

FONDAZIONE PESCHERIA

CENTRO ARTI VISIVE

Corso XI Settembre 184, Pesaro
Uffici Palazzo Gradari, Via G. Rossini, 26, Pesaro
www.fondazionepescheria.it
fondazionepescheria@pec.it



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

BIOSFERA PRIZE

FIRST EDITION - THE NATURE OF CULTURE

OPEN CALL FOR THE CREATION OF A SITE-SPECIFIC IMMERSIVE VIDEO WORK

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, new technologies have transformed the artistic landscape. This has given rise to a true expressive revolution. The introduction of innovative creative tools has connected artistic and scientific research. Together, they explore the world through new visual and auditory panoramas. Today, multimedia digital works, generative, immersive, and interactive, represent the most advanced frontier of contemporary art. These works offer aesthetic experiences capable of deeply engaging and captivating the audience.

Despite the growing importance of digital art forms, there is a lack of suitable physical spaces for their presentation. Biosfera is a four-meter-diameter LED sphere located in Piazza del Popolo in Pesaro. It was created to address this need. Designed for "Pesaro Capital of Italian Culture 2024," Biosfera is a symbol of innovation. It combines art, culture, and technology in harmony with the theme of the dossier "The Nature of Culture."

Biosfera is a unique sculptural installation in Europe, with a structure six meters in diameter and over five meters in height, consisting of more than 2 million LEDs and equipped with a spatialized sound system. Its motion sensors make it an ideal platform for creating interactive digital works. With advanced hardware and software components, the sphere can process and play video and audio content in real time, offering the public a 360-degree immersive experience.

OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES

The Open Call gives creatives, artists, designers, and musicians a unique opportunity. They can engage with a digital installation in a public space. This installation has a spherical shape and combines video and audio. The audiovisual works should explore the themes of the relationship between humans, nature, and technology. This aligns with the theme "The Nature of Culture," which is central to Pesaro Capital of Italian Culture 2024.

Participants can use emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and 3D Generative Simulations. They can also submit existing works, as long as they fit the format and technical requirements of Biosfera.

The competition is organized by Fondazione Pescheria, supported by CTE Square Pesaro | Casa delle Tecnologie Emergenti, and in collaboration with Artifact and Umanesimo Artificiale. Its goal is to promote and circulate digital arts and electronic music, encouraging innovative practices nationwide. Artists are invited to explore new creative

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frontiers and use technology to express bold and innovative visions.

The selection process will begin with a preliminary evaluation to ensure compliance with technical requirements, followed by a detailed assessment.

PARTICIPATION DETAILS

Eligibility

The competition is open to anyone working with new digital technologies. This includes artists, creatives, designers, musicians, researchers, and more, regardless of nationality. By the application deadline, candidates must be at least 18 years old. Collective works and team applications are also allowed.

Participants must meet the following requirements by the application deadline:

- Be citizens of Italy, an EU Member State, or a non-EU country. Alternatively, they can be non-EU citizens legally residing in Italy. Foreign citizens must also enjoy civil and political rights in their country of origin or residence.
- Be at least 18 years old.
- Enjoy civil and political rights.
- Have no criminal convictions for intentional offenses and not be subject to any preventive measures.
- Not be under any criminal investigation.

Theme of the Work

The work must explore the relationship between art, nature, and technology, in line with the dossier "The Nature of Culture" of Pesaro Italian Capital of Culture 2024.

Types of Works Accepted

360-degree audiovisual works created with emerging technologies (e.g., Artificial Intelligence, Computer Graphics, 3D Generative Simulations) with any desired software (for example but not limited to: Touch Designer, Unreal Engine, Cinema 4D, Houdini, Maya, Premiere, After Effects, etc.).

Registration

Registration for the competition is free of charge.

Candidates must register by sending the document "ATTACHMENT A - APPLICATION

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FORM" (download here) to the email address segreteria@fondazionepescheria.it. The application form must be submitted by the specified deadline and must include a link to the folder. The folder should contain the following technical materials:

- **PDF File 1** (max 5,000 characters) including:
 - Title (and subtitle, if applicable)
 - Brief synopsis of the work
 - Technical information about the realization of the work
- **PDF File 2** including:
 - Curriculum vitae of the candidate
 - Portfolio with up to 10 representative projects, highlighting the candidate's background, professional experience, and skills relevant to the competition
- **PDF File 3** including:
 - Preview video/audio file compliant with the specified technical requirements, maximum duration of 1 minute (also an excerpt of a longer video)
- **PDF File 4** including:
 - Application form (Annex 1)

The folder containing the application materials can be uploaded to any preferred cloud storage platform.

Each candidate may submit only one work.

Application Deadline: 11:59 PM (UTC +1, Europe/Rome) on December 15, 2024.

Exclusions

The following applications will be excluded:

- Applications with an unsigned "ATTACHMENT A - APPLICATION FORM";
- Applications with an incomplete "ATTACHMENT A - APPLICATION FORM" that does not include a link to the folder containing the materials File PDF 1, 2, and 3 or that cannot be downloaded;
- Applications received after the deadline.

Participation in the competition implies full acceptance of the conditions described below.

ADMISSIBLE PROPOSALS

Candidates who submit complete proposals will be admitted to the call for competition. Each candidate will be assigned an alphanumeric identification code.

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JURY AND SHORTLIST

The jury will consist of experts appointed by Fondazione Pescheria. The jury will evaluate the admissible proposals based on the following specific criteria:

- Originality
- Technological innovation
- Consistency with the theme "The Nature of Culture"
- Technical feasibility
- Aesthetics
- Potential visual and auditory impact within Biosfera

The criteria will be determined by the jury itself.

After the first admission phase, the jury will select proposals for a shortlist of projects.

After the initial admission phase, the jury will select the proposals. These proposals will form a short list of projects.

Candidates who are admitted to the short list will be required to submit the "Final File." The file must meet the technical specifications outlined in the section "Technical Requirements for the Final File."

The names of those admitted to the short list will be announced on the official website fondazionepescheria.it without further communication.

The previously appointed jury will evaluate the "Final Files" to announce the winner of the Award.

The outcome of the selection will be communicated through the official website fondazionepescheria.it.

AWARD CEREMONY

From the shortlist, one winner and three special mentions will be selected and awarded the following prizes:

- **Winner:** €4,000 cash prize
- **Special Mention:** €500 cash prize

In addition to the cash prize, the shortlisted works will be promoted through the official channels of Pesaro 2024. This will provide visibility and networking opportunities for the artists.

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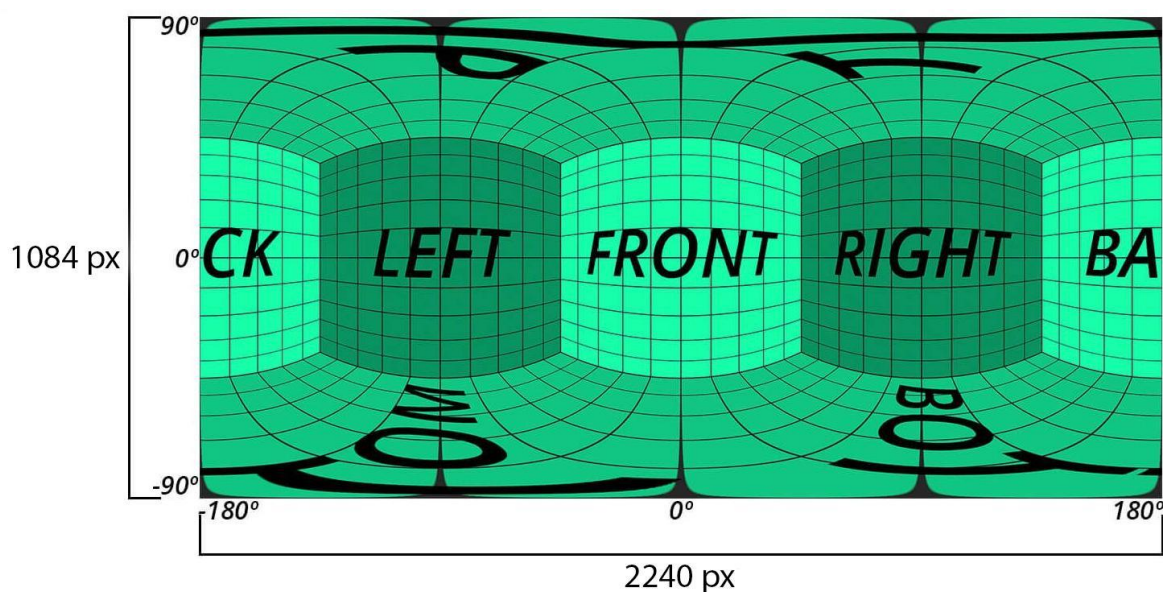


The winning audiovisual works will be presented during the closing ceremony of Pesaro Capital of Italian Culture 2024. They will also be included in the performance schedule within Biosfera in the following weeks.

SCHEDULE:

- **Launch of the Biosfera Prize and opening of applications:** Tuesday, October 29, 2024
- **Deadline for applications:** 11:59 PM (UTC +1, Europe/Rome) on Friday, December 15, 2024
- **Announcement of shortlisted projects:** Wednesday, December 20, 2024
- **Deadline for submission of final projects on the shortlist:** Friday, January 3, 2025
- **Announcement of winning projects:** Saturday, January 6, 2025
- **Awards ceremony and presentation of winning projects:** The date of the awards ceremony will be communicated to the winners via the email addresses provided in "ATTACHMENT A - APPLICATION FORM." **TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS TO KEEP IN MIND (NOT MANDATORY FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE WORK)**

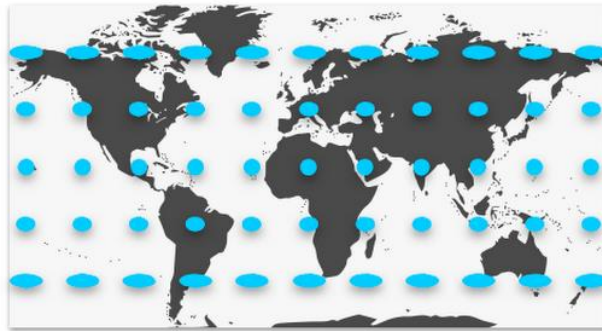
The Biosphere, lacking a conventional flat surface, requires accounting for video distortion once projected. The most suitable projection for achieving optimal content display is equirectangular projection, commonly used in VR content development. Alternatively, the main subject of the content can be kept in the central area, away from the poles, to minimize distortion.



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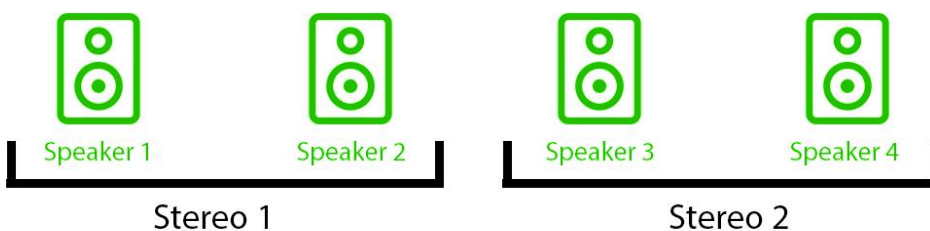
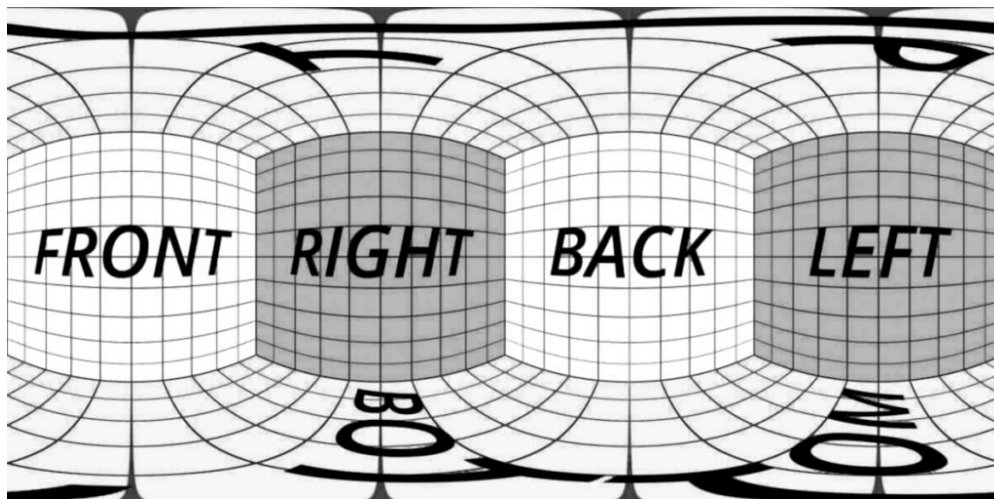
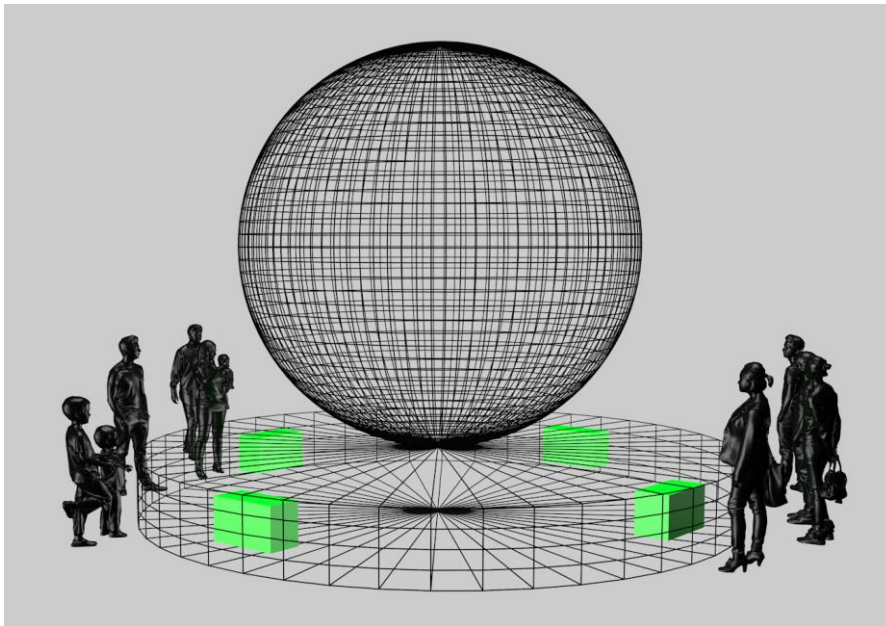
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Sound is transmitted through four speakers arranged radially at the base of the Biosphere. You can choose between a piece with spatialized audio, following the dynamics of the video content, or a simpler stereo configuration.



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TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PREVIEW FILE

In the first selection phase, candidates must submit a preview video/audio file that meets the following technical specifications:

- Maximum duration: 1 minute
- Resolution: 2240x1084 px
- Codec: H264 or H265
- Framerate: 30/60 fps
- Bitrate: 24 Mbps
- Audio: Integrated in the video file (STEREO or 4 CHANNEL SPATIALIZED - WAV 24 bit)
- Maximum file size: 2 GB

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FINAL FILE

Shortlisted candidates must provide the final file of the work with the following technical specifications:

- Maximum duration: 6 minutes
- Resolution: 2240x1084 px
- Codec: ProRes 422 HQ or HAPQ
- Framerate: 30/60 fps
- Bitrate: 24 Mbps
- Audio: Integrated in the video file - STEREO or 4 CHANNEL SPATIALIZED - WAV 24 bit

These requirements are essential to ensure the proper display and reproduction of works within Biosfera.

CONTACTS

For any information regarding the competition, you can write to:
segreteria@fondazionepescheria.it by Thursday, December 14.

POWERED BY



Pesaro 2024
Capitale italiana
della cultura



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