



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

## IOM Call for Artist living Abroad

Since 2003, Iraqis living abroad have made a significant contribution to Iraq's development through transnational political and social engagement, sending of remittances to their families; investing in various sectors of the Iraqi economy; and knowledge and skills transfer to institutions in Iraq.

In this context, arts can provide an outlet for diaspora members to connect with the homeland communities and diaspora artists- through their creativity, talent and proposals – can engage in dialogue and break stereotypes by building bridges between cultures. Diaspora artists can become an agent of change for their communities and of a new dialogue that goes back and forth between the country of origin and the host country, as well as between the society they come from and the one that has received them.

Through this call developed in the framework of the USAID funded project *“Supporting the return of displaced population in Ninewa Plains and West Ninewa”* IOM offering diaspora artists and cultural practitioners the opportunity to travel to Iraq and implement short projects themed around Iraqi identities and migration, in order to exchange knowledge, forge new connections, raise awareness, celebrate diversity, and encourage the creative use of art and culture for social transformation and development.

This call is open to members of the Iraqi diaspora, and proposals can cover a range of different traditional and contemporary artistic and cultural expressions, including literature, poetry, short film, photography, painting, visual arts, comics, music, dance, theatre, or creative media productions. Projects, which should be implemented in Iraq, may include exhibitions, workshops, training courses, productions, and other collaborative events and initiatives.

**Thematic focus:** This project is part of a project in which the role of Iraqi diaspora in perspectives on displacement, migration and return is explored. More specifically, the project aims to (re) connect Iraqi artists living abroad to various perspectives around migration, complex identities such as minorities living abroad and belonging in Iraq and encourages Iraqi artists to contribute to these discussions through art. Art can evoke nostalgia for the homeland and serves as a medium to express particular memories. Art can also break down prejudices and promote engagement towards identities related to the homeland.

**Deadline for submission:** September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Duration:** Project should be completed by February 2020

**How:** Compile the form available at <https://iraq.iom.int/call-iraqi-artists-living-abroad> and submit.

**Budget:** IOM will provide to the selected candidates the required budget to realize the proposed initiative up to a maximum of 5 000 USD. If two or more artists would like to apply, the maximum budget available is 10 000 USD. IOM Iraq will directly cover all cost associated with the accepted proposals including travel costs and per diem, venue hire, catering, participant travel, etc..



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**Location:** applicants can be resident everywhere and the initiative should be developed in Iraq. Selected artists will be also invited by IOM to participate in a final exhibition in Iraq where accommodation and other expenses (meals, transportation in Iraq) will be covered by IOM.