



2017 Call for Proposals

The 2017 National Arts Festival will run from Thursday 29 June to Sunday 9 July 2017. The Festival celebrates its commitment to freedom of expression as enshrined in the South African constitution; and thus recognises that the arts can be engaged powerfully as an advocate for both social cohesion and social provocation. The Festival's Main Programme is a solid platform for exciting new work presented by established, mid-career and emerging South African artists; as well as a forum for successful international productions to premiere on the continent or in South Africa.

CURATORIAL FOCUS

The 2017 National Arts Festival intends presenting an artistic programme of bold, courageous work that engages with the curatorial themes for the 2017 National Arts Festival that will focus on the relationship between Art and Disruption: art as a disruptor of mainstream ways of thinking, and art in response to disruptions to the status quo.

Consideration will be given to proposals submitted by South African artists / companies if they engage with South Africa's socio-political-economic and historical context; and are likely to challenge and spark lively discussion and reflection by contesting the negative legacies that South Africa has inherited, and the challenges that the country faces today.

The curatorial focus invites works that;

- are inspired by a reaction to borders of any and all kinds;
- engage with the '#mustfall' and '#mustrise' movements;
- wrestle with the past to understand the present;

In short, we are looking for compelling, innovative and high-quality performances, exhibitions and cross-disciplinary works that serve as catalysts for debate and transformation.

Proposals for performances submitted by non-South African artists / companies should demonstrate a track record of excellence. The productions should be able to offer new inspirations, innovative directions, critical or reflective narratives that can connect South African audiences with global experiences.

The National Arts Festival's Main programme is informed by the following SEVEN major programming criteria:

- **Premiere of new work**

The National Arts Festival presents premieres of productions and exhibitions by established and well-known South African and non-South African artists. Productions by South African artists of South African premieres that will not be presented at any South African venue for at least six months prior to the Festival will be considered.

Productions by non-South African artists / companies of works which have been staged with acclaim at non-South African festivals and theatres will be considered on the proviso that the South African premiere of the work is presented at the National Arts Festival..

- **Cutting Edge Work**

The National Arts Festival presents exciting new, cutting edge and provocative productions and exhibitions that can generate an active dialogue both in terms of its content and form.

- **Collaboration & co-production of new work**

The National Arts Festival will consider proposals for collaborations with South African and non-South African artists and managements and / or festivals to co-produce work that may require more than one partner for the effective funding of productions with the proviso that such productions have strong artistic merit and will have its South African premiere in Grahamstown. Consideration will be given to work that - explore the African continent in terms of collaborations / themes / texts; and advance inter-continental collaboration through cross-border engagement and / or a broad engagement with foreign national creatives resident and working in South Africa

- **Multi-disciplinary presentations**

The National Arts Festival recognises that an increasing number of South African artists are creating work that interfaces across genres and also with different forms of media. The Festival welcomes work that incorporate cross-disciplinary collaborations and / or explore new forms of making art and / or boldly and innovatively blur the lines between genres and particularly in the way they reflect changing trends in arts practice and also in the way that such productions and / or exhibitions will appeal to a new generation of audiences.

- **Diversity**

The National Arts Festival presents work that reflects the broad demographic of South African arts practice. The Festival's audiences are as diverse as its artists. The Festival embraces the spirit that a successful national cultural event has a responsibility to serve its audiences and artists in equal measure and to ensure that each event contributes to growing a more progressive, tolerant, and cohesive society.

- **Development**

The National Arts Festival creates special opportunities and platforms for newly emerging artists and historically marginalised performing arts companies to participate and grow through the festival's various incubator programmes. We welcome proposals that are not rigidly bound to the stated curatorial themes but which can contribute to developing a diverse artistic programme that will position the National Arts Festival as a

prominent platform for innovation, experimentation, reflection, entertainment, celebration and contribute to building capacity and skills in the South African arts sector.

- **Accessibility**

The National Arts Festival recognises that taking the arts into non-traditional spaces and outdoor public forums will provide audiences with "unexpected encounters with art". Artists are encouraged to think beyond the conventions of formal theatre spaces and to explore site-specific interventions that will engage with and / or challenge the historical, social, and / or cultural boundaries of Grahamstown.

- **Revivals**

The Festival presents a limited number of revivals or works that have been previously staged in South Africa. Strong motivation for why such work should be revived or presented at the Festival needs to be submitted in proposals. In the case of classics, preference is given to fresh takes of these works.

Proposals for any production that has been presented at the National Arts Festival (including the Fringe) during the past five years will not be considered.

Artists and managements intending to submit proposals must give consideration to the guidelines as outlined in this Call for Proposals. Technical specifications for the Festival's various performance and exhibitions venues is available on the Festival's website www.nationalartsfestival.co.za/artist-zone/

Proposals can be submitted to proposals@nationalartsfestival.co.za and enquiries sent to the same address. Proposals should reach us no later than 2 September 2016.

Proposals may also be sent by mail to one of the following addresses:

National Arts Festival, PO Box 304, Grahamstown, 6140

National Arts Festival, Monument Building, Fort Selwyn Drive, Grahamstown, 6140

Winners of the Standard Bank Ovation Awards will receive written invitations to submit proposals for the 2017 Arena programme.

Fringe applications will be available in October and registration will close in January 2017. Forms and information booklets will be available on-line at www.nationalartsfestival.co.za . Enquiries should be addressed to the Fringe Manager, Zikhona Nweba, on 046 603 1177 or by email at zee@nationalartsfestival.co.za

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS:

- Section A: Proposals for Theatre, Dance and Music
- Section B: Proposals for Exhibitions, Installations & Performance Art
- Section C: Proposals for Street Theatre, Public Art & Site-Specific Performances
- Section D: Proposals from International artists / companies not resident and / or not based in South Africa

SECTION A: PERFORMANCES IN THEATRE, DANCE AND MUSIC

The National Arts Festival is committed to grow a discerning audience that is critical of the performing arts and who value the role that the performing arts can play as a catalyst for audiences to engage with broader societal issues. The Festival's performing arts programme promotes and celebrates diverse performances that range from the classics to the contemporary. Productions of the highest quality are presented through a partnership with independently producing artists, presenting companies, producers or performing arts managements.

Proposals for National Arts Festival's Main programme are reviewed by a Genre sub-committee headed by Genre Curator in association with the Executive Producer.

Proposals for THEATRE productions should be guided by the Curatorial Focus outlined at the start of this document.

Proposals must include the following:

1. Cover page with contactable details of the person submitting the proposal (full name, telephone, email, physical address, postal address)
2. Narrative biography of the person submitting the proposal. If the proposal is submitted by a presenting or production company, a narrative summary detailing the Company's production track record must be provided.
3. Names and narrative biographies of the proposed creative team and cast who will be involved in the production.
4. Copies of scripts, CD's and DVD's must be submitted to support the proposal.
5. Statement articulating the artistic / directorial vision for the production and a motivation for why the production should be presented on the Main programme
6. A 250-word synopsis of the work
7. Technical specifications for the production
8. Proposed total budget for the production. Indicate the budget required from the National Arts Festival. Also, indicate any co-partners who are being and / or will be engaged if the proposal is considered successful.

If proposals are reviewed successfully, the fees and costs for the production will be negotiated and be mutually agreed upon between the Festival and the producer. Subject to agreement the Festival will offer to cover the following costs:

- Fees for the creative development team (writer's directors, choreographers, designers, etc)
- Pre-production costs related to research or recce visits
- Productions costs which include but not limited to sets, costume, lighting & sound design.

- Rehearsal fees
- Performance fees
- Transport, accommodation & per diems for the cast & crew during the Festival
- Fees for technical support
- A nominal fee for photography and for media materials to be provided by the producer for inclusion in the Festival's promotional material
- Other related costs as motivated in the proposal and agreed upon between the Festival and the producer.

In the event that a proposal is submitted for a production that has already been presented prior to the Festival, agreed costs will be limited to a short period for a maximum of two weeks repeat rehearsal prior to the season at the Festival and costs related to the travelling of the production to the Festival.

Proposals must indicate any intellectual property rights that will need to be secured for the production. The Festival reserves the right to reject and proposal / production if the Festival can prove that the producer contravenes any relevant intellectual property rights for the production.

SECTION B: EXHIBITIONS, INSTALLATIONS & PERFORMANCE ART

The National Arts Festival can originate a limited number of new exhibitions that promote and celebrates a wide range of visual art from the historical to the contemporary. A select number of exhibitions, installations and performance art projects are presented at the Festival through a partnership with visual arts practitioners, curators and organisations who are committed to presenting exhibitions of the highest quality.

The National Arts Festival targets both new and existing audiences, and is committed towards growing a discerning visual arts audience that can critically engage with the Festival's curatorial themes which are focused on broader societal issues.

Work that pushes the boundaries of definition and which creates linkages between different categories and art forms and / or utilises emerging technologies is becoming a growing phenomenon at the Festival and is encouraged.

Galleries / curators who propose a solo exhibition and / or a retrospective by an artist must include an artistic narrative motivating why the work of the artist should be featured at the Festival during the particular year. Solo and retrospective exhibitions must strongly complete the Festival's curatorial themes.

Proposals that encourage collaboration or shared artistic spaces between two or more artists / curators are particularly encouraged.

Proposals that have been conceived specifically for the Festival and which provide potential for influencing positive change in the way the Festival has historically exhibited visual art and / or proposals which take intelligently calculated risk, or encourage audiences to enjoy potentially challenging work is particularly welcomed.

Written proposals must include the following information:

1. Cover page with contactable details of the person submitting the proposal (full name, telephone, email, physical address, postal address).
2. Background of the institution, artist or curator submitting the proposal or a brief narrative biography of the principal artists who will curate and exhibit at the Festival.
3. A narrative description of the exhibition.
4. An artistic statement motivating why the work should be presented at the Festival.
5. Technical specifications of the kind of space / requirements that will be needed for the presentation of the exhibition.
6. A preliminary budget.
7. A portfolio of at least four digital images of the exhibition that is being proposed. If the artworks are going to be originated for the Festival then the proposal must include a portfolio of at least four digital images that reflect the artist's previous works.

All fees and costs are mutually negotiated and mutually agreed upon between the Festival and the exhibiting party. Subject to agreement the Festival will offer to cover the following costs:

- Research materials related to curating the exhibition

- Costs for a recce visit to Grahamstown.
- A fee for production costs of the exhibition.
- Crating, freighting & insurance costs of the exhibition to be presented at the Festival
- Transport, accommodation & per diems for the artist and / or curator
- Fees for the artist / curator to produce and hang the exhibition
- Fees for the curator / artist to conduct walkabouts during the Festival
- A nominal fee for photography and for media materials to be provided by the artists / curator for inclusion in the Festival's promotional material

Other related costs as motivated in the proposal and agreed upon between the Festival and the exhibitor.

In the event that a proposal is submitted for an exhibition that has already been presented prior to the Festival, agreed costs will not include production costs in retrospective of the budget but will be limited to refurbishment costs for the exhibitions and costs related to the travelling of the exhibition.

In the event that a proposal is submitted for an exhibition which will require art works to be secured from various private and public collections, the proposer must be able to demonstrate in the proposal the ability to secure and administrate the necessary loan agreements with the owners of the artworks. If loan agreements are with Galleries / Private collectors from outside of South Africa, the freighting and insurance costs of the artworks must be quoted by a reputable art-moving company.

In the case of Performance art presentations, the proposal must provide a detailed brief of the proposed sites, venues and technical logistics that are envisaged for the successful presentation of the work. The proposal must also provide the following:

- Time required for the set up of each performance art installation
- Number of performers that will be included in the performance art installation
- Duration of the performance art installation

SECTION C: STREET THEATRE, PUBLIC ART AND SITE-SPECIFIC PERFORMANCES

Art in public spaces is a firm demonstration of the Festival's commitment to grow accessibility to the arts for all people by providing them with opportunities to engage and experience art without the purchase of an admission ticket. The National Arts Festival promotes and celebrates a wide range of public performance and visual art through a select number of performances and exhibitions that are presented through a partnership with arts practitioners, curators and organisations who are skilled in creating public art of the highest quality.

Proposals submitted for consideration should fall into one of more of the following categories:

- Street theatre
- Public art installation
- performance art
- devising and managing a Street Parade / Promenade theatre production

Proposals that have been conceived specifically for the Festival and engage with the historical and cultural architecture and landscape of Grahamstown; and which provide potential for engaging local Grahamstown artists and influencing positive change in the city are particularly welcomed.

Proposals for Site Specific Performances must make specific reference to the dominant genre in which most of the work is presented.

Written proposals must include the following information:

1. a cover page with contactable details of the person submitting the proposal (full name, telephone, email, physical address, postal address).
2. Background of the institution, artist or organisation submitting the proposal or a brief narrative biography of the principal artists who will be engaged with the project.
3. A narrative description of the proposed project.
4. An artistic statement motivating why the project should be presented at the Festival.
5. Technical specifications of the kind of space / requirements that will be needed for the presentation of the project.
6. A preliminary budget.

All fees and costs are mutually negotiated and are mutually agreed upon between the Festival and the exhibiting party. Subject to agreement the Festival will offer to cover the following costs:

- A fee for production costs.
- Transport, accommodation & per diems for the artist and / or crew
- In the case of visual art installations, transport & insurance for the work.
- A nominal fee for photography and for media materials to be provided for inclusion in the Festival's promotional material

- Other related costs as motivated in the proposal and agreed upon between the Festival and the person / institution submitting the proposal.

In the event that a proposal is submitted for an outdoor installation or theatre production that has already been presented prior to the Festival, agreed costs will not include production costs in retrospective of the budget but it will be limited to refurbishment / rehearsal costs for the project and costs related to the travelling of the project to the Festival.

Submissions of proposals for Public Art and Site-Specific productions should include due consideration of the weather condition in Grahamstown.

SECTION D: International productions (Non-South African Artists & Companies)

The National Arts Festival welcomes proposals from non-South African artists and companies whose work has been staged with high acclaim in non-South African festivals and theatres

The National Arts Festival presents international work at the Festival in conjunction with various international partners and which include but is not limited to embassies, foundations and arts councils.

Proposals from international producers should follow the guidelines and requirements outlined in the genre briefs above, and in addition should consider:

- How the proposed work can generate an active dialogue both in terms of its content and form with South African audience.
- If the presentation of the will encourage collaborative practice and exchange of artistic practice between South African artists and artists from other countries.
- How the presentation of non-South African work at the Festival can contribute towards promoting better conditions for understanding issues of diversity amongst different nationalities and tolerance between diverse nations.

Non-South African producers are advised to consult the Executive Producer prior to submitting the proposal to discuss potential collaboration regarding shared costs. All fees and costs are mutually agreed upon between the Festival and the presenting artists/ companies and subject to agreement the Festival will offer to cover the following costs:

- Partial Travel costs related to international flights and visas
- A fee for presenting the work at the Festival. The Festival will not cover costs for the origination of new works by non-South African artists / companies.
- Freight & insurance costs
- Local accommodation & per diems as per the Festival's Standard Daily Rate
- Other related costs as motivated in the proposal and agreed upon between the Festival and the artist / company.

Non-South African artists / companies are requested to note that accommodation in Grahamstown during Festival time will be reserved mainly at a Rhodes University residence in single rooms but with shared bathrooms. A limited number of guesthouses are available in Grahamstown. Artists / companies intending to stay in guesthouses will be required to supplement the difference in costs between accommodation in residence and the guesthouse.