

LAC

“LAC – Laboratory of Creative Activities- Cultural Association” was formed in 1995 by a group of individuals involved in activities within diverse cultural sectors (Sculpture, Painting, Ceramics, Music, Architecture, Film, Museology, National Heritage Protection), with the principal aim of energising and promoting artistic creation in the region, particularly the southwestern area of the Algarve.

With this intention, a space was created for various artistic activities, where adults and young people have been able to initiate or develop artistic careers without needing to permanently abandon their place of origin, allowing for artists who are residing in the region to remain.

In order to develop these objectives LAC proposed the creation of a **Laboratory of Creative Activities** in the old jail building of Lagos. This infrastructure was organised as a centre of cultural production from which the principal facets of its activities irradiate:

-Offering support within the area of visual arts, music or other creative activities, providing workspaces where artists can develop their projects.

-Providing practical and theoretical training to individuals who want to initiate artistic activities or professionals wanting to add value to their work.

-Creating or supporting individual and group initiatives within the various artistic areas via the promotion of exhibitions, concerts, performances and conferences in order to revitalise cultural production throughout the region.

-Divulging resident artists within the area, promoting interdisciplinary discourse and contact between locally based artists, artists elsewhere and national cultural institutions so as to encourage a sharing of ideas and exchange of initiatives.

PRALAC (The LAC Artist-in-Residence Program)

Since 2002, LAC has been opening annual applications to grant studios that use the cells of the old town jail building that hosts LAC. During more recent years occupation of these studios has been total.

Although the occupation has been at a level of 100% a need has been felt to stimulate a change within creative processes resulting from projects developed until now, by promoting an increase in the exchange with other artistic realities that might stimulate new developments of the resident artists.

Having established that it is fundamental to restructure LAC's cell granting program, its name was changed and **PRALAC- Programa de Residências Artísticas do Laboratório de Actividades Criativas** (The LAC Artist-in-Residence Program) was created.

PRALAC will be promoting the development of projects that stimulate creative production within diverse artistic areas. The intention is to attract to the LAC space; proposals that demonstrate contemporary approaches, that establish connections to the town where LAC is located thus promoting an exchange with alternative artistic realities and inter-linking the experiences of artists from diverse backgrounds who come to develop artistic projects of any genre, be they individually or collectively owned and whose space requirements will be compatible with that which is available.

PRALAC equally aims to promote investigation within artistic areas and will therefore provide access to the documentation centre available at the LAC installations. This will energise the creation and acquisition of new documentation accessible to members of the public who request consultation.

Areas of Action:

1 – The LAC Artist-in-Residence Program – annual projects

This program emerges out of the previous *Applications for the Granting of Studios* and views the annual granting of cells to artists residing in the Algarvian Barlavento, with the objective of promoting local artistic creation, providing laboratories for creative output and stimulating contact between diverse artistic areas.

Access to this program can be achieved through the submission of a project that envisions the development of artistic creation with continuity.

Those interested should enter the annual applications for artistic residencies in the Algarvian Barlavento - annual projects, open every year by the LAC Board of Directors sometime during the month of December.



2 – The LAC Artist-in-Residence Program – Short-term projects

This program envisions the granting of cells for the development of artists' proposals that coming from different areas of action will fuel an exchange of ideas between local and visiting artists.

The short-term artistic residencies will have a minimum duration of 4 weeks and a maximum duration of 12 weeks depending on the requirements of the Project.

Access to this program can be achieved through invitation or annual application. Applications will be open every year by the LAC's board of directors, sometime during the month of April.

PRALAC – Programa de Residências Artísticas no Laboratório de Actividades Criativas

(The LAC Artist-in-Residence Program)

SHORT-TERM PROJECTS

REGULATIONS

General principals and objectives:

- To offer visiting artists of any nationality the opportunity to develop creative work in LAC's cells, carry out research or develop projects in Lagos thus enriching the city's cultural fabric with the presentation of their work;
- To develop experiences that reinforce interculturality through an exchange of experiences, stimulating contact with other realities and promoting, whenever possible, contact with artists from Portuguese speaking countries and with Portuguese artists resident in other countries.
- The cells in LAC are intended for the development of individual artistic projects, of whatever kind providing that space requirements are compatible with the facilities offered
- LAC has two cells available for the achievement of the program with the possibility of some projects being carried out in the communal spaces when considered compatible with the needs of the applicant;
- The artistic residencies run for periods of 4 to 12 weeks and each selected project will be allocated the use of one cell.
- The artistic residencies imply the observance of the cell regulation.
- Lac, as a non-profit organization intends for the artists to contribute towards the development and cultural growth of the association inside and outside the space.
- Depending upon the nature of the project, a final presentation may take place. Arrangements will be decided between the artist and the directors.
- Whenever possible, events will be organized that stimulate interaction with the public in debates, workshops, conferences and other cultural activities.
- Artists must contribute at least one piece/work to the LAC collection



Condition

- Spaces equipped with a removable work-station. Communal work areas in Lagos' old jail will also be available and access to the equipment when available;

LAC operates within a collaborative network of organizations that may, whenever possible, provide access to other facilities in Lagos;

- Subsistence costs, accommodation, materials will be the responsibility of the artist. If needed, LAC will provide a written declaration of the residency in order for the artist to apply to other organizations for financial support.

- Whenever possible, LAC may provide guidance in regards to obtaining travel subsidies or/and grants from collaborative organizations in Portugal and other countries.

Who is eligible:

-Artists of 18 years or over submitting individually run projects from any artistic area (Painting, Sculpture, Engraving, Cartoon, Installation art, theatre, dance, fashion, and design) or any other area that fits within the aims of the initiative;

Application procedures: General requirements

Deadlines:

-Applications can be sent via e-mail to lac.associacaocultural@gmail.com, by post to LAC, Largo Convento Sr^a, da Glória 8660-660 Lagos, Portugal or handed in at the association's facilities at the above address.

Applications can be submitted during all the year.

Evaluation Criteria

- Project grounding:

- Originality and innovation.
- Methodology and organisation.
- Integration of the Project within an artistic context.
- The candidate's curriculum.
- The candidate's portfolio.
- Compatibility with conditions provided by the association.

-Whenever possible, the stimulation of diversity between projects will influence the selection process.

- Applications not fulfilling the above prerequisites will be disqualified.



Required documentation

- Completed application form.
- Synopsis of the Project proposed for development.
- Description of motives and objectives inherent to the project.
- Portfolio or information that may help understand the candidate's trajectory.
- Curriculum of the applying artist.

Júry:

- The Jury will be formed by members of the LAC's board of directors and when it requires, specialists from various artistic areas.

Results:

Results will be communicated directly to the applicant

Author's Rights:

- LAC reserves the right to use images from the creative process and final outcome of the residency for publicity purposes. Authorship will be stated.
- All works produced during the residency in collaboration with other artists are the property of all participants in the conception.

Other information:

- All information sent in the candidate's application will not be returned.
- LAC reserves the right to include the portfolios in its documentation centre.
- Situations not contemplated by the above will be resolved by the jury.
- Participation implies the full acceptance of all points included in the regulations.