CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
Open Agri
Innovate the countryside and cultivate the city
#Milanosottosopra

This is an OPEN CALL for artists-in-residence projects, that is part of a broader EU funded project “Openagri – New skills for new jobs in peri-urban agriculture”, which will activate an Open Innovation Hub on peri-urban agriculture in the Milanese area of Cascina Nosedo in the southern neighbourhood of Nosedo-Porto di Mare.

OPEN AGRI PROJECT
The City government of Milan decided to set up an urban coalition with a series of partners (Universities, companies, associations) in order to apply for the first call of UIA Initiative (Urban Innovative Actions), with the desire to scale up this positioning in the periurban agricultural industry, setting up a stable growth and creating new jobs and skills.

OpenAgri is mainly an urban policy experimentation that follows the place-based approach, focusing on new skills for new jobs in peri-urban agriculture. The project area can be defined as an “urban fringe”, representing the transition zone between the consolidated part of the City and the agricultural lands. The challenge is to locate here an innovative urban service aimed at creating new jobs, skills, start-ups and innovation in agri-food sector (including production, processing and food waste) while increasing the level of resilience and sustainability of the City. With this in view, a series of selected partners have been engaged on using in the best possible way a public owned 30 hectares plot of land surrounding the south Milan Parco Sud boundaries.

After a year and a half of project start-up a web of actions and actors in Milan are questioning with a positive and proactive practice the consolidated hierarchies: Close vs Far, Centre vs Suburbs, Rural vs Urban.

Proponents

mare culturale urbano

mare culturale urbano is a centre for artistic production based in west Milan with a mission: build a new model for suburban territorial development. By establishing a strong bond with its surrounding local dimension, mare culturale urbano will develop international exchanges and activate processes of social inclusion, urban regeneration and cultural innovation.
mare combines artistic research and community social planning by coordinating a series of residencies focused on the creation of content and services able to have a strong territorial impact on the areas for which they were conceived and designed. mare’s two headquarters are quite closely located, not far from the San Siro stadium: Cascina Torrette, an old and refurbished farmhouse, and via Novara 75, a new building whose opening is foreseen in 2018.
Terzo Paesaggio
Terzo Paesaggio is a Milan-based non-profit organization, founded by a multidisciplinary group of professionals animated by shared conception of the value of landscape as a social context.
The organization deals with designing services aimed to the regeneration of borderline urban areas, working alongside with artists, curators, performers, architects and technical experts, and connecting to the citizens and existing, local businesses. The organization also experiments with a new work method for urban regeneration based on a “performative” project whose goal is to activate communities through workshops, artistic residencies, learning worksites, temporary re-use of unoccupied buildings, landscape and garden poetics, actions on nutritional and food-related culture and unconventional farming.

Sunugal
Sunugal is a socio-cultural association that operates both in Senegal and in Italy, dealing with culture, education, performing arts and international cooperation. Activities are mainly based on volunteering and self-financing. Inaugurated on May 2018, Cascina Casottello (in Corvetto-Porto di Mare area) is a new “International Neighborhood Center” aimed at starting a process of territorial and architectural regeneration, reinterpreting the identity of the Cascina through creative, artistic and social proposals, driven by the active participation of citizens. Cascina Casottello is a place open to the neighborhood and to the city, an instrument of dialogue, meetings and discussions, the link between collective resources and social needs.

1 – Open call announcement

The purpose of the Open Call is the selection of a research project in the scope of contemporary artistic languages (such as performance, public and participatory art) for a nine-week long residency, interacting creatively with UIA Openagri’s partnership and activities, that see the participation of Universities, research centers, CBO’s, NGO’s, Public Bodies, incubators and other territorial actors, oriented towards agricultural and ecological innovation. OpenAgri core activities are based on a 30-hectares field next to Cascina Nosedo, most of which presents uncultivated lawns and whose management is now entrusted to 18 innovative agriculture start-up companies.
We are looking for site-specific and in-vivo projects that reflect, draw inspiration from and deal with “territorial” issues typical of OpenAgri, using participatory-art language.

2 – Territorial context

“Few places like Nosedo and Chiaravalle share such an ambiguous condition: on one hand they boast an ancient historical and artistic heritage, on the other hand they are struggling with marginalization, strong urbanization soil consumption and loss of quality of life for its inhabitants. The fact that they are the last countryside before the sprawling advance of the city has fostered social unease, urban decay and abandonment”.
“Few places like Milan are affected by a number of active entities and projects concerned with the environment and aimed to the construction of the landscape, like Valle della Vettabbia.

The Vettabbia district covers the area from Chiaravalle Abbey and its appurtenances, all the way to the so called “Acqua Nosedo”, and from Viboldone Abbey to Lambro river.

Today the UIA Openagri project is part of a wider action of territorial regeneration, where the restored public availability of Cascina Nosed has been a substantial contribution.

From Open Agri / Open Landscape, Milano, July 4th to 6th, 2017. Architecture and Urban Studies Department - Antonio Longo e Catherine Dezio / The workshop took place as part of the project OpenAgri – European Urban Innovation Action Call (UIA).

3 – The residency

The residency’s objective is the production of a performative, public or participatory artwork, related to the themes of OpenAgri project, and involving the different stakeholders: citizens, selected start-up companies, OpenAgri partners, associations and activists in that area.

The work will be articulated in three-week sections and will have to include:

Phase 1 (approximately around April 2019):

a. A welcome party for the start of the residency in collaboration with SUNUGAL. During the party the artists will introduce themselves to the local community through a performance or work featured from their repertoire.

b. Start of the action research process that will lead to the identification of the themes that will guide all the various steps of the creation and spark the necessary synergies directed towards the development of the project.

Phase 2* (Approximately June/July/August 2019):

a. Following up with the planning and drafting of the project, together with the reinforcement of the necessary connections and relations.

b. Performance rehearsal

Phase 3* (September 2019):

a. Performance/public exhibition of the work and farewell party to greet the locals and the territory.

4 – What we offer

° A co-production prize valued 11.000,00 €, partitioned as follows:

- 6k compensation + travels and board
- 3k for technical assistance
- 1k for permits and licenses
- 1K for paper or film documentation
Get-to-know excursions, meetings and workshops with the stakeholders, guided analysis of the materials, exploration walks together with experts and local facilitators.

workspace and rehearsal space, for the entire duration of the residency.

Accommodation for the whole artistic team for the entire duration of the residency at Cascina Casottello’s guesthouse (Via Fabio Massimo, 19), inside the International Neighborhood Center. One double-bed single room, one double-room and a room to be used as office or study.

Circulation and promotion of the project through the partners’ media channels and through specialized press, besides the communication of public events.

5 – Selection criteria

The submitted projects must be original and have clear and well-defined authorship. They don’t necessarily have to be unreleased and they must start and end within the allotted time of the residency. Each artistic group can submit only one project.

The selected artists/groups will be required to provide hardcopy or digital documentation of the creative process.

The preference will be accorded to those projects that in some ways try to work around some of OpenAgri keywords: construction-site, city/countryside borders, water, food, sustainability, skills and competences, employment and entrepreneurship.

The use of participatory-art language will be held in high consideration for the purpose of the selection. Furthermore, the selection will prefer site-specific and in-vivo projects that reflect, draw inspiration from and deal with “territorial” issues, such as:

- Experimentation of innovative practices, which strive for a cohesive and cooperative management of the 30 hectares of land.
- Agriculture as the new frontier of urban innovation, through the reinforcement of the collaboration between the 18 innovative start-up companies locally active in the area.
- Territorial resignification process, triggering activities in the 30 hectares of land, in particular: start of the farming activities, design the new landscape, networking and landmark system, new territorial narratives.
- The relationship between city and countryside, peri-urban agriculture and urban food policy.
- The upgrading site of Cascina Nosedo and its relation to the wider surrounding context.
- Landscape reconstruction processes, even if short-termed, such as the completion of the Vettabbia Park and Wood, the restoration and replenishment of the water supply network, the restoration of the farms surrounding Cascina Nosedo, the final configuration of the sewage pipes going to the water treatment.
plant, the fostering of free-time and nature-related activities throughout the Vettabbia Park, including Chiaravalle.

Those projects that will directly or indirectly encourage the development of skills and competences of the local youth population, eventually with the involvement of schools, will be considered worthwhile for selection purposes.

6 - Who can participate?
Artistic groups or individual artists, both Italian or international, who have at least one year’s documented experience in performance or participatory art projects can apply. Preference will be accorded to groups who show a marked interest in artistic language innovation.

7 - How to apply
Applications, complete with all necessary documentation, must be emailed to partecipa@maremilano.org by Decembre 1, 2018 (deadline at midnight), with the following enclosures:
- Resumé or portfolio of the artistic team;
- Application form enclosed in this Call, filled in correctly;
- Artistic project (must be under 3000 characters, including spacing), providing any additional material in support of the application;
- Technical file and video material to be presented during Phase 1;

8 - Selection and outcome
The artistic board, made up of Mare Culturale Urbano, Terzo Paesaggio and Sunugal, Comune di Milano and Avanzi, is entitled to the selection of the applications and all decisions are final. Participants will be advised of the final decision by January 20, 2019.

9 - Rules and regulations to participate
Application submittal implies compliance to all rules above-mentioned in the present Call. Any variation to the project once the selection has been made must be approved by the proponent associations, or suffer penalty of exclusion.

10 – Useful links
Facebook @openagrimilano
Twitter @OpenagriMilano

Open Agri
Open Agri Partnership

Comune di Milano www.comune.milano.it
Camera di Commercio, Industria, Agricoltura e Artigianato http://www.milomb.camcom.it/home
Fondazione Politecnico di Milano http://www.fondazionepolitecnico.it/it/
Fondazione Parco Tecnologico Padano http://www.ptp.it/
Università degli studi di Milano http://www.unimi.it/
Politecnico di Milano - University http://www.dastu.polimi.it/
Avanzi http://avanzi.org
Cineca www.cineca.it
FUTURE FOOD INSTITUTE futurefood.network
ImpattoZero Sr1 http://www.mondomigliore.eu/
La Strada Società Cooperativa Sociale www.lastrada.it/
Sunugal www.sunugal.it
Poliedra, Centro di servizio e consulenza del Politecnico di Milano www.poliedra.polimi.it
IFOA – Istituto Formazione Operatori Aziendali www.ifoa.it
Mare s.r.l. impresa sociale www.maremilano.org
FOOD PARTNERS SRL http://www.foodpartners.it/

Open Agri Technical Partners
Terzo Paesaggio www.terzopaesaggio.org/

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