If non, please provide some examples of past works you have been developing. (max 5 A4 pages with text and images or references to a webpage).
- A CV



**For questions contact regarding this call contact:**  
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