

Sustaining Tradition to Craft the Future 2025

Information Pack

Location: Ideally based in Cyprus and can commute to Nicosia for relevant workshops and events

Type: Voluntary

Duration: February 2025 - November 2025 with an option of staying on thereafter according to future projects

Deadline: Friday 31st of January - 8pm CY time

About Us:

Fashion Heritage Network Cyprus (FHNC) is a dynamic and innovative fashion collective dedicated to promoting cultural heritage, sustainability, and creativity through the creation of unique fashion pieces. The heritage of Cypriot fashion is incredibly abundant and exquisite. Our goal is to revitalize traditional Cypriot fashion techniques, embroidery, and materials, breathing new life into them and ensuring their relevance in the contemporary world while preserving their historical significance. We are a youth-led intercommunal project, with over 35 members and have showcased our work in both Cyprus and abroad. We have hosted various popular fashion events in Cyprus and the UK, which gained a lot of media exposure.

We provide a platform for emerging designers to collaborate and showcase their talents while embracing cultural heritage and environmental responsibility. This year, we are aiming to host an exclusive fashion exhibition in autumn 2025 showcasing our new FHNC fashion designers pieces.

Description of the position:

As a Fashion Designer at FHNC, you will play a crucial role in the design and creation of two fashion pieces for our upcoming fashion exhibition. You will also have the opportunity to participate in workshops on cultural heritage and sustainability and engage in a feedback scheme with industry professionals to enhance your skills and creativity.

Our programme will include:

Internal Participation:

We strive to assist fashion designers in crafting exceptional modern creations that reflect our core principles: fashion heritage and sustainability. This is achieved through a combination of up to four workshops held in Nicosia, feedback sessions with experts from the industry, museum tours, and presentations. It is compulsory to attend all the monthly meetings organized by the Fashion Design Team Coordinator. Furthermore, Fashion

Designers will be asked to update their coordinators on their progress and complete tasks assigned in a timely manner.

External Participation:

One of FHNC's primary objectives is to make a meaningful impact on the island and promote our mission and values. As an official FHNC Fashion Designer, you automatically become an advocate for FHNC. It is encouraged that you serve as a spokesperson for the network, raising awareness throughout the year by representing FHNC at partner events, including conferences, thrift markets, cultural festivals, and more. Your availability to attend and represent the team is crucial. Furthermore, there may be invitations to speak at events or conduct workshops for the wider community, with a specific focus on fashion sustainability and Cypriot fashion heritage throughout the island. You should be prepared to attend these events, and advanced notice will be provided.

Overall, active participation is a must! You will be our FHNC brand ambassador!

Key Responsibilities:

1. **Fashion Design:** Create two unique and modern fashion pieces for the upcoming fashion exhibition. Your creations should reflect our commitment to cultural heritage and sustainability, especially this year's theme which is traditional techniques i.e weaving, embroidery etc. This will be explained more in the sections below. You can also create jewellery and accessories to complement your pieces.
2. **Attendance at Workshops and Meetings:** Attend mandatory workshops focusing on cultural heritage and sustainability. These workshops will enhance your understanding of our mission and guide your creative process. The meetings and workshops will begin in February 2025 and conclude in July 2025.
3. **Feedback Scheme:** Participate in regular feedback sessions with industry professionals to receive constructive input on your work, fostering your growth as a designer/artist.
4. **Collaboration:** Work closely with fellow designers/artists, sharing ideas, techniques, fabrics, resources, and insights to achieve our fashion show's objectives collectively.
5. **Adherence to Deadlines:** Meet project milestones and deadlines to ensure the successful completion of your fashion pieces for the show.

Key Benefits For Fashion Designers:

Our overarching goal is to teach these traditional techniques so that designers can integrate them into their work beyond this project. Many designers have expressed interest in such endeavours, and we are excited to make this vision a reality. In the future, we aim to take this collection abroad to showcase Cypriot talent and the distinctive beauty of our heritage to an international audience.

What we'll provide to fashion designers:

- Portfolio enhancement through high-quality project outcomes.
- Opportunities to meet and collaborate with industry professionals.
- Showcase their work on both local and international platforms.
- Extensive networking opportunities with artisans, designers, and fashion experts.
- Participation in heritage and sustainability workshops.
- Access to business and fashion workshops for professional growth.

- Educational trips to explore traditional techniques and cultural practices.
- Hands-on mentorship and lessons from experienced local artisans.
- Exposure through media coverage and fashion exhibitions.
- Guidance on integrating traditional crafts into contemporary fashion.
- Support in developing sustainable and innovative designs.
- Opportunities to gain recognition and build a professional reputation.
- A chance to contribute to preserving cultural heritage while shaping modern fashion.
- Enhance your knowledge of Cypriot fashion heritage
- Produce an innovative garment design from original research.
- Certificate of Participation

[Read Testimonials By Previous Participants](#)

Requirements:

1. Be a Cypriot national (a young person 21 - 35 years old)
2. Ideally based in Cyprus and can commute to Nicosia for relevant workshops and events (Cypriots in the diaspora are also welcome to apply but they will have to attend the workshops virtually).
3. A degree or diploma in Fashion or other relevant fields.
4. At least 2-years experience as a Fashion Designer
5. Creativity and passion for fashion.
6. Proficient in English both in writing and speaking.
7. Committed to a 10-month project, including attendance at mandatory workshops and feedback sessions. In the event of unavoidable absence, a valid reason must be provided.
8. Be a team player and can work collaboratively with a diverse team of designers, artists, and industry professionals.
9. An understanding of Cypriot cultural heritage and sustainable design and a willingness to learn more about these two subjects.
10. Work in partnership with the social media team and share with them both general content about yourself and behind-the-scenes content such as photos and videos showcasing your design process, sneak peeks, video interviews, and Instagram takeovers.
11. Complete the task provided. (in the other document)

[Read Testimonials By Previous Participants](#)

Financial Terms and Conditions:

Upon joining the network, fashion designers will be required to pay a small **annual fee of 70 euros**.

Timeline:

The full program will be shared with the fashion designers after they've been accepted in the program.

February: Program Begins & Induction & first intros with the artisans

March - June:

- Monthly fashion design team meetings
- Ongoing sessions with the artisans
- Museums and village trips
- Presentations and workshops by experts

End of July: Submission of final designs and end of internal meetings and workshops.

September: Planning of autumn exhibition / Photoshoot

October or November: Final Fashion Exhibition in Nicosia

Other Important Notes:

- All communication will be in English
- Most communication is done virtually via Whatsapp Groups
- Virtual team meetings will always occur on weekdays during the evenings or weekends.
- Internal in-person workshops will take place on the weekends.
- The FHNC will not cover any fabric, transportation or any other related expenses.

Our Theme for 2025

The Fashion Heritage Network Cyprus (FHNC) was established to preserve and celebrate fashion heritage, cultural practices, and traditional crafts by fostering the learning, adoption, and preservation of weaving and crafting techniques among young creatives. Unfortunately, these unique techniques are practised by only a few artisans, and without preservation efforts, they are at risk of fading away, which would be a significant cultural loss. The Fashion Heritage Network Cyprus (FHNC) is taking action.

The network encourages its participants to incorporate traditional Cypriot fabrics such as alatzia/alaca and sayia/etek, and to use traditional weaving techniques like lefkaritiko (lefkara işi), argalio/dokuma tezgâhı (weaving loom), and Fithkiotiko as well as traditional embroidery. Additionally, designers are motivated to integrate non-textile crafts such as chair and basket weaving, pottery, ceramic making, silversmithing, etc. into their garments and accessories.

This year's program connects emerging designers with master artisans, building relationships and showcasing the unique stories behind Cypriot craftsmanship. FHNC aims to blend tradition with modern innovation, inspiring a new generation to adopt sustainable fashion practices. For 2025, we plan to reintroduce these traditional techniques in new, creative, and innovative ways.

We're building a community of young designers and master artisans, breathing new life into ancient crafts.

Our Methodology

To achieve this, we will implement a learning and collaboration program with artisans for a new cohort of fashion designers. We plan to choose approximately 7-10 designers and pair each with a local artisan who will teach their craft in a series of workshops and mentoring sessions dedicated to preserving traditional Cypriot techniques.

Each artisan will mentor up to three fashion designers, sharing their expertise in traditional Cypriot techniques. Designers will begin by observing and learning the foundational methods of their chosen craft. **Designers can decide whether to dedicate their time with artisans to mastering the conventional methods or focus on understanding the basics and adapting them to their innovative creations.** Regardless of their approach, it is essential for every fashion designer to gain practical knowledge and a thorough understanding of the selected traditional technique. The fashion designers ought to work alongside the artisans during their creative process to produce high-quality modern fashion pieces inspired by these unique traditional techniques. For instance, they can co-create traditional pieces together, or fashion designers can create the pieces on their own while being mentored by the designated artisan.

The designers will apply these skills in sustainable ways, culminating in a showcase at a fashion exhibition in autumn 2025, likely in October or November in Nicosia. With FHNC's extensive experience in hosting fashion exhibitions that attract significant attendance through word-of-mouth and strategic offline and online promotion, we are confident that this unique fashion event will reach a broad audience.

Applications for fashion designers will open in January 2025, with recruitment completed by the end of January 2025. Fashion designers can recommend an artisan in their application or choose from FHNC's list if they don't have one in mind. Each designer will participate in a **minimum of 10 training/ mentoring sessions** with their artisan mentor to gain foundational knowledge in at least one traditional Cypriot technique of interest (such as weaving, embroidery etc). Attendance will be tracked to ensure completion. If a fashion designer fails to attend the minimum required number of sessions with the artisans, they will forfeit their spot in the final exhibition. Building a professional working relationship with the artisans is crucial for effective collaboration. **The fashion designer should liaise with the artisan in order to decide on a practical timetable for both parties. Each lesson should not exceed 2 hours.** The training sessions between the artisans and fashion designers will run from February to June 2025, during which the senior team will conduct regular online meetings to monitor progress and gather feedback.

Upon acceptance into the FHNC 2025 program, each fashion designer is required to submit a mutually agreed-upon schedule with their assigned artisan. This ensures clear planning and avoids issues such as lack of availability and miscommunication. It is essential that designers adhere to their schedule and maintain consistency throughout the program. Additionally, designers must provide photographic documentation for every meeting or mentoring session. These photos will be presented to the team during the monthly fashion design team meetings. To support this process, FHNC will provide a checklist and detailed guidelines for the mentoring sessions, outlining expectations and goals for each stage to ensure structured progress and meaningful outcomes.

Following the training period, designers will present mood boards, sketches, and fabric selections to the senior fashion team for review and feedback. Additional workshops and seminars focusing on the sustainable integration of these techniques into contemporary fashion will be offered during this period. Designers are expected to **submit their final two pieces by the end of July 2025.** These creations can be made in collaboration with artisans, giving them credit for their contributions. This collaboration allows artisans to see

their work transformed into fashion garments for the first time, fostering a meaningful exchange between tradition and modern design while showcasing local talent.

Applications open in January 2025, allowing designers to nominate an artisan or select one from our list. This project fosters intergenerational knowledge exchange, empowering artisans while introducing traditional techniques to a new audience. It will also be Cyprus's first bicommunal fashion exhibition with a focus on sustainability and heritage. FHNC has a history of working with Cypriot designers in the diaspora to maintain connections and foster engagement. These designers will have the option to learn from local artisans in their country or participate in online lessons. Notably, this will be the first bicommunal fashion exhibition in Cyprus with a strong focus on traditional techniques and sustainability.

BRIEF FOR THE FASHION DESIGNERS

PROJECT AIMS

- Cultural Revival & Research: Encourage emerging fashion designers to research Cypriot cultural heritage and especially fashion heritage in order to revive it through innovative and contemporary sustainable fashion designs or art pieces.
- Sustainability Integration: Implement sustainable practices in the creation process, including the use of existing fabrics, material swapping, and exploring traditional Cypriot sustainability techniques like natural dyes.
- Celebrating artisans and crafts: Each designer will be paired up with an artisan to learn from them and work together to create modern fashion pieces inspired by their selected traditional Cypriot technique.
- Innovative Design: Innovate Cypriot cultural heritage within the designs, emphasizing a blend of fashion and contemporary art.

REQUIREMENTS OF DESIGNS

- Sustainable
- Ethical sourcing
- Evident inspiration from Cypriot cultural heritage
- Wearable styles (not avant-garde)
- Contemporary
- Creative/Innovative

RESEARCH

The fashion designers will be asked to prepare a mood board and initial sketches for their proposed idea, conducting their own research to gather sufficient information. In-depth investigation and background knowledge are crucial for informed decision-making and finding innovative design solutions. Using first-hand sources of inspiration allows for the development of unique design ideas. For the body of work related to Cypriot cultural heritage, it is recommended to authentically represent the Cypriot voice and focus on unique cultural elements specific to the island. Further research and additional help with research will be provided by the FHNC heritage team.

SUSTAINABILITY

The fashion designers are invited to explore the concept of sustainability through creative methods/ideas. The designers are encouraged to:

- Use fabrics they already own or get unused fabric from family/friends/charity shops or around the house. If they are still looking for the fabric they are looking for they should let us know and we will help with sourcing some fabrics.
- Upcycle garments you do not need, or upgrade the garments. They can incorporate patchwork techniques using high-quality remnants, transform outdated items into modern silhouettes, or embellish them with hand-stitched embroidery for added texture. Adding detachable elements like collars or panels can enhance versatility while reducing waste. Designers might also repurpose materials to craft accessories, such as handbags or scarves, breathing new life into discarded pieces. By employing artisanal craftsmanship and focusing on timeless aesthetics, upcycling becomes both an eco-conscious and luxurious approach to sustainable fashion.
- To swap fabrics/share materials they are not planning to use with each other.
- If possible, create versatile pieces which can be worn in various ways.
- Not to buy excessive amounts of materials.
- To utilize fashion sustainability techniques used in Cypriot cultural heritage such as natural dyes with local flora, plus fruit and vegetables.

Important Note: The FHNC will not be paying for designer's fabrics. Additional assistance with sustainability will be provided by the FHNC Fashion Sustainability Coordinator Marisa Satsia.

Terms and Conditions for Fashion Designers Participation in the 2025 Project

1. Mandatory Attendance

- Attendance at all workshops, artisan lessons, fashion design team meetings, and monthly social meet-ups is compulsory.
- Failure to attend any mandatory session without prior approval will result in the removal of designs from the exhibition and withdrawal from the project.

2. Adherence to KPIs

- Fashion Designers must adhere to the following **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**:
 - **Design Quality:** Produce unique, creative, and exhibition-worthy fashion pieces.
 - **Cultural Heritage Representation & Sustainability:** Showcase garments inspired by Cypriot heritage and align with FHNC's sustainability goals.
 - **Workshop Attendance:** Attend and actively participate in all workshops on cultural heritage and sustainability.
 - **Feedback Implementation:** Incorporate professional feedback into designs and demonstrate progress.
 - **Collaboration and Teamwork:** Actively contribute to team goals and complete tasks in a timely manner.
 - **Adherence to Deadlines:** Meet all project milestones and submission deadlines.
 - **External Representation:** Participate in external events and community workshops as FHNC ambassadors.
 - **Social Media Engagement:** Work with the social media team to provide content and participate in campaigns.
 - **Portfolio Enhancement:** Develop and expand portfolios with culturally inspired and sustainable pieces.

- **Community Participation:** Attend and engage in monthly meet-ups and community collaboration efforts.

3. Design Submission and Exhibition Eligibility

- Only designs meeting the project's quality, cultural relevance, and sustainability criteria will be showcased.
- Designers who fail to meet attendance, feedback, or collaboration standards will not be eligible for exhibition.

4. Progress Evaluation

- Regular assessments will be conducted to monitor compliance with KPIs.
- Designers must demonstrate measurable progress in creativity, cultural representation, and teamwork.

5. Professional Conduct

- Participants are expected to maintain professional behaviour in workshops, meetings, and community events.
- Any conduct deemed unprofessional may result in project removal.

6. Intellectual Property

- Designers retain the intellectual property rights to their work but grant FHNC permission to use images and content for promotional purposes.

7. Withdrawal from the Project

- FHNC reserves the right to withdraw any participant failing to comply with the terms, conditions, or KPIs.

8. Confidentiality

- All project discussions, feedback, and proprietary information shared must be treated as confidential.

9. All fashion designers need to pay 70 euros for the annual FHNC membership fee which is non-refundable

By participating in the project, designers agree to abide by these terms and conditions.