



**Fundação  
Centro Cultural  
de Belém**

## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR TWO CREATIVE GRANTS**

### 1. CONTEXT

#### **About Centro de Arquitetura at MAC/CCB**

The Architecture Centre of MAC/CCB addresses contemporary issues and themes through the lens of the built environment. It explores collective forms of knowledge creation through exhibitions, residencies, fellowships, publications, and public programs. From an interdisciplinary and experimental perspective, it creates space to explore and test possibilities, aiming to materialise convivial, more-than-human, and intersectional spaces. It calls upon the multiple scales and spheres of architectural action to participate in its programming.

The present contest funds two Creative Grants which will be granted alongside the thematic line of *Interspecies*, part of the Centro de Arquitetura programme.

#### **About the exhibition *Raw Earth***

At a time when the planet's limits are under increasing strain, we look to raw earth not as a nostalgic return but as a radical proposition for contemporary architecture in Portugal. The exhibition charts a journey from raw matter to conscious action: from the physical and mineral complexity of soil, through the cultural and technical knowledge accumulated over centuries, to the contemporary practices that reclaim earth as a viable, ethical, and poetic building material. Starting from the ground beneath our feet as matter, archive, and agent, *Raw Earth* brings together scientific and historical content, prototypes, and contemporary case studies, as well as collaborative and living installations, while examining and reusing earth excavated from urban construction sites in Lisbon. The aim is to foster dialogue among professionals, researchers, and citizens; to give visibility to a quiet yet significant movement in earthen architecture and construction in Portugal; and to contribute to a broader cultural shift towards more sustainable forms of building.

### 2. OBJECT OF THE CALL

2.1. This regulation concerns a call from the Belém Cultural Centre Foundation (FCCB) to select two grants for work to be held in the Centro de Arquitetura at MAC/CCB. The call concerns the *Raw Earth* as the thematic line of the programme of the Centro de Arquitetura for 2026.

2.2. Funding will be granted for the research and execution of a project aligned with the theme and which can be exhibited at Centro de Arquitetura.

### 3. ELIGIBILITY AND EXCLUSION CONDITIONS

3.1. Candidates eligible to apply for funding include:



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- a) Individuals or groups of people – Portuguese or foreign – whose subject of study focuses on architecture;
- b) Each candidate (individual or group) may only submit one proposal to this competition;
- c) Members of a group may not submit proposals individually or be part of more than one application;
- d) In the case of projects involving multiple researchers, the responsibility of each must be indicated, and the representative (author) who will assume the role of the Beneficiary Entity must be identified as well as responsibility for the fulfilment of all obligations arising from the award of funding;
- e) All projects must be developed in Portugal, in coordination with Centro de Arquitetura of MAC/CCB.

### 3.2. Admissibility conditions:

- a) Projects must include two public presentations throughout the research period, with formats agreed upon during the creative process;
- b) Public presentation of the research project must include at least one taking place at Centro de Arquitetura, to be arranged according to the internal procedures of MAC/CCB;
- c) Research projects must adhere to the proposed schedule as outlined in the acceptance terms, following what is suggested in the call notice.
- d) A public presentation of each research project must take place until October 11, 2026.

### 3.3. Ineligible projects:

- a) Projects with incomplete documentation;
- b) Projects of a commercial nature;
- c) Projects that do not comply with the objectives and conditions of the respective contest notices and do not comply with the terms of this regulation;
- d) Individuals who are members of the jury, members of the selection committee, or members of the administrative and technical team responsible for implementing the calls;
- e) Applications from candidates (individual and/or groups) found to be unjustifiably non-compliant by the FCCB;
- j) Applications from candidates (individual and/or groups) benefiting from sustained funding from private or public institutions must be duly referenced in the application.

### 3.4. The following expenses will be subject to exclusion:

- a) Expenses incurred before the funding contract was signed;
- b) Items from the budget already covered by contributions from other funding entities;
- c) Fixed costs and current expenses related to the regular activity of research production or its support, such as water, electricity, internet consumption, etc.;
- d) Expenses related to venue rental for presentations.

## 4. INFORMATION ABOUT FUNDING



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4.1. The value of the funding is organised into two calls, each corresponding to a grant for a research project as follows:

Grant 1: €10,000.00 (ten thousand euros);

Grant 2: €10,000.00 (ten thousand euros);

4.2. Selected projects will have free access to a workspace at Centro de Arquitetura and guidance by the Chief Curator of Architecture of Centro de Arquitetura at MAC/CCB, with up to two sessions.

4.3. At least one project will be selected per call.

4.4. FCCB funding corresponds to 100% of the funded amount. The values mentioned in the call represent a single total funding grant that must include, within its scope, all costs related to the intellectual and material development of the research work, including production costs of the works (minimum 40% of the budget) as well as fees, travel, and accommodation expenses, public presentation.

4.5. Grants will be granted via bank transfer in three instalments: 30% of the total amount after signing the respective Acceptance Agreement, 60% of the total amount in the first day, at the start date of the research project and 10% upon submission of the final report.

4.6. The amount awarded by the FCCB includes all costs, charges and expenses necessary for the research, the responsibility for which is not expressly assigned to the FCCB, including the cost of accommodation, food, human resources travel, the cost of purchasing, transporting, storing and maintaining material resources, as well as any charges arising from the use of trademarks, patents or licences.

## 5. PROCESS OF APPLICATION AND DECISION

5.1. The application and decision process must adhere to the following schedule:

The application period runs from 23 March to 19 April 2026; Evaluation and Selection of applications April 20 to May 22; Decision and formalisation of contracts from May 25 and public announcement on 17 June 2026.

5.2. The selection process will begin with an initial internal screening to assess specifically the administrative and other requirements requested in the competition. This will be followed by a panel of juries: Anna Heringer (external jury member), Filipe Magalhães (Curator, MAC/CCB), Cristina Gameiro (Education and Mediation Coordinator, MAC/CCB).

5.3. For admission to the competition, applications must be submitted in Portuguese or English and electronically via a form. The following documents in Portuguese or English (PDF up to 4MB) must be attached to the application:

- Candidate CV (maximum of two A4 pages) including education, professional experience, solo and group exhibitions, art residencies, and art collections;



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- Project proposal to be developed during the fellowship period (maximum of four A4 pages), which must contain the following elements, as specified:
  - a) Ideas/concepts to develop and investigate (up to 1000 characters including spaces);
  - b) Examples of public activities you intend to carry out during the grant;
  - c) Schedule/Work Calendar of the research project;
  - d) Provisional budget of the project;
  - e) Other descriptive elements that the candidate considers relevant for the evaluation of the project based on the specified criteria, such as existing funding from private or public institutions.

5.5. In addition to the elements mentioned in the previous section, the following must also be attached to the application:

- a) Motivation Letter in Portuguese or English, including the focus of research (up to 500 words);
- b) Portfolio of the researcher(s)/author(s) through a link to a personal website or PDF document (maximum of ten pages in A4 PDF format) representative of the artistic practice of the candidate and correlated with the theme of the competition/residency to which they are applying, from the last 5 years;

5.6. Only application processes that are complete at the time of submission will be considered eligible.

5.7. MAC/CCB may request additional information about the projects.

## 6. EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF APPLICATIONS

6.1. It is the responsibility of MAC/CCB to verify the admission conditions of the applications submitted and communicate with the candidates.

6.2. Applications admitted to the competition are evaluated in two phases, an initial internal screening to assess specifically the administrative and other requirements requested in the grant followed by evaluation by a jury.

6.3. The evaluation criteria considered by the jury are as follows:

- Quality and consistency of the research project regarding its uniqueness and relevance to the Centro de Arquitetura; theoretical framework of the project substantiating the relevance of its objectives, research approach; description and definition of the research objectives and description of the activities to be developed, demonstrating their articulation and coherence;
- Alignment and coherence with the theme: Raw Earth;
- Budget accuracy of the project;
- In the case of group applications, coherence of the team and adequacy of their roles within the scope of the project; reasonableness of the amounts included in the budget forecast compared to the description of activities and justification of the amounts included; adequacy of any partnerships and support or funding obtained, their quantity and quality;



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- Recognition of the trajectory of the candidate responsible for the project; merit and relevance of the training and artistic and professional experience of the candidate; adequacy of the candidate's role to the nature of the project.
- MAC/CCB may require an interview to select the final candidates, to be held between 11 and 15 May 2026.

6.4. With the exception of point 4.3, the MAC/CCB reserves the right not to award one or both grants if the projects submitted do not meet minimum quality standards.

## 7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

7.1. The results will be publicly announced on 17 June 2026.

7.2. Upon approval by the Administration, the final decision, which is not subject to appeal, will be communicated to the winning candidates via email.

7.3. The funding grant entails the signing of an acceptance agreement, which includes the following elements:

- a) Project designation;
- b) Rights and obligations of the parties;
- c) Funding amount;
- d) Deadlines for various project elements or stages;
- e) Duration period.

## 8. OBLIGATIONS OF BENEFICIARIES

8.1. Beneficiaries must ensure the successful execution of the project, particularly in terms of fully adhering to the work plan and communicating with MAC/CCB.

8.2. Upon notification of funding granted by MAC/CCB, Beneficiary Entities must:

- a) Submit, within 10 (ten) working days, the signed Acceptance Agreement digitally via email;
- b) Provide the following supporting documents related to the artist/author and non-profit private organisation, if applicable:
  - Copy of identification document (Citizen's Card or Passport and Tax Identification Number);
  - Proof of ownership of IBAN issued by the Bank;
  - Certificates attesting to regularised status before the Tax Authority and before Social Security;
  - In the case of non-residents in Portugal, equivalent documents must be submitted.
- d) Beneficiaries are required to comply with the communication rules outlined in the regulatory provisions imposed by MAC/CCB all materials used to promote the artistic creation funded, in any formats, media, or platforms, whether analogue or digital.



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8.3. After the completion of the project, Selected Candidates must Submit, within a maximum of 20 days after the project's conclusion, a final report using the designated form, via email.

## 9. SUSPENSION OF FUNDING

9.1. MAC/CCB may cancel the funding grant for the project due to non-compliance with this Regulation, commitments made to the Museum, refusal to provide requested information, or provision of false statements.

9.2. In case of cancellation, Beneficiaries are obliged to refund the amounts received within 90 days from the date of receiving the respective notification.

9.3. Non-compliance with communication obligations may result in a reduction of funding, with the reduction determined based on the severity of the breach.

## 10. PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION

10.1. All personal data provided in the applications and all personal data of individuals listed in the application ("Data Subjects") will be processed by MAC/CCB, as the data controller, solely for the purpose of managing the allocation of funding.

10.2. MAC/CCB can be contacted regarding any issues related to data processing in this context, and for these purposes, through the contact form available at: [www.ccb.pt](http://www.ccb.pt).

10.3. Data of Data Subjects will be retained for a period necessary for the allocation and management of the funding, except where another period is required by applicable law. Some data (potentially included in final reports) will be retained indefinitely by the MAC/CCB, within the context of its activity of managing and preserving cultural, intellectual, and artistic heritage.

10.4. MAC/CCB guarantees Data Subjects the exercise of their rights regarding their data, such as the right of access, rectification, erasure, objection, restriction of processing, and portability, under applicable law.

10.5. MAC/CCB implements all necessary and appropriate security measures to protect the personal data of Data Subjects, whether the data is processed directly by MAC/CCB or by entities subcontracted by it.

10.6. The MAC/CCB may process personal data collected in this context directly and/or through subcontracted entities for this purpose, and in these circumstances, appropriate contracts will be entered into with such subcontracting entities, in accordance with the content and terms provided for by applicable law.



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10.7. For the purposes of allocating and managing funding, MAC/CCB may communicate the data of applicants to partner entities, for the management of publications and institutional communications. These entities may be located within the territory of the European Union or outside it, and in the latter case, appropriate mechanisms will be always used, under applicable law, to safeguard the security of the processed personal data.

10.8. Data Subjects may complain to the National Data Protection Commission ("CNPD") if they consider that there has been a breach of legal provisions regarding data protection by the MAC/CCB.

## 11. COMBATING CORRUPTION, MONEY LAUNDERING, AND TERRORIST FINANCING

11.1. MAC/CCB adopts measures aimed at preventing, detecting, and sanctioning acts of corruption and related offences carried out against or through it, in accordance with Decree-Law 109-E/2021, of December 9, which approved the General Regime for Corruption Prevention.

11.2. The MAC/CCB collects all necessary information for the proper fulfilment of obligations in the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing, particularly those provided for in Law No. 83/2017, of August 18.

## 12. FINAL PROVISIONS

12.1. If circumstances so require, this Call Conditions for Proposals for Creative Grants document, may undergo changes or modifications at any time, which, once communicated to the Beneficiary Entity, become immediately binding on it.

12.2. All cases not covered in this Call Conditions for Proposals for Creative Grants document, shall be resolved by the Administration of the FCCB.

12.3. In cases where MAC/CCB deems it necessary, specific information may be requested from the Beneficiary Entity, including invoices for expenses related to the items for which funding was granted.