

OPEN CALL OPEN CALL OPEN CALL

Platform In De Maak
IS LOOKING FOR
starting makers in the performing arts

****deadline Sunday March 30th 2025 at 23:59****

From **October 2025 to October/November 2026**, Platform In De Maak wants to set up a development trajectory for and together with starting makers in the performing arts. To this end, Platform In De Maak is looking for starting makers in the performing arts, ranging from performers, choreographers, musicians, scenographers, dramaturges, lighting designers, sound designers, graphic designers with an affinity for the performing arts to aspiring business leaders, ... who will put their shoulders to the wheel for a period of 14 months in a collaborative manner for the development of both themselves and other starting makers. This will take the form of workshops, residency and presentation space, concluding in October 2026 with a multi-day performing arts festival for a wide audience in Leuven. This will be followed by another evaluation and closing event in November 2026.

If you are a starting performing artist and are interested in this artist run programme, please fill in this [form](#) (or make a video if this medium suits you better). It is imperative that you read the explanation below about Platform In De Maak (and the information on [our website](#)) and the details of the development trajectory carefully before submitting the form so you know exactly what you are signing up for! Don't hesitate to email with questions to platformindemaak@gmail.com.

Platform In De Maak briefly

Since 2019, Platform In De Maak has been building an artistic peer network for starting makers that champions the needs of this group. It is an artist-run platform supported entirely by starting makers themselves. Since then, it became clear that one of the most pressing needs today is above all the possibility of sustainable development. In response, Platform In De Maak offered a development trajectory for the first time in 2023. Trajectory 25-26 builds on this first trajectory, subject to adjustments based on the experience gained. Through the artist run way, Platform In De Maak seeks to offer creators the chance to develop themselves behind the scenes - productionally, administratively and business-wise - in addition to artistic development.

For more info on PIDM, be sure to take a look at [our website](#) !

Who are we looking for?

- You are a **starting performing artist***, a **starting collective**** or **art worker*****
- You are working on a professional career in the arts
- You are not (no longer) studying at an arts college as of autumn 2025
- You have a development/presentation idea for the coming years (for art workers: these can also be broad content questions)
- You are keen to experiment with organisational structures and other forms of working
- You are curious to meet other starting makers and concretise the trajectory with them
- You can attend the digital information session on Wednesday 2 April 2025 between 19h-20h30
- You are available on the following days in autumn 2025:
 - Saturday 4 October 2025 > Start-up day*
 - Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 October 2025 > Meeting weekend*
 - Saturday 8 November 2025 > Workshop Day*
 - Sunday 16 November 2025 > Workshop Day*
 - Saturday 29 November 2025 > Workshop Day*
 - Sunday 14 December 2025 > Workshop Day*
- You can agree with the timing and duration of the trajectory (more info below)

** Starting out for Platform In De Maak means that you are at the beginning of a career in the arts, regardless of education, age, etc. PLEASE NOTE: For this reason, this Open Call does not target makers who are still studying at art colleges.*

*** If you wish to participate as a collective, we assume that each member is equally committed to the organisational structure of Platform In De Maak. It is therefore expected that each member of the collective participates and takes on the full commitment of the trajectory.*

**** Those who participate as art workers and do not make their own artistic work can develop their own practice, conduct research, etc. during this trajectory. At presentation moments, this practice can be shared or the research explained, or artistic work to which you contribute professionally can be shown. (e.g.: a business leader of artist X programmes work by this artist). In short: you can absolutely be part of the trajectory without creating artistic work yourself!*

What does Platform In De Maak want to offer a starting makers with this trajectory?

- A 14-month development trajectory together with other start-up makers
- Workshops by experienced art workers and makers from previous PIDM activities
- Two weeks of residency space with production budget (2000 euros)
- Presentation space (one work-in-progress presentation and presentation at festival PLATEAU26)
- The chance to design your own festival together with other starting makers based on your own needs and wishes within the cultural field
- Practical experience and insight into organising
- Knowledge sharing and peer network

What do we expect from you?

- You commit to working not only on your own artistic practice, but also to support other starting makers in their work
- You commit to taking on some of the organisational work within this trajectory. This could include communication, production tasks, following up the business side, taking on technical responsibilities, looking after the welfare of the group, catering, etc. These tasks will be divided by mutual agreement based on everyone's areas of interest.

- You can free up sufficient time in the period from October 2025 to October 2026 (see timeline below). Not only for the workshops, your own residencies and presentation moments, but also to include organisational work.
- You are not only interested in development artistically, but also organisationally.

How can we (re)pay you?

- The residency comes with a production budget of 2,000 euros. You can use this to pay yourself or invest in your work (décor, costumes, research, etc.).
- You will be paid for your work-in-progress presentation at the makers day (2 days; set-up day + presentation day)
- You will be paid for the makers day you help organise (2 days; construction day + presentation day)
- You are compensated for the closing festival
- We will reimburse your travel expenses for workshop days, meetings and other Platform In The Making activities
- Please note! We currently have no funds to reimburse the organisational work this track requires. I.e. we cannot reimburse you for the meetings you attend and the tasks you take on within the organisation of the trajectory.

Trajectory 25-26 in a nutshell

Please note! At the time of this open call, the grant application for this project is ongoing. If this application is not granted, the track will shift in time or be modified.

The trajectory envisaged by Platform In De Maak consists of four phases.

<i>start-up</i>	<i>residencies</i>	<i>presentation WIP</i>	<i>festival</i>
<i>october-december 2025</i>	<i>januari-april 2026</i>	<i>april-june 2026</i>	<i>october 2026</i>

1/ development through workshops

In this start-up phase, the makers get the chance to develop a substantive vision of how they want to shape their trajectory. What values are paramount within their group and what do they want to convey?

During this period, in addition to the start-up day, a meeting weekend with overnight stay will take place. Here, the makers get to know each other, both artistically and organisationally. In addition, four workshop days are planned. The topics raised here are applicable to both the artistic practice of the individual makers and what the group will need to carry the organisation of the trajectory.

Already committed dates:

Saturday 4 October 2025 > Start-up day

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 October 2025 > Meeting weekend

Saturday 8 November 2025 > Workshop Day 1

Sunday 16 November 2025 > Workshop Day 2

Saturday, 29 November 2025 > Workshop Day 3

Sunday 14 December 2025 > Workshop Day 4

2/ development through residency and feedback

Between January and April 2026, two weeks of residencies per maker will be offered at various locations in Flanders and Brussels with our partners. The available spots will be divided between them based on availability, location and connection to the place. At the end of a residency period, short (internal) show and feedback moments are organised at which the whole group is present.

3/ development through presentation

Between April and June 2026, four makers' days will be organised at different locations in Flanders and Brussels. On each makers' day, four makers can share their work-in-progress with an audience and people from the sector. Four other makers from the track will carry the organisation of that day. So each maker presents at one makersday, and organises another makersday.

The makersdays will take place at 30CC/Wagehuys and Romaanse Poort (Leuven), corso (Antwerp), KVS (Brussels), CC De Kern (Wilrijk).

4/ organisation of PLATEAU26

The trajectory ends with PLATEAU26, a performing arts festival at the end of October 2026 in Leuven. The practical organisation for this will start in June 2026. All makers from the trajectory will contribute to the organisation of the festival and also present their artistic work or research there.

Apply for the Trajectory

As indicated, Platform In De Maak is an *artist-run* organisation of starting makers in the performing arts for and with starting makers in the performing arts. Consequently, this OPEN CALL selects on professional ambitions, availability and motivation to participate in a collaborative organisational structure, not on status of concept or extensive artistic experience. In this way, Platform In De Maak aims to set up a dynamic but accessible experimentation space and creative encounter for budding creators in the performing arts (with professional ambition!) both in front of and behind the scenes. Platform In De Maak believes that this is a fertile breeding ground for artistic quality that subscribes to an inclusive and collective future.

If this OPEN CALL applies to your artistic and organisational development question, and you meet the above criteria, apply [here](#). If you prefer to upload a video in which you verbally answer the questions, you can do so by sending a file via wetransfer to our mail address (max. 10 min). If you would like to express your interest in another way or have additional questions about the procedure, you can always send an e-mail to platformindemaak@gmail.com. Or come along to [PLATEAU25](#) (22-23 March at Opek and STUK) and ask your questions to our current generation of starting makers!

Trajectory 25-26 will accommodate 16 start-up makers. If more than 16 admissible applications are submitted, PIDM's daily operations will make a selection based on multidisciplinary and drawing lots.

Registered? We always send a confirmation as soon as we receive your entry in good order. If we have any questions about your entry, we will contact you during the week of 31 March 2025. Also be sure to keep [Wednesday April 2th](#) from 19h-20h30 free for the information meeting. Your presence there is absolutely essential!

The OPEN CALL is online from Monday March 3th 2025 to Sunday March 30th 2025 (23:59). Later submissions will not be accepted.

*** We invite talent from any background or education to apply. Even those who did not follow art training are eligible. ***