

MAKER IN RESIDENCE

@ Valletta Design Cluster

*Creativity is inventing, experimenting,
growing, taking risks, breaking rules,
making mistakes and having fun.*

Mary Lou Cook



ABOUT

The Maker in Residence (MIR) is a residency programme for Designers and Makers at the Valletta Design Cluster, a community hub for cultural and creative practice in Malta. The residency offers designers time and space away from their usual routine to reflect, research, and consider new ways of developing their practice or product

Share your results with like-minded individuals, professionals and the public through a final event/ talk/ workshop/exhibition at the end of the residency.

Participate in events, training, talks and workshops organised for members and non-members on a wide variety of topics.

Connect with a community of creative individuals and organisations who are members at the VDC

EXPECTATIONS

The Makers will be expected to:

- Dedicate at least 20 hours per week to their residency project
- Give a public presentation or a hands-on workshop about your work at the end of the residency
- Be open to meet and possibly collaborate with VDC staff and members
- Provide a 500-word report on their work and your experience at the end of the residency with at least 3 good quality photos.

AREAS OF FOCUS 2026

COLLECTIVE MEMORY

Since 2026 is the Valletta Design Cluster's fifth year anniversary, we celebrate the legacy of the VDC's Old Abattoir Building, its history and the communities which used the building and kept it alive.

We invite makers to create work which explores the idea of collective memory, especially in relation to the communities of lower Valletta.

INNOVATING CRAFT

Exploring the intersection between traditional craft-based practices and use of fabrication tools, this theme invites makers to experiment with new innovative craft techniques.

EXPERIMENTS & PROTOTYPES

Prototyping is an approach where makers use quick fabrication methods to experiment with iterative solutions to a problem.

This theme encourages makers to explore their designs through prototyping. Whether for product design, spatial design, culinary arts or other practices, this approach can open doors to eye opening design solutions.

UNCONVENTIONAL MATERIALS

This theme invites makers to investigate materials of an unconventional nature; materials which may be considered waste, unwanted or unusable. For this area of focus, makers are encouraged to experiment with these unconventional materials, to give them a new life by rethinking how they can be used in fabrication technique, design and craft.

BENEFITS

The Residency provides:

- Accommodation in a private bedroom in a shared residency facility.
- A dedicated studio space within VDC
- Access to the **VDC Makerspace and Foodspace** which includes a variety of tools and equipment
- Opportunities to connect with other makers, designers and creative professionals.
- Maker retains full ownership of their work and Intellectual Property

It does not provide:

- Financial support towards visa, flights, per diem, insurance or materials



ELIGIBILITY

The Maker-In-Residence Programme is designed to support and encourage creative exploration and experimentation.

The program is open to makers from all creative disciplines: Designers, Craftspeople, Visual artists, Technologists, Fashion designers, Innovators and more ...

Applicants must:

- Be 18 years of age or older at time of applying
- Have a strong portfolio of work
- Be able to communicate effectively in English



THE MAKERSPACE



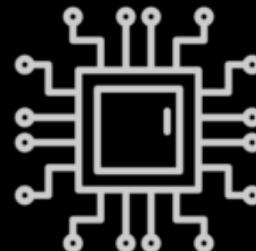
CNC MACHINERY

CNC Router, CNC Mill,
CNC Mini-Lathe, Laser
Cutter (100W)



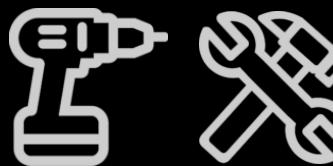
3D PRINTING

Creality CR-10 Smart Pro,
Delta WASP 2040, Creality
Halot-Lite



ELECTRONICS

Oscilloscopes, Soldering
stations, Multimeters



HAND AND POWER TOOLS



SEWING

Texi 1501 TS 15-needle Embroidery,
Pfaff Creative Ambition 640, Singer
Heavy Duty Sewing Machines and
Overlockers



MOULDING

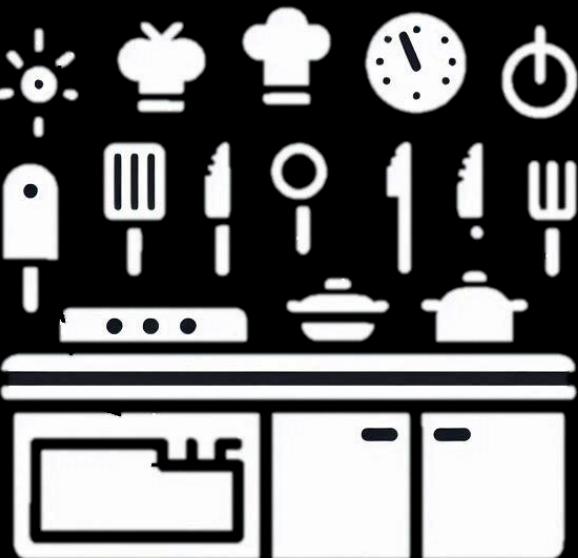
Vacuum Forming



THE FOODSPACE

TWO PROFESSIONAL
KITCHENS

A Teaching Kitchen and an
Industrial Kitchen equipped
with



ELECTRIC OVENS

COMBINATION OVENS

DEEP FRYERS

BLAST CHILLER

INDUCTION RANGES

ELECTRIC GRIDDLE

VARIOCOOKER

POTS, PANS AND TOOLS

RESIDENCY APPLICATION

APPLICATION

A Residency may last between **15 and 45 days** and it may take place any time between January and December 2026.

Fill in the online [**Application Form**](#) and upload a file sharing link with your

- Portfolio
- Copy of ID Card

Applications are on a rolling-basis and will be evaluated on a project-by-project basis

SELECTION

A selection panel will review your application. If selected, you will be notified within fifteen days of submission of the application.

Applications will be scored according to set criteria: creativity and innovation; impact of the project on the maker community and the broader public; feasibility.

Results will be communicated once interviews are completed.