Crafting Continuity 2.0 – 2027

Information Pack

Application deadline: Wednesday, 23 December 2026, at 8:00 PM (Cyprus time).

Programme dates: February–November 2027, with the final exhibition in November

Location: Across Cyprus. Artisan mentorship will take place in person at artisans' studios or other agreed locations. Design mentorship will be held in Nicosia/Lefkoşa, while business mentorship will be delivered online. The final exhibition will take place in Nicosia/Lefkoşa..

Who can apply: Cypriot fashion and jewellery designers aged 21–35.

Places available: 10–12 designers in total, across both fashion and jewellery disciplines.

Paid opportunity: Selected designers will be paid through a participation grant and receive additional financial support towards eligible collection-development expenses. Participating artisans will also be compensated for their mentorship and expertise.

What you'll receive: Artisan mentorship, free business mentoring, heritage & sustainability workshops and field trips, media exposure (including the FHNC Podcast), and a place in an exclusive exhibition expecting 800+ visitors.

Commitment: February–November 2027, including a minimum of six artisan mentorship sessions.

How to apply: A completed application form, portfolio, and a vision board featuring sketches with your initial creative ideas.

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. Building on the success of **Crafting Continuity** in 2025, we are expanding our impact through a larger bicommunal programme connecting fashion and jewellery designers with traditional artisans.

The heritage of Cypriot fashion and craftsmanship is incredibly abundant and exquisite, as it was shaped by generations of artisans. Our goal with this year's **Crafting Continuity 2.0** is to revitalise and preserve traditional Cypriot fashion techniques, embroidery, materials, and jewellery crafts, breathing new life

into them and ensuring their relevance in the contemporary world while preserving their historical significance.

We are a youth-led intercommunal non-profit organisation with a growing network of over 35 volunteer members. Now in its 5th year, FHNC is an award-winning organisation. We have delivered exhibitions, workshops, and cultural initiatives across Cyprus, the UK and internationally, receiving recognition through extensive media coverage and strategic partnerships.

Success of Crafting Continuity 2025

The inaugural Crafting Continuity programme in 2025 exceeded all expectations, attracting over 800 visitors to our autumn exhibition and gaining extensive media coverage across newspapers, magazines, and television throughout the island. The programme was generously funded by the Deputy Ministry of Culture in Cyprus, enabling us to forge meaningful connections between emerging designers and master artisans while preserving critical traditional techniques. The strong response from both communities and the media showed the continued interest in initiatives that celebrate Cypriot cultural heritage while supporting contemporary creative practice.

What Crafting Continuity 2025 participants said:

"I had the opportunity to meet inspiring people while learning a new traditional craft."

"I connected with new designers and expanded my creative network."

"The technical learning and hands-on experience with the artisans were highlights of my experience."

Explore Crafting Continuity 2025:

Impact: 800+ visitors · 9 fashion designers and 6 artisans · 6+ artisan-designer lessons · 25+ media coverage

Media coverage: UN SDSN | Cyprus Mail | Özgür Gazete Kıbrıs | Madame Figaro | Yeni Düzen | FastForward

TV coverage: Sigma TV | Alpha Cyprus | RIK

Social media post: Instagram

Crafting Continuity 2025 video series: FHNC – Crafting Continuity






Programme Overview

Crafting Continuity 2.0 is an expanded intergenerational and bicommunal programme pairing 10–12 emerging fashion and jewellery designers in total with master artisans working in traditional Cypriot crafts. Through hands-on mentoring, research and creative development, participants reinterpret these crafts through contemporary and sustainable design. The programme aims to preserve cultural heritage while promoting sustainable fashion practices and creating opportunities for intergenerational learning, bicommunal exchange and new creative perspectives.

Traditional crafts may include, but are not limited to, Lefkaritiko/Lefkara embroidery, Lapithos/Lapta embroidery, traditional weaving techniques such as Fythkiótika/Phytioti/ Fiti weaving, silk cocoon craftsmanship, basket weaving (sele/sesta), filigree, metalwork, silversmithing, pottery and ceramics, among others. Particular emphasis is placed on traditional crafts and techniques at risk of disappearing without preservation efforts.

Designers are encouraged to explore techniques that align with their creative interests and practices, while discovering new ways to reinterpret Cypriot craftsmanship through contemporary and sustainable design.

This year's theme is about forging meaningful connections between emerging designers and master artisans, and preserving traditional techniques at risk of being lost, and exploring how heritage craftsmanship can inspire more sustainable approaches to contemporary fashion and design. Participants are encouraged to explore their own creative direction while respecting the cultural knowledge, history and expertise of the artisans who preserve these traditions.

A key development for 2027 is the expansion of the programme to include jewellery designers alongside fashion designers. Each discipline will follow its own artisan mentorship pathway, while fashion and jewellery designers may also collaborate where there is mutual creative interest.

Beyond preserving heritage, Crafting Continuity 2.0 aims to equip emerging designers with the skills and knowledge to build creative businesses that last. Through hands-on learning from master artisans, designers gain a practical understanding of a traditional Cypriot craft. Sustainability guidance and workshops encourage more responsible approaches to design, materials and production, while business mentoring help participants develop the commercial skills needed to price, position, market and grow their own brands beyond the programme.

The programme aims to:

- **Engage 10–12 fashion and jewellery designers in total**, each working with an assigned master artisan to learn a traditional Cypriot craft or jewellery technique.
- **Create opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration** between fashion and jewellery designers.
- **Showcase all completed work** at the final exhibition in November 2027 in Nicosia/Lefkoşa.

Programme Structure and Mentoring

Crafting Continuity 2.0 includes three types of mentoring, each with its own format, timing and location. Alongside them, designers take part in heritage & sustainability workshops, field trips and expert presentations on cultural heritage and sustainability, and receive photography, videography, interviews and features through FHNC media, including the FHNC Podcast.

1. Artisan mentoring and lessons

February–May 2027, in person across Cyprus. Designers are paired with local artisans and learn a traditional Cypriot technique through practical lessons, with a minimum of 6 teaching sessions.

- **Fashion designers** apply their learning to contemporary fashion design. They may focus on mastering traditional techniques or adapting them through innovative design approaches.
- **Jewellery designers** follow an individual pathway based on their creative direction and available expertise, exploring traditional craft or jewellery techniques to develop contemporary jewellery

or wearable body pieces. Where relevant, they may observe artisan sessions alongside their paired fashion designer.
- All designers must gain practical knowledge of their selected technique.
- Each session lasts no more than 2 hours and takes place at a time agreed by the designer and artisan. Designers travel to the artisan's studio or agreed meeting location.
- Each session must be documented with photographs and shared with the FHNC Leadership Team for programme records and progress review.

2. Fashion and jewellery design mentoring

March–October 2027, in person in Nicosia/Lefkoşa. Designers have 2–3 one-to-one feedback sessions with industry experts. Early on, designers develop research, moodboards and sketches, and submit a proposed final direction by a deadline set at the start of the programme. This is reviewed before full production begins. A final review takes place once pieces are completed or near completion.

Fashion and jewellery designers may collaborate on complementary jewellery or wearable pieces for a fashion designer's garments. *This is optional and does not replace either designer's own artisan pathway.*

3. Business mentoring

Online throughout the programme. Free virtual mentoring led by an experienced fashion business professional, to help designers turn their creative work into sustainable businesses and grow their brands beyond the programme.

- A minimum of 3 one-to-one sessions is compulsory for all designers.
- Additional group sessions may be organised and are optional.
- Dates are communicated and arranged in advance with both parties' agreement.
- Topics may include pricing and cost calculation, brand positioning, marketing and sales, production and sourcing, and long-term business strategy.

Key Responsibilities

Fashion designers:

- **Design creation:** Create two unique, contemporary and sustainable garments for the November 2027 exhibition, inspired by a Cypriot craft of your choice.
- **Jewellery collaboration (optional):** Collaborate with a paired jewellery designer on complementary pieces for your garments.

Jewellery designers:

- **Design creation:** Create 2 separate jewellery / body pieces, or a small set of complementary pieces, inspired by a Cypriot craft, jewellery technique tradition or wider aspect of Cypriot cultural heritage.
- **Fashion collaboration (optional):** Collaborate with a paired fashion designer on complementary pieces for their garments.

Everyone (Fashion + Jewellery Designers):

- **Mentoring:** Complete all three types of mentoring described above.
- **Research and development:** Research your chosen craft and relevant Cypriot cultural heritage, and develop designs that show understanding and respect for the traditional technique.
- **Sustainability:** Follow the Sustainability Approach below.
- **Communication:** Stay in regular contact with the FHNC leadership team, your artisan mentor and, where applicable, your paired designer.

Design Requirements

All submitted works must:

- Demonstrate clear inspiration from Cypriot cultural heritage.
- Incorporate sustainable materials and production approaches.
- Prioritise ethical sourcing.
- Be contemporary, creative and innovative.
- Be wearable and functional, rather than purely decorative or avant-garde.
- Be suitable for presentation as part of the FHNC Crafting Continuity 2.0 Collection.

Research and Development (R&D)

Designers prepare mood boards and initial sketches, with thorough research on Cypriot cultural heritage and their chosen technique. In-depth investigation supports informed decisions and innovative design solutions, and first-hand sources of inspiration are strongly encouraged.

Authentic representation of Cypriot cultural perspectives is important, with emphasis on cultural elements specific to the island. The FHNC Heritage team will provide research support and resources as needed.

Sustainability Approach

Designers are invited to explore sustainability creatively:

- Use fabrics and materials you already own, or source from family, friends and charity shops.
- Upcycle garments and items you no longer need using patchwork, transformation or embellishment.
- Swap and share fabrics and materials with fellow creatives.
- Create versatile pieces that can be worn in multiple ways.
- Avoid purchasing excessive amounts of new materials.
- Use Cypriot heritage sustainability techniques such as natural dyes.
- For jewellery: explore upcycled metals and responsible sourcing.

***Sustainable materials and production are not just about reusing what you already have. Sustainability refers to the entire lifecycle of a garment: where the raw materials come from and how they were grown or extracted (e.g. organic cotton, Fairtrade cotton, linen or hemp instead of conventional cotton); the

energy, water, chemicals and labour used to make it (e.g. natural or low-impact dyes and fair working conditions); how long the finished piece lasts and how often it gets worn (e.g. strong stitching and timeless designs that can be styled in multiple ways); and what happens to it once it is no longer wanted (e.g. biodegradable fibres or materials that can genuinely be recycled rather than sent to landfill).

A garment made from recycled fabric can still be unsustainable if it is dyed with harmful chemicals, poorly made or impossible to recycle at the end of its life.

Considering material origins, production methods, durability and end-of-life impacts together to minimise environmental harm and protect the people involved at every stage is essential. All participating designers are expected to uphold this principle throughout their creative and production processes.

What We Provide

- Hands-on mentorship from experienced local artisans
- Free virtual business mentorship
- 2–3 in-person design feedback sessions with industry experts
- Heritage, sustainability and creative workshops, field trips and expert presentations
- A professionally presented final exhibition in November 2027, expecting 800+ visitors
- Media, exhibition and portfolio exposure through FHNC platforms and networks, including photography, videography, interviews and the FHNC Podcast
- Networking opportunities with designers, artisans and craft experts, and opportunities to showcase your work locally and internationally
- In-person gatherings and social activities in Nicosia/Lefkoşa
- A participation grant and financial support towards eligible collection-development expenses *(see Financial Terms)*
- Certificate of Participation.

Requirements

- Be a Cypriot national (young person aged 21–35).
- Ideally be based in Cyprus and able to travel to your mentoring sessions. Cypriots from the diaspora may also apply, provided they can identify and work with a local Cypriot artisan who can teach them a traditional Cypriot technique (e.g. FHNC has an existing artisan network in London).
- Hold a degree or diploma in Fashion, Jewellery or a related field.
- Have at least one year of professional design experience, or be a recent graduate.
- Demonstrate creativity and passion for your craft.
- Have proficient spoken English.
- Be committed to the programme, including all mandatory workshops and mentoring sessions.
- Be willing to work collaboratively with diverse designers, artisans and professionals.
- Demonstrate an interest in Cypriot cultural heritage and sustainable design.

- Be willing to learn and apply a new traditional technique. Designers returning from the previous Crafting Continuity programme are expected to select a different technique, to build a diverse portfolio and deepen their understanding of Cypriot heritage.
- Dedicate regular time to artisan mentoring, 4–5 workshops, online sessions and/or heritage trips, 2–3 design feedback meetings, 2–3 meetings with the FHNC leadership team where necessary, and the final exhibition.

Timeline and Milestones

Period	Activities and milestones
23 December 2026	Applications close
Late December 2026 – January 2027	Review applications and select participants
February 2027	Programme begins: induction, first designer-artisan pairings, initial sessions.
End of February 2027	Heritage presentation (traditional crafts, materials and techniques). First artisan mentoring sessions begin
End of March 2027	Design feedback session #1: present initial design / sketch moodboards, research and inspiration. Continue artisan sessions. Business mentoring session #1
April 2027	Expert presentation/workshop (sustainability, fashion design or branding). Continue artisan mentoring sessions
May 2027	Final artisan mentoring sessions. Begin garment production. Business mentoring session #2
End of May / beginning of June 2027	Design feedback session #2: feedback on garments and production
June – July 2027	Continue production and development of final pieces
August 2027	Summer break (optional one-to-one support if needed)

Period	Activities and milestones
September 2027	Design feedback session #3: final review of completed or near-completed pieces
Beginning of October 2027	Final submission of completed pieces, photography and documentation. Business mentoring session #3
Mid September – late October 2027	Exhibition planning and installation, media outreach and event preparations.
November 2027	Final exhibition and public showcase in Nicosia/Lefkoşa (dates and venues TBC)

**The timeline and activities are indicative and may be adjusted depending on programme requirements, participant availability and operational considerations. Any significant changes will be communicated to and planned with participants in advance.*

Financial Terms

In recognition of the time, work and commitment involved throughout the programme, FHNC will provide each selected designer with a participation grant and financial support towards eligible collection-development expenses. The grant amount, eligible expenses and payment arrangements will be confirmed during the contracting and onboarding period. Expenses that are not eligible or exceed the approved limits will not be reimbursed. *Further details on payment timing, eligible expenses and the reimbursement process will be set out in the participant agreement.*

Annual FHNC membership fee: €70 (non-refundable), payable in February during onboarding.

Selected participants will become FHNC members for the programme year, joining our wider network of designers, artisans and creative practitioners. Membership offers opportunities to engage in FHNC activities & network, build professional connections, participate in collaborative initiatives and access future learning and showcasing opportunities in Cyprus and/or abroad.

As a small, non-profit organisation, FHNC relies on the support of its community to grow and sustain its activities. The membership fee contributes to our ongoing efforts to preserve Cypriot cultural heritage, promote sustainable fashion and support more emerging designers and traditional artisans across Cyprus every year.

How to Apply

Application deadline: Wednesday, 23 December 2026, at 8:00 PM (Cyprus time).

Fashion and jewellery designers must complete the application form: 2027 Designers Application Form, where you will be asked to provide:

- Contact details
- Link to your portfolio
- The fashion or jewellery designer you would like to work alongside, if applicable, and whether you already have someone in mind.
- Your preferred artisan, if you have one. If you do not, FHNC will match you with a suitable artisan based on the craft you would like to learn.

You must also submit a vision board and at least 5 rough sketches showing your initial design ideas and creative direction, informed by your own research on heritage and sustainability. These are reviewed as part of selection. Once selected, you develop 2 final designs from these ideas, which can be refined or adapted as you learn and go through your artisan mentoring path.

Selection Process

An FHNC selection panel will select 10–12 designers in total based on eligibility, portfolio, creative practice, vision board and initial design ideas, interest in Cypriot heritage and sustainable design, and ability to commit to and contribute to the programme.

FHNC will also consider the overall balance of fashion and jewellery designers, traditional techniques and bicommunal representation when forming the cohort. Shortlisted applicants may be invited for a short online interview before final selection.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

All participants must adhere to the following:

- **Design quality:** Produce unique, creative, exhibition-worthy pieces.
- **Cultural heritage and sustainability:** Align work with FHNC goals.
- **Workshop and meeting attendance:** Participate actively in all mandatory sessions.
- **Feedback implementation:** Incorporate professional feedback and demonstrate progress.
- **Collaboration and teamwork:** Actively contribute to team goals.
- **Deadline adherence:** Meet all project milestones and submission deadlines.
- **External representation:** Participate in external events as an FHNC ambassador where requested.
- **Social media engagement:** Work with the FHNC communications team and provide content to document and share your creative journey.
- **Community participation:** Engage in programme meet-ups and community activities.
- **Professional conduct:** Treat fellow participants, artisans, mentors and the FHNC team with respect, professionalism and cultural sensitivity.

Important Notes

- English is the main language of the programme. All communication takes place in English via WhatsApp groups.

- Virtual meetings take place on weekday evenings or weekends, and in-person workshops on weekends. Artisan sessions are held at times agreed with your artisan.
- Participants are expected to keep in regular contact with the FHNC Leadership team, their artisan mentor and, where applicable, their paired designer.
- As a bicommunal programme, we aim to foster an inclusive, respectful and collaborative environment. All participants are expected to respect one another's time, commitments, cultural backgrounds and perspectives, communicate openly and responsibly, and respect the agreed schedules and responsibilities throughout the programme.

Terms and Conditions

- **Mandatory attendance:** Attendance at all workshops, artisan sessions, and meetings is compulsory. Failure to attend without prior approval may result in removal from the exhibition.
- **Design eligibility:** Only designs meeting quality, cultural relevance, and sustainability criteria will be showcased.
- **Progress evaluation:** Regular assessments will monitor compliance with KPIs.
- **Confidentiality:** All discussions and feedback must be treated as confidential.
- **Withdrawal:** FHNC reserves the right to withdraw any participant failing to comply with the terms or KPIs.
- **Participant agreement:** All selected participants must sign a formal agreement setting out their responsibilities, ownership and intellectual property rights, and the conditions for presenting and promoting their works.

Final works and credit: Final works will be presented collectively as part of the Crafting Continuity 2.0 Collection, with full and appropriate credit to the participating designer and collaborating artisan, following FHNC's agreed crediting format. Any future exhibition, publication, sale or promotion of these works should acknowledge the programme and credit FHNC, the designer and the collaborating artisan, where applicable.

Copyright and use: Designers retain copyright and ownership of their original designs and works. By participating, designers give FHNC permission to photograph, film, exhibit and use images of the works for programme-related promotion, communication, documentation and archival purposes.

Transport: Designers are responsible for transporting their completed work to the exhibition venue and collecting it afterwards. *Further terms on the use, display and handling of works are set out in the participation agreement.*

Final Exhibition

The programme culminates in the **Crafting Continuity 2.0 exhibition in November 2027 in Nicosia/ Lefkoşa,** bringing together the completed works of participating designers and their artisan mentors. Expected to welcome 800+ visitors, it will celebrate Cypriot craftsmanship, contemporary design and the exchange of knowledge between generations and communities.

As a bicommunal showcase, it will highlight the role of fashion and jewellery in preserving cultural heritage, supporting creative exchange and exploring more sustainable approaches to design.

Crafting Continuity 2.0 is supported by Youth4Climate, an initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security.

Our Goal

Crafting Continuity 2.0 goes beyond preserving cultural heritage. Our goal is to empower the next generation of Cypriot designers to build their own sustainable, independent creative businesses. By combining traditional craftsmanship, responsible design practices and practical business mentoring, we aim to give emerging designers the skills, knowledge and opportunities to turn their creativity into lasting careers, while keeping Cyprus's rich cultural heritage alive for future generations.

Contact Details

For more information:

Email: fashionheritage.cy@gmail.com

Website: https://fashionheritagecy.com/

Instagram: @fashionheritage.cy