

PUSH - OPEN CALL Guidelines
The Ark Migration Lab
20 February - 1 March 2018
Dublin, IRELAND



Information about PUSH

PUSH is a Creative Europe-funded project led by [Imagine](#) (Scotland) alongside [cultuurcentrumHasselt/Krokusfestival](#) (Belgium), [The Ark](#) (Ireland), [Åben Dans](#) (Denmark), [Scenekunstbruket](#) (Norway). Over two years, we will explore three topics within theatre and dance for young audiences. Artists from all partner countries will be invited to apply to participate in one of three residential Labs:

- Gender and sexual identity Lab in Scotland
- (over)protection Lab in Belgium
- Migration Lab in Ireland

You can read more about the full project at www.pushproject.eu

This application is for the Migration Lab which will take place in Dublin, Ireland from 20 February - 1 March 2018.

Information about the Migration Lab

Immigration is the major crisis within the EU community at present and over half of the world's displaced people are children. The Ark Lab will explore the theme of migration and its impact on Ireland and our European neighbours and partners through the lens of performance for children.

The PUSH project is committed to exploring how artists in Europe can contribute positively to the welfare and care of displaced people through their practice. Our own knowledge and history will inform this cultural programme connecting the traditional Irish experience of emigration with this contemporary European project. This lab will allow us to explore, with our EU partners, how different countries and cultures address this communal issue. We will also investigate how artists from a range of backgrounds and cultural activities can offer opportunities to create diverse communities and to examine active citizenship in work for children.

The Lab

This is a nine-night residential lab in Dublin from Tuesday 20 February to Thursday 1 March 2018. It will bring together 14 artists from five different countries in Europe to explore the migration theme in theatre and dance for children.

Across the eight days of the LAB we wish to explore with artists the following questions:

- How can we talk about migration and asylum with our audiences, including minority voices, in a sector that is not yet diverse and a context that is highly political?
- Over half of the worlds displaced people are children, what is the role of the artist in telling/representing their stories?
- What do children in Europe understand of the current Immigration crisis? How can we explore and interrogate this in an age-appropriate and artistically interesting way?
- Do children who have been displaced and live in Europe see themselves represented in culture?
- What are the risks in trying to explore such an emotive issue through theatre and dance for an audience of children?
- How do we actively make our sector more diverse and inclusive so encourage artists who are telling their own stories?

Information about the selection process

Applications should be made by 5pm on Wednesday 25 October 2017.

Each PUSH partner will select its own artists participating in the LAB. The Ark's selection panel will include an Ark representative and one external party and will select two artists based in Ireland to take part in this Lab. All applicants will hear if they have been selected by 10 November 2017.

There are two places on the Migration Lab for artists based in Ireland (who will join four artists from Belgium and Scotland and two each from Denmark and Norway). All artists will be paid a fee of €800 and €320 in per diems to cover the eight days plus return travel to the Lab and self-catering accommodation.

FAQs

- **What kind of artists are we looking for?**

We are looking for artists involved in making theatre and dance, ideally you will have made work for young audiences before (or can show us a strong interest). We would like to find a group of artists at different stages of their career although **due to the complexity of an international residency it's unlikely to be suitable for artists still studying or who have very recently graduated.**

We particularly encourage applications from artists with disabilities and

artists from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, as well as artists with experience of migration.

- **What information should I include in my application?**

We are looking for artists who have experience in making and touring work and who are excited about creating theatre and dance for children. We'd love to see examples of your work (images, descriptions, film clips, reviews etc.) so do include them in your application via web links and/or file transfer links (eg Dropbox or WeTransfer). We are also looking for artists who have a genuine interest in the Lab topic and can bring their ideas to the group, artists who are committed to making change happen. Please don't include CVs or other additional documents as the panel will only see your application form.

- **Is there a word count/time limit?**

While there isn't a word limit for your answers, we would ask you to consider the panel and think about concise answers. Think about the key facts/opinions/ideas you want the panel to know and the best way for them to be clear and not lost in paragraphs of information.

- **How will the panel assess the applications?**

The panel will talk through each application thinking about these key criteria:

- *Proven interest in theatre and/or dance for young audiences*
- *Quality of work as a maker*
- *Proven interest or experience of migration*
- *Quality of ideas and interest in how they intersect with work for young audiences*
- *Potential impact of this Lab for the artist and their career*

This means we are interested in hearing about your artistic work but also any other ways in which you have been involved in the topic even if not related to your practice as an artist such as political activism, voluntary work, academic study. We are not looking for academic essays or perfectly written English, focus on getting your ideas across and who you are as an artist.

- **Do all artists have to stay in the LAB accommodation?**

Yes, all the participants (even those who live in Ireland) will be booked into the same accommodation. This is to allow all the Lab participants to live together for a week, to facilitate deeper discussion and opportunities to get to know each other. If this is a problem for you for any reason please let us know at the time of application.

- **How many places are there?**

There are 14 places in total for this Lab with two available to artists based in Ireland. Artists based in Belgium, Scotland, Norway and Denmark will be selected by the other PUSH partners. A selection process will take place for each of the three Labs, it won't be the same artists taking part in all three.

- **Can I apply if I haven't connected with The Ark before?**

Yes, we would encourage all theatre and dance artists interested in the topic and work for young audiences to apply.

- **Can I apply for this Lab if I'm not based in Ireland?**

Priority will be given to artists based and making work in Ireland. If you are based in Belgium, Scotland, Norway or Denmark you can contact us to be put in touch with our partner in your country.

- **How accessible is the Lab?**

Both the Lab venue and the artist accommodation are fully accessible and we welcome applications from artists with a disability. Please get in touch with us if you would like to discuss your accessibility needs.

We aim to ensure the application and selection process is straight forward and fair. If you have any questions about the process, or the project in general, please email Sarah O'Dwyer at sarah@ark.ie .

To apply, simply complete our online application form [here](#) or download a Word version of the application form [here](#).