

Open Call for the Artist's Residency Program in the Frame of Beyond DisDance Festival 2026

What is Beyond DisDance?

Beyond DisDance is a festival focused on the attempt to provide more equitable participation and access for people with disabilities in the era of performing arts.

It is organized annually since the past five years by Ipogia Skini Association, mainly at Synergeio and other venues in Limassol. The festival's main goal is to create a safer environment for people with any form of disability who are interested in participating in a performance act, either as artists on stage or as audience members.

What is the role of the residency program within the festival?

The residency program complements the ecosystem of the local and international works that are part of the curated Program of the next Festival version. It aims to strengthen Cypriot creation of accessible and inclusive works. The residency is intended to provide a framework for education and experimentation with accessibility practices in the performing arts.

Guidance, practical tools, rehearsal space, technical support, and financial support will be offered to individual artists or groups of artists, with and without disabilities, who will be selected to participate in the program.

The goal is to create new or in-progress works by applying tools and practices related to accessibility and inclusion in performance. Accessibility practices are not intended to limit the work or the artistic practice, but rather to create a dialogue with them in order to ultimately expand and inform them in a meaningful way.

Within this framework, artistic research, familiarization, and the practical application of accessibility tools are considered more important than the goal of presenting a completed artistic work. Artists will receive adequate support to explore and ultimately decide what to apply and how, depending on the relationship they wish to build with their target audience.

Who is this open call addressed to?

The open call is addressed to individuals or groups, with or without disabilities, who are active in Cyprus in the fields of contemporary dance, performance art, interdisciplinary arts, or any other art form centered around the body.

Applicants should be interested in the political and artistic dimensions of inclusion and access in the arts.

Terms & Conditions

- Proposals must concern either in-progress or new works that will be developed during the residency period.
- Works may be short, medium-length, or durational.
- The works will be presented in December 2026 at Synergeio or Apothikes Papadaki in Limassol as part of the 6th Beyond DisDance Festival. The exact date will be decided in consultation with all involved parties.
- If you envision your work in a public space, please justify this need in the artistic concept you submit (while always considering the implementation of accessibility).
- Selection will be made by the Festival curator, Eleftheria Sokratous.
- Proposals must be submitted electronically to info@synergeio.org with the subject line: "Beyond DisDance / Application" no later than 19/06/2026 at 23:59.
- Applicants will receive a response via email within two weeks after the submission deadline.
- In order to gain a clearer understanding of your project, shortlisted artists will be invited to a 30-minute online or in-person interview before the final selection. In this case, an appointment will be arranged according to your availability and your access inquiries.
- For further information or clarification, you may call +357 99784949 or email info@synergeio.org. Availability hours: weekdays, 9:00–14:00.
- Applications are accepted in both Greek, and English.
- If written language presents a barrier, applicants may submit their application in spoken form or in sign language via a video link.
- Presentations of the works may also be in Greek, English, or Cypriot Greek Sign Language and the festival will provide adequate tools of access for the audience.
- In the case of a group work directed by one creator, the creator must provide equitable payment to all participating members, regardless of any disability status or prior experience.
- Selected artists/groups are required to attend ALL mandatory workshops related to accessibility in the cultural sector. Dates will be arranged according to the availability of both parties.
- Priority will be given to proposals submitted by persons with disabilities, as well as by individuals or groups whose artistic practice and work focus on accessibility, inclusion, and the participation of persons with disabilities, or who can demonstrate a meaningful connection to the shared struggles and rights of persons with disabilities.

What is offered?

- Basic knowledge on accessibility and inclusion in the arts through free workshops conducted alongside the residency program.
 - Personal guidance in creative accessibility.
 - Technical support and free use of the venue's technical equipment (stage lights, sound console, projector, microphones).
 - HD photo documentation.
 - Basic video documentation of the final work for archival purposes.
 - Artist fee* (the amount must include fees for all collaborators, with and without disabilities, as well as any production expenses)
 - Solo work: €1,000 (1 performer on stage)
 - Duet: €1,500 (2 performers on stage)
 - Group work: up to €2,500 (3 performers on stage or more)
- *Only 3 or 4 applicants can be selected. The final number of selection is decided based on the available budget.
- A small extra amount for costumes and props (expenses must be approved in advance with the production team).
 - Rehearsal hosting at Synergeio (15 hours per month, maximum 60 hours per project), subject to space availability.
 - Basic promotion and publicity through the Festival's communication channels.
 - Visibility through the structure of the programme
 - A number of mentoring hours from a mentor selected jointly by the artist and the organizers.

What do we expect from the selected artists?

- To connect with members of the disability community in order to create opportunities for their involvement in the work. If you are unsure how to do so and you need contacts from us, please contact us.
- To prepare audiences for the artistic outcome through a public presentation (small workshop, discussion, presentation, or another proposed activity) that will take place no later than November at Synergeio.
- To remain consistent with deadlines for submitting required information related to the promotion and the final presentation (a contract will be signed).

- To promote and advertise their work on social media (in the most accessible way possible), in addition to the publicity provided by the organisers.
- If using set pieces/scenography, to ensure they are easy and quick to install and dismantle.

Applications must include ALL of the following information:

- Name of artist or artistic group
- Contact phone number
- Contact email
- Attached CVs or portfolios of collaborators
- Website or links to previous works (if available)
- Title of proposed work
- Estimated duration
- Please describe in detail:
 1. Your proposal, including the artistic concept and methodology. (Maximum 500 words)
 2. How the proposed artistic approach may respond to the framework of inclusion and/or accessibility. (Maximum 500 words)
 3. How you envision the final presentation format: performance / installation / participatory sharing / other. (Maximum 300 words)
 4. Which audience you consider central to your proposal and how you intend to approach them. (Maximum 300 words)
 5. What action you would like to propose before the final presentation, and how you believe it will prepare the audience for the work and prepare you for the audience you wish to engage with— including reference to accessibility and how it will be provided.(Maximum 500 words)
 6. Do you want to propose a mentor/conversation partner? If yes, please name the person and artistic field they come from and explain shortly why you consider this person adequate to accompany your creative process.
 7. If you are an artist with a disability, please describe your accessibility needs. (Maximum 200 words)