

Open Call for Literary Artists Exploring Language Innovation

The world is in need of a new language. In this age of global divisions and conflict, Creole languages have the power to connect and heal. Creole, rooted in the Latin *crear*, meaning "to create" or "to bring forth," speaks to the birth of new worlds through language—a living testament to literary creativity, resilience, and cultural fusion.

Are you an artist from Curaçao, the Netherlands, Spain, or Portugal who is passionate about linguistic diversity and cultural hybridity? Do you speak Sranangtongo, Papiamentu, Kriolu or Spanglish or other hybridizations of language from Curaçao, the Netherlands, Spain, or Portugal? Do you create at the intersection of language and culture, and are you ready to explore how language evolves and innovates through multilingual encounters? If so, we invite you to apply for an exciting, cross-border research and creative collaboration!

Selected artists will work in pairs, crossing national boundaries to foster interdisciplinary and intercultural exchange. The collaboration will be structured as follows:

- **Pair Level:** Selected artists will be paired with another artist from a different country, allowing for direct cultural exchange in the form of an artistic experimentation.
- **Group Level:** Two pairs will come together periodically to share insights and broaden their collaborative efforts.
- **Transnational Level:** All participants will connect, building a bridge between Curaçao, the Netherlands, Spain, and Portugal, creating a truly transnational dialogue.

We will kick off the project with an online launch event, where you'll meet your collaborators, discuss your ideas, and begin exploring the possibilities of multilingual language innovation.

- All artistic experimentations will be presented during the Wintertuin Curaçao Festival of 2026.
- Selected artists will travel to Curaçao with accommodation, a subsistence stipend during their stay, and a €500 fee for their overall participation in the project.

Who Should Apply?

This call is for artists who:

- Are proficient in English. The group and transnational level activities are in English.
- Are excited by multilingualism and want to explore how it can reflect and reshape social identities and political realities.
- Work at the intersection of intercultural dialogue: institutional, street languages, hip hop, graffiti, spoken word, counter-culture narratives or traditional storytelling.
- Explore themes of language fusion, migration, indigenous language revival, and the power dynamics between marginalized and dominant cultures.
- Alumni of ArtEZ University of the Arts, Wintertuin Curaçao, Wintertuin Netherlands, Escuela de Escritores, or Escrever Escrever are especially encouraged to apply.
- Bonus: If you speak or create in a “forbidden” or a creole language such as Sranangtongo, Papiamentu, or Kriolu, you will have an advantage. This bonus especially applies to literary artists from the Netherlands, Curaçao and Portugal. In the Spanish context this bonus applies in the form of Spanglish, or other hybrid forms of Castellano.

Key Questions for Applicants

- What is your research question? How does it relate to the central theme of language innovation through linguistic diversity?
- How does linguistic diversity shape your creative practice? Can your work help the world better understand intercultural dialogue and its significance in shaping social and political identities?
- How would you explore linguistic diversity in creative writing education, and what fresh perspectives can you bring to this vocational methods?

- How do you envision your participation contributing to cross-cultural storytelling?

How to Apply

- Submit a proposal written in English of a maximum of 2500 words, including:
 - A description of your research question and how you plan to explore it.
 - An explanation of how you see language innovation through your research question take shape.
 - A statement on how this collaboration could enrich your artistic development.
 - A bio/portfolio with examples of your work that reflect your engagement with linguistic diversity and intercultural dialogue in your own language.
- Deadline for submissions: 01/05/25 14:00 CTM
- Announcement of participants: January 27th

European Collaboration Project

This Open Call is part of FLI (Future Language Innovation), a Creative Europe project dedicated to protecting, developing, and institutionalizing creole languages as a vital part of the European Union's intangible heritage. Creole comes from the word from the Latin *creare* "to make, bring forth, produce, beget, grow. FLI is a transnational collaboration connecting artists from Curaçao, the Netherlands, Spain, and Portugal, creating an international platform for literary exchange.

FLI offers artists opportunities to collaborate, receive tutoring, and participate in masterclasses and workshops centered on linguistic diversity and their cultural hybridity. The project's title, "Future Language Innovation," highlights its focus on linguistic innovation, cultural exchange, and the recognition of linguistic diversity.

Inspired by the Papiamentu word "FLI," meaning kite, the project embodies resilience, connection, aspiration, and playfulness—qualities that reflect the transformative power of language. Through FLI, we aim to explore how multilingual realities shape identities, cultures, and creative practices, from the fusion of institutional and street languages (hip hop, spoken word, oral traditions) to the interactions between migration and indigenous languages.

Apply now to share your voice and contribute to a groundbreaking dialogue on the evolution of language in today's interconnected world. Join us in celebrating the richness of creole languages and contributing to a more inclusive and diverse European cultural identity. Your participation will not only enhance your artistic practice but also contribute to the long-term sustainability and visibility of creole languages and cultures within the European context.

For further information, please, contact Escuela de Escritores:
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<https://escueladeescritores.com/concursos/un-nuevo-lenguaje/>