

MATERA 2020 CITIZENS' MANIFESTO

- Matera is a liminal city.
- Time and space hang in the balance between high and low, climbs and descents that are symbolically impervious.
- Mineral, vegetable, and animal essence, past and present, everything resonates in topography and stones.
- After Matera 2019, we citizens claim a role that has flourished among the stones in this year of culture.
- Our city, that is so welcoming and hospitable for travellers, must be the venue for an annual summer performing arts festival.
- We citizens want to be promoters and active participants of this festival by forming a collective that is in constant collaboration and creative fusion with the Matera 2019 Foundation.
- We want to open the city to artists from all over the world to develop residencies and creative paths.
- The active participation of citizens in the creative practices and paths will make it a unique celebration and will lead to the development of a conscious community.
- We hope for the birth of a cultural centre that radiates throughout the region and throughout the south. We want a place for participatory art, founded on the relationship between artistic languages and the territory.
- With this festival we intend to involve the small municipalities of the region and relaunch the beauty of living in small communities.
- We want the artistic actions to develop in dialogue with the unique morphology of the city, to establish a strong community experience throughout the festival.
- We want more spaces dedicated to the arts to be activated and inhabited, starting with theatres that already exist.
- We want that all art in Matera, even in its most adventurous and profound forms, gives life to a collective event, a secular celebration.
- We intend to act on our city, involve everyone, bring the gift of art to all citizens in a journey of awareness and attention. Work out the tensions of our community. Create curiosities about new things, in the younger generations, in schools, infect them with our joy and happiness.
- By collaborating with the guest artists, we intend to get closer to the younger generations to understand their desires and needs, including implicit or unexpressed, to involve them in our dream.
- Listening and exchange: this is the key.
- Drive through the suburbs with enthusiasm.
- Our hope is that from this dream an inexhaustible passion is generated.
- We want the dream that started this year to continue. Don't kill our dream.

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- The spaces of Matera are for the whole world, and we welcome the world, never ceasing to listen to the sky. With these actions, we want to break the isolation and offer our city generously in exchange for experience.
- We are on our way and we do not intend to stop.
- We love art and art helps us to live.
- We swear allegiance to beauty.
- The pursuit of beauty must be a daily practice of awareness, it is also inherent in small things.
- It is increasingly necessary to educate about beauty, dance, music, theatre, and all forms of art.
- We believe that practising art, dedicating ourselves to it, experiencing it, is a path to discover the innumerable narrations of ourselves.
- Beauty is within each of us, it must be practised to let it emerge.
- It is essential to work on the body, voice and mind, learning to listen to oneself.
- We believe that beauty is generated by all forms of diversity.
- The festival must articulate a geography of residencies, practices, hospitality that extend the life of experiences and guarantee the participation of citizens of all ages, backgrounds, abilities and religions.
- Citizens are called to find new ways of meeting where poetry unfolds in listening to the community.
- Art poetically captures the enigmas of our existence, makes them resonate, opens our secret rooms, gives a voice to the unspeakable, makes the invisible appear, makes us come alive in a song of life and death.
- Only a dense and supportive fabric of culture can counteract any disruptive force.