

Call for Applications – Artistic Director, Annecy Festival

Context

For more than 65 years, every June, Annecy has hosted the world's largest festival and market dedicated to animated film. These unmissable events in animated creation showcase exceptional talent and reveal, year after year, the vitality, diversity and excellence of a sector recognized both in France and internationally.

In 2026, Annecy Festival brought together 19,100 accredited participants from 118 countries, once again confirming its unique standing among major international film festivals. The week was marked by the presence of major names in cinema and animation, as well as the opening of the Cité internationale du cinéma d'animation, which now establishes Annecy as the capital of animation film all year round.

Organizer of the Festival and the Mifa, and operator of the Cité internationale du cinéma d'animation, CITIA is a resource and expertise center in the field of image and creative industries, structured around four pillars: culture, economy, education and training. Beyond its events, CITIA supports companies in the sector, offers training programs, and runs the flagship site Les Papeteries – Image Factory.

To write the next chapters of its history, Annecy Festival is seeking its future **Artistic Director**, who will lead the artistic direction of the Festival for the 2028, 2029 and 2030 editions.

The Artistic Director's Responsibilities

Under the authority of CITIA's CEO, who is in charge of the artistic project, and in close collaboration with the Culture Directorate, the Artistic Director defines and implements the Festival's artistic identity. They carry out this mission in consultation with the various CITIA directorates, while upholding their respective responsibilities.

Through their expertise and vision, they will help build an ambitious, open and progressive program of animation that is sensitive to the diversity of aesthetics, cultures, and styles, as well as being committed to fostering new creation and engaging new audiences, while contributing to the promotion and preservation of the world's animated film heritage.

At a time when animation is experiencing profound artistic, technological, and economic shifts, with the boundaries between creative forms becoming increasingly blurred, the role of the new Artistic Director will be to preserve Annecy's unique identity while also shaping its future.

In this capacity, the Artistic Director:

- Develops and submits to the CEO, each year, a comprehensive artistic project defining the main lines of the Official Selection, programming themes, tributes and retrospectives, as well as the previews and guests envisaged. This artistic vision must take into account CITIA's institutional goals and the artistic, technological and economic landscape of the animation sector, while ensuring the Festival's creative freedom and uncompromising standards;

- Assesses, together with the CEO, the budgetary feasibility of the artistic project and adapts it, if necessary, to the allocated budget;
- Works alongside the CEO to present the artistic vision to the Board of Directors and ensure its development and implementation in collaboration with the Culture Directorate and the Festival teams;
- Contributes to key artistic decisions regarding the identity of each edition, particularly through specific creative collaborations;
- Develops, in close collaboration with the Culture Directorate and the Festival Programming Department, the selection process for works. The Artistic Director is responsible for the artistic direction and decides on the selections for the Official Selection, in keeping with CITIA's policy on diversity and gender parity. They also oversee event programming (previews, special programs) and the Meetings, as well as any negotiations with artists and producers;
- Identifies and supports emerging talent, new storytelling techniques, and fresh creative forms, with a special focus on emerging generations and the diversity of cinematography represented at Annecy;
- Ensures that the Festival remains at the heart of contemporary developments in cinema and creativity by facilitating relevant exchanges between animation and other art forms, without ever detracting from Annecy's unique identity and its commitment to excellence;
- Represents CITIA and the Festival, in conjunction with the CEO, at worldwide animation and film events and in the media, as well as contributing to the promotion of animation programs at other events. They communicate the Festival's artistic vision with conviction, thereby contributing to its influence and reputation;
- Contributes to the Festival's outreach and reputation by balancing artistic excellence, international outlook, audience diversification and the quality of the experience offered to festivalgoers;
- In consultation with the CEO, recommends the selection of the Festival's juries and helps with their reception and support throughout the event;
- Maintains frequent communication with the Mifa Directorate about topics and initiatives – while respecting each party's specific responsibilities and identity – that could strengthen the synergies between the Festival and its market, particularly regarding key artistic and professional shifts in the industry.

Required skills

- In-depth knowledge of animation film, its history, artists, works, and international ecosystems, combined with a comprehensive understanding of cinema and the arts;
- A strong artistic vision, curiosity, the ability to anticipate trends, and independent judgment;
- Extensive creativity and the ability to develop an artistic vision and translate it into a coherent programming strategy;
- Ability to identify and mentor emerging talent as well as communicate with leading figures and key players in film and animation;

- Strong negotiation skills and the ability to build trusted relationships with directors, producers and distributors;
- Rigorous approach to project management and adherence to budget and schedule constraints;
- Excellent communication skills and the ability to represent an institution to diverse audiences (professionals, institutional representatives, and the general public);
- Fluency in French and English is essential; proficiency in other languages is an asset.

Useful information

- **Contract:** 3 years, renewable
- **Start date:** July 1, 2027
- **Application file:** CV, cover letter and a statement of intent of up to 2 pages outlining the applicant's perspective on the creative future of the Annecy International Animation Film Festival.
- **Application deadline:** October 15, 2026
- **Salary:** based on qualifications and experience
- **Contact:** raphaelcahuzac@citia.org

Selection process:

Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee. All applications will be treated confidentially.

- candidate interviews: **December 1 to 15, 2026**