

EMB's Artist-in-Residence Programme 'EMBracing the Ocean' – Application Information

Background information

The European Marine Board (EMB) is looking for two new artists for the 2023 – 2024 edition of our 'EMBracing the Ocean' artist-in-residence programme. As we enter the third year of the [UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development](#), the need to connect people to our Ocean is more important than ever. The EMBracing the Ocean programme provides grants for creative individuals/groups to co-create artwork in collaboration with Ocean scientists to inspire wide reaching societal change for Ocean sustainability. The goal of this programme is to expand societies' understanding of the Ocean's value, as well as the urgency of ensuring its health and resilience now and into the future.

The Ocean covers 70% of the surface of our planet, forms 95% of the biosphere in terms of volume and is essential for supporting life. The Ocean regulates global climate systems and has absorbed one third of excess carbon dioxide emitted into our atmosphere since the industrial revolution, as well as the majority of Earth's excess heat. It provides potential for a huge source of renewable energy, coastal protection, recreation and cultural well-being, as well as being an important source of food and medicine. These benefits that the Ocean provides are dependent on the maintenance of Ocean physical, chemical, geological and biological processes, healthy and resilient marine ecosystems, and a shift in human activities towards sustainable practices.

The Ocean is too often out of sight and out of mind, and is increasingly under threat from human activities including global population growth, pollution (including CO₂, nutrients, plastics, noise), climate change, and over-fishing, causing the widespread loss and degradation of marine ecosystems and biodiversity. However, there are solutions which we must embrace and scale-up to overcome global sustainability challenges. If we wish to ensure a sustainable future for our Ocean and the benefits it provides for society, we must change the way we interact with our Ocean. This includes the conservation and restoration of key marine ecosystems such as mangroves, coral reefs, and seagrass; reducing marine pollution; sustainably managing our fisheries and other resource use; and strengthening empathy towards our Ocean.

The EMBracing the Ocean programme is part of the EMB's contribution to the [United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development](#) (Ocean Decade, 2021-2030). The Ocean Decade is a global movement bringing together scientists, governments, business, philanthropists, non-governmental organisations and society to catalyse transformative Ocean science solutions for sustainable development, connecting people and the Ocean. The EMBracing the Ocean programme contributes to the Ocean Decade societal challenge of 'an inspiring and engaging Ocean', where society understands and values the Ocean in relation to human wellbeing and sustainable development. To ensure the effectiveness of scientific solutions developed within the Ocean Decade, society's relationship with the Ocean must change.

The EMBracing the Ocean programme additionally supports the goals of the [EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters](#) (Mission Ocean) to protect and restore marine ecosystems and biodiversity, prevent and eliminate pollution in our Ocean and to make the sustainable blue economy carbon-neutral and circular. Public mobilisation and engagement are key enablers of the Mission Ocean, in which art plays an important role.

The arts are a powerful way to impact society and achieve societal change through conveying human values, ideas, and visions; developing social, cultural, and individual identities; offering innovative

approaches to communication and dialogue around complex issues; distilling information; and producing new knowledge and insights. Like scientific research, art has the power to make the invisible visible. A key principle of the EMBracing the Ocean programme is co-creation of work between artists and their scientific collaborators. Co-creation is the process of creating something new together while exchanging and reshaping ideas. The artists and scientists are considered equal and each side benefits and learns from the process. The goal of co-created art-science projects should go beyond making complex scientific topics more accessible to the public, but also for the scientists to gain new insights into their work by collaborating with artists.

Who can apply?

The programme is open to creative individuals/groups from a wide variety of artistic disciplines. Both emerging and established artists will be considered by the committee. Prior experience in co-creation with scientists and/or communities and working on sustainability topics is desirable. Applications are welcome from across the world, and from a wide range of creative disciplines, including but not limited to:

- visual arts (e.g. drawing, painting, filmmaking, photography, sculpting, digital arts, installation art);
- literary arts (e.g. fiction, drama, poetry, storytelling);
- performing arts (e.g. dance, music, theatre); and
- traditional and indigenous arts.

The grant

Two awardees will be selected for the 2023 – 2024 programme and each will be awarded a grant of €10,000. The grant will be paid periodically throughout the 12-month residency on completion of planned deliverables. The awardees can use the grant to cover costs according to the needs of their work e.g. artist fees, materials, expenses, travel, promotional materials, and campaigns, and these should be outlined in the provisional budget submitted as part of the application. The residency will take place remotely, but may include visits to collaborating researchers and/or participation in events. Any potential or secured co-funding must be clearly highlighted in the application and budget. Any work that is dependent on co-funding must be in addition to the core work produced for the EMBracing the Ocean programme.

Engagement with Ocean science community

The awardees are expected to co-create their work with Ocean scientists (i.e. active scientists with a contract at a research organisation/institute/university). This engagement must include:

- engaging with one or more Ocean scientists. At least one scientific collaborator must be contacted by applicants and confirm that they agree to collaborate on the proposed project prior to artists submitting their application. The EMB Secretariat may assist awardees to identify additional scientists and stakeholders relevant for their work if needed;
- presenting and discussing work at EMB meetings and/or other Ocean events (online/in-person); and
- discussing ideas and plans for work and public engagement with EMBracing the Ocean Committee (online).

Other engagement activities may include but are not limited to:

- attending relevant events and meetings to become more familiar with Ocean science topics of interest (online/in-person); and
- engaging with the [Ocean Decade Global Stakeholder Forum](#) to promote the artists' work and engage with the wider Ocean science community.

Expected output

By the end of the 12-month residency, the awardees must have produced tangible result(s) e.g. a new piece of work, or series of work, through a two-way co-design process with Ocean scientists. This may build on the artists previous work, but there must be an element of novelty that is co-developed with the scientist(s). The work can focus on any Ocean science topic relevant for sustainable development, including but not limited to those covered by the marine science-policy work of the EMB, and/or wider activities within the framework of the Ocean Decade, and should aim to **connect people to our Ocean by raising societal awareness of the chosen topic and inspire behavioural change for a sustainable future.** To achieve these goals, the work of the awardees is expected to reach as wide an audience as possible e.g. a wide range of citizens and achieving impact beyond local communities, preferably at an international level. The work should also have longevity of societal impact beyond the 12-month residency. Solutions for overcoming language barriers related to the work should also be considered. The final work produced will be owned by the awardee, with an agreement that the EMB can use the work as appropriate after the end of the residency. The awardees will be required to liaise with the EMB Secretariat to disseminate updates on EMB social media channels, website, documents, and newsletters.

Timeline

The awardees will begin their residency in spring 2023. Applicants should submit a provisional monthly timeline for their work as part of their application including initial ideas of the activities they expect to carryout. If applicable, this can include an initial exploratory phase of maximum two months where the awardee spends time to become more familiar with Ocean science for sustainable development, and consolidates ideas for their work in partnership with scientific collaborators. The final timeline and the final budget should be agreed with the EMB Ocean Committee within the first two months of the residency. Awardees must deliver short quarterly progress reports to the EMB Secretariat.

Application Procedure

Applications should be submitted via the [application form](#) before **midnight Central European Time on Monday 20 February 2023**. In case of any technical issues please email info@marineboard.eu.

Applicants will need to upload one PDF/rar/zip file (max. 4 MB) including:

1. Summary of proposal (max. 150 words);
2. Description of the proposed work, including topic(s) of interest, co-creation approach, and scientist(s) the applicant will collaborate with (include name, affiliation, and link to webpage) (max. 500 words);
3. Initial ideas for communication, public engagement and impact, including preliminary communication and public engagement plan, plan to achieve impact (including longevity of impact), target group(s) of citizens and how they will be reached, links to cultural organisations (max. 150 words);

4. Description of applicant's creative practice to date, including societal reach, impact, hyperlinks to relevant work (max. 150 words);
5. Previous collaboration with scientists, or motivation for collaboration with scientists; and previous engagement with sustainability topics, or motivation for engaging with sustainability topics (max. 150 words);
6. Provisional monthly timeline including types of activities expected to be carried out;
7. Provisional budget including e.g. artist fees, materials, expenses, travel, promotional materials, campaigns;
8. Letter of agreement from scientific collaborator(s) that they will engage in the project; and
9. Curriculum vitae.

In addition, applicants may submit their portfolio with examples of previous work (1 PDF/MP3/wav/rar/zip upload, max. 6 MB).

Selection Process and Criteria

Candidates will be shortlisted by the EMBracing the Ocean Committee. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for online interviews to be held in early April 2023.

The following criteria will be used for scoring applications, and applicants should be sure to address these clearly in their application materials:

- quality of provisional ideas, timeline, and budget;
- relevance and quality of previous work (based on portfolio, CV, description of creative practice, motivational statement);
- potential for reaching as wide an audience as possible (based on communication, public engagement and impact plan); and
- potential for raising awareness of the societal value of the Ocean and for inspiring behavioural change towards sustainability, including longevity after the residency (based on communication and public engagement plan, motivational statement).

When selecting awardees in relation to each other and in relation to previous EMBracing the Ocean artists-in-residence, the Committee will also ensure a diversity in activities, art forms, target audiences, topics of interest, as well as gender and geographic location of the artists. In case of a conflict of interest between Committee members and applicants, the application in question will not be evaluated by the Committee member with a conflict of interest.

Useful Resources

EMBracing the Ocean webpage:

<https://www.marineboard.eu/emb-artist-residence-programme>

EMB Publications:

<https://www.marineboard.eu/publication/EMB-publications>

EMB YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcBGY9IckBVRijeW-0a1CsQ>

EMB Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/EMarineBoard>

EMB Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/emarineboard/>

Second World Ocean Assessment (WOAII):

<https://www.un.org/regularprocess/woa2launch>

UN Ocean Decade Publications:

<https://www.oceandecade.org/decade-publications/>