



kartzin

non-commercial space for
socially engaged arts.

OPEN CALL

Artistic Program Proposals | *Kartzin Socially Engaged Art Lab* by *Visual Voices*

The Kartzin SEA Lab invites proposals from creatives across disciplines to present their work at Aishylou 83, Nicosia, as part of its 2026–2027 artistic program.

Application: [LINK](#)

Deadline: 15/03/2026

Kartzin [καρΰ / karşı] is a Cypriot adverb that speaks to positioning, encounter, and dialogue.

The Kartzin SEA Lab is a non-commercial cultural infrastructure dedicated to socially engaged arts as a critical steward of freedom of expression. It is conceived as a multilingual “space of appearance” for emerging artists: a place for experimentation, public encounter, and critical artistic practice beyond the constraints of formal institutional frameworks. It provides space for works that challenge dominant narratives, address pressing societal issues, and invite dialogue across cultural, political, generational, and community boundaries. Through exhibitions, performances, concerts, work-in-progress presentations, a colloquium for the socially engaged arts and the forum for art-informed policy making, Kartzin cultivates a community who works at the intersection of art, society, and the public realm.

Kartzin is implemented with the support of the Commonwealth Foundation.

Who can apply:

Emerging artists and collectives based in Cyprus. We welcome proposals from visual artists, performers, musicians, designers, writers and interdisciplinary practitioners. We define “emerging” as being at an early stage of an artistic trajectory, regardless of age or formal education. Kartzin particularly encourages applications from artists who face structural barriers to visibility and resources.

What we offer:

Selected artists will showcase their work at the Kartzin SEA Lab and offer an artist talk within the framework of the Kartzin Colloquium for the Socially Engaged Arts.

Selected proposals will receive:

1. Artist fee: €300
2. Exhibition Production support coordinated by VV.
3. Communications and visibility support
4. Connection to a wider community of practice in the socially engaged arts

All projects are presented in dialogue with the Kartzin SEA Lab team and form part of a curated public program.

Important Note

This open call is not an artist residency or artistic production grant. Kartzin focuses on creating opportunities for the public presentation of artistic work. We therefore welcome proposals for projects that already exist or are well underway and will be ready for public presentation within the proposed timeframe.

Selection process

Proposals will be reviewed by the Visual Voices team. Projects will be assessed based on:

1. Artistic quality
2. Critical engagement with contemporary societal questions
3. Contribution to diversity of voices and practices
4. Feasibility within the Kartzin context

For questions, contact: contact@visual-voices.org

VISUAL VOICES (VV) is a non-profit organisation based in Nicosia, Cyprus. Since 2018, we support socially engaged art practices and initiatives in Cyprus and internationally with a focus on community development and peacebuilding. Our vision is to empower artists to tackle urgent challenges of our time, creating work with both local impact and transnational resonance. Our ultimate ambition is to build a global community of organizations and practitioners who recognize the power of arts-based interventions for societal transformation. Our mission is to create accessible spaces for artistic experimentation, promote multicomunal collaboration, and stimulate public dialogue. Our approach is based on radical participatory practices, interdisciplinary and intersectoral collaborations.

Our work revolves around three intersecting pillars:

- Artist-focused programs that support and empower artists by providing them with resources, mentorship, and professional development opportunities.
- Non-commercial platforms of expression that value collaboration, recognition, pluralism, and accessibility.
- Community partnerships that unite artists, activists, CSOs, local stakeholders, and diverse publics to address shared concerns through arts-based participatory methodologies.