

Application form – CALRE Awards 2023

Submitting assembly*

Legislative Assembly of the Autonomous Region of Madeira

Contact person*

Susana Figueiredo
+351 291 510 524
susanafigueiredo@alram.pt

Maria Freitas
+351 291 510 587
mariafreitas@alram.pt

Name of the initiative*

Parlamento Cultural (in English, Cultural Parliament)

Type of initiative*

Other

Start date of the initiative

2020

End date of the initiative

Ongoing

Short description of the initiative*

The “Cultural Parliament” initiative aims to encompass a wide range of initiatives, which include different artistic-cultural expressions, through which the Madeiran Parliament aims to affirm its positioning, also, as a cultural space open to the community. A mission that has been fulfilled through the organising and hosting of artistic and cultural projects, such as music, dance, theatre, literature and visual arts. The actions developed in this context have privileged, above all, names and projects from the Autonomous Region of Madeira, but also include projects from mainland Portugal and abroad. The “Cultural Parliament” initiative is in line with the philosophy of proximity and plurality, strongly defended by this Legislative Assembly.

Main features of the initiative*

Created at the beginning of the XII Legislature the “Cultural Parliament” is an ongoing initiative that aims to showcase the Madeiran cultural sector and increase engagement amongst people with all genres of art. Through this initiative, a plethora of events were organised, including but not exclusively:

- Concerts
- Exhibitions
- Book launches
- Award Ceremonies
- Conferences, with multiple panels

This initiative has also helped in broadening the interactions between the Regional Parliament and the Madeiran people, as well as bringing the people and society closer together. One way in which this was done was by offering the Assembly walls to house different exhibitions to different people and groups such as:

- Artists
- Schools
- Charitable organisations
- Local artisans and associations helping preserve their work

A big win related to the “Cultural Parliament” was the exhibition of regional artist, Teresa Gonçalves Lobo, “*Da Raiz ao Núcleo*” (in english, From Root to Core). This exhibition was composed by around two dozen paintings and drawings, spread across various spaces and rooms of the Regional Assembly, exhibiting an intense conceptual narrative of lines and stains that dialogued with each other, calling viewers to an experience of interiority further refined by the physical and emotionally charged space that welcomed the pieces. Over the course of 6 months, this exhibition was visited by over two thousand people, most of them members of the public that decided to travel to the Assembly and see the exhibition on their own accord.

Another sub-project worth mentioning was the Musical Parliament project, a series of concerts through which in the height of the COVID-19 pandemic the Legislative Assembly of Madeira associated itself with a group of Madeiran musicians to carry out live concerts that were broadcasted by the local TV channel bringing culture and entertainment to the comfort of the homes of the Madeiran people, while also helping local musical artists through the hardships of the pandemic.

In total, this initiative resulted in over **175** events, including amongst others:

- 120** Concerts;
- 20** Exhibitions;
- 16** Book Launches;
- 8** Award Ceremonies

Apart from cultural events, there was one last project associated to the “Cultural Parliament” initiative that helped connect the people, in particular school children, with the Parliament and the value of democracy. That project took form through Staged Visits, these were guided tours of the Assembly

building and were aimed at young children using theatre to help keep children interested in the history of the Assembly and the operation of the Parliament.

Role of the assembly in the success of the initiative*

The Legislative Assembly of Madeira is the creator, coordinator and promoter of the “Cultural Parliament” initiative as well as its sub-projects. As the home of the Regional Parliament, and therefore the home of the Madeirans and representative of their will, the Assembly’s openness to emphasise the importance of culture and showcase the strong and resilient work of local artists proved highly impactful both in terms of maximising artists’ engagement and in terms of spreading the values of solidarity and freedom of expression.

Understandably, the Assembly also contributed with both material and human resources to allow for the best outcome of all events and projects incorporated in this initiative.

European orientation of the initiative*

At its very core, this initiative aim is to offer a dignified space for all to use to showcase their cultural work. At the very beginning, with the sub-project Musical Parliament, the Assembly helped guarantee dignified working conditions to local musicians that had seen their work hours dramatically reduced, this initiative helped them not only overcome some economic difficulties, but also share their art form with a broader audience. Similarly, the “Cultural Parliament” initiative focused on the values of solidarity and equality, partnering with multiple charitable organisations as well as the regional Department of Education, to put on exhibitions and host events that would exhibit amateur artists’ artform while raising awareness to causes such as heritage, education, health and underprivileged groups.

Documentation

Links to some news articles and videos regarding projects associated to this initiative:

Musical Parliament project

<https://www.alam.pt/pt/noticias/xii-legislatura/ii-sessao-legislativa/2020/novembro/parlamento-musical-da-continuidade-a-divulgacao-cultural-atraves-de-12-concertos/>

<https://fb.watch/nDOTT-0t4o/>

Teresa Gonçalves Lobo “*Da Raiz ao Núcleo*” Exhibition

<https://www.alam.pt/pt/noticias/xii-legislatura/iii-sessao-legislativa/2022/agosto/exposicao-de-teresa-goncalves-lobo-visitada-por-mais-de-duas-mil-pessoas/>

<https://fb.watch/nDHZ040XI0/>

“*Liaisons*” Exhibition

https://fb.watch/nDHS_V-4Cx/

Staged Visits

<https://fb.watch/nDI1KSj6tk/>