

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

## 2024 CREATION TRANSITS

### PROGRAM TO SUPPORT RESEARCH AND CREATION

(Deadline for submitting applications: **November 12, 2023 at 11:59 pm**)

**\*\*\*Online informative session: Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 2:30 pm\*\*\***

La Central del Circ is a space for creation, research, training, rehearsal and ongoing education for circus arts professionals from all backgrounds and disciplines. It is part of the Barcelona City Council's Creation Factories network.

Our mission is to provide a framework for the development of circus arts, enhance the visibility of the sector, and exchange knowledge with other groups and organizations on a local, national and international level. We also seek to promote a broad, expanded concept of creation in circus art as an artistic field that questions and reframes various aspects of contemporary reality.

Through the Trànscits program, La Central del Circ not only supports contemporary circus creation but also the intersection of disciplines and perspectives. We believe that circus art, like any other art form, has the power and responsibility to reflect and respond to current world challenges. We deeply value research, creation and experimentation, and recognize that each artist possesses a combination of experiences and visions that enrich their creative process.

By promoting multicultural diversity and focusing on key issues such as gender equality, anti-racism and environmental awareness, La Central del Circ aims to reflect, transform, and enrich the current cultural and social landscape. We see art as a critical and transformative tool, and we see creative circus as a powerful platform for change and innovation.

This call for applications divides the residencies offered by La Central de Circ into different formats or creation transits based on two main areas:

- **RESEARCH TRANSITS** focused on research and/or experimentation, with two research residency formats: **Essential** and **Fundamental**.
- **CREATION TRANSITS** aimed at companies and groups that are currently at the start, middle or end of a creative process, with three residency formats: **Dramaturgical Guidance**, **In Studio/In Production** and **T.E.S.T.!**

- **MOBILITY TRANSITS** aimed at companies or groups that are in the middle or at the end of a creative process, so they can complete a residency at one of two European creative centres:
  - 1) La Cascade Pôle National du Cirque, in Bourg-Saint-Andéol (France).
  - 2) The Arts Printing House, in Vilnius (Lithuania).

Each category is conceived as a creative stage and responds to the needs occasioned by the various moments in a project's development.

Residencies will take place **between January and December 2024**. The dates will be decided with the companies depending on the availability of spaces.

**ATTENTION!** La Central del Circ **does not provide accommodations** for resident companies.

## **I. RESEARCH TRANSITS**

Research Transits support personal and artistic exploration without focusing on the creation of final circus pieces. Their goal is to return to the root of creation, valuing personal authorship. These residencies, whether in the early exploratory phase (like the “Essential Residency”) or at the beginning of a pre-stage of scenic writing (like the “Fundamental Residency”) are places for experimentation and discovery. Rather than preparing a presentation for the public, the goal is to create a personal document that captures artists’ essence and progress in their development as authors.

### **ESSENTIAL**

This residency format is for professional circus artists who want to engage in a research process, pause and take a breath so they can focus on an exploration of the essential steps in circus authorship, unravelling their creative selves through conscious exploration.

This residency is an opportunity for artists to immerse themselves in solitary exploration, focusing on their own bodies and circus techniques without the intervention of others. Here, there are no ties to specific devices; there’s only the artist and their technique, with complete freedom based on their perspective and authorship.

Our bodies aren’t just tools; they are also a medium for feeling and adaptation. They are the bridge between the artist and their materials, and they are constantly changing and adapting. Our main goal is not to produce a work; it’s to explore freely, without pressure, allowing each artist to go at their own pace and find their essence.

This format provides the resources to start searching and asking questions, experimenting and delving into circus language to create a better understanding without necessarily generating anything specific.

This residency is designed to be a space dedicated to introspection and reflection, with an eye toward a future where you can work and live with maximum freedom. It’s an environment where artists can recognize themselves without the traditional constraints of academic training, freeing themselves from unnecessary repetitions, rigid rules, established repertoires and deadlines. It’s an opportunity to observe and evolve in a unique way, connecting in a manner that takes into account the world around us.

One or two proposals will be selected from the submitted applications.

### ➤ WHO IS IT FOR?

This residency is for national or international individual contemporary circus artists (or duos, if the discipline requires it) who want to undertake in-depth long-term research without the expectation of productions or exhibitions.

Since this is an elementary research phase, it will be highly valued if the artist has not already worked on the themes, practices, or research subjects in question.

Beginning with their personal context and starting point, the selected artist will carry out various research periods throughout an entire year. La Central del Circ will provide support based on a calendar and a protocol determined together with the artist.

### ➤ RESIDENCY CONDITIONS

Each selected project will be allotted:

- Use of a creative space for 6 weeks (distributed among different research periods).
- A €1,230 grant<sup>1</sup> to cover meals and transportation during the residency (no invoices need to be provided). For artists with tax residency outside of Spain, the corresponding taxes will need to be deducted.
- Artistic guidance and support from La Central del Circ.

## FUNDAMENTAL

While the Essential Residency is focused on initial exploration, the Fundamental Residency focuses on the period from the beginning of the pre-writing phase to authorship. In addition to facilitating the transition from experimentation to the initiation of scenic writing, this professional space prioritizes the construction of authentic authorship.

We promote an open and receptive mindset that can lead to the development of expansive writing. Artists are encouraged to immerse themselves in their work, investigate, and establish the foundations of their writing, allowing themselves to be influenced by various “universes” or dramaturgical landscapes that can enrich the creative process.

Unlike in the initial stage, here participants must seek the support of third parties. This requirement is not just about external observation; it’s about a collaboration that goes beyond a focus on production. It’s an invitation to creative freedom, where assistance can come not only from the artistic field but also from other landscapes. We see this stage as the beginning of a narrative fabric that is built with different inspirations and visions.

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<sup>1</sup> Amount for a one-person company and a 6-week residency. The final amount will be calculated based on the number of company members participating in the residency and the number of weeks of residence performed.

Up to two proposals will be selected from the submitted applications.

➤ **WHO IS IT FOR?**

This residency is for national or international contemporary circus artists or companies who are working on initial writing through experimentation/research.

➤ **RESIDENCY CONDITIONS**

Each selected project will be allotted:

- Use of a creative space for 6 weeks. Furthermore, for one week the company will be provided a smaller space to serve as an office for desk work.
- A grant of at least €1,230<sup>2</sup> to cover meals and transportation during the residency (no invoices need to be provided). For artists with tax residency outside of Spain, the corresponding taxes will need to be deducted.

At the end of the residency, participants will be given an opportunity to share their research in an open rehearsal or another format.

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<sup>2</sup> Amount for a one-person company and a 6-week residency. The final amount will be calculated based on the number of company members participating in the residency and the number of weeks of residence performed.

## **II. CREATION TRANSITS**

Creation Transits support professional artistic processes focused on the creation of a contemporary circus piece. This is done through the following formats, which address different stages of the creative process.

### **IN STUDIO/IN PRODUCTION**

#### **➤ WHO IS IT FOR?**

The In Studio/In Production residencies are for professional circus artists, groups and companies who are starting or already working on a new medium- or long-format creation (over 20 minutes).

These residencies are primarily aimed at Catalan or Spanish companies. Nevertheless, if the project is relevant, companies from other European countries can also apply.

Up to 5 proposals will be selected from the submitted applications.

#### **➤ RESIDENCY CONDITIONS**

Each selected project will be allotted:

- Use of a creative space for 6 (non-consecutive) weeks.
- A €1,230 grant<sup>3</sup> to cover meals and transportation during the residency (no invoices need to be provided). For artists with tax residency outside of Spain, the corresponding taxes will need to be deducted.
- Artistic guidance and support from La Central del Circ.

At the end of the residency, the participating company will be able to share their work through one (or more than one) open rehearsals. They will have the option of inviting the professionals from La Central del Circ's *Espais Amb Complicitats*, a group of organizations, facilities and festivals interested in promoting and hosting contemporary circus pieces.

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<sup>3</sup> Quantity for a one-person company and a 6-week residency. The final amount will be calculated based on the number of members in the participating company and the number of weeks in the residency.

## **DRAMATURGICAL GUIDANCE**

This format aims to address the need to **define the dramaturgical approach of pieces in the creative process**. Discussing dramaturgy in circus means approaching an art enriched by cultural and historical elements that go far beyond simply displaying physical skills. It's about intertwining physical and discursive actions to create a coherent, cohesive narrative, supported by research by the author that integrates artistic precepts to endow the piece with a unique, distinctive expression.

This residency is characterized by dramaturgical guidance that helps to refine personal authorship, define stage writing and/or infuse the creation with an artistic dimension. This guidance will be provided by an individual chosen by the company who is a professional in this field and is external to the project.

One proposal will be selected from the submitted applications.

### **➤ WHO IS IT FOR?**

This residency is for national or international professional contemporary circus artists who have a creative process underway that they would like to improve with external dramaturgical guidance.

It is focused on projects that are in an initial phase, although more advanced processes that would benefit from a different perspective can also be submitted.

### **➤ RESIDENCY CONDITIONS**

The selected project will be allotted:

- Use of a creative space for 2 weeks. Furthermore, for one week the company will be provided a smaller space to serve as an office for desk work.
- A grant of at least €510<sup>4</sup> to cover meals and transportation during the residency (no invoices need to be provided). For artists with tax residency outside of Spain, the corresponding taxes will need to be deducted.
- A €500 dramaturgical grant to cover the fees of an external professional.

Artistic guidance and support from La Central del Circ.

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<sup>4</sup> *Quantity for a one-person company and a 6-week residency. The final amount will be calculated based on the number of members in the participating company and the number of weeks in the residency.*

### **T.E.S.T.! (Technical Sensation Stage Flow)**

This format aims to make the resources available in La Central del CIRC's staging room available to the selected artistic team to provide their piece with a first opportunity for staging.

One proposal will be selected from the submitted applications.

#### ➤ **WHO IS IT FOR?**

This residency is aimed at national or international professional circus companies who are reaching the end of their creative process and are planning the official premiere of their show in 2024 or early 2025. It is primarily aimed at Catalan and Spanish companies, but companies from other European countries can also apply.

The creative process must be quite advanced; as a result, applicants must include a video over 40 minutes long.

#### ➤ **RESIDENCY CONDITIONS**

The residency will take place during the two weeks before the performance:

- From April 8 to 12, 2024
- From April 15 to 19, 2024

The public presentation will be held on Friday, April 19, 2024.

The selected company will be allotted:

- A 2-week technical residency in the Staging Room (the company will bring its own lighting and, if necessary, sound staff).

*NB. The residency lasts for 2 weeks to provide space for both rehearsals and lighting design/setup. The company will need to coordinate the setup days with La Central's technician before the residency.*

- Technical support for the assembly and disassembly of circus equipment (in no case will this replace the company's own technical staff, which is a mandatory requirement). The company will participate in setting up and taking down the materials, which will take place on Friday night after the presentation.
- Support in promoting the performance among professionals (sector and programmers), press, and the general public, as well as logistical support (reservation management, welcoming the audience, etc.).



- A €810 grant<sup>5</sup> to cover meals and transportation during the residency (no invoices need to be provided). For artists with tax residency outside of Spain, the corresponding taxes will need to be deducted.

The proposal must conform to the technical possibilities of La Central del Circ's Staging Room, with a frontal or circular format.

The room typically has a capacity of 100 people.

The company can choose between free admission, billing or pay-what-you-want.

If the call for applications is declared vacant, La Central del Circ reserves the right to offer this residency to whatever project it deems appropriate.

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<sup>5</sup> *Amount for a company of a person. The final amount will be linked to the number of participating members.*

### **III. MOBILITY TRANSITS**

In 2015, La Central del Circ launched a residency exchange program to promote cultural exchanges between countries. This format allows local companies to develop part of their creation in a foreign sociocultural environment while also expanding their international network.

Originally, this initiative focused on collaboration with France through La Cascade and La Verrerie. However, the Arts Printing House in Vilnius also joined the project in 2021. This connection with Lithuania enriches Catalan companies, providing immersion in a different cultural context and strengthening European ties. Each residency enables active collaboration with local professionals and artists, enhancing the experience and expanding professional networks.

The dates of the residency will be as follows:

- Arts Printing House (Lithuania): period between 24<sup>th</sup> of June and 25<sup>th</sup> of August, 2024.
- La Cascade (France): from October 15 to 25, 2024.

### **RESIDENCY EXCHANGE WITH LA CASCADE – FRANCE**

[La Cascade, Pôle National du Cirque](#) in Bourg-Saint-Andéol (France), is dedicated to the teaching, production, and dissemination of circus arts. This centre is a reference in the promotion and development of contemporary circus in France. Throughout the year, La Cascade offers various programs and activities, including artist residencies, workshops, training, and public shows.

One proposal will be selected from the submitted applications.

#### **➤ WHO IS IT FOR?**

This residency is for **professional circus companies from Catalonia** that are in an advanced creative phase. The artist must be developing a **piece for public spaces (the street, outdoors, *in situ*, etc)**. Furthermore, the artist must commit to providing a return to the community of La Central del Circ.

#### **➤ RESIDENCY CONDITIONS**

The selected artists will be allotted:

- A 2-week residency previously accorded with the centre.

- A grant of at least 630€<sup>6</sup> to cover meal expenses.

Transportation and accommodation expenses will be covered by the creative centres involved. If the call for applications is declared vacant, La Central del Circ reserves the right to offer this residency to whatever project it deems appropriate.

## **RESIDENCY EXCHANGE WITH THE ARTS PRINTING HOUSE – LITHUANIA**

The [Arts Printing House](#), located in Vilnius (Lithuania), is a contemporary centre for performing arts known for its openness. Housed in a building that was once a printing house, this centre fosters innovative art for current and aspiring creators, providing an environment where ideas can flow freely and where room is left for new stimuli and inspirations.

One proposal will be selected from the submitted applications.

### ➤ WHO IS IT FOR?

This residency is for professional circus companies from Catalonia. The artist must commit to providing a return to the community of La Central del Circ.

### ➤ RESIDENCY CONDITIONS

The selected artist will be allotted:

- A 2-week residency previously accorded with the centre.
- A grant of at least 630€<sup>7</sup> to cover meal expenses.
- Transportation and accommodation expenses will be covered by the creative centres involved.

If the call for applications is declared vacant, La Central del Circ reserves the right to offer this residency to whatever project it deems appropriate.

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<sup>6</sup> Quantity for a one-person company. The final amount will be calculated based on the number of participating members.

<sup>7</sup> Quantity for a one-person company. The final amount will be calculated based on the number of participating members.

## APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

The application must be completed **online** at the following links:

- [RESEARCH](#) (Essential, Fundamental).
- [CREATION](#) (In Studio/In Production, T.E.S.T.!, Dramaturgical Guidance).
- [MOBILITY](#) (Exchange with France/Lithuania)

The same company can apply to multiple categories as long as this is coherent (the same project cannot apply to both Research and Creation since they are different stages of the creative process).

For more information about any of the formats or to inquire about grant amounts, contact Daphné Malherbe, head of research and creation support at La Central del Circ, at [creacio@lacentraldelcirc.cat](mailto:creacio@lacentraldelcirc.cat).

To prepare your application, contact Víctor Bobadilla, artistic coordinator of La Central del Circ, at [coordinacioart@lacentraldelcirc.cat](mailto:coordinacioart@lacentraldelcirc.cat).

**Deadline for submitting projects: November 12, 2023, 11:59 pm**  
*Results are expected to be announced starting on December 11, 2023*

Project selection will be the responsibility of the artistic council of La Central del Circ, a group of individuals external to the team with extensive artistic experience and/or knowledge of the circus community, together with the artistic coordinator of La Central del Circ.

Special attention will be paid to the artistic references of the submitted project, social responsibility values (with a focus on gender, ecology, and diversity), original and critical perspectives, the presence of independent and liberated authorship, and artistic coherence and relevance.

In cases where the committee deems it appropriate, they may propose the Micro-residencies format (short residencies without financial contribution) to certain applicants or declare any category of the call for applications vacant.

### La Central del Circ

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Organitza:



La Central del Circ és una iniciativa de:



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