



ONX SEEDS OPEN CALL 2026

Soft Circuits for Hard Times

AN INVITATION TO GREEK AND INTERNATIONAL
EMERGING CREATORS AND COLLECTIVES WORKING IN ART,
DESIGN AND CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 26.10.2026



OPEN CALL & PROGRAM GUIDELINES

September 2026

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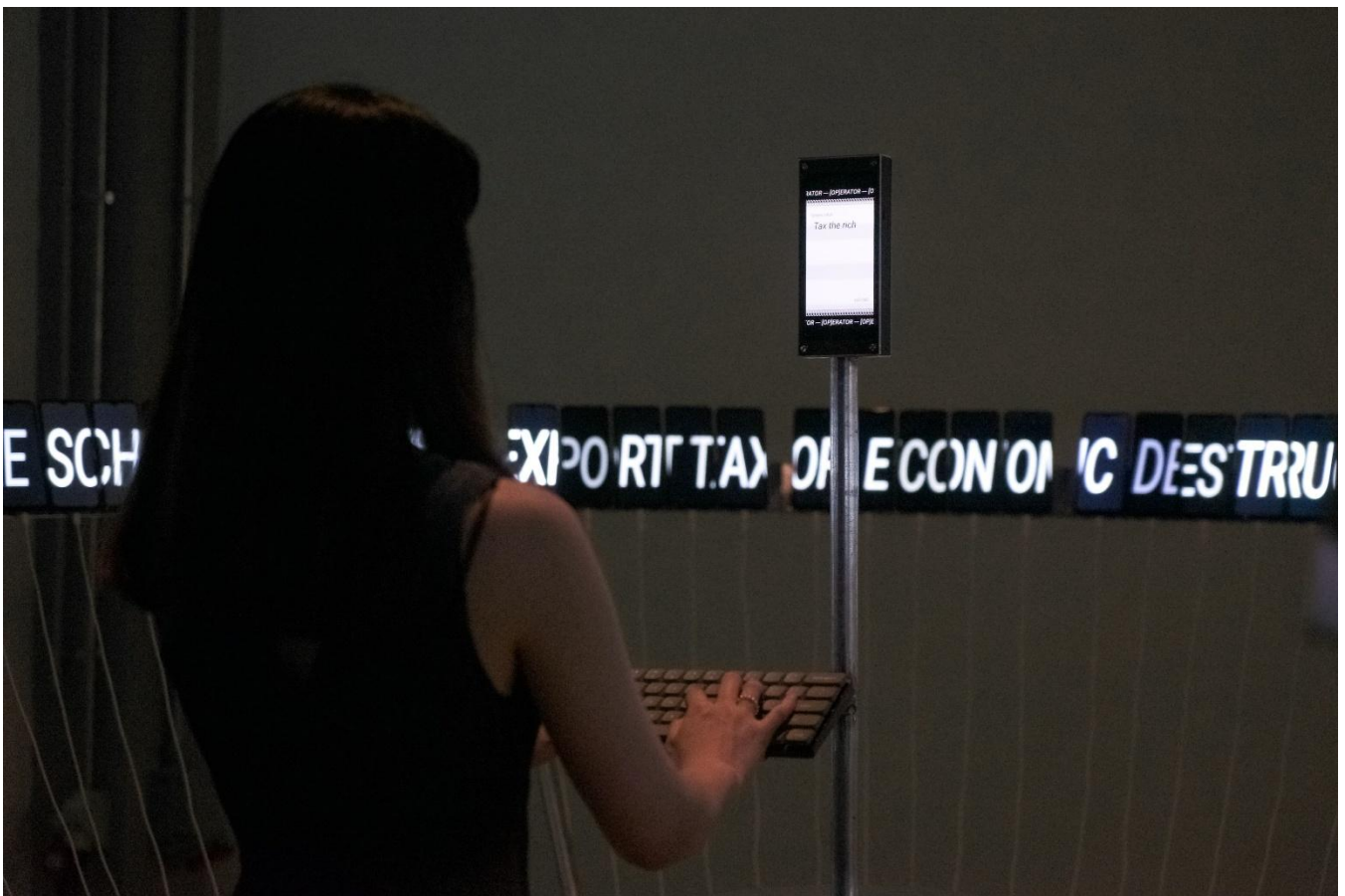


Image 1 [Op]erator, Studio Playfool @ONX.Showcase.Athens.2026
ONX Seeds 2025 – 2026

INTRODUCTION

About Onassis ONX

Onassis ONX is the Onassis Foundation's global platform for art and advanced technologies. As a catalyst for digital cultures, it supports genre-defying new media and immersive projects while also bolstering a network of institutions and industries ready to respond to new forms of creative expression. Onassis ONX is dedicated to elevating innovative creators across development, presentation, and distribution.

With studios in Athens and New York City, Onassis ONX provides a robust framework of technical, curatorial, and professional services. This support structure includes capacity-building Programs, incubation and applied research initiatives, acceleration services, seed funding, and exhibition opportunities. Such a holistic engagement throughout the creative process enables world building at the frontiers of AI, immersive, spatial computing, gaming, and other emergent time-based media.

Active partnerships with cultural institutions on residencies, exhibitions, co-commissions, thought-leadership Programming, as well as participation in cooperative European networks in the technology sector, also contribute to the sustainable evolution and diversification of the field as a whole. These networked efforts position Onassis ONX as a gateway for cross-sectoral collaboration and promote production as an innovative space within the arts and beyond.

While rooted in Athens and New York, the modular infrastructure that Onassis ONX builds enables experimentation and circulation, fostering innovative works that meaningfully engage with audiences around the world. As a platform it provides creators with the space and support to imagine new futures by questioning the systems through which digital cultures are produced, circulated, and remembered.



Image 2 A Father's Lullaby & Lullabies Through Time by Rashin Fahandej Tribeca Festival Immersive Program © Mikhail Mishin for Onassis USA

About ONX Seeds

ONX Seeds is the foundational incubation program of this ecosystem and the first entry point into the ONX pipeline for emerging artists, creative technologists, and collectives, working at the intersection of art and technology from all walks of life, from digital artists, creative technologists, designers, performers and other, around the world.

With an emphasis on new talents and recent graduates, it aims to become a premier platform for nurturing experimental, boundary-pushing creative technologies and speculative art practices.

Designed as a four-month, practice-based incubation program, ONX Seeds supports early-stage artistic projects with strong technological components, guiding teams from concept development to the creation of a functional, high-artistic-value prototype. Selected applicants will receive online and hands-on support, tailored mentoring, production support, seed funding, and full access to ONX studio technical facilities in Athens (no travel or accommodation provided), and international networking opportunities. Beyond the incubation phase, ONX Seeds connects projects to further development and presentation opportunities within the broader ONX development framework in Athens, New York and globally, including advanced incubation and acceleration programs, residencies, international showcases, and funding pathways.

The program culminates in a public-facing showcase and industry meetings,

ONX.Exhibition.Athens.2027, on March 17th – 21st 2027, designed to facilitate access to partners, presenters, and future funding, and receive feedback from curators and an expert audience.



Image 3 Altar 1, Dionysios
 ONX Seeds 2025 - 2026
 ONX.Showcase.Athens.2026 @ Stephie Grape for Onassis Stegi

SOFT CIRCUITS FOR HARD TIMES

Curatorial Note

In a moment when machines are trained to remember, predict, optimize, and repeat, **Soft Circuits for Hard Times** asks what it might mean to build technologies that can also pause, forget, misremember, slow down, make room, or care. The theme begins from a simple observation: the digital is no longer contained by the screen. It passes through fabrics, gestures, voices, sensors, images, games, rooms, streets, platforms, archives, and communities. It shapes how we gather, how we desire, how we make decisions, and how we imagine what is possible.

This year's ONX Seeds invites artists, creative technologists, designers, game makers, performers, and interdisciplinary teams to work with technology not as smooth infrastructure or inevitable progress, but as something material, situated, unstable, and open to reprogramming. A circuit can be soft because it bends, because it is worn, stitched, touched, repaired, shared, or improvised. It can also be soft because it resists the hardness of extraction, acceleration, automation, and control.

Machine unlearning can also be read beyond the machine: as a collective process of loosening the categories, habits, images, and desires that digital culture has trained into us. For ONX Seeds, this means asking how communities, subcultures, fan cultures, street styles, games, avatars, memes, rituals, and shared online/offline worlds produce new forms of identity and belonging. Rather than treating these cultures as aesthetic references or trends, the program approaches them as living systems of translation, resistance, care, and imagination. Places where inherited codes can be interrupted, mass images can become personal symbols, and common signals can be rewired into new ways of gathering, self-expression, and collective world-building.

ONX Seeds is looking for works that do not simply use technology, but test its assumptions. Works that question automation without rejecting computation; that transform datasets into stories, interfaces into encounters, and prototypes into forms of care, refusal, friction, or collective imagination. Works that move between object and software, body and space, analogue and digital, screen and street, personal expression and shared experience, proposing new ways of sensing, gathering, and coexisting through difficult times.

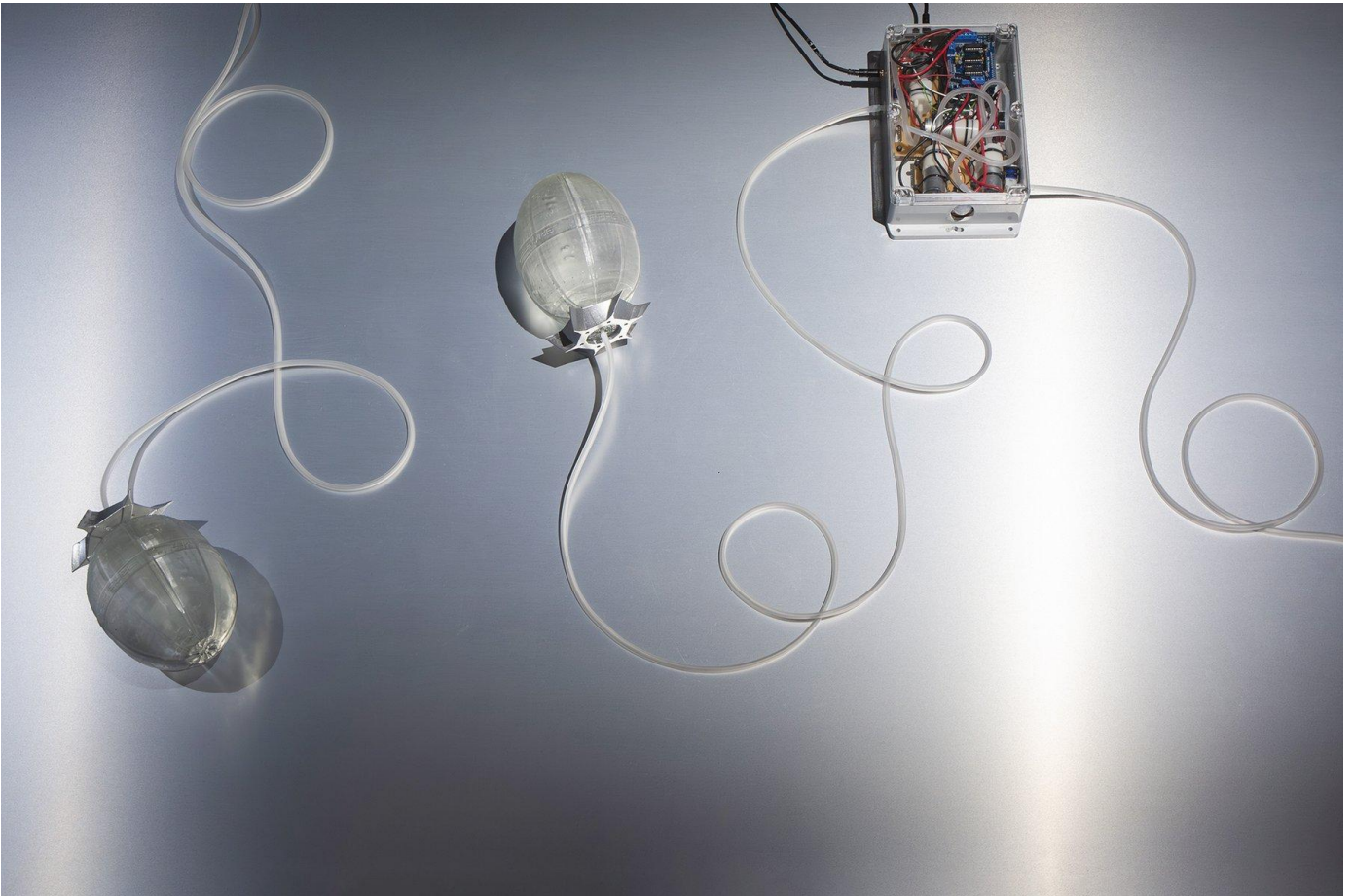


Image 41 Atmospheric Pulse: The Shared Breath, Yorgos Papafigos @ONX.Showcase.Athens.2026
 ONX Seeds 2025 - 2026

Artistic Formats & Technical Orientation

Within the curatorial framework of “*Soft Circuits for Hard Times*”, ONX Seeds supports projects that operate at the threshold between material processes and computational systems, foregrounding touch, movement, sound, signal, and physical presence as sites of digital inscription.

We are interested in prototypes that make the digital tangible and accountable: interactive objects, wearable or embedded systems, screen-based worlds, participatory environments, speculative tools, games, rituals, sonic works, moving images, and hybrid analogue-digital forms that invite audiences to touch, inhabit, question, play, or collectively reconfigure them.

Proposals should be realistic in scope, executable within a four-month development period and the scope of the production budget provided and resolve into an **exhibitable prototype**. Works that require elaborate scenography, industrial-scale technologies, extensive crew operations, or permanent architectural interventions are likely not feasible within the scope the program, and therefore discouraged.

Encouraged Formats

Projects should fall primarily within one or more of the following categories:

- **Micro-Scale Technologies**
Projects centered on compact, portable, and everyday digital technologies, such as smartphones, tablets, small embedded systems, and consumer-grade electronic devices. This includes works that operate through mobile interfaces, personal screens, networked handheld devices, sensors integrated into common objects, wearables, and small physical computing systems.
- **Sound & Music**
Spatial sound works, performative listening environments, sonic scores for public or semi-public spaces, generative and algorithmic compositions, one-of-a-kind instruments, and participatory spatial audio installations for close-range or distributed listening.
- **Projections & Installations**
Hybrid analogue–digital installations, light and projection-based works, responsive surfaces, site-sensitive media environments, and modular spatial constructs designed for **shared spaces and non-theatrical contexts** and making use of typical audiovisual equipment.
- **Media-Based Performances**
Performative formats that integrate live media, interactive sound, or computational systems within the body, gesture, and spatial presence, conceived for adaptable presentation conditions rather than stage-based production.
- **Liminal Spaces**
Small-scale, site-responsive projects, capable of unfolding within **liminal, transitional, or liminal spaces** (entrance ways, restrooms, elevators etc.).



Image 5 Brandon Powers, ONX June Showcase 2023

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Phase 1: Incubation & Prototyping

Selected projects enter a focused four-month incubation process designed to support the artistic, technical, and strategic development of early-stage concepts. The program combines mentorship, hands-on experimentation, and structured production support, leading to the creation of a functional prototype.

The incubation includes:

A. Creative & Concept Development

Participants begin with curated sessions with international advisors who help refine the artistic concept, technological direction, and experiential goals of each project.

B. Technical & Prototype Development

Selected teams receive seed-funding to begin production. Working closely with mentors and the ONX team, they devote this period to building a functional prototype or proof-of-concept. Regular check-ins ensure progress, troubleshoot challenges, and support artistic and technical decision-making. Athens based participants have access to studio and equipment for prototyping.

C. Skills Development & Community Exchange

A series of intensive online masterclasses and workshops will be included designed and curated based on the needs of the selected projects, including technical skills, budgeting, intellectual property, sustainability planning, and the basics of preparing a project for further funding.

Peer labs and feedback sessions support cross-team exchange and help strengthen the conceptual foundation.

D. Strategic Positioning & Next Steps

Towards the end of the incubation, teams receive guidance on positioning their project within the broader ecosystem. This includes support on distribution pathways, funding opportunities, and the preparation of materials such as technical riders, production plans, and business or sustainability frameworks.

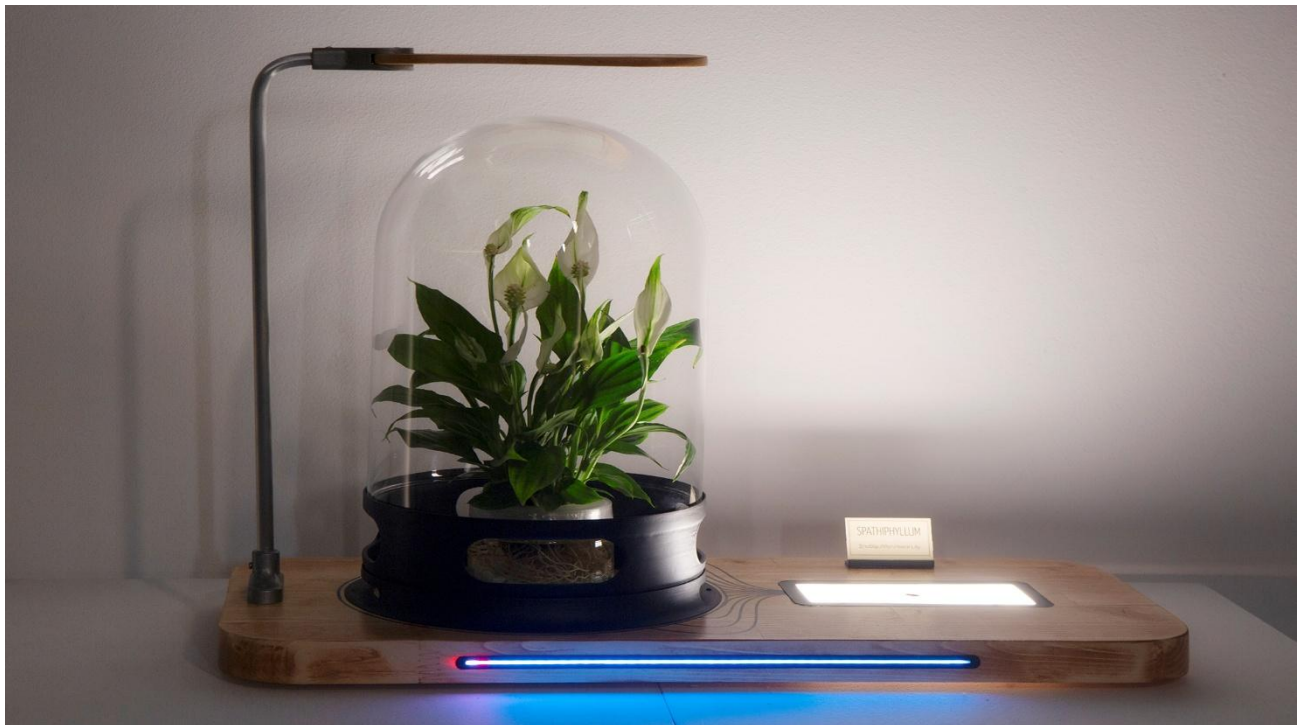
Phase 2: Presentation at ONX.Exhibition.Athens.2027 in Athens

The incubation culminates in the **ONX.Exhibition.Athens.2027** on the **17th – 21st of March at the Onassis ONX studio in Athens (Onassis Ready)**, where artists, industry professionals, community members and the audience experience the works. The Showcase functions as both a milestone and a launchpad for the projects' future paths, residencies, commissions, distribution, or further development.

Only projects that complete the incubation requirements and deliver a functional, coherent prototype that aligns with the curatorial direction of the program proceed to the public presentation. The Showcase operates under a **cut-off model**, ensuring that the final program represents projects that are both technically viable and conceptually mature.

All projects undergo an internal assessment led by the ONX team and external advisors. The evaluation focuses on:

- Completion of prototype development
- Coherence with the program's curatorial framework
- Technical feasibility for presentation



*Image 6 Photosynthesis of Absence: Feed the Algorithm or Feed Life, Yiannis Kranidiotis
ONX Seeds 2025 - 2026
ONX.Showcase.Athens. 2026 Stephie Grape for Onassis Stegi*

Terms & Conditions of Participation

- **First presentation and availability of the prototype**

The prototype should be available to be presented in the ONX.Exhibition.Athens.2027, and shouldn't be presented to the public before that. Participation in the Exhibition is considered part of the funded prototype development process and there is no artistic fee provided.

- **Participation in Curated B2B and Networking Activities**

Selected participants are required (upon reasonable notice) to take part in:

- Curated B2B meetings with partners
- Networking sessions
- Program-related presentations or talks

- **Travel & Accommodation (for non-Athens-based)**

Travel and accommodation costs for participants not based in Athens will be covered by the organizers, unless otherwise specified in the final program terms. It is also provided:

- Remote pre-production meetings to ensure feasibility and clarity of installation requirements.
- Production coordination before arrival and
- On-site installation and technical support provided during the setup period of ONX.Exhibition.Athens.2027.

- **Production Materials & Equipment**

ONX provides access to equipment subject to availability. Participants are responsible for supplying any specialized or bespoke materials not available through ONX.

- **Transportation of Artworks**

For participants selected to present in the ONX.Exhibition.Athens.2027, the organizers will cover the transportation of artworks, prototypes, and necessary equipment to and from the venue. Coverage applies to standard transport methods and logistical needs as defined in the approved Technical Rider. Any specialized or extraordinary transport requirements may be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Outcomes & Deliverables

By the completion of the program, graduate teams will have successfully completed and are expected to deliver:

- Prototype/ Demo of the work
- Technical Rider
- Pitchdeck
- Proposal for further production (optional)

WHAT PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE

The ONX Seeds incubation provides a structured suite of artistic, technical, and production-oriented services that help participants develop functional prototypes and prepare them for presentation at the ONX.Exhibition.Athens.2027. While all participants benefit from the same core program, access to physical facilities differs for Athens-based and non-Athens-based teams.



Image 7 Post Brush Utilities, Zisis Bliatkas

ONX Seeds 2025 - 2026

ONX.Showcase.Athens. 2026 © Stephie Grape for Onassis Stegi

Core Services (available to all participants)

Seed-funding

Each project receives €1,000–€5,000 in production seed-funding. The actual amount is determined on a project-by-project basis based on scope and feasibility.

Monitoring & Production Support

Each project receives continuous oversight from the ONX team Community Officer and Producer (1h/week). This ensures steady progress, timely troubleshooting, and alignment with production goals.

One-to-One Mentoring

Mentorship is tailored to the needs of each project and includes:

- **Technical Mentoring**
 - Weekly sessions with a **Technical Fellow** for troubleshooting
 - Remote sessions with **ONX technical mentors**
- **Curatorial Mentoring**
 - Check-up Curatorial meetings with ONX.Exhibition.Athens.2027 Curatorial Advisors
 - Monthly Meetings with external curators and ONX NYC team
- **Business / Strategy Mentoring**
 - Guidance from a project-matched advisor

Community Events

Online community events to connect teams, share progress, and engage with the broader ONX ecosystem. Facilitated peer-to-peer exchanges and feedback.

Masterclasses & Thematic Workshops

Online masterclasses curated based on the technical or artistic needs of the selected projects. Topics may include: creative technologies, prototyping workflows, budgeting, sustainability, intellectual property, and more.

Connections & Networking

ONX Seeds actively connects participants with the wider ONX and Onassis ecosystem, offering pathways for continued artistic and professional growth. Through visibility within **ONX team in Athens and New York** and curated introductions to our international network of curators, producers, festivals, and technology partners, teams gain access to opportunities for further development, presentation, and collaboration. These connections aim to support the long-term life of each project beyond the incubation period.

Access to Facilities & Equipment

Athens-Based Participants

Teams residing in Athens (or able to spend considerable time in Athens) receive:

- **Studio Access**
 - Access to Onassis ONX spaces for research, rehearsal, testing, and prototyping.
 - Use of equipment and technical resources (subject to booking and availability).
- **On-site Technical & Production Support**
 - In-person access to the technical fellow and the production team.
 - Hands-on assistance with fabrication, installation, and testing.
 - Easier coordination for sourcing materials, equipment, and space.
- **Local Community Integration**
 - Invitations to in-person meetups, open studio sessions, and networking with Athens-based partners, artists, and technologists.

Non-Athens-Based / International Participants

Participants living outside Athens (nationally or internationally) receive:

- **Remote Access to All Program Components**
 - Participation in all mentoring, masterclasses, and community events online.
 - Regular remote troubleshooting sessions with the technical fellow.
 - Digital office hours for concept and prototype development.
- **Remote Pre-Production Coordination (in case of Presentation)**
 - Early assistance with technical riders, installation diagrams, and feasibility checks.
 - A dedicated production liaison to prepare for the Showcase.
 - Full in-person installation support during the ONX.Exhibition.Athens.2027 (under the terms prescribed in clause 3.2.3)
 - Access to studios and equipment during the installation window. Practical assistance with testing, setup, and presentation.

ABOUT ONX STUDIO IN ATHENS

The studio space of Onassis ONX at Onassis Ready is the new Athens-based companion to **Onassis ONX in New York**, extending ONX's international ecosystem for developing immersive, spatial, and emerging media projects. Embedded within Onassis Ready, the “factory of dreams”, and co-hosted with Onassis AiR and the Onassis Archive, the studio offers creators access to state-of-the-art facilities, technical expertise, and a vibrant community of artists, technologists, and researchers. Operating in close dialogue with its New York counterpart, ONX at Onassis Ready supports cross-border collaboration, research-driven experimentation, and the production and presentation of ambitious works at the intersection of art and advanced technologies.

Envisioned as an innovation and production hub, this space hosts Onassis ONX Members and Onassis AiR Fellows and serves as a platform for experimentation in immersive and new media art, larger-scale installations, and movement-based works.

The space includes several functions, including a 370m² multipurpose stage, open desks, editing room, prototyping lab, kitchenette and lounge areas.

Participants will have access to a range of resources tailored to their research needs and accessible upon availability, such as rehearsal spaces, individual workspaces, hand and power tools, hardware (audiovisual equipment, desktop computers, monitors, projectors, media players, mobile devices, VR headsets, spatial scanners, 3D printers) and software suites. All spaces are wheelchair accessible.



Image 8 Onassis Ready © Margarita Yoko Nikitaki for Onassis Stegi

HOW TO APPLY

Application Form Guidelines

Section 0: Default

- Project's Title:
- First Name:
- Last Name:
- Email:
- Date of Birth:
- Phone Number:

All applicants are asked to answer the following obligatory questions:

Section A: Project Details

- **Logline / Brief Project Summary*** (Max. 100 words) – 450 characters
- **Medium(s)** (Max. 20 words) – 90 characters
- **Creative Concept / Long Description ***
Describe the creative concept of your proposal. How and why do you plan to integrate technology? (Max. 500 words) – 2.250 characters
- **Visitor's Experience***
Explain the project from the audience's point of view. What's the end-to-end interaction with the audience? (Max. 200 words) – 1000 characters
- **Technical Requirements***
Briefly present the technical characteristics and requirements of the proposed project. (Max. 300 words) – 1200 characters
- **Suggested installation location***
(Max. 20 words) – 90 characters
- **Mood Board – Deck ***
(Single file, PDF file format)
- **Exhibition History***
Please indicate any previous presentations of this project, including earlier versions if applicable. (Max. 200 words) – 1000 characters
- **Bio & Description of Practice***
Briefly present the creator/ creative team, your practice and inspiration (Max. 300 words) – 1200 characters
- **Portfolio***
(Single file, PDF file format)

Section B: Development

- **Production Plan***

Outline the production plan and mention any support or equipment you will need for the development of the project. (Max. 300 words) – 1200 characters

- **Budget***

Detail the budget for the development of the project.

(Single file, PDF file format)

- **Select the primary area of interest for applying: ***

- Financial Support
- Access to Studio
- Access to Equipment
- Creative & Curatorial Consultancy
- Technical Consultancy
- Business Consultancy (e.g. Business Plan, Fundraising, Monetization, Distribution)
- Networking
- Showcase Opportunities

- **Please elaborate your expectations from this area of support, especially if more than one area applies to your proposal*** (Max 100 words) – 450 characters

- **Additional information**

(Max. 100 words) – 450 characters

Applicants must submit the following supporting materials in order for their proposal to be considered complete:

1. **Mood Board / Project Deck**

A single PDF file presenting visual references, conceptual direction, atmosphere, and any preliminary sketches or diagrams.

2. **Portfolio**

A single PDF file showcasing previous work, selected projects, or relevant artistic and/or technical experience.

3. **Budget (Development Budget)**

A single PDF file detailing the project's financial plan, including estimated costs, required resources, and any existing or anticipated support. Please have in mind that equipment purchases will not be considered, unless they are integral parts of the exhibitable prototype.

4. **Additional Technical Documentation (optional)**

Any supplementary diagrams, schematics, or technical notes that help clarify the project's setup, workflow, or feasibility.

5. **Other Supporting Materials (optional)**

Links to videos, prototypes, demos, GitHub repositories, or other materials that provide insight into the creative process or current stage of development.

EVALUATION PROCESS

The selection of projects for **ONX Seeds** follows a structured, multi-stage evaluation process to ensure transparency, fairness, and alignment with the program's artistic and technological vision.

Stage 1 – Eligibility Screening

All submitted applications undergo an initial screening to confirm they meet the formal eligibility requirements of the open call and that all required fields and materials have been properly completed.

Stage 2 – Scoring by Evaluation Committee

Eligible applications are evaluated and scored by a committee of internal and external experts through the ONX platform. Each proposal is assessed on a numerical scale (1–5) based on the selection criteria outlined below.

Stage 3 – Shortlisting

Based on the ranking generated by the scoring process, the ONX team proceeds with the shortlisting of the proposals.

Stage 4 – Initial Selection

From the shortlist, a group of proposals is selected for the next phase based on curatorial alignment with ONX and production feasibility.

Stage 5 – Interviews (27 November – 04 December)

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to participate in **online interviews** with the ONX team. Applicants must ensure availability during this period.

Stage 6 – Final Selection

The final selection of projects is made by the **Artistic Director of the Onassis Foundation** together with the **Onassis Culture curatorial team**, resulting in the final group of projects to be supported by ONX Seeds.

Selection Criteria

Applications are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Conceptual Strength** – clarity, depth, and originality of the proposed idea
- **Artistic Merit** – artistic quality, aesthetic value, and creative vision
- **Technical Merit & Innovation** – innovative and meaningful use of technology and technical feasibility
- **Feasibility** – achievability of production plan, timeline, and team capacity
- **Thematic Relevance** – alignment with the ONX program's artistic and curatorial direction
- **Quality & Completeness of the Proposal** – clarity, coherence, and completeness of all required materials
-

Important Notes

- The criteria set out above shall all be taken into account by the Onassis Culture team and the external committee.
- All proposals are evaluated comparatively through the same review process.
- Due to the high number of applications, proposals that were not selected will not receive individual feedback.
- Onassis Culture is under no obligation to communicate the reasoning behind its choices or with regards to proposals that are rejected.
- Once the results have been announced, there shall be no re-evaluation of the submissions, and there can be no appeals.



Image 9 Excuse me, can I get twelve minutes of your time?, Marion Lasserre
ONX Seeds 2025 - 2026
ONX.Showcase.Athens. 2026 © Pinelopi Gerasimou for Onassis Stegi

RIGHTS OVER SELECTED PROJECTS

By submitting your project to this program, you acknowledge and agree that:

- The applicants / producer(s) retain all Intellectual Property Rights for their respective projects.
- The organizer reserves the Right of First Refusal (ROFR) for the presentation, promotion, co-production, or distribution of the selected projects as described in the Terms & Conditions of the program
- Onassis ONX shall be credited as a co-producer of the selected productions as such: “Co-Produced by Onassis ONX”.
- Onassis ONX reserves the right, should it so wish, to present the Project at its premises or digitally, via the Onassis Channel on YouTube, social media, and other digital platforms, or at some associated event, on the condition that 18 months have passed since their completion, and in consultation with the producer(s), provided that (for broadcasting) there are no geographical restrictions in place, and only upon relevant consultation with the creators and producers.

CONTACT & SUPPORT

For any questions about the application or the program, you may contact onx@onassis.org



Image 10 ONX.Athens.Showcase.2026 @Stephie Grape for Onassis Stegi