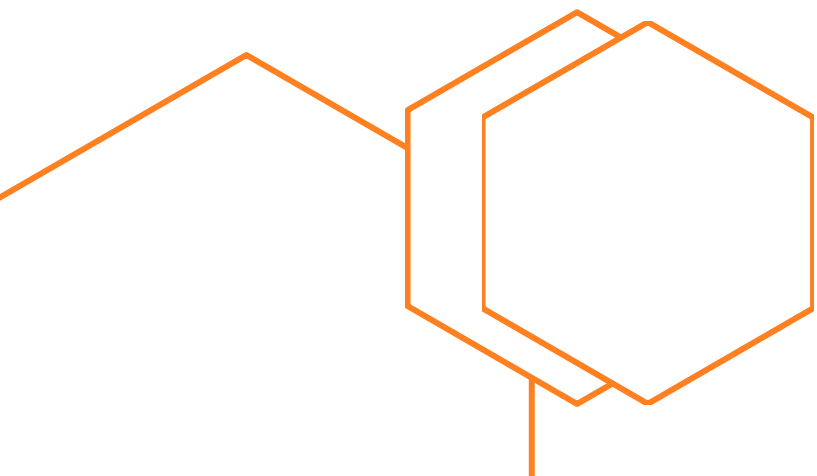


[LARNACA BIENNALE 2025]

[evaluation]

Larnaca Biennale 2025 (LB4) took place on the 15th of October until the 28th of November 2025. The fourth edition like all previous editions was completed successfully with high standards of organization and to the benefit of the city of Larnaca, the participating artists, visitors and to Cyprus as a whole. The aim of the evaluation is to provide the main points, figures, and facts of Larnaca Biennale 2025 with transparency and objectivity.



[LARNACA BIENNALE 2025]

Introduction

The fourth edition of Larnaca Biennale (LB4) took place on the 15th of October until the 28th of November 2025 and was organized by the non-profit cultural association Artion Larnaca.

The artwork selection was made via an **international** open call. The organizing team reserved the **anonymity** of artists from the jury until the final selection was completed. The curator for this edition was selected by Artion Larnaca and the Larnaca Biennale main team.

The **jury committee** of Larnaca Biennale 2025:

Sana Lopez Abellan [Curator] - Spain / Netherlands

Massimo Scaringella [Art Curator, Organiser of Cultural Events] - Italy.

Dr Anca Boeriu [Visual Artist, Lecturer at the National University of Arts in Bucharest] -Romania

Costas Mantzalos [Visual Artist, Professor at Frederick University] - Cyprus

Stavros Ditsios [Visual Artist] f- Greece

Froso Andreou [Visual Artist, Art Teacher] -Cyprus

The members of the jury committee were assigned by the curator, the Cyprus Chamber of Fine Arts, World Association of Visual Arts and Artion Cultural Association of Larnaca.

Main Organizing Team Larnaca Biennale 2025:

Michail Elia Michail [Chief Coordinator]

Vassilis Vasiliades [Artistic Director]

Maria Papadopoulou [Head of Marketing Communications & Events

Stavri Papadopoulou [Visual Identity and Events Associate]

Doros Demetriou [Media Coordinator]

Theodoros Philippou [Art Handler]

Theodora Andreou [Head of Children's Educational Programs]

Konstantinos Charilaou [Exhibition Production and Events Assistant]

Eleni Philippou [Press Officer]

[LARNACA BIENNALE 2025]

key facts & figures

Larnaca Biennale 2025 (LB4) Curational Theme: **Along Lines and Traces**

Open Call ended with **526 artwork proposals** (12% increase from the third edition LB3) **from 76 countries** (27 % increase from LB3). From these proposals 117 artworks were selected and **115** presented to the main exhibition.

40 artists travelled from abroad to participate in Larnaca Biennale
[80% visited Larnaca and Cyprus for the first time]

LB4 with the support of Cyprus Airways as an official air carrier and its hospitality sponsors (Liv, Opera and Local Host) provided free/discounted air tickets **or/and** free/discounted accommodation to all artists from abroad along with free transport from and to Larnaca airport. In addition, special cards were distributed to participating artists that enable them to obtain food and beverage discounts from the official city spots in the Larnaca Biennale Map.

The selected artworks were presented to **eight [8] exhibition places** (in comparison to six **[6]** exhibition spaces in LB3):

Larnaca Municipal Gallery | Pierides Museum | Larnaca Castle | Larnaca Municipal Market | Common Ground Gallery | Apothiki 79 (private space) | Kallinikeio Municipal Museum (Athienou) | Costas Argyrou Museum (Mazotos) and various outdoor spaces in the city of Larnaca. For the **first time** two exhibition spaces in the **Larnaca District** were used.

The exhibition places were open to the public and **free of charge** besides Larnaca Castle (all proceeds to Department of Antiquities)

60.000 [+] Visitors and Spectators in the main exhibition and parallel events (1/3 of visitors were from abroad).

40 [+] School, College, and Art Workshop Visits from all cities (over 2.500 students).

The **Open Art School Program** continued with 6 local private art schools. **Free Educational workshops for children (ages 6-11)** were introduced **for the first time** and took place every Saturday.

1 Artist received the Grand Prix Award | 12 Artists Awarded

18 Parallel Events

...

"The 2025 Larnaca Biennale is the best edition of the institution so far.

Our experience has shown that the event always follows an evolutionary course, and this fourth edition demonstrated a remarkable leap forward.

A major contribution to this was, of course, the extensive work carried out by the curator, Sana López Abellán, who oversaw the exhibition in every possible detail.

For the first time, we witnessed queues forming outside certain exhibition venues, especially on weekends, while the halls were often full of visitors throughout the day. School visits also increased, and through the educational programs, many children were introduced to the artworks of the Biennale and the curator's concept."

Vassilis Vassiliades, Artistic Director Larnaca Biennale

[LARNACA BIENNALE 2025]

social media | marketing | promotion

Larnaca Biennale 2025 social media:

Facebook Instagram

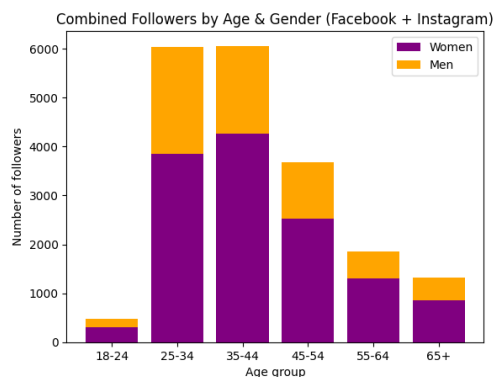
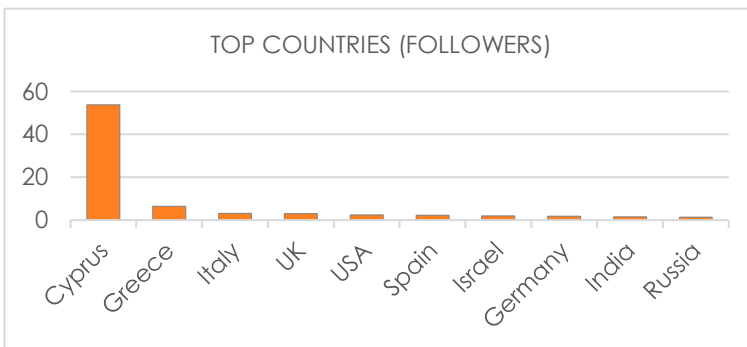
YouTube | X | LinkedIn

Total number of **20.219 followers** [24% increase from LB3].

Facebook is the main social media of LB with 11.573 followers followed by Instagram with 7.859 followers [Dec 2025].

The social media reach for Larnaca Biennale 2025 was more than 2.000.000 people (without including share reach). Through the social media campaign and promotion 70 countries were reached.

Core audience age: 25–44 ($\approx 62\%$ of total followers). **Women** form most of the audience, especially ages **35–44**. **Instagram** is particularly strong among women aged **35–44** | **Facebook** performs better with **audiences aged 55+**



[Social Media Reporting]

...

Larnaca Biennale social media presence evolved from a strong baseline to a period of explosive growth.

Baseline Period
(Jan 2024–Dec 2025):

- 2,525 posts
- 32,275 engagements
- 1,459,366 impressions
- 19,432 total followers
- Facebook: 11,573 followers, 15,544 engagements, 955 posts
- Instagram: 1,138,744 impressions, 16,731 engagements, 1,570 posts

Growth Period
(May–Dec 2025):

- Posts +4,818% → 2,459
- Engagement +948% → 25,238
- Impressions +1,455% → 1.34M
- Followers +11%
- Facebook: posts +4,367% (938), engagement +791% (10,031)
- Instagram: followers +25% (7,824), engagement +1,086% (15,207)

Overall: Larnaca Biennale SoMe shows strong foundations and exceptional momentum, with over 2.8M total impressions and sustained follower growth.

[LARNACA BIENNALE 2025]

promotional methods | publications

- Targeted advertising
- Artists Channels and Media
- The Biennial Foundation
- Embassies in Cyprus and Abroad, Larnaca Tourism Board
- Larnaca Biennale Map (10.000 copies distributed)
- Press Releases to Local and International Press (Digital and printed)
- Interviews, publications, and presentations in local and foreign media (TV, podcasts, radio, magazines)

FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS



LOCAL PUBLICATIONS (Interviews, Tributes and Presentations)



[testimonials]

...

With its trailblazing Biennale and blossoming creative scene, Larnaca is becoming one of the Mediterranean's cultural hotspots

Χάρη στην πρωτοποριακή Μπιεννάλε και την ανερχόμενη δημιουργική της σκηνή, η Λάρνακα εξελίσσεται σε έναν από τους hot πολιτιστικούς προορισμούς της Μεσογείου

Breeze Magazine, Cyprus Airways In-flight Magazine October – December 2025 , Spotlight on Larnaca Biennale

[LARNACA BIENNALE 2025]

partners | sponsors

Larnaca Biennale 2025 PARTNERS

Cyprus Chamber of Fine Arts [E.KA.TE] | Pierides Museum – Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation | Athienou Municipality | WAVA World Association of Visual Arts | Costas Argyrou Museum | Osten Biennale Skopje

Larnaca Biennale 2025 SPONSORS

Main Sponsors

Deputy Ministry of Culture – Department of Contemporary Culture

Gold Sponsors

OPAP Cyprus
Larnaka Municipality

Official Air Carrier

Cyprus Airways

Silver Sponsors

AC/E Accion Cultural Espanola
Petrolinea
Mr. Bricolage

Bronze Sponsors

Embassy of Spain in Cyprus
P&P Financial Services Ltd
Meridian Trust – Corporate & Fiduciary Services Limited
Chr. Larcou & Associates LLC

Hospitality Sponsors

Liv Collection | Opera Hotel | Local Host

Food & Beverage Sponsors

Ammos Beach Bar
Lazaris Bakery Bar
Old Market St.
Liv Simple Deli
Paul's Coffee Roasters
Stou Roushia Tavern
Savino Rock Bar
To Aithrion

Media Sponsors – ALPHA Cyprus | CYBC (PIK)

[LARNACA BIENNALE 2025]

supporters

Larnaca Biennale 2025 SUPPORTERS

Main Supporters

CYENS Center of Excellence- Thinker Maker Space
Wonderdots Ltd
Cyprus Handicraft Service's
Once in A Blue Moon

Official Navigation App

ArtVolt

Official Accessibility App

AbleBook

Media Supporters

Skala Times
Black Lemon Tv

Official Taxi and Mini Bus Services

iTaxi Cyprus

Supporters

Press Information Office Cyprus
Polish Embassy of Cyprus
One and a Half Animation Studio
Pin.I Am
Boutique Productions
Cyprus Public Transport
Larnaka Tourism Board
Larnaka2030 European Capital of Culture
Larnaca Act
Youth Board of Cyprus
Youth Makerspace
MV Design Lab

• • •

The team is excellent: professional, organized, and they actually care about making sure artists are supported properly. Larnaca itself is worth the trip regardless. It's a beautiful place with good energy and it's worth experiencing. The other artists were great to work with, and they reflected a serious, unbiased selection process.

Philippo Gregoretti,
Participating Artist Larnaca
Biennale 2025

"The Larnaca Biennale pulls together past and present, local and international in the unique setting of the Mediterranean where cultures have historically intersected and merged. This produces a remarkably dynamic setting for the Biennale, where art and artists from across the globe came together in a broad dialog."

Katrin Schnabl, Participating
Artist Larnaca Biennale 2025

[LARNACA BIENNALE 2025]

Larnaca Biennale Map (printed and online)

For all editions, Larnaca Biennale prepares an official map/ guide with the main exhibition venues, official food and beverage city spots and basic information for parallel events. The map was also available online at the website of Larnaca Biennale.

For Larnaca Biennale 2025, **7.000** copies were printed and distributed at:

Larnaca Airport | Main Exhibition Places
Parallel Event Spaces | Official food & beverage city spots in Larnaca | All cities via our Partners and parallel event associates
Athienou Municipality | Larnaca Municipality



"The Larnaca Biennale is a highly considered platform.

I felt very supported by the Biennale team throughout. Their attention and generosity carried through every stage of the process and made the experience both professionally significant and personally meaningful. It stayed with me well beyond the exhibition, and for some time afterwards I found it difficult to speak about Larnaca without a strong emotional response. It felt like encountering something with depth and integrity that has remained with me."

Karma Barnes , Grand Prix Winner Larnaca Biennale 2025

[LARNACA BIENNALE 2025]

parallel events

Larnaca Biennale 2025 had a variety of parallel events:

Children's Educational Workshops
Music
Dance
Workshops
Performances
Film Screenings
Philosophical Discussions
Shadow Theatre
Exhibitions
Guided Tours
Open Artists Studios
Open Art Schools
Site Specific Interactive Performances
Guest Artist Residencies

18 Parallel Events

82 participating artists / associates

6 artists from abroad

The events took place in **26 locations** [Larnaca | Athienou].
Alternative spaces and outdoor locations were used.

Eleven (11) parallel events had free entrance, and all others had an entrance fee between 10-30 euros.

Collaborations took place with **local** [Once in a Blue Moon | Qurious | Larnaka Cinema Society | Aphelion Dance Company | Ex-Piercing Arts | ARTokouto | Three Dots Art Lab | Time Private Institute | Be CreARTive | Spyra Art Studio | Art School Ptochopoulos | Theatrola] and **international** [Infnitheatre Montreal | Stournari Stret Band] **art schools / artistic groups / culture organizations**.

Larnaca Biennale **did not benefit** from the proceeds of any parallel event that had an entrance fee.

...

"My impression of the Larnaca Biennale 2025 was very positive. It was very well organized and thoughtfully curated, creating a strong and inspiring artistic environment.

I was grateful for the opportunity to meet many artists from around the world, and to experience works from diverse cultural and artistic backgrounds. It was truly enriching to exchange ideas and perspectives within such an international community"

Elena Kouma, Participating Artist Larnaca Biennale 2025

[LARNACA BIENNALE 2025]

new collaborations | enrichment | additions

Education / Educational Workshops / Open Art Schools

Larnaca Biennale considers arts and cultural education a core pillar of the institution. In this edition, the Biennale introduced for the **first time educational workshops for children aged 6–11**.

Curated and delivered by the Head of Educational Programs, educator Theodora Andreou, six free workshops were held every Saturday throughout the Biennale, each based on one of the six thematic lines of the main theme.

Each workshop combined creative activities with guided visits to different Biennale exhibition venues, allowing children to explore and discuss a range of artworks in situ. All workshops reached **full capacity**, and feedback from participants, parents, and educators was exceptionally positive, confirming the program's **strong impact and relevance**.

In parallel, like in the previous edition an official circular was distributed through the Ministry of Education to all schools in Cyprus, enabling schools to book visits to the main exhibition spaces via an online system. More than **2,500 students** from schools across Cyprus visited the exhibitions, marking **a 25% increase** compared to the previous edition.

Following the success of the previous edition the organization also collaborated with six private art schools in Larnaca, whose students developed artworks inspired by the theme Along Lines and Traces following guidance from the curator. The artworks were exhibited on a Sunday, and the studios were open to the public.

Looking ahead, Larnaca Biennale aims to strengthen its academic and educational profile by establishing long-term collaborations with academic institutions, securing the support of a main academic partner, and continuing to expand its range of educational programs in future editions.

...

"In this edition, I felt that our vision was achieved: bringing people together and bringing art to a place that is not always considered an obvious point on the global art map."

While spending time in the venues and interacting with visitors, I noticed how diverse the audience was, ranging from seasoned art professionals to people who simply wandered in by coincidence. There is great value in all these encounters."

The experienced visitors, who can be difficult to impress, make their appreciation feel even more rewarding, while the newcomers can still be surprised and awakened to new artistic sensitivities."

Sana Lopez Abellan, Curator
Larnaca Biennale 2025

“The aim from beginning to end, was to bring children into contact with art throughout the city through creative practices and experiential activities, connecting the theme with the artworks, their locations, and the workshops.

In other words, it sought to create a visible–invisible artistic imprint. The children were inspired by the artworks and created their own traces and imprints through workshop activities and experimentation with various materials. The outcome of each workshop contributed to a collective artistic installation in a public space, with audience participation, on the first floor of the Municipal Market.

Attendance was very high, and the children’s enthusiasm was remarkable.

Additionally, one aspect that particularly delighted parents was that the children had the opportunity to visit the exhibitions every Saturday and see the artworks of the Biennale”

Theodora Andreou , Head of Educational Programs for Children, Larnaca Biennale 2025

new collaborations | enrichment | additions

Osten Biennale

Larnaca Biennale established a new strategic collaboration with Osten Biennale, representing a significant development in the exchange of artists between the two institutions.

Beginning with this edition, the collaboration provides for the reciprocal invitation of two artists from each Biennale to participate in the main exhibition of the partner institution, without the requirement of an open call or application process. This model supports institutional trust, curatorial dialogue, and the sustained mobility of artists.

Within the framework of the Larnaca Biennale 2025, curator Sana López Abellán selected two award-winning artists from the Osten Biennale 2024 to participate in the main exhibition: Arleta Cehic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Jana Lulovska (North Macedonia).

In parallel, two award-winning artists from the Larnaca Biennale 2025 will be selected to participate as finalists in the Osten Biennale 2026. This collaboration aligns with the Larnaca Biennale's strategic objectives for strengthening international partnerships and enhancing its global profile. It contributes to the consolidation of long-term institutional relationships and supports the international visibility of Cypriot cultural production.

This partnership is expected to generate additional professional opportunities for participating artists and to reinforce cultural exchange and institutional cooperation at an international level. Similar collaborative initiatives with other international art institutions are planned as part of the Biennale's forward strategy.

new collaborations | enrichment | additions

Members of the Committee

From this edition onwards, the Jury Committee will include two **artists who have previously participated in Larnaca Biennale**—one international artist and one artist from Cyprus. This addition is significant as it brings first-hand artistic and experiential insight into the evaluation process, ensuring a **deeper understanding** of the Biennale's curatorial vision, production conditions, and artistic challenges. It also strengthens **transparency, peer-based assessment, and continuity**, while fostering a sense of **community and long-term engagement between the Biennale and its artistic network**.

New Award

An additional award was introduced in this edition and is planned to continue in future editions: the **Award for Best Participation by a Cypriot Artist**. This award aims to support and advance Cypriot artists by providing increased international exposure. The recipient of the award is automatically selected to participate as a finalist in the Osten Biennale, strengthening professional development opportunities and reinforcing international mobility for local artists.

Guest Artists

For Larnaca Biennale 2025, two internationally recognised artists, **Ann Tarantino (Italy/USA) and Steve Messam (UK)**, were selected by LB4 curator Sana López Abellán to develop site-specific public art installations in Larnaca. Both artists are known for practices that engage directly with urban and public space, fostering dialogue between residents, visitors, and the built environment.

Ann Tarantino researched the city's topography, movement patterns, and historical routes. This research informed the creation of a site-specific installation reflecting Larnaca's cultural and spatial identity. The work was presented as a laser-engraved installation in the window of a central urban spot, Lazaris Bakery Bar, and incorporated a participatory element, allowing members of the public to take home fragments of the artwork following its dismantling. The project was able to be completed due to KYPRIA funding program from the Deputy Ministry of Culture.

Steve Messam developed a large-scale, temporary public installation designed specifically for a historic landmark in Larnaca. Following on-site research, the artist created an inflatable structure that temporarily

transformed the selected location (Municipal Historical Archive), offering a new perspective on the city's architectural heritage. The installation was revealed to the public shortly before the Biennale opening, generating anticipation and strong public engagement with contemporary art in the urban environment. It should be noted that this project was able to be completed due to the sponsorship of Deputy Ministry of Culture through the POLITISMOS II program.

The participation of these two artists **strengthened the international profile of Larnaca Biennale 2025 and reinforced its role as a platform for high-quality, site-responsive contemporary art**. Their presence in the city during the production phase added depth and authenticity to the Biennale program, contributing to meaningful public encounters with art.

New Exhibition Venues | Rural Areas

For this edition, the number of main exhibition venues of the Larnaca Biennale increased from **six to eight**, reflecting a deliberate expansion of the Biennale's spatial footprint. For the first time, exhibition venues were also extended beyond the city limits into **rural areas** of the Larnaca district, specifically **Kallinikeio Museum in Athienou and Costas Argyrou Museum in Mazotos**. This geographic expansion contributed to broader territorial inclusion and increased accessibility for audiences outside the urban center.

In addition, a privately operated exhibition space in the city center, **Apothiki 79**, was rented and utilised as a main exhibition venue and central information point. Furthermore, the venue **Common Ground**, owned by Larnaca Municipality and operated through Larnaka2030, was also made available and functioned as a main exhibition venue, reinforcing institutional collaboration at a local level and expanding the Biennale's exhibition infrastructure.

The continuation of using exhibition venues across the wider Larnaca district will be subject to internal evaluation, considering operational capacity, logistical complexity, and the availability of sufficient funding to support the increased coordination, transport, and associated costs resulting from a more geographically dispersed model.

Academia and Job Placements

The Biennale team and curator delivered a series of targeted presentations and lectures presenting the vision, importance, and organizational aspects of the Larnaca Biennale, tailored to students' fields of study. These took place at **Cyprus University of Technology**

(TEPAK), Med High School in Larnaca, **American University of Cyprus** (AUCY) as part of the *Dis-Course* series (*Curating through an Anthropological Lens*), and within the Department of Design.

For the first time, Larnaca Biennale collaborated with the **Open University of Cyprus** to offer a job placement to a graduate student in Cultural Studies. The student had the opportunity to work across various departments of the organization, gaining hands-on experience and an overall insight into the full operational, curatorial, and production processes of the Biennale. This collaboration was met with high success, and the Biennale aims for it to continue and grow, further strengthening links between academia and professional cultural practice.

Digital Partnerships | Accessibility & Visitor Experience

As part of its commitment to **inclusive access and audience / visitor engagement**, Larnaca Biennale developed two strategic partnerships aimed at making art more accessible and enhancing the overall visitor experience.

For the first time, the Biennale collaborated with **Art Volt**, a digital application designed to support discovery, documentation, and sharing of cultural experiences. Through the application, visitors were able to access comprehensive information on the LB exhibition venues, explore the thematic framework of the edition, the parallel events programme, and view detailed artist biographies and artwork information.

While visiting exhibition venues, users could photograph artworks using the in-app camera, which enabled automatic recognition of the work and provided immediate access to contextual information, including artist details and curatorial notes. **This collaboration significantly enhanced audience engagement and facilitated deeper interpretation of the artworks on display.**

In parallel, Larnaca Biennale 2025 partnered with **AbleBook**, an innovative Cypriot start-up that provides information on **accessibility for individuals with disabilities**. Through the AbleBook application, visitors were able to access up-to-date information regarding the accessibility features of Biennale venues, including wheelchair access, accessible parking, elevators, and other relevant facilities. This partnership supported informed decision-making for visitors with diverse access needs and contributed to a more inclusive cultural experience.

These collaborations are particularly significant for the Larnaca Biennale, as they reinforced the Biennale's commitment to ensuring that visitors are well-informed and adequately supported. By integrating digital tools that address both information access and physical

accessibility, the Biennale advanced its principle that art should be accessible to all.

Larnaca Biennale intends to continue utilising available technologies that enrich the visitor experience and to further develop measures that ensure accessibility across all exhibition venues and parallel events in future editions.

CYENS | Thinker Maker Space

A new collaboration was established with CYENS Thinker Maker Space, the European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) of Cyprus, through its DiGiNN program.

Following a half-day workshop with four specialists, the operational and design needs of the edition were defined, resulting in the production of six standing venue signs, 120 artwork labels, and two map lightboxes, including their visual designs. These elements represent a long-term investment, as they will be reused in future editions.

The Larnaca Biennale intends to continue and develop this collaboration as a long-term partnership, to further improve operational efficiency, curatorial practice, and audience engagement, while continuing to utilise digital fabrication facilities to support innovative design and production solutions.

continued collaborations

Cyprus Public Transport Collaboration

Sustainability is a constant value for Larnaca Biennale and again for this edition we collaborated with Cyprus Public Transport and promoted in our social media and printed map PameApp so that visitors could visit the LB venues with public transport. CPT also promoted the event in Larnaca Airport by placing maps on their information desk.

Cyprus Handicraft Service

Larnaca Biennale continued its collaboration with the Cyprus Handicraft Service, established in 2021. Through this partnership, the Service supported the Biennale by producing handcrafted gifts for participating artists, contributing to the promotion of traditional craftsmanship and cultural heritage. The continuation of this collaboration supports cultural sustainability and aligns with broader cultural policy objectives linking contemporary artistic production with local heritage practices.

Larnaka Tourism Board

Larnaca Biennale continued its collaboration with the Larnaka Tourism Board, a partnership in place since the first edition in 2018. For this edition, the Tourism Board provided financial support for journalist George Mitropoulos (Euronews Greece), contributing to international media exposure for both the Biennale and the city of Larnaca.

In addition, the Board organised complimentary guided tours in English and Greek over two days in the Piale Pasha and Artist Quarter, as part of the AQPP Festival.

Attendance across all tours and language groups was high, demonstrating strong public and visitor engagement. These activities enhanced the visibility of Larnaca's cultural districts, supported the integration of contemporary art within the city's tourism offer, and reinforced the Biennale's role as a cultural driver contributing to Larnaca's profile as a destination for cultural tourism.

Larnaka2030

Larnaca Biennale continued its collaboration with Larnaka2030, established during the 2023 edition. The provision of artist residency accommodation at Zouhouri Square and access to the exhibition space Common Ground supported artist mobility, sustainable use of cultural infrastructure, and long-term cultural development.

The collaboration further positions the Biennale as a key partner within the city's broader cultural ecosystem, aligned with European Capital of Culture objectives related to international exchange, artist mobility, and the long-term cultural vitality of the city.

Other points for consideration

In the evaluation of the first edition of the Larnaca Biennale in 2018, the **limited availability of suitable municipal art infrastructure in Larnaca was identified as a significant challenge**. During the 2021 edition, the completion of the restoration of the former Larnaca Club (Matei House) was noted as a positive development, as it provided a high-quality exhibition space. However, the subsequent decision to house a permanent art collection in this building has effectively removed a versatile venue that could have accommodated multiple exhibitions and cultural activities. This development represents a further reduction in the already limited number of flexible cultural spaces available in the city and is highlighted again in the present evaluation.

As **alternative solutions**, Larnaca Municipality provided the first floor of the new Municipal Market, and for the current edition, the venue Common Ground, operated through Larnaka 2030, was made available as a main exhibition space. These provisions partially addressed the spatial needs of the Biennale. Looking ahead, it is anticipated that the **completion of additional municipal cultural infrastructure projects will expand the range of available venues, enabling the Biennale to better respond to its growing spatial and programming requirements**.

Regarding venue operation, **Larnaca Biennale does not have authority over the opening days and hours of all exhibition spaces**. In this edition, Kallinikeio Municipal Museum in Athienou and Pierides Museum chose not to operate on Saturdays and Sundays respectively. In contrast, Larnaca Municipality facilitated weekend afternoon opening hours (16:00–19:00), which resulted in increased visitation.

Venues directly operated by the Larnaca Biennale team- Apothiki 79 and Common Ground Gallery, followed an extended and consistent opening schedule (Tuesday–Friday 10:00–18:00; Saturday–Sunday 11:00–19:00), which proved effective in achieving high visitation levels. **In response to increased attendance from both local and international audiences, the Biennale team will continue to advocate for extended and harmonised opening hours across all venues, aligned with European standards and visitor expectations**.

Larnaca Biennale managed to utilise to the upmost benefit of its supporters and sponsors its budget for promotion and advertising. Targeted advertising ensured the successful promotion of Larnaca Biennale in Cyprus and abroad.

Other points for consideration

Larnaca Biennale 2025 successfully operated within its approved budget and concluded the edition without a financial deficit. This outcome was achieved through increased financial support from the Deputy Ministry of Culture, via the ΚΥΠΡΙΑ 2025 and ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΜΟΣ funding programs, enhanced contributions from Larnaca Municipality, increased artist applications and sponsorships from the private sector. These combined sources enabled the delivery of the 2025 edition.

Despite this positive outcome, it should be noted that, in relation to the continued growth and expanding scope of the Biennale, overall funding levels remain limited. To sustain the delivery of a high-quality international event with significant cultural and economic impact, an increase in total funding will be necessary in future editions.

The 2025 budget was financed as follows: **56%** from the Deputy Ministry of Culture, **20%** from private sector companies and small businesses, **16%** through open call application fees, and **8%** from Larnaca Municipality, despite the latter's increased contribution compared to previous editions.

In response to findings from the previous edition's evaluation regarding the negative impact of the commercial theme park (Luna Park) located in front of the Municipal Gallery, specifically reduced visitation and noise disturbance, the decision of the Municipal Council not to install the park during this edition is positively acknowledged. As anticipated, visitation to the Municipal Gallery increased significantly for both walk-in and scheduled visitors.

Looking ahead, the Larnaca Biennale seeks to work more closely with Larnaca Municipality in the coming years to establish a more structured and effective framework for collaboration and support. Such an approach will be essential to the continued development of the Biennale as a cultural institution with demonstrated artistic, social, and economic benefits for the city.

As a result of the funding secured for Larnaca Biennale 2025, the core team received **reasonable** compensation and all collaborators and associates were remunerated accordingly. Although the Biennale's full operational costs continue to rely on careful financial planning and in-kind support from private sector partners, this edition successfully met all financial obligations and delivered a high-quality international event supported by effective and wide-reaching publicity.

While planning and preparation extended over a two-year period, remuneration for the team was limited to the year of the edition.

Overall, Larnaca Biennale 2025 exceeded expectations, with the fourth edition completed successfully and demonstrating measurable improvements in organisational capacity, program scope, partnerships, and professional standards. These developments generated clear benefits for the city of Larnaca, participating artists, audiences, and the wider cultural landscape of Cyprus.

The Biennale has systematically considered feedback from artists, collaborators, and audiences, using this input to inform planning and development. This reflective process underpins the preparation for Larnaca Biennale 2027, with the aim of achieving increased impact, enhanced quality, and continued service to arts, culture, and the local community with sustained commitment and professionalism.