

# FEDORA PRIZES BIENNALE

Application guidelines

2022-2023

*“The world’s largest opera and ballet  
competition in the world”*

Das Erste – Europamagazin



Co-funded by the  
Creative Europe Programme  
of the European Union

**FEDORA**

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## ABOUT FEDORA & THE FEDORA PRIZES BIENNALE

FEDORA – The European Circle of Philanthropists of Opera and Ballet is a non-profit organisation that was created in Paris in 2013 under the presidency of Jérôme-François Zieseniss. Paying tribute to Rolf Liebermann, FEDORA is committed to contributing to the renewal of opera and dance by supporting artists of today while reaching out to younger and more diverse audiences.

We build new complementary funding models to support innovative and artistic opera and dance co-productions created by emerging artists and staged by opera houses, dance companies and festivals across Europe and beyond. As a unique European ecosystem enabler in the opera and dance sector, we federate key stakeholders: emerging artists and their new works, a network of cultural organisations, European public institutions, a European philanthropic community and diverse audiences. Over the past years, FEDORA has invested €1.5 million of private funding in 17 new opera and dance projects, involving 67 co-producing cultural organisations, with performances attended by over 500,000 people, hosted by 20 countries.

**The FEDORA Prizes** have been encouraging the next generation of talent to bring the unexpected to the stage and international audiences. The four established prizes (Opera, Dance, Education and Digital) support cutting-edge artistic projects that promote international collaboration, creativity, social integration and intercultural dialogue, as well as digital innovation. As of 2021, the Prizes will be awarded every two years to promising artists and teams of collaborating cultural organisations within the frame of **the new FEDORA Prizes Biennale**.



## FEDORA Opera Prize



€100,000

The FEDORA Opera Prize awards productions that reimagine opera for the 21st century:

- Encourages the rethinking of how operas are created, produced, and delivered
- Nurtures innovation and creativity of opera by supporting new experimental opera creations created by promising teams of emerging artists with the ambition to reach international audiences
- Collaborating with Opera Europa and an independent jury expert panel to guarantee a professional evaluation and selection process

## FEDORA – VAN CLEEF & ARPELS Dance Prize



€100,000

The FEDORA – VAN CLEEF & ARPELS Dance Prize awards productions that reimagine dance for the 21st century:

- Encourages the rethinking of how ballets are created, produced, and delivered
- Nurtures innovation and creativity of dance by supporting new experimental dance creations created by promising teams of emerging artists with the ambition to reach international audiences
- Collaborating with Opera Europa and an independent jury expert panel to guarantee a professional evaluation and selection process

## FEDORA Education Prize

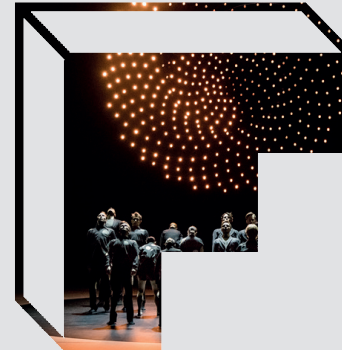


€50,000

The FEDORA Education Prize is awarded to innovative projects encouraging the involvement of new and wider audiences while fostering social integration amongst the participants:

- Supports innovative educational opera and dance projects targeting new audiences
- Advocates new access to opera and dance while encouraging the involvement of local communities and underprivileged audiences to boost social emotional learning, mutual understanding and respect in today's society
- Collaborating with RESEO and an independent jury expert panel to guarantee a professional evaluation and selection process

## FEDORA Digital Prize



€50,000

The FEDORA Digital Prize advocates new ways of artistic expression and access to opera and dance through digital innovation:

- Encourages artistic innovation in opera and dance through digital experimentation
- Advocates new ways of interactions with audiences through digital tools and performance
- Promotes interactions across different media and stimulates new collaborative approaches through digital innovation
- Triggers interdisciplinary dialogue and the sharing of best practice between sectors
- Collaborating with IMZ International Music + Media Centre and an independent jury expert panel to guarantee a professional evaluation and selection process

# WHY APPLY?



## INTERNATIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Prize money:** €300,000 of funding available for the Prize winners.
- **Crowdfunding:** Nominees can run a crowdfunding campaign on the FEDORA Platform to raise additional funds for their projects.
- **Transnational Giving Europe:** During the crowdfunding campaigns European donors who support the nominated projects on the FEDORA Platform can benefit from tax deductions thanks to the online Transnational Giving Europe Platform that is integrated into the FEDORA Platform.
- Unlocking **matching funds partners** during the crowdfunding campaigns, who will double the donations made to your project.
- **Possibility to set up and benefit from matching funds** during the Nominee Phase.
- **Communication support:** Nominated projects will receive additional funds to produce a video trailer for their crowdfunding campaign.



## INTERNATIONAL VISIBILITY

- **Dedicated project page on the FEDORA Platform:** Nominated projects will have a dedicated page on the FEDORA Platform in order to present their projects, raise funds and attract public votes.
- **On/offline visibility & PR:** Communication about your activities through a dedicated newsletter and on social media.
- **International promotion of the emerging artists:** Emerging artists of your project will be promoted in our communications via the "Artists" page, filmed interviews, etc.
- **Quality label:** Once shortlisted, the projects are allowed to use the FEDORA Prizes quality label in their communications.
- **FEDORA trophy for the winner** as a major recognition for innovative work.



## CAPACITY BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES

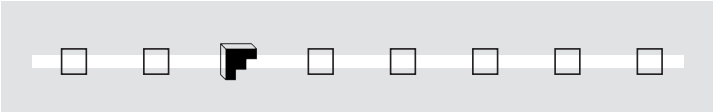
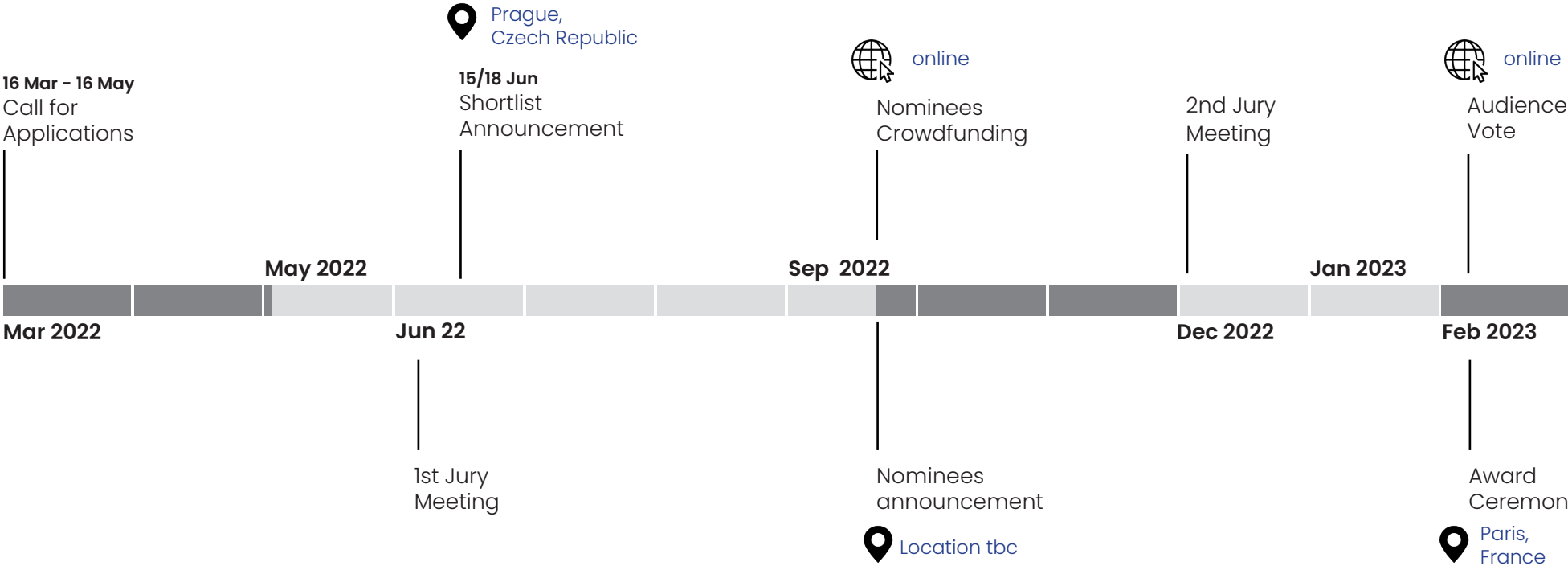
- **Workshops around best practises in crowdfunding:** Nominated projects receive support to build a crowdfunding campaign learning about best practises to reach out to new donors.
- **Training about pitching your project:** In order to pitch the project to Jury Members, nominated projects will receive training to prepare for this step of the competition.



## BEING A PART OF FEDORA'S NETWORK

- **Introduction to the international philanthropic community.**
- **Events:** Access to FEDORA's announcement events (e.g. Award Ceremony).
- **Webinars with members or our corporate philanthropists.**

# DATES & DEADLINES



# DATES & DEADLINES

## SEASON 2021/2022

**16 MARCH - 16 MAY 2022**

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Opera houses, festivals and dance companies apply online until 16 May 2022 before noon CET.

**21 MARCH (3 pm CET) &  
23 MARCH (3 pm CET) 2022**

### WORKSHOPS: HOW TO APPLY? - [online](#)

Online workshop on eligibility, online platform and process.

**MAY 2022**

### PRE-SELECTION OF THE PROJECTS IN COLLABORATION WITH EXPERT PARTNERS

Shortlisted projects are informed if they are selected.

**15 - 18 JUNE 2022**

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF SHORTLISTED PROJECTS -

[Prague, Czech Republic](#)

Shortlisted projects will be announced on the occasion of the Opera Europa Conference in Prague.

**SUMMER 2022**

### JURY MEETINGS SELECTING NOMINEES

Jury Members nominate three projects based on the applications submitted and following the evaluation criteria.

## SEASON 2022/2023

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF NOMINEES

Nominated projects will be publicly announced during a major event. (Location and format to be confirmed)

**SEPTEMBER -  
DECEMBER 2022**

### CALL FOR DONATIONS - [online](#)

On the occasion of the nominee announcement event the nominees will kick-off their fundraising campaigns on the FEDORA Platform.

**DECEMBER 2022**

### 2ND JURY MEETING SELECTING WINNERS

Jury Members interview 3 nominees per prize category.

**JANUARY -  
FEBRUARY 2023**

### PUBLIC VOTE - [online](#)

The audience will be able to vote for their favourite nominated projects. The project with the highest number of votes will receive the "Audience Prize."

**FEBRUARY 2023**

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS - [Paris, France](#)

Winners will be publicly announced and celebrated during the FEDORA Prizes Biennale Award Ceremony at the Paris National Opera in Paris.



# APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- There is no application fee when applying for the FEDORA Prizes. However, the lead company applying must be a FEDORA Member ([Affiliate membership](#) starts at €500 per year). If the project is selected by the jury as winner of a FEDORA Prize, all project co-producers and partners who are cultural organisations within the performing arts sector and who are mentioned in the original application are requested to join FEDORA.
- Applications can only be submitted in English online on the official website [www.fedora-platform.com](http://www.fedora-platform.com) before the deadline on 16 May 2022 at noon CEST. No application sent by email or mail will be accepted.
- If nominated, the lead company of the nominated project will sign a contract on behalf of the project partners with FEDORA. This agreement document outlines the terms and conditions of the running of the fundraising campaign on the FEDORA Platform, including the transfer of FEDORA's financial support for a project campaign video and of the donations collected via the FEDORA Platform and online Transnational Giving Europe Platform for the nominated project.
- If selected as a winning project by the jury, the lead company is in charge of managing the FEDORA funds and is responsible for submitting activity reports about the actual fund investment to FEDORA. The winner of a Prize signs a contract on behalf of the project partners with FEDORA. This agreement document outlines the terms and conditions of the transfer of the FEDORA funds, FEDORA membership of the partners, access to rehearsals and opening nights and visibility in communications.

# ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA



## OPERA

**Sustainable innovation:** Productions should be of newly commissioned and yet unstaged work produced with a sustainable and eco-friendly approach.

**Future:** First performance must be scheduled within the time frame of spring 2023 and end of year 2024.

**Interdisciplinary and diversity:** The creative team should preferably bring together diverse, emerging artists\* of different genders, ethnicities, nationalities, disciplines and institutions (e.g. composers, choreographers, conductors, librettists, stage directors, costume designers, set designers, etc.).

**International reach:** The project should either involve at least one international co-producing/touring partner or be made accessible to an international audience via streaming or broadcasting.

**Emergence:** Emphasis will be put on emerging artist\* at the beginning of their career focusing on supporting those who will contribute to reinventing and shaping the future of the art form.



## DANCE

**Sustainable innovation:** Productions should be of newly commissioned and yet unstaged work produced with a sustainable and eco-friendly approach.

**Future:** First performance must be scheduled within the time frame of spring 2023 and end of year 2024.

**Interdisciplinary and diversity:** The creative team should preferably bring together diverse, emerging artists\* of different genders, ethnicities, nationalities, disciplines and institutions (e.g. composers, choreographers, conductors, librettists, stage directors, costume designers, set designers, etc.).

**International reach:** The project should either involve at least one international co-producing/touring partner or be made accessible to an international audience via streaming or broadcasting.

**Emergence:** Emphasis will be put on emerging artist\* at the beginning of their career focusing on supporting those who will contribute to reinventing and shaping the future of the art form.



## EDUCATION

**Sustainable innovation:** Project should be an innovative education project that is implemented by the applying opera house, dance company or festival with a sustainable and eco-friendly approach.

**Future:** Opening nights/Project launch must be scheduled within the time frame of spring 2023 and end of year 2024.

**Interdisciplinary and diversity:** The creative team should preferably bring together diverse, emerging artists\* of different genders, ethnicities, nationalities, disciplines and institutions (e.g. education professionals, pedagogues, composers, choreographers, conductors, librettists, stage directors, costume designers, set designers, etc.).

**Collaboration:** Projects should involve multiple partner organisations in the implementation of the project.

**Outreach and inclusion:** Preference will be shown towards new projects reaching out to and engaging new audiences, especially younger audiences and diverse communities (e.g. people with special needs, underprivileged communities, children, etc.).



## DIGITAL

**Sustainable innovation:** Innovative digital projects on the stage to be initiated or developed in the future with a sustainable and eco-friendly approach.

**Future:** Opening nights/Project launch must be scheduled within the time frame of spring 2023 and end of year 2024.

**Interdisciplinary and diversity:** The creative team should preferably bring together diverse, emerging artists\* of different genders, ethnicities, nationalities, disciplines and institutions (e.g. VR experts, video artists, composers, choreographers, conductors, librettists, stage directors, costume designers, set designers, etc.).

**Collaboration:** Projects involving expert partners from outside the field of opera or dance (i.e. technology companies, digital experts, video artists, etc.) committed to the development and implementation of the project are encouraged.

### \*Emerging artists definition

- FEDORA recognises emerging artists as those who show significant potential in their area, yet are under-recognised (showing some evidence of professional achievement but not a substantial record of accomplishment).
- Artists may have varying backgrounds and different starting points in their careers, therefore FEDORA does not limit the definition by age or background.
- FEDORA embraces artists of today around the world regardless of their age, country of origin, gender or ethnicity.
- FEDORA acknowledges emerging creators who are innovative in their approach to creation and production, and who are taking risks and embracing challenges.

# LIST OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

## 1. In order to submit the application:

- Signed co-production or collaboration agreements or signed letters of intent  
(Important: Signed letters of intent are accepted at the application stage. However, if nominated by the jury, the project needs to provide the signed contract.)
- Short bio (max 200 words) or CV of each member of the artistic team/project team
- Presentation of the project budget, presentation of the usage of the FEDORA funds and other sources of funding
- HD image representing the project and copyright with international right to use in FEDORA's on- and offline communications as this image will represent your project throughout the competition and will also be used by FEDORA's partners and the international press to promote your project

Non-mandatory documents:

- Letters of recommendation (for emerging artists)
- Examples of past projects and their impact
- Pictures, sketches, drawings, inspiration for costumes, set design, lighting effects, digital configurations or developments of prototypes, etc.

## 2. Once being nominated by the jury nominees will be required to provide the following information for the final selection of the winner:

- Max. 2 min project pitch video by project team representative(s)(obligatory) in English or with English subtitles (format requirements will be communicated by FEDORA)
- Online Q&A session with jury
- Extract of the music scores or a recording, if available
- Extract of a rehearsal, if available
- Drafted mock-ups of the set, costume and lighting design, digital project, if available
- Impact report of the crowdfunding campaign

# EVALUATION CRITERIA



## FEDORA Opera Prize

- 1. Innovation and Creativity (impact for audience)**  
What is the genuinely innovative and creative quality of the project in its chosen field?
- 2. Artistic quality and diversity of emerging artists**  
How promising is the creative team's artistic quality (composer, librettist, stage director, choreographer, set designer, costume designer, lighting designer, sound designer, etc.)?  
Is the creative team bringing together diverse, young emerging artists of different genders, ethnicities, nationalities, disciplines and institutions? (e.g. composers, conductors, librettists, stage directors, choreographers, costume designers, set designers, etc.).
- 3. International Accessibility**  
How well will the project be made accessible and with what impact (online and/or collaboration, co-commission, co-production, touring, streaming, etc.)?
- 4. Impact relative to budget**  
How is the project's budget apportioned to achieve the desired outcome and impact? What difference will the prize money make?
- 5. Sustainable Approach**  
How does the project intend to include eco-friendly measures in its sourcing, production and distribution processes? Is the approach innovative and contributing to new standards for the industry?



## FEDORA - VAN CLEEF & ARPELS Dance Prize

- 1. Innovation and Creativity (impact for audience)**  
What is the genuinely innovative and creative quality of the project in its chosen field?
- 2. Artistic quality and diversity of emerging artists**  
How promising is the creative team's artistic quality (composer, librettist, stage director, choreographer, set designer, costume designer, lighting designer, sound designer, etc.)?  
Is the creative team bringing together diverse, young emerging artists of different genders, ethnicities, nationalities, disciplines and institutions? (e.g. composers, conductors, librettists, stage directors, choreographers, costume designers, set designers, etc.).
- 3. International Accessibility**  
How well will the project be made accessible and with what impact (online and/or collaboration, co-commission, co-production, touring, streaming, etc.)?
- 4. Impact relative to budget**  
How is the project's budget apportioned to achieve the desired outcome and impact? What difference will the prize money make?
- 5. Sustainable Approach**  
How does the project intend to include eco-friendly measures in its sourcing, production and distribution processes? Is the approach innovative and contributing to new standards for the industry?



## FEDORA Education Prize

### 1. Quality of artistic approach

What degree of social emotional learning is reached through this artistic project?

### 2. Creativity

How innovative and original is the project other than purely artistic?

### 3. Participation

How does the project create an audience interaction and involvement?

What is the strategy behind mobilizing the local communities?

### 4. Diversity

What dimension of the project is encouraging social integration?

What is the novelty of the accessibility approach?

### 5. Legacy

What is the impact of project in short and long term for all stakeholders involved?

What is the multiplication effect for the future and inspiration for other projects?



## FEDORA Digital Prize

### 1. Artistic Quality

How convincing is the creative team's proven artistic quality and technological expertise (video artist, sound designer, stage director, choreographer, etc.)?

### 2. Level of digital innovation

How ambitious, far-reaching and achievable is the project's concept?

Does the project have either a high level of digital innovation supporting its essence and goal as an artistic project or develop and/or apply digital technology to the process of making opera and ballet in a demonstrably transformational way?

### 3. Interdisciplinary approach

How does the project work across various disciplines and media?

### 4. Target audience and audience experience

How does the project appeal to (new) audiences? What kind of innovative experience is delivered?

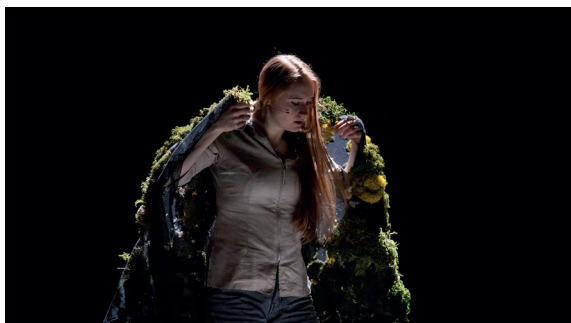
### 5. Impact and Legacy

How can this project contribute to the development of the art form of opera and dance in the broadest sense and what measurable legacy will it leave?

In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and the challenges of delivering live performances and serving and connecting with audiences, how far does this project respond to these specific challenges and represent new ways of communicating and connecting with the audience.

# WINNERS OF THE LAST EDITION

## Winner of the FEDORA Opera Prize 2021



*Like flesh*

**Opéra de Lille**

(France)

[Learn more](#)

## Winner of the FEDORA - VAN CLEEF & ARPELS Prize for Ballet 2021



*La Visita*

**Fondazione i Teatri di Reggio Emilia**

(Italy)

[Learn more](#)

## Winner of the FEDORA Education Prize 2021



*Dance training for people with a disability*

**Platform-K**

(Belgium)

[Learn more](#)

## Winner of the FEDORA Digital Prize 2021



*Out of the Ordinary*

**Irish National Opera**

(Ireland)

[Learn more](#)

[All past winners](#)



## F.A.Q.

### Frequently asked questions

#### **Who can apply for the Prizes?**

Any opera house, dance company, festival, or non-profit organisation or organisation entitled to receive funds working in the performing arts sector can apply. Individuals cannot apply for the Prizes.

#### **How long does it take to prepare an application?**

It depends on your own organisation's speed of developing a project concept and gathering documents. As the application is interdisciplinary, many elements will have to be coordinated with the other departments of your institution and with external partners. We recommend that you start requesting letters of intent from your partners as early as possible, depending on the partner. Before you start to fill in the online application form, please contact Müge Naz Altay, Funding Programmes Manager, at [muge.altay@fedora-circle.com](mailto:muge.altay@fedora-circle.com) for guidance on your application.

#### **How do I submit an application on behalf of my institution?**

You can submit an application online by creating your own personal account on [www.fedora-platform.com](http://www.fedora-platform.com). When you will start your application, the first section will ask you to fill in information about the lead company applying, your institution. If your organisation is already a member of FEDORA, you will simply have to select it in our drop-down menu, if not, we will ask you to fill in the organisation's details and logo. Once you submit your application, you will not have the possibility to modify your application anymore. You will receive an automatic email confirming your submission with a recap PDF of your application.

#### **What are the technical requirements to submit an application?**

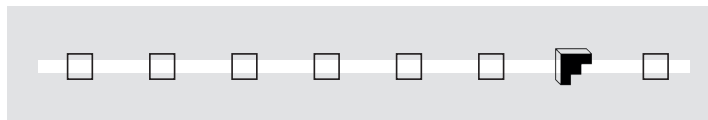
You will only need a computer with stable internet access to submit your application online. We recommend using Google Chrome as your browser for a smoother user experience. Applications sent via email or mail are not accepted.

#### **Can I start my application and continue it later?**

Yes, once you start an application, you can save it as you progress by clicking on the button "Save and Next". Please note that to click on this button and save its elements, the entire section must be filled out. To come back to your application, simply log back into the FEDORA Platform, click on "Hello YOUR NAME", and then on "My Applications". You will then be redirected to your personal account, in which you can continue or delete any application you have started. After 16 May 2022, noon, no additional documents are accepted to add to the applications.

#### **Can I start multiple applications at the same time?**

Yes, you can start as many applications as you wish, and in multiple Prize categories, if your organisation is a member of FEDORA. Learn how to become a member [here](#).



**Do we need to send an original copy of the partner's/co-producer's letter of intent?**

Only digital copies are needed, however, the letter of intent must be on official letterhead and with a signature of the legal representative. Emails are not accepted as valid proofs of partner involvement.

**Some elements of my application are highly confidential. How does FEDORA deal with the confidentiality of the information submitted?**

The online application system signals which elements will be featured by the comment «If shortlisted or nominated, this information will be used in FEDORA's communications.» If your application is nominated, your project will have its own page on our platform. Before this page is published on our platform, we will send it to you for validation. Some of these elements will also be featured on our press release and brochures. Any additional information featured on your application is treated with the utmost confidentiality. This application will only be shared with our expert partners, members of the jury and our prize sponsors who all sign a confidentiality agreement before receiving your application.

**Who selects the Prize Winner?**

An independent jury panel selects the Prize Winner, who will receive the Prize money. This jury bases its decision solely on the application submitted during the call for applications and what the nominees submit and present in a second step. Each Prize category is composed of different jury members who are professionals and experts.

**What happens if my project's team or concept is modified after I submit my application?**

If, for some reason, there is a major change, for instance in the project's artistic team or concept, please inform us immediately by email: [muge.altay@fedora-circle.com](mailto:muge.altay@fedora-circle.com).

**What are the evaluation steps?**

The preselection is made by FEDORA's Expert Partners and jury chairs

First jury meeting: The the jury selects 3 nominees per prize category

Second jury meeting: Jury selects one winner per prize category

**Audience Prize**

There will be an "Audience Prize" for one of the nominated projects with the best audience interaction determined by the number of public votes on the FEDORA Platform before the Award Night.



# CONTACT

**Do you need assistance? Any questions?**

Please feel free to contact:



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