

CV

ASSOCIAZIONE CULTURALE

LA GUARIMBA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

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La Guarimba is a cultural organisation based in Amantea, in the southern Italian region of Calabria. Since its foundation in 2013, the organisation has worked to expand access to culture in peripheral contexts through cinema, music and visual arts, promoting cultural participation as a tool for social inclusion and community development.

Guided by the motto bringing cinema back to the people and people back to cinema, La Guarimba develops artistic programmes, educational activities and international collaborations that connect local communities with artists and cultural professionals from around the world.

The organisation works across film, music and illustration, using culture as a vehicle to promote the values of participatory democracy, integration, accessibility and respect for human rights. Its activities range from international festivals and artistic residencies to educational programmes in schools and community based cultural spaces open throughout the year.

The word Guarimba, from a Venezuelan indigenous language, means safe place, reflecting the organisation's commitment to creating inclusive cultural environments where people, ideas and artistic practices can meet.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

La Guarimba International Film Festival | Amantea (CS), Italy | 2013–present

International short film festival presenting films from all over the world with free public screenings, talks, exhibitions and cultural activities promoting participatory democracy, accessibility and social inclusion through cinema.

Caribe Atómico Film Festival | Caracas, Venezuela | 2023–present

International short film festival created to foster cultural exchange between Latin America and Europe through cinema and artistic collaboration.

La Grotta dei Piccoli Film Festival | Amantea (CS), Italy | 2016–present

Film festival dedicated to children and young audiences featuring animation screenings, creative workshops and educational activities aimed at introducing younger generations to cinema and visual storytelling.

RESIDENCIES

Kino Guarimba Film Residency | Amantea (CS), Italy | 2018–present

International residency bringing filmmakers from different countries to Calabria to collaborate, receive training and produce short films while engaging with the local community.

La Guarimba Music Camp | Amantea (CS), Italy | 2024–present

Creative residency for emerging musicians and composers focused on collaborative composition, sound experimentation and artistic exchange in a shared living and working environment.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

La Grotta dei Piccoli For Schools | Calabria, Italy | 2018–present

Educational programme developed in collaboration with schools across Calabria that introduces children and teenagers to animation and audiovisual storytelling through screenings, workshops and creative laboratories.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

La Piccola Biblioteca di Amantea | Amantea (CS), Italy | 2024–present

Community cultural centre including study room, recording studio and conference hall, hosting workshops, educational activities, screenings and cultural events open to the public.

Il Terrenito Cultural Programme | Amantea (CS), Italy | 2022–present

Open air cultural programme organised in a regenerated urban space, coordinating concerts, screenings, workshops and community events during the summer season in collaboration with local associations.

Feminist Reading Club | Amantea (CS), Italy | 2023–present

Community reading programme dedicated to feminist literature and social themes, encouraging collective discussion and cultural exchange.

TERRITORIAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT

Since its foundation, La Guarimba has used culture as a tool for social inclusion, civic participation and intercultural dialogue in a peripheral territory where access to cultural opportunities is limited.

Through festivals, educational programmes and community spaces, the organisation works to strengthen social cohesion and promote the values of solidarity, democracy and respect for human rights.

La Guarimba has consistently addressed themes related to migration, diaspora and cultural identity. Through initiatives such as **El Guayabo – The Venezuelan Diaspora**, the organisation has created spaces to share the experiences of political refugees and migrants, giving visibility to stories that are often excluded from public discourse.

Through programmes such as **CinemAmbulante**, **MigrArti** and **Karmala**, the organisation has promoted works from regions of the world from which many migrants arrive in Europe, encouraging dialogue between local communities and international perspectives.

The organisation has also taken an active role in addressing racism and labour exploitation in its local context. Through public discussions, workshops and film screenings organised together with migrant communities and the refugee reception centre in Amantea, La Guarimba promotes dialogue and integration through cultural participation.

In 2020, the organisation publicly reported the case of **Abbas Mian Nadeem**, a young Pakistani resident in Amantea who was mistakenly identified as one of the migrants expelled from the town during the Covid 19 emergency. After the story gained national media attention and the organisation received threats from local criminal groups, La Guarimba worked with public authorities and civil society organisations to support Abbas' return to Amantea and ensure legal assistance for his case.

La Guarimba has also been active in defending the accessibility of culture. In 2020, together with several Italian open air cinema initiatives, the organisation denounced restrictive practices by film distribution associations that prevented free public screenings of films. The issue was debated in the Italian Parliament and led to an investigation by the Italian Antitrust Authority, which in 2022 confirmed the existence of coordinated restrictions affecting free cultural initiatives.

Urban regeneration has been a central element of La Guarimba's work. Over the years, the organisation has reclaimed abandoned public spaces and transformed them into cultural environments accessible to the community.

These initiatives include the reopening of **Parco La Grotta**, the regeneration of an abandoned parking area through participatory cleaning actions and public art interventions, and the creation of new cultural spaces.

In 2022, the organisation opened **Il Terrenito**, an open cultural space built on a formerly abandoned plot of land in the centre of Amantea, which now hosts screenings, concerts, workshops and community events.

In 2024, La Guarimba opened **La Piccola Biblioteca di Amantea**, a public cultural space that includes a library, study room, conference hall and music recording studio, with the aim of strengthening the cultural infrastructure of the territory and increasing the social capital and quality of life of local residents.

LA GUARIMBA ON TOUR

La Guarimba regularly presents its projects internationally through screenings, lectures, workshops and collaborations with festivals, universities and cultural institutions.

- Participation in the Short Film Market of Clermont Ferrand International Short Film Festival – Clermont Ferrand, France (2013–present)
- Guests and partners of Encounters Film Festival – Bristol, United Kingdom (2017, 2023, 2024)
- Participation in Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur Industry Market – Winterthur, Switzerland (2019, 2024)
- Industry Guest at the 28th edition of Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur – Winterthur, Switzerland (2024)
- Guests and programmers of Sharjah International Film Festival for Children and Youth – Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (2019–present)
- Participation in the Children's Cinema Global Forum – Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (2021)
- Curators of animation screenings at Vilnius International Film Festival – Vilnius, Lithuania (2022)

- Speakers for Vilnius International Film Festival Industry Programme – Vilnius, Lithuania (2020)
- Guests of BitBang International Animation Festival – Buenos Aires, Argentina (2022)
- Guests of Interfilm Berlin International Short Film Festival – Berlin, Germany (2022)
- Participation in Animasyros International Animation Festival – Syros, Greece (2023)
- Participation in Nordisk Film Festival – Rome, Italy (2021)
- Speakers at Calabria Design Festival – Cosenza, Italy (2024)
- Lecture and presentation at California Institute of the Arts – San Francisco, United States (2023)
- Lecture and presentation at Universidad Católica Luis Amigó – Medellín, Colombia (2024)
- Screenings organised with Universidad de Antioquia – Medellín, Colombia (2024)
- Screenings organised with the Italian Embassy in Wellington – Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, New Zealand (2024, 2025)
- Screenings organised with Pirkanmaa Film Center and Tampere Film Festival – Tampere, Finland (2024)
- Screening programme at Il Cinema in Piazza organised by Piccolo America – Rome, Italy (2024)
- Screenings organised with Libreria Sin Tarima – Madrid, Spain (2023–2024)
- Participation in Cultura y Ciudadanía Conference – Valladolid, Spain (2022, 2023, 2024)
- Participation in Social Enterprise Camp – Todi, Italy (2022–2024)
- Participation in RENA Summer School Cultural Residency – Matera, Italy (2023–2024)
- Participation in Creativity Pioneers community meetings organised by Moleskine Foundation – Milan, Italy (2023–2024)
- Speakers for Creative Europe MEDIA Desk Conference – Rome, Italy (2022)
- Screenings at Cleto Festival – Cleto, Italy (2023, 2024)
- Study visit to social enterprises supported by OPES LCEF – Nairobi, Kenya (2024)
- Screening programmes organised in Caracas, Venezuela (2023–present)
- Screenings organised in Chicago, New York and San Francisco – United States (2014)
- Speaker at TEDxPompeii – Pompeii, Italy (2015)
- Participation in Tandem for Culture Programme by European Cultural Foundation – Kyiv, Ukraine (2016)
- Speaker at the event **Non Ci Siamo!** with a presentation of *La Guarimba Story* – Catanzaro, Italy (2024)
- Speaker and winner of the **Italia Patria della Bellezza Award** at the event *Italia Patria della Bellezza* – Milan, Italy (2024)
- Speakers and winners of the **Living Heritage Award** for the project *Kino Guarimba* at the **XIX Ravello Lab Forum** – Ravello, Italy (2024)
- Jury member for the **Scottish Competition** at the **19th Glasgow Short Film Festival** – Glasgow, United Kingdom (2025)
- Screening of a selection of Italian animated short films at **Show Me Shorts Film Festival** in collaboration with the Italian Embassy in Wellington – Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, New Zealand (2025)
- Industry Delegate at the **11th edition of Qumra**, Doha Film Institute – Doha, Qatar (2025)

RECOGNITIONS

- Medal of Representation of the President of the Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella for La Guarimba International Film Festival (2020, 2021, 2022)
- Award of Representation of the Chamber of Deputies for the project *La Grotta dei Piccoli* (2021, 2022)
- High Patronage of the European Parliament (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)
- Patronage of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Italy (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)
- Patronage of the Senate of the Italian Republic (2022, 2023, 2024)
- Patronage of the Province of Cosenza (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)
- Living Heritage Award promoted by the European University Centre for Cultural Heritage for the project *Kino Guarimba – The Ukrainian Edition* (2024)

- Special Mention in the call “Patrimoni Viventi – Innovative actions for the enhancement of cultural heritage” promoted by the European University Centre for Cultural Heritage (2022)
- Members of the Short Film Conference, international network of short film festivals and institutions (since 2019)
- Recognition within the Creativity Pioneers Community promoted by Moleskine Foundation (since 2023)

GRANTS RECEIVED

List of grants and financial support received over the years.

2025

- Grant from **Fondazione Carical** for the project *La Piccola Biblioteca di Amantea*
- Winners of the **Calabria Film Commission public call “Avviso pubblico per il sostegno alla realizzazione di festival e rassegne cinematografiche in Calabria”** for *La Guarimba International Film Festival 2025*
- Winners of the “**Cinema e Immagini per la Scuola**” call promoted by the Italian **Ministry of Culture (MiC)** and the **Ministry of Education and Merit (MiM)** for an educational project on the language of animation involving **13 schools across Calabria**
- Winners of the **Regional call “Sostegno e promozione turistica e culturale”** promoted by the **Regione Calabria** for the cultural activities developed within *La Piccola Biblioteca di Amantea*

2024

- European grant “**ZMINA: Rebuilding**” for the project *Kino Guarimba – The Ukrainian Edition*
- European grant “**Culture Moves Europe**” for the project *La Guarimba Music Camp*
- Grant from **Fondazione Carical** for the project *La Piccola Biblioteca di Amantea*
- Italian Ministry of Culture grant “**Call for contributions to initiatives for the promotion of cinematographic and audiovisual activities – Festivals**” for *La Guarimba 2024*
- Italian Ministry of Culture grant “**Call for contributions to initiatives for the promotion of cinematographic and audiovisual activities – Showcases**” for *CinemAmbulante 2024* Italian Ministry of Culture grant “**Call for contributions to initiatives for the promotion of cinematographic and audiovisual activities – Awards**” for *Premio Vitaliano Camarca 2024*
- Calabria Film Commission grant “**Public notice for the support of film festivals and showcases in Calabria**” for *La Guarimba 2024*

2023

- Italian Ministry of Culture grant “**Call for contributions to initiatives for the promotion of cinematographic and audiovisual activities – Festivals**” for *La Guarimba 2023*
- Italian Ministry of Culture grant “**Call for contributions to initiatives for the promotion of cinematographic and audiovisual activities – Showcases**” for *CinemAmbulante 2023*
- Italian Ministry of Culture grant “**Call for contributions to initiatives for the promotion of cinematographic and audiovisual activities – Awards**” for *Premio Vitaliano Camarca 2023*
- Calabria Film Commission grant “**Public notice for the support of film festivals and showcases in Calabria**” for *La Guarimba 2023*

2022

- Italian Ministry of Culture grant “**Call for contributions to initiatives for the promotion of cinematographic and audiovisual activities – Festivals**” for *La Guarimba 2022*

- Italian Ministry of Culture grant “**Call for contributions to initiatives for the promotion of cinematographic and audiovisual activities – Showcases**” for *CinemAmbulante 2022*
- Italian Ministry of Culture grant “**Call for contributions to initiatives for the promotion of cinematographic and audiovisual activities – Awards**” for *Premio Vitaliano Camarca 2022*
- Calabria Film Commission grant “**Public notice for the support of film festivals and showcases in Calabria**” for *La Guarimba 2022*
- European Cultural Foundation grant “**The European Challenge 2022**” for *Kino Guarimba*
- Italian Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Education grant “**Cinema e Immagini per la Scuola**” for an animation education programme in six schools across Calabria
- Moleskine Foundation grant “**Creativity Pioneers Fund**”

2021

- Italian Ministry of Culture grant “**Call for contributions to initiatives for the promotion of cinematographic and audiovisual activities – Festivals**” for *La Guarimba 2021*
- Italian Ministry of Culture grant “**Call for contributions to initiatives for the promotion of cinematographic and audiovisual activities – Showcases**” for *CinemAmbulante 2021*

2020

- Italian Ministry of Culture grant “**Call for contributions to initiatives for the promotion of cinematographic and audiovisual activities – Festivals**” for *La Guarimba 2020*
- Additional financial support from: Embassy of the United States, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Embassy of Ireland, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Embassy of Australia, Embassy of Sweden, Embassy of Canada, Flanders State of the Arts, Austrian Cultural Forum, Korean Cultural Institute

2019

- Italian Ministry of Culture grant “**Call for contributions to initiatives for the promotion of cinematographic and audiovisual activities – Festivals**” for *La Guarimba 2019*
- Italian Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Education grant “**National Plan Cinema for Schools**”
- Grant “**Territorial Marketing and Intangible Heritage Initiatives for UNESCO Recognition – II Edition**” from the Chamber of Commerce of Cosenza

2018

- Italian Ministry of Culture grant “**Call for contributions to initiatives for the promotion of cinematographic and audiovisual activities – Festivals**” for *La Guarimba 2018*
- Italian Ministry of Culture grant “**MigrArti**” for *CinemAmbulante 2018*
- Italian Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Education grant “**National Plan Cinema for Schools**”

2017

- Italian Ministry of Culture grant “**Call for contributions to initiatives for the promotion of cinematographic and audiovisual activities – Festivals**” for *La Guarimba 2017*
- Region of Calabria grant “**Public call for the selection and financing of major festivals, events and cultural initiatives**” for *La Guarimba Film Festival 2017* (three year grant)
- Italian Ministry of Culture grant “**MigrArti**” for *CinemAmbulante 2017*

2016

- Italian Ministry of Culture grant “**MigrArti**” for *CinemAmbulante 2016*
- Creative Europe grant “**Audience Development**” as partner of the project *Audio Visual Access*

2013

- Grant “**Integrated Urban Regeneration Programme – International Workshop of Art, Culture and Participation at the former CNOS of Lecce**”
European Regional Development Fund – PO FESR 2007–2013

FILM PRODUCTION

- 2022 Documentary **10 Years of Guarimba** by Felipe Aznar
- 2021 Short film **YAN** by Jacinta Agten
- 2020 Documentary series **Alfabeto Emotivo del Dialetto Calabrese** by Giulio Vita and Fortunato Valente
- 2019 Short film **Should I Stay Or Should I Go** by Nils Clauss
- 2018 Experimental documentary **Il Mondo Trovato The Sounds of Calabria** by Vincent Moon
- 2018 Short film **Amantea** by Laura Hermanides
- 2017 Short film **Lucia Cafeina** by Burnin Percebes
- 2013 Documentary series **La Mia Mantia Storie di Paese**

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- **Smorto G. – A Sud del Sud**, Zolfo Editore.
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