

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

Aims and objectives

The Ocean, covering 70% of the surface of our planet and forming 95% of the biosphere, is indispensable for supporting life on our planet. The Ocean plays a huge role in regulating global climate systems and has absorbed one third of carbon dioxide emitted into our atmosphere, 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 importance 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 sustainability.

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 atmospheric pollution, nutrients, plastics, noise), climate change, and over-fishing, causing the widespread loss and degradation of marine ecosystems and biodiversity. The next ten years will be crucial for ensuring a sustainable future for the Ocean and the benefits it provides for humanity, and to do this we must change the way that we interact with the Ocean. We must embrace and scale-up the many solutions that the Ocean provides to overcome global sustainability challenges. 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 much more.

The [United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development](#) (2021-2030) is a global movement bringing together scientists, governments, business, philanthropists, and non-governmental organizations to mobilize the science we need for the future we want. As part of the [European Marine Board](#) (EMB)'s contribution to the Ocean Decade, EMB's artist-in-residence programme 'EMBracing the Ocean' provides grants for creative individuals to inspire wide reaching societal change for Ocean sustainability by expanding societies' understanding of the Ocean's value, as well as the urgency of ensuring its health and resilience now and into the future. If we are to ensure the effectiveness of scientific solutions developed within the Ocean Decade, society's relationship with the Ocean must change. Creative communication and the arts are powerful ways to impact society and achieve societal change due to their role in 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.

This 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.

Who can apply?

The programme is open to all creative individuals with demonstrated competency in co-creation through engagement with scientists and/or communities, and with prior experience with sustainability topics. Applications are welcome from across the world from any creative discipline including but not limited to:

- creative communications (e.g. broadcast media, journalism, public relations);
- visual arts (e.g. drawing, painting, filmmaking, photography, sculpting, digital arts);
- literary arts (e.g. fiction, drama, poetry);

- performing arts (e.g. dance, music, theatre); and
- installation art.

The grant

Two awardees will be selected for the 2022 – 2023 programme and each awarded €10,000, to be paid periodically quarterly 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.

Engagement with Ocean science community

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

- engaging with one or more Ocean scientists. The EMB Secretariat will assist awardees to identify and connect with scientists and other stakeholders relevant for their work, if needed;
- engaging with the [Ocean Decade Global Stakeholder Forum](#) to make connections with Ocean scientists and wider stakeholders;
- present and discuss work at EMB meetings and/or other Ocean events (online/in-person depending on budget, relevance of meeting and COVID situation); and
- discuss ideas and plans for work and public engagement with EMBracing the Ocean Committee (online).

Other engagement activities may include but is not limited to:

- attending relevant events and meetings to become more familiar with Ocean science topics of interest (online/in-person depending on relevance of meeting(s), budget and COVID situation).

Expected output

By the end of the 12-month residency, the awardees will be expected to have produced and disseminated a new piece of work, or series of work, on a topic of their choice through a two-way synergistic co-design process with Ocean scientists relevant for the topic of interest. The work should 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 **raise 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 a variety of citizens as possible, preferably achieving impact in locations beyond local communities and connecting with people’s experiences of the Ocean in other locations and at an international level. The work should also have longevity of societal impact on timescales beyond the 12-month the 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 the week of 25 April 2022, and should complete and disseminate their work within 12 months. Applicants should submit a provisional monthly timeline for their work as part of their application including the types of activities they expect to carryout, details if applicable, milestones, and potential deliverables. 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 relevant scientists. Deliverables and the final budget should be agreed with the EMBracing the Ocean Committee within the first two months of the residency. Awardees are expected to 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 21 February 2021**. 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:

- a description of applicant's creative practice to date, highlighting previous engagement with scientists and/or communities, relevance of previous work to sustainability, as well as societal reach and impact of previous work. This should include hyperlinks to relevant work/website (max. 500 words);
- a motivational statement, including why the applicant would like to receive the grant (max. 500 words);
- initial ideas of the work the applicant proposes to create during the residency including topic(s) of interest, ideas for the co-creation process, and scientists they would like to engage with if already identified (include name, affiliation, and link to webpage) (max. 500 words);
- initial ideas for communication and public engagement, including how the applicant plans to impact as wide an audience as possible preferably beyond local communities, target group(s) of citizens and why, links to cultural organizations that can help to reach target audience(s), the expected longevity of the impact of the work, and details of the applicant's existing professional network and social media channels including links and numbers of followers (max. 500 words);
- provisional monthly timeline for residency including the types of activities the applicant expects to carryout, details if applicable, milestones, and potential deliverables;
- provisional budget including e.g. artist fees, materials, expenses, travel, promotional materials, and campaigns; and
- a 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 EMB's EMBracing the Ocean Committee. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for online interviews during the week of **4 – 8 April 2022**.

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

- relevance and quality of previous work (based on portfolio, CV, description of creative practice, motivational statement);
- quality of provisional ideas, timeline, and budget;
- potential for reaching as wide an audience as possible (based on communication and public engagement ideas); 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, the Committee will also ensure a diversity in activities, art forms, target audiences, topics of interest, as well as gender and geographic location. 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

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>

Second World Ocean Assessment (WOAII):

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

UN Ocean Decade Publications:

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