

Call for Projects

The Fondation d'entreprise Martell is launching a new call for projects to host designers, artists, architects, curators, writers and researchers in the humanities and social sciences for **research-experimentation, production and writing-curation** residencies in Cognac in 2026 and 2027.



Sebkha Faishaleh, Patov. Algal mats. Unbekannt, ETH-Bibliothek Zurich, Image Archive, Creative Commons BY-SA 4.0 Segmented calcareous sponges

Residencies 2026-2027

Fondation
d'entreprise
Martell

Intention

New Residency Program

After welcoming 22 projects and 28 creators in residence in 2024 and 2025, the Fondation d'entreprise Martell is now launching a «Creation & Transitions» call for projects for the 2026-2027 period.

Principle

As an expression of the Maison Martell's commitment to **nurturing the vitality of its local surrounding area**, the Fondation d'entreprise Martell was created to foster, develop, share and promulgate **forward-looking approaches and innovative forms of creation** across the Charentes region and beyond.

Combining excellence and accessibility, the Foundation is a unique space for contemporary creation and innovation. It supports artists, designers, architects, and scholars in the humanities and social sciences, from France and abroad, whose work grapples with **the major challenges of our era** – especially our ecological transition – in a way that is practical, forward-looking, sensitive, critical, poetic, and theoretical. It supports creators and scholars who have taken a long view to promoting alternative visions and developing new narratives that help us **identify new pathways to a sustainable, equitable future** amidst our complex, often unstable world.

Through its residencies, workshops, exhibitions, and cultural events, the Foundation encourages **experimentation and cross-fertilisation among various disciplines**. Deeply rooted in the history and traditional know-how of the Cognac area, it **combines local and global perspectives** to promote projects able to effect real change.

1. The selection committee is open to considering other formats that may meet the Foundation's vision.

Objectives

The selected projects will, each within their own subject area, use creation or scholarship to address the major challenges facing our contemporary era. They will contribute to the artistic and scientific invigoration of the Charentes region, and they may even foster bonds with other regions facing these same issues. Interdisciplinary approaches are highly encouraged.

On the theme «Creation & Transitions», the residency projects can get inspiration from the following areas of focus¹:

- **Ecological and social transformation and transition:** efficiency, resilience, climate adaptation, and environmental justice;
- **Developing the local and the global:** migrations, energy, value chains, resource geopolitics;
- **Rootedness in a geographic area:** connection to a local community, interface and interaction, citizen participation, local practices, and joint inquiries;
- **The timeframes of a geographic area:** seasons, production rhythms, natural cycles, and changes both slow and rapid;
- **Transformation of landscapes and environments:** the Anthropocene, renaturing, natural hazards, urbanisation, and living soils;
- **Inter-species relations:** fauna, flora, soils, ecosystems, and a sensitive approach to the living world;
- **Exploring materials, techniques, and modes of production:** reuse, biomaterials, contemporary craftsmanship, and the combining of digital technologies and manual know-how;
- **The tension between industry and craft, and questions of scale:** micro production, prototyping, fablabs, and the circular economy;
- **Memory and transmission:** living archives, oral narratives, sensitive mapping, and intangible heritage.

Support

The Foundation offers **residency fellowships** of an average duration of six weeks in three areas: **research & experimentation, production, and writing and curation.**

The call for projects is open to all nationalities, all professions in the **visual arts** and **humanities** (i.e., to designers, artists, architects, curators, makers, theoreticians, writers, and scholars in the humanities and social sciences), and all levels of experience, from the emerging to the established.

Intersections with other disciplines and bodies of knowledge, especially in the realm of the natural sciences, are also encouraged.

The Foundation's support consists of financial assistance in the form of maintenance and production grants that enable creators to accelerate their research within this dedicated space and period of time without jeopardising their standing professional commitments as freelancers.

Residents are also granted special access to the Foundation's production workshops, library, and the Living Archive, to which they are encouraged to contribute.

Lastly, residents benefit from the expertise of the Foundation's team and support from project partners, before, during, and after their residency.

The residency is also a moment for people to **live together**, as the Foundation welcomes as many as four residents at a time, who are encouraged to share their projects, thoughts, workspaces, and living areas.

The Foundation places great emphasis on **making the process of creation accessible**: end-of-residency presentations and public display tables provide valuable opportunities for exchanging and sharing with the local community. Other off-site events conducted at large help promote projects among professional audiences.

At the end of a residency, a variety of systems preserve a record of the research conducted at the Foundation, such as the Living Archive and filmed interviews.

Summary

1. Intention
2. The Residency Fellowships
3. Forms of Support
4. How to Apply
5. The Foundation
6. Selection Process

The Residency Fellowships

The Foundation hosts creators whose projects are at various stages of completion: from the initial research and experimentation phase, leading up to a possible prototype, to a more hands-on production phase for the making of objects. Lastly, the Foundation is now opening its residency programme to writers and curators and their projects.

Research and Experimentation

6 to 8 weeks¹

This residency area concerns **all projects in the conception, research, or prototyping phase**. The Foundation's workshops, its Living Archive, and the local community all constitute valuable resources for nurturing, testing, and supporting these experimental processes. Projects are more likely to take root and grow when they involve the formation of close bonds with the surrounding local area.

Writing and Curatorship

2 to 4 weeks, during the summer

This residency area is for writers, curators, critics, and scholars in the humanities and social sciences who require space and time during the summer in the Charentes region to carry out a writing project of a literary, artistic, critical, or theoretical nature.

Production

2 to 6 weeks¹

This residency area allows residents to give shape to their ideas and **produce new objects**. It is for all creators who have a production and fabrication goal requiring access to the Foundation's resources and to its ecosystem.

For exhibition projects, it is also possible to apply for this area in collaboration with a partner institution: the residency becomes a "production support". In this specific instance, the forms of support are adjusted (see below for more details).

1. Experimentation and production residencies may be conducted over two separate stays.

Forms of Support

Provided by the Foundation

Before the residency

Preparation of the residency: analysing needs, sharing resources and available means, and fostering connections.

During the residency

Professional support from the Foundation's team (practical and conceptual)

Housing: a private room in a house located 10 minutes on foot from the Foundation (see the Guide to the Residents' House)

Meals: access to the company restaurant at lunch on weekdays (residents are responsible for all other meals)

Transportation: coverage of one round-trip ticket between the resident's home and the Foundation for each residency period, within the limit of 2 round trips within France (for a maximum of €500) or one round trip internationally (for a maximum of €1,500)

The Foundation encourages soft mobility and forms of transportation with low-carbon emissions. The fellowship may be adapted in the event of long railway trips.

Residency fellowship

A weekly stipend of €375 consisting of:

- maintenance expenses: €175 per week per person (€25 per day)
- work stipend: €200 per week of the project

In the case of "production support" institutional partnerships, the partner institution is responsible for the work stipend.

Production budget

Within the limit of €2,500, depending on the project. The production budget covers all expenses for equipment, tools, and skills not already present at the Foundation.

Network and resources

- Area professionals and experts
- Access to the Living Archive and the library
- Use of the Foundation's vehicle

Communications

- Access to the digital photo studio to document work in progress and objects produced
- Recording of a professional video (interview) that will be posted on social media and made available to the residents

After the residency

- **Publicising** of the project on the Foundation's social media and website
- Partial coverage of the cost of **transporting** objects, financed with the remainder of the production budget (within the limit of €300)
- **Support** for promoting the project past the residency period (depending on the project and the opportunities)

Resident Contributions

Final presentation at the end of the residency: presentation of the creation process to the general public (in any format: lecture, screening, installation, performance...), which will be audio-recorded for inclusion in an additional online archive

Contribution to the Living Archive: submission of prototypes, samples, and results of the work process; recording of the resources, contacts, and know-how tapped during the residency

Preparation of a **display table** at the Almanac Lab

Conditioning of the objects produced and organisation of their transport

Optional: Artistic workshop during or after the residency (subject to additional remuneration)

How to Apply

The Application

The application must be written in French or English. It must include the following 4 documents, under penalty of not being reviewed by the selection committee.

Project applications submitted by creators working as a collective are also welcome.

1 – A resume (max. 2 pages)

2 – An artist's dossier / portfolio portfolio that presents the artistic approach and a selection of previous, significant projects (links to websites or an online portfolio are accepted) (max. 20 pages)

3 – A letter of intent including

- the project presentation and its relation to the Foundation's areas of focus (max. 2 pages). In certain cases (especially in the field of design), an overview of the current state of research on the subject under consideration is expected. The indicative questionnaire here after is meant to help applications specify their intentions.
- a technical presentation to explain the project's feasibility to the Foundation that specifies the work process, the technical needs, and workshops to which access is being requested (max. 2 pages)

4 – A project timeline and an estimated production budget covering all technical requirements (equipment, external expertise, tools) (maximum: €2,500)

Under the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), please inform us if you want your application to be deleted at the end of the application process.

Questionnaire

Question 1. How does your project help address a contemporary challenge, be it ecological, social, economic, cultural, or scientific? What kind of transformation (collective, individual, or otherwise) or impact do you hope your project will have?

Question 2. How does a residency at the Fondation d'entreprise Martell provide an environment that is favourable to the development of your project (i.e., in terms of its resources, workshops, know-how, network, and local area)?

Question 3. How does your project take a particular geographic area into account and explore its specific characteristics and problems?

Question 4. What forms of knowledge, methods, or experiences would you like to share with the general public, professionals, or the local area at the end of your residency?

Submitting the Application

The application must:

- be sent only in **PDF format** and as a **single file** (max. size 20 MB; you may use file transfer services in case of large files)
- be titled as: **First name LAST NAME – Project Title**
- be sent no later than 23 August 2026 at 11:59 p.m. to the email fondationmartell@gmail.com with the subject line "Application for a 2026 residency at the Martell Foundation"

The Foundation

Created in 2017, the Fondation d'entreprise Martell resides within the Maison Martell's former bottling facility, in the city of Cognac. Built in 1928, this 5,000 m² building enables the Foundation to carry out a wide range of projects, including revolving year-long exhibitions, creative residencies, introductory workshops to artisanal know-how, and cultural programming held at the Foundation and at large. Most events hosted by the Foundation are open to the public and free of charge.

In this way, it advances its cultural and social mission across the Charentes region and beyond, welcoming local communities, visitors passing through, and professionals in the fields of creation and research.

Raison d'être

Mission • The Fondation d'entreprise Martell encourages creativity and innovation as a way to meet the major challenges of our time. It invites people to imagine and shape a future through discovery, dialogue, and critical thinking. Deeply rooted in Cognac's long history, the Foundation seeks to bring local and global perspectives together as a way to foster projects that bring about change in the local area and beyond.

Vision • The Fondation d'entreprise Martell supports creators – be they designers, artists, or scholars – conducting research into the major challenges of our time. The Foundation provides space for interdisciplinary innovation and collaboration through its residencies, workshops, exhibitions, and cultural programs. Deeply rooted in the Cognac area, the Foundation fosters the emergence of experimental, creative projects that inspire new ways of thinking and living through the linking of local relevance and international impact.

Site & Resources

The Foundation strives to be a site for creation, experimentation, and production for professionals as well as a space for education and learning for the general public. It contains fully equipped, secure working spaces in which creators and scholars may conduct their projects freely and independently.

The first floor hosts the production studios, which are accessible six days a week, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.: the **glass workshop**, run by our master glassblowers Valentin Rizzo and Gaëtan Oheix, **the wood workshop**, **the ceramics workshop**, **the moulding workshop**, **the textile workshop**, and **the Fablab**.

The second floor is home to the **Almanac Lab**, a space created in 2023 at the outcome of an inquiry into the diversity of resources available in the Charentes region. Its aims to be an instrument for knowing the local area that encourages connections between the residents and the local community. This **Living Archive** is a participative tool for transmission that will grow over time through the contributions of the residents and the local community. It combines contacts, know-how, materials, and prototypes created during residencies. It also features a digital photo studio and a bilingual French-English library of major books on art, design, ecology, and environmental, economic, and social policies that residents may borrow at any time.

1. [Link to our workshops' guide](#)
2. For more information about the Living Archive and the library, feel free to contact us.

Selection Process

Selection Criteria

- **The novel or forward-looking nature** of the artistic approach
- **Consideration of major contemporary challenges and the transformative potential** (for design projects)
- **The intention to develop a project in relation to a specific area**, or that facilitates a connection between areas experiencing a common problem
- **References on behalf of the applicant** in the relevant fields of creation or research, and the capacity to engage in **critical thinking** within the discipline
- **Feasibility** in relation to the Foundation's resources, in consideration of the candidate(s)'s technical competencies required to carry out the project successfully

Please note that only complete applications will be reviewed by the selection committee. Please make sure that you send all the required documentation.

Selection Committee

The selection committee is composed of six professionals from the world of art and design.

It will meet in September 2026 to preselect applicants on the basis of their dossier before a final selection interview is conducted by the Director of the Foundation.

Timeline

July 2026: Opening of the call for projects

23 August 2026, 11:59 p.m.: Deadline for the submission of applications

September 2026: Meeting of the preselection committee

October 2026: Selection interviewing with the preselected applicants (via videoconference)
Informing of the residents selected and sending of a response (via email) to other applicants.

Autumn 2026: Hosting of the first residents

**Fondation
d'entreprise
Martell**

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