



## MYSTERY 45\_Atelier Elefsina 2023

In partnership with 2023 Eleusis European Capital of Culture

:: Open Call – Capacity Building Programme ::

21-27 June 2023 in Elefsina, Greece

**Deadline for applications: 16 September 2022**

**The Festival Academy**, an initiative of the **European Festivals Association (EFA)**, in partnership with **2023 Eleusis European Capital of Culture** calls for application for the **21<sup>st</sup> edition of the Atelier for Young Festival Managers**, to take place from **21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023** in **Elefsina, Greece**.

The **Atelier for Young Festival Managers Elefsina** will offer the opportunity to up to 35 young festival managers from all over the world to spend **7 days** together with a group of young and experienced festival leaders, cultural activists, cross-sector experts and artists in **Elefsina**, to have a global conversation about today's challenges and the role that festivals, art and culture can play. The Atelier is about gaining new perspectives, exploring the essence of why and how 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 are doing what we are doing, for whom and with whom. It also addresses the way we do things which relates more to the production side of a festival or art event.

Throughout the Atelier, participants are guided by renowned festival managers who share their rich experience and answer participants' questions along the way, acting not only as lecturers but also as true mentors and allowing participants an honest and open insight into their careers, including both success stories and failures.

“It was life-changing, breath-giving, inspirational and an experience I will continue to learn and grow from.”

— THOBILE MAPHANGA (UKZN'S CENTRE FOR CREATIVE ARTS, SOUTH AFRICA), PARTICIPANT IN ATELIER MONTREAL 2022



## Who can participate?

This seven-day long capacity building programme is addressed to **emerging production managers** and **festival managers** 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 participants 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, curation and production, with a wide new personal and professional network and with inspiration for new ways of developing and producing projects.

‘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:

- Different models of curating, focusing on building audiences/communities
- 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

“The power of storytelling - the one major thing I learned from the Atelier is the role stories have in festival making and sustaining its vision.”

— THABISO MONTSE (DAMO FOUNDATION, SOUTH AFRICA), PARTICIPANT IN ATELIER KAMPALA 2022

- Fair international collaboration (and trade) including the UNESCO 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions
- Festivals and migrant/refugees communities
- 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, skills and knowledge building** within a global context. **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 **1178 people from 100+ countries on all continents**.

Mentors and guest speakers at the Atelier are renowned festival managers and directors, cross-sector experts, cultural activists and artists. They are present for multiple days and mentors and facilitators are present for the whole period of the programme. Members of the Alumni community of The Festival Academy are also invited 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 Festival Academy will select **up to 35 participants** for the 7-day programme of Atelier Elefsina 2023. There is **no age limit**, and the average age of Atelier participants is of 35 years. Excellent **knowledge of English** is required (the working language of the Atelier).

We encourage people from all parts of the world to apply, and we commit to working towards making the Atelier accessible for all selected applicants by assisting as much as possible with visa procedures and other permissions/requirements in preparation for the Atelier.

**Full course fee: €2100**

Reduced course fee for EFA member festivals: €1600

Course fee includes accommodation for seven nights, registration, working documents, access to all sessions, meals and drinks, receptions, local transport to activities within the programme, cultural and artistic programme, and follow-up activities.

Funding opportunities for this training programme are numerous at local/national level, and we have established long-term partnerships with some organisations all over the world to support prospective participants. Find out more about the application procedures and funding opportunities [here](#).

**Watch some aftermovies from previous Ateliers** to find out what the Atelier is all about!

## Application & Selection Procedure

The 35 participants will be selected out of an open call for applications. Applicants are asked to provide information on their work experience, their expectations related to the programme and – most importantly on their motivation to participate in it. You can read more about the application process [here](#).

[Apply here](#)

**Deadline for applications: 16 September 2022**

## Host

Elefsina has won the title of **European Capital of Culture (ECOC)** for the year **2023**, as the fourth Greek city to host the event. The aim is to promote the richness, the diversity and common aspects of the European cultures, to exchange knowledge, experience and emotions, with the engagement of the local community as well as to strengthen the bonds and mutual understanding between European citizens are the main objectives of the institution.

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**Through Art, Culture and Research**, Elefsina as the ECoC 2023 connects the city's industrial past with Art; positioning culture at the heart of economic development and marks a new era for the city and its people. Transforming Elefsina into a multifaceted cultural center with an international character, it tries to create, above all, a **sustainable heritage beyond the title year**.

Through an **"Arts Industry"** that promotes, encourages and supports the local community and the workforce, the city of Elefsina forms an **innovative "constellation" of artistic hubs**, as a model of development for a European city in terms of *Transition* from a harsh presence to the day after. Drawing inspiration from the rich history of the city, 2023 Eleusis European Capital of Culture forms a comprehensive artistic, research and educational programme, the **MYSTERIES OF TRANSITION**. Reflecting the city's unique characteristics and the modern challenges, faced both by Elefsina and Europe, there are three distinct and interconnected thematic areas of the programme: **People / Society, Environment and Labor**.

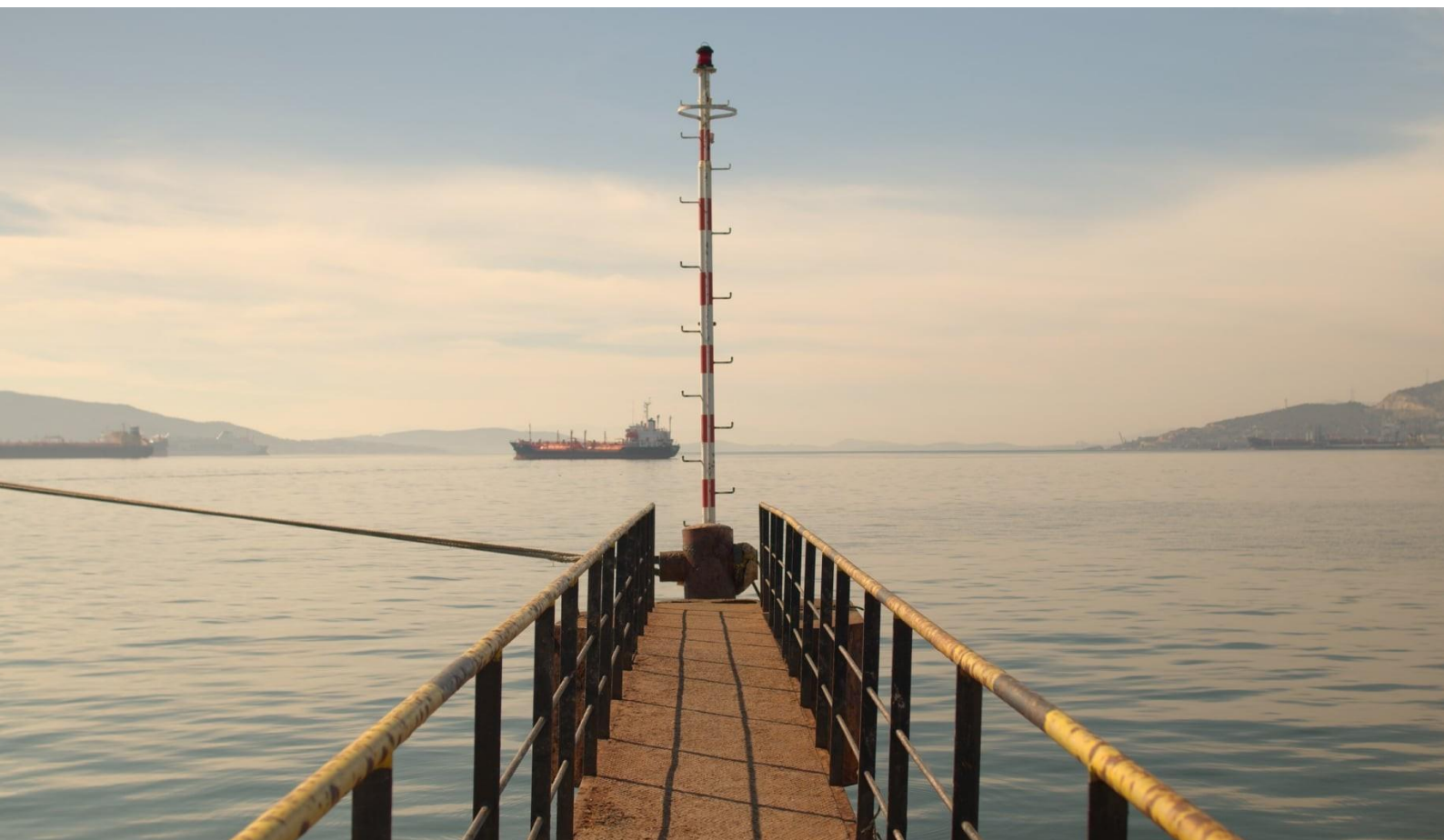


## Region

Exploring the ancient, modern and contemporary history of Elefsina, one is astonished with the rare wealth of historical and mythological past, as well as its multifaceted ambitious present. The city is composed of amazing traces of Antiquity, contemporary stories of immigration, workers' movements and industrial development, with texts and songs, and thus became a unique historical landmark of ancient and modern Greek history. Elefsina, the birthplace of Aeschylus, had been famous since antiquity for the Eleusinian Mysteries, one of the most important religious ceremonies in ancient Greece.

Thanks to the natural harbour and its strategic position on the Thriassian Plain, 21 km to the west of Athens, the city became a hub of productivity taking on a special place among the greatest industrial centers of the country, yet always giving the impression of a land that keeps its cultural wealth like a timeless mystery.

The importance of Elefsina as the birthplace of **Aeschylus**, the **special place of women** in the long history of the city, its significance in the **folk songs about emigration**, unrequited love and the working man's toil through the legendary bard Stelios Kazantzidis – are the features of this colourful unique city.





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## Find Out More & Apply

Take the opportunity and apply now if you want to:

- broaden your festival-making skills
- challenge your ideas and develop new perspectives
- be inspired by colleagues from all over the world
- be part a unique global network of festival leaders

[Apply here](#)

**Deadline for applications: 16 September 2022**

Please do not hesitate to contact The Festival Academy on [info@thefestivalacademy.eu](mailto:info@thefestivalacademy.eu) or call us on **+32 2 588 20 46** for further information on the application & selection procedure.

## Co-Partners

**2023 Eleusis European Capital of Culture**

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**The Festival Academy**

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*The Festival Academy receives a grant of [Open Society Foundations](#) for 2020-2022.*

*If you wish to strengthen our global inclusive conversation and [support](#) young festival managers and our international activities, click [here](#).*

[#AtelierForYoungFestivalManagers](#)

[#CapacityBuilding](#)

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## 2023 Eleusis European Capital of Culture's partners

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