



# FEDORA PRIZES BIENNALE 2025

"THE WORLD'S LARGEST OPERA AND  
DANCE COMPETITION"

**APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

2024-2025



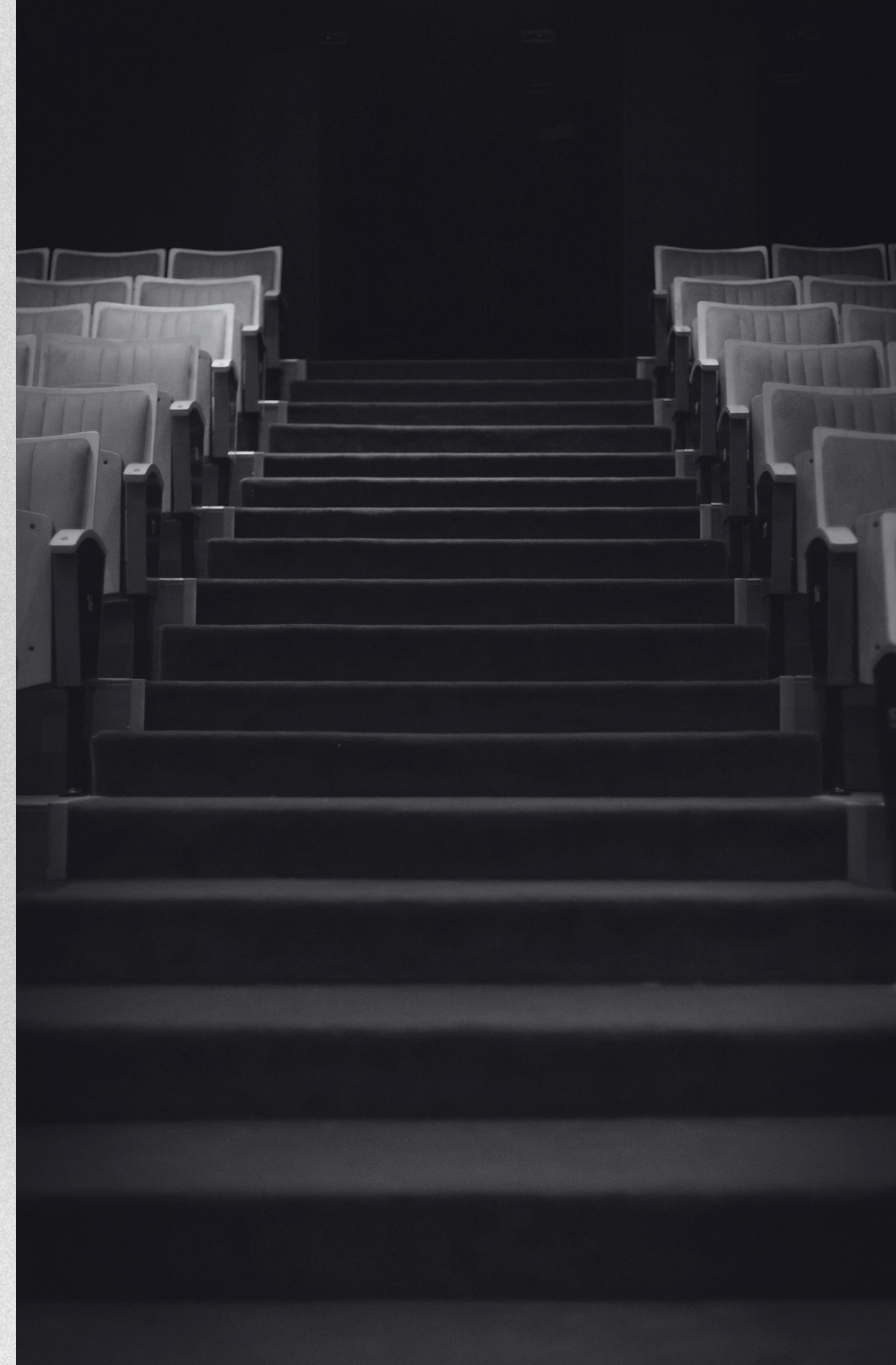
Co-funded by the  
Creative Europe Programme  
of the European Union

FEDORA



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# ABOUT FEDORA & THE FEDORA PRIZES BIENNALE

A European network of over **150**  
cultural organisations  
& private donors



**€ 6.5 million** public and  
private funds raised for new  
creations



**75** projects financially supported  
**+2,000 artists & creatives**  
highlighted and accompanied



**+500,000** spectators at the  
winners' performances, including  
**200,000** under 35 years old



FEDORA is a non-profit association, founded in 2013 in Paris, under the presidency of Jérôme-François Zieseniss, as a tribute to Rolf Liebermann. The association is dedicated to supporting the future of opera and dance in Europe, while encouraging emerging artists, making opera and dance more accessible and fostering new business models. FEDORA raises funds to stimulate innovation in the sector, focusing not only on stage performances but also behind and beyond the stage, promoting sustainability, inclusion, and digital transformation.

The organisation runs two funding programs, the FEDORA Prizes Biennale and the Next Stage Grants, supporting opera houses, dance companies, and festivals in its network.

The FEDORA Platform serves as a European hub, showcasing innovative co-productions and encouraging audience engagement through crowdfunding campaigns and online voting. The FEDORA Prizes support cutting-edge artistic projects that are still in the making which promote international collaboration, creativity, social integration, intercultural dialogue, and digital innovation on stage.



# THE FEDORA PRIZES

Supporting sustainable innovation on stage



**FEDORA  
Opera  
Prize**

€100,000



**FEDORA  
VAN CLEEF & ARPELS  
Dance Prize**

€100,000



**FEDORA  
Education  
Prize**

€50,000



**FEDORA  
Digital  
Prize**

€50,000

## Chair of the Opera Jury



**Birgitta Svendén**

Former General and  
Artistic Director of  
Royal Swedish Opera  
(Sweden)

## Chair of the Dance Jury



**Ingrid Lorentzen**

Artistic Director of  
Norwegian National  
Ballet  
(Norway)

## Chair of the Education Jury



**Bernard Foccroulle**

Former Director of  
La Monnaie / De Munt  
and Festival d'Aix-en-  
Provence  
(Belgium/France)

## Chair of the Digital Jury



**Peter Maniura**

Director of  
IMZ Academy  
(United Kingdom)

**With the support of:**

Van Cleef & Arpels



KEARNEY

Carbonnier  
Lamaze  
Rasle  
CARLARA  
AVOCATS

THE SILVER COMPANY

**In collaboration with:**

opera  
europa

**RESE**

**IMZ**  
INTERNATIONAL



# PRIZE CATEGORIES

## **FEDORA Opera Prize** **€100,000**

This prize awards new opera creations that reimagine the art of opera for the 21st century:

- Nurturing innovation and creativity of opera by supporting new experimental opera creations produced by promising teams of emerging artists with the ambition to reach international audiences.
- In collaboration with Opera Europa, an independent jury guarantees a professional evaluation and fair selection process. and fair selection process.
- The winning project is awarded €100,000 allowing them to develop and realise this project on the stage.

## **FEDORA – VAN CLEEF & ARPELS Dance Prize** **€100,000**

This Prize awards new dance productions that reimagine the art of dance for the 21st century:

- Nurturing 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.
- In collaboration with Opera Europa, an independent jury guarantees a professional evaluation and fair selection process. and fair selection process.
- The winning project is awarded €100,000 allowing them to develop and realise this project on the stage.



# PRIZE CATEGORIES

## **FEDORA Education Prize**

**€50,000**

This Prize awards innovative and educational projects encouraging the involvement of new and wider audiences while fostering social integration amongst the participants:

- Advocating for 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.
- In collaboration with RESEO and an independent jury expert panel to guarantee a professional evaluation and fair selection process.
- The winning project is awarded €50,000 allowing them to develop and realise this project.

## **FEDORA Digital Prize**

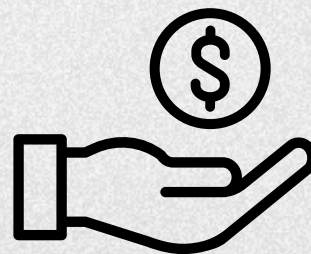
**€50,000**

This Prize awards projects that find new forms of artistic expression and access to opera and dance through digital innovation.

- Advocates new ways of interacting with audiences through digital tools and performance, across different media.
- Triggers new collaborative approaches through digital innovation by developing interdisciplinary dialogues.
- Collaborates with IMZ International Music + Media Centre and an independent jury expert panel to guarantee a professional evaluation and fair selection process.
- The winning project is awarded €50,000 allowing them to develop and realise this project.



# WHY APPLY?



## INTERNATIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

**Prize money:** Overall, €300,000 of funding is made available for the Prize winners.

**Crowdfunding:** Nominees will run a crowdfunding campaign on the FEDORA Platform to raise additional funds for their projects. In 2022, over €50,000 were raised in total by the Nominees.

**Financial support for a pitch video:** Nominated projects will receive additional funds from FEDORA to produce a video trailer for their crowdfunding campaign.

**Transnational Giving Europe:** During the crowdfunding campaign, 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.

**Matching funds:** During the crowdfunding campaign, there is the possibility to set up and benefit from matching funds, which will multiply the donations towards nominated projects.

**Audience Award:** Following a public voting phase where the audience can vote for their favourite nominated projects on the FEDORA Platform website, the project with the most votes will be the recipient of the Audience Award and receive €10,000.



## BEING A PART OF FEDORA'S COMMUNITY

**Access to exclusive events:** As FEDORA Prizes Biennale alumni, organisations have access to FEDORA's events.

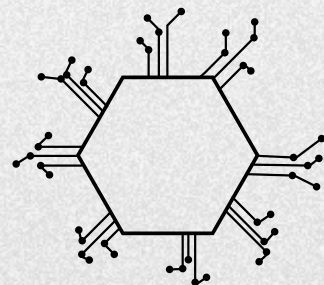
**Dedicated project page on the FEDORA Platform:** Nominated projects have a dedicated page on the FEDORA Platform in order to present their projects, raise funds and attract public votes.

**On- and offline visibility & PR:** During the competition, FEDORA communicates about the shortlisted, nominated and winning projects on the FEDORA, through dedicated newsletters, print and social media.

**Networking opportunities:** Building connections between opera houses, dance companies, festivals and public and private donors that are part of the FEDORA network.



# WHY APPLY?



## CAPACITY-BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES

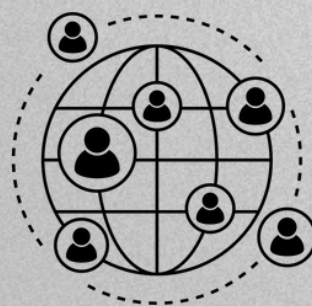
FEDORA provides nominated projects with:

**Capacity-building workshops on how to build a crowdfunding campaign**, including best practices to reach out to new donors.

**A pitching training session** on how to present a project, to better pitch it to future donors.

**Capacity-building workshops** to our members on sustainability, inclusion and digital transformation as part of the Next Stage Initiative.

**Management coaching sessions** offered to our members thanks to a pro-bono collaboration with the Activision Coaching Institute.



## INTERNATIONAL VISIBILITY

**The project will be introduced to the international philanthropic community.**

**International promotion of the emerging artists:** Emerging artists from the projects' artistic teams will be promoted in communications via the "Artists" page.

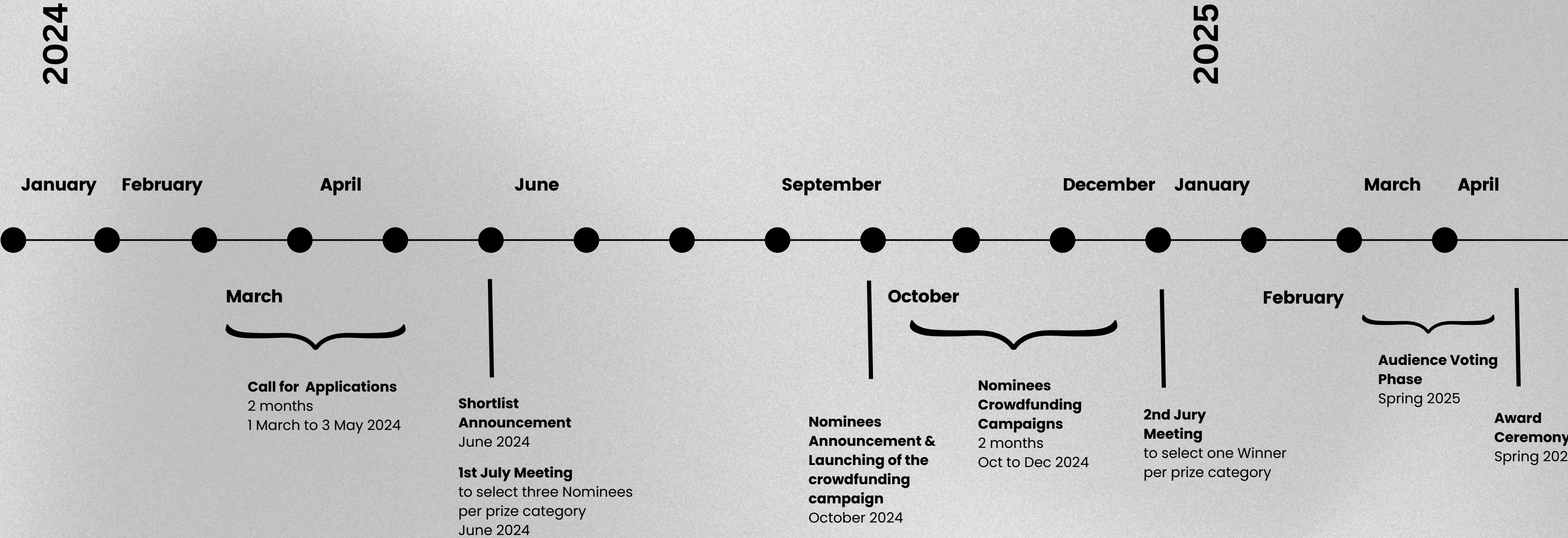
**Quality label:** Once shortlisted or nominated, the projects can use the FEDORA Prizes quality label in their communications.

**Award Ceremony:** During the FEDORA Prizes Award Ceremony, the Winning projects of each category are announced and receive the FEDORA Prizes trophy, as a major recognition for innovative creations.



OVERVIEW OF THE FEDORA PRIZES BIENNALE 2025

Important dates & programme





# 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 the 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 **3 May 2024 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 an activity report about the project's impact. The winner of a FEDORA Prize signs a contract on behalf of the project partners with FEDORA. This Agreement is the legal basis of the collaboration between FEDORA and the Winner. It outlines the terms and conditions of the transfer of the Prize money, FEDORA membership of the partners, the guidelines regarding visibility in communications, and access to tickets for rehearsals and the opening night.
- **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.



# ELIGIBILITY & EVALUATION CRITERIA

## FEDORA Opera Prize

### ELIGIBILITY

- 1 New production:** Productions should be newly commissioned and yet unstaged.
- 2 Innovation:** Productions should explore boundaries and reinvent the art form of Opera.
- 3 Sustainable approach:** The project should be envisioned with a sustainable and eco-friendly approach.
- 4 Timeline:** The first performance must be scheduled within the time frame of summer 2025 and the end of the year 2026.
- 5 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.)
- 6 International reach:** The project should involve at least one international co-producing/touring partner. It can be made accessible to an international audience via streaming or broadcasting.
- 7 Emerging artists\*:** Emphasis will be put on the involvement of emerging artists at the beginning of their career, thus supporting those who will contribute to reinventing and shaping the future of the art form.

### EVALUATION

**(10 pts) Innovation and Creativity:** What is the genuinely innovative vision and quality of the project in its chosen field? (e.g. what is the relevance of the piece for the modern age?)

**(5 pts) Artistic process:** How promising is the artistic quality of the creative team and expected result (e.g. composers, conductors, librettists, stage directors, choreographers, costume designers, lighting designers, sound designers, set designers, etc.)?

**(5 pts) Diversity of emerging artists:** Is the creative team bringing together diverse, emerging artists of different ages, genders, ethnicities, nationalities, disciplines, and institutions (e.g. composers, conductors, librettists, stage directors, choreographers, costume designers, lighting designers, sound designers, set designers, etc.)?

**(5 pts) International Accessibility:** How will the project be made accessible to an international audience (e.g. online and/or collaboration, co-commission, co-production, touring, streaming, etc.)?

**(5 pts) Budget coherence & Impact of the FEDORA contribution:** How is the project's budget apportioned to achieve the desired outcome and impact? What difference will the prize money make?

**(5 pts) Sustainable Approach:** How does the project intend to include measures respectful of the environment in its sourcing, production, and distribution processes? Is the approach innovative and contributing to new standards for the industry?



# ELIGIBILITY & EVALUATION CRITERIA

## FEDORA – VAN CLEEF & ARPELS Dance Prize

### ELIGIBILITY

- 1 New production:** Productions should be newly commissioned and yet unstaged.
- 2 Innovation:** Productions should explore boundaries and reinvent the art form of Dance.
- 3 Sustainable approach:** The project should be envisioned with a sustainable and eco-friendly approach.
- 4 Timeline:** The first performance must be scheduled within the time frame of summer 2025 and the end of the year 2026.
- 5 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.)
- 6 International reach:** The project should involve at least one international co-producing/touring partner. It can be made accessible to an international audience via streaming or broadcasting.
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# ELIGIBILITY & EVALUATION CRITERIA

## FEDORA Education Prize

### ELIGIBILITY

- 1 Innovation:** This category supports innovative educational projects in the fields of Opera and Dance.
- 2 Sustainable approach:** The project submitted by the applying opera house, dance company, or festival should be envisioned with a sustainable and eco-friendly approach.
- 3 Timeline:** The opening night/project launch must be scheduled within the time frame of summer 2025 and the end of the year 2026.
- 4 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).
- 5 Collaboration:** Projects should involve multiple partner organisations in the implementation of the project (e.g. schools, municipal authorities, etc).
- 6 Outreach and inclusion:** Projects should reach out to and engage new audiences, especially younger audiences, and diverse communities (e.g. people with special needs, underprivileged communities, children, etc).

### EVALUATION

- (5 pts) Educational Ambition:** What is the social-emotional learning quality of the artistic process?
- (5 pts) Artistic Ambition:** What is the expected quality of the final restitution / presentation of the project?
- (5 pts) Innovation and Creativity:** What is the genuinely innovative quality of the project in its chosen field?
- (5 pts) Participation Process:** How does the project interact with and involve the participants? What is the strategy to connect with the local communities?
- (5 pts) Social Integration:** How is the project encouraging social integration through its innovative approach? What is the project's approach to making opera and dance more accessible?
- (5 pts) Impact and Legacy:** What is the impact of the project in short and long term for all stakeholders involved? What is the possible multiplication effect for the future? How can it be a source of inspiration for other projects? Is the approach innovative and contributing to new standards for the industry?



# ELIGIBILITY & EVALUATION CRITERIA

## FEDORA Digital Prize

### ELIGIBILITY

- 1 Innovation:** This category supports innovative digital projects in the fields of Opera and Dance.
- 2 Sustainable approach:** The project submitted by the applying opera house, dance company, or festival should be envisioned with a sustainable and eco-friendly approach.
- 3 Timeline:** The opening night/project launch must be scheduled within the time frame of summer 2025 and the end of the year 2026.
- 4 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).
- 5 Collaboration:** Projects should involve multiple partner organisations in the implementation of the project (e.g. schools, municipal authorities, etc).

### EVALUATION

**(5 pts) Artistic Quality:** How promising and relevant is the artistic quality and the technological expertise of the creative team (e.g. video artists, stage directors, choreographers, lighting designers, sound designers, set designers, etc.)?

**(5 pts) Digital innovation and Creativity:** How ambitious, far-reaching and achievable is the project's concept? Does the project demonstrate a high level of digital innovation and/or does the project develop and/or apply digital technology to the process of making opera and dance in a transformational way?

**(5 pts) Interdisciplinary Approach:** How does the project work across various disciplines and media?

**(5 pts) Audience Experience:** What audience(s) is the project aimed at and does it display clear evidence of how it will reach them? What kind of innovative experience is delivered? How does it represent new ways of communicating and connecting with the audience?

**(5 pts) Impact and Legacy:** How does this project contribute to the development of the art form of opera and dance and what kind of legacy will it leave? How far does this project respond to the new challenges that have evolved in the post-pandemic environment? How will success, in terms of artistic quality, innovation and audience impact be measured?



# LIST OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

## 1. To submit the application, the applying organisation needs to provide:

- Submit before the application deadline the online application form on [www.fedora-platform.com](http://www.fedora-platform.com)
- 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.

- Proof of non-profit status of the lead company in order to be able to receive donations in case nominated.
- A short bio (max 200 words) or CV of each member of the artistic team/project team.
- A detailed project budget, including the part of the FEDORA funds and other sources of funding.
- An HD image representing the project and copyright with international right to use in FEDORA's on- and offline communications.

**Important:** This image will represent the project throughout the competition and will also be used by FEDORA's partners and the international press to promote the project. This image can be updated throughout the competition.

### Non-mandatory documents:

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

## 2. Once nominated by the jury, nominees will:

- Receive €2,000 of financial support to produce a pitch video of max. 2 min in English or with English subtitles (format requirements will be communicated by FEDORA).
- This video will be used throughout the Crowdfunding Campaign to help the project gain visibility.
- Present the project to the jury during an online Q&A session.
- Provide useful materials regarding new developments of the project, to be shared with the jury members, such as:
  - Audio-visual materials relating to the project: storyboard, musical scores, recording of the music, costume designs, software development (if applicable), etc.
  - Promotional materials from their crowdfunding campaign: screenshots of social media posts, newsletters, fundraising event photos, etc.



# FAQ & CONTACT US



For further details, we encourage you to refer to the FAQ: [here](#).

Alternatively, should you require personalized assistance, feel free to reach out to us directly at:

## **Diandra de Lima**

Funding Programmes Manager

## **Contact**

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