George Town Festival 2027
Call For Program Proposals
International Open Call & Young Talents Grant

(Open Call Duration: 16 November-31 December 2026)

1. OBJECTIVES

The George Town Festival (GTF) is a GTWHI project to celebrate the Outstanding Universal Value of George Town UNESCO World Heritage site, to cultivate and promote arts, culture and heritage in the hearts and minds of the people. GTF is a platform to rejuvenate spaces in the World Heritage Site. This Call for Program Proposals, from 16 November 2026 to 31 December 2026, invites artists, creative practitioners and groups from Malaysia and around the world to share their ideas and propose programmes for GTF 2027.

2. GTF 2027

GTF 2027 is scheduled to take place in Penang, Malaysia from 6 to 15 August 2027. The organiser is George Town World Heritage Incorporated.

3. THEME

Adanya Bersama (Co-existence).

Programs that demonstrate the coexistence of people, nature, culture, nations, traditions, lifestyles, and the larger environment are welcome to join GTF 2027.

4. CATEGORIES

There are two categories for GTF 2027.

4.1 **International Open Call:** This category invites Malaysian and international applicants to submit their proposal on any genre and forms. Cross-genre and international collaborations are highly encouraged.

4.2 **Young Talents Grant:** This category is open to Malaysian/s age 30 and below (as of 1 January 2027). All team members must fulfil the age criteria. International collaboration is encouraged as long as the program is led by Malaysians. A grant of maximum Ringgit

Malaysia Twenty Thousand Only (RM20,000.00) per program is available. Each individual is encouraged to submit one (and their best proposal) for this category.

5. SUBMISSIONS GUIDELINES

5.1 Submit a five (5) pages proposal and a link to your 3-minute short video to proposal@georgetownfestival.com by 31 December 2026 (Malaysia Time).

5.2 **Your program** (introduce your application category, your programme, how it is connected to the theme, how it will be presented, its duration, and preferred venues. Is this a new production, a premiere, or an existing show, etc).

5.3 **Target audience** (their profile, demographic, age, and expected number. Note that GTF 2027 encourages active interactions with the local community, so tell us how you plan to do so)

5.4 **Genres** (what is the main genre of your program). We highly encourage cross-genre programs.

5.5 **Technical and production requirements** (such as space, stage plan, seating arrangement, etc).

5.6 **Personal/Group/Company profile.** In particular the applicant, contact details, social media, and relevant links.

5.7 **Your team** (introduce the production, performance and administrative team, and how many will present physically at GTF 2027 if you are shortlisted). GTF 2027 highly welcomes collaboration across different groups and countries, in particular with Malaysian artists.

5.8 **GTF participation** (let us know if you have joined GTF in the past, and what you hope to achieve from this year's participation).

5.9 **Cost.** Provide a budget of your program, and the expected expenditure to be covered by GTF 2027 (artist fees, and/or production costs). Note that GTF 2027 shall provide local transportation, logistics, hotel accommodation in Penang, performance venue, international and domestic travel, food, and Application for Filming and Performance by Foreign Artistes (PUSPAL) for the selected program team.

5.10 **Collaborator/Co-funder/Sponsor.** Let us know if you have any collaborators, co-funders, or sponsors, including those you are currently engaging, and their anticipated contribution.

6. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

6.1 Any false, misleading, or incomplete information provided in the application may result in disqualification.

6.2 All decisions made by GTF 2027 are final.

6.3 Applicants shall comply with GTWHI's Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy and applicable anti-bribery and corruption requirements. Applicants shall not, directly or indirectly, engage in or facilitate any form of bribery, corruption or improper inducement. Any breach of this requirement may result in disqualification, withdrawal of an offer of participation or termination of participation in the Festival.

7. SCHEDULES

16 Nov 2026	Open call for program proposal.
31 Dec 2026	Closing for proposal submission.
Jan-Feb 2027	Review and assessment of proposals.
March 2027	Announcement of selection results via email.
Feb-Jul 2027	Programme development.
Aug 2027	Execution of Festival.
Sep-Nov 2027	Reporting and Assessment.

8. FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information, please email ask@georgetownfestival.com

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