



SABEEL 2020

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Section 1 – An introduction to Sabeel 2020

1. What is Sabeel 2020?

Sabeel 2020 is a competition and commissioning programme to identify and produce innovatively designed drinking water fountains for the Expo 2020 Dubai site and its legacy. Sabeel 2020 additionally serves to highlight and provide major opportunities for the UAE's creative sector.

2. Who is running the open call for Sabeel 2020?

The project is a collaboration between Expo 2020 and Art Jameel, managed through a juried open call and production process.

Art Jameel, in collaboration with Expo 2020, is administering and curating the competition, while Expo 2020 is funding and producing the fountains for the site.

3. Why 'sabeel', and how does it tie in with Expo 2020?

A sabeel (sa-bēēl) is a community water fountain that provides relief to passersby and travellers, and that symbolises our collective responsibility and solidarity with people in our community and humanity as a whole.

Sabeel 2020 builds on these concepts of generosity and hospitality which are core values of the UAE, and incorporates the Expo 2020 sub-themes of:

- **Opportunity** – by engaging the creative community in imagining innovative designs for a traditional concept while raising awareness on an important topic such as water.
- **Sustainability** – in promoting a culturally-rooted, eco-friendly and community-based approach to the way water is made accessible.
- **Mobility** – by celebrating the welcoming spirit of the country towards travellers and visitors to a neighbourhood or a community. Expo 2020's visitors, with a majority of them from abroad, symbolise the traveller.

4. Are the fountains going to be functional?

Though aesthetics are important, the fountain must be functional so that visitors are able to access clean drinking water.

5. Will the water be safe to drink?

The water running through the fountains will be potable filtered and chilled DEWA water.

Section 2 – Competition application brief, criteria and eligibility

1. Who can apply?

The Sabeel 2020 open call is open to practitioners who:

- Work as designers, architects, artists or within other creative industries
- Have experience working in the public realm to brief or commission
- Demonstrate an ability to design a work that is suitable for permanent public display
- Display awareness of environmental concerns and a commitment to the key principles that inform Expo 2020's overall sustainability strategy
- Embrace conceptual and visual ideas/designs that are wholly original, dynamic, carefully considered and contextually appropriate
- Have a proven track record of adhering to budgets and deadlines
- Are from or are based in the UAE, including UAE nationals, long-term residents and those with a demonstrable and sustained relationship with the UAE and its values



2. Can I apply if I do not live in Dubai?

Applications are open to UAE Nationals, long-term residents and/or those who have a developed and sustained connection with UAE. Applicants may be former residents of the UAE and/or have contributed to the various cultural scenes across Emirates.

3. Do you accept applications in Arabic and English?

All applications must be submitted in either Arabic or English. However, your budget breakdown must be in English, and technical specifications and all diagrams, files and drawings must also be labelled in English.

4. What is the application brief?

The awarded proposal should have the capacity to become iconic in nature – known universally as symbolic of the UAE as a tolerant, generous country. Both residents and tourists alike should be able to recognise the Sabeel 2020 fountains for their emblematic design and nature.

The drinking fountain should be functional yet design-oriented with the ability to be mass-produced at a budget commensurate to benchmarked standards for a drinking fountain in the UAE market, without compromising the design aesthetic. The design should be simple yet innovative in terms of water- gathering, dispensing and making use of ancient and/or new technologies, as well as hard wearing and long-lasting.

5. What are the application criteria?

The Sabeel 2020 open call will select up to three innovative designs, to be reproduced and function as drinking fountains for visitors to the site. Installed across various locations throughout the Expo 2020 site, the winning design(s) will remain as part of the Expo 2020 legacy.

Practitioners responding to this open call may take traditions in sculpture, product design and architecture as starting points to envisage the notion of the drinking fountain in its widest sense.

This said, submissions should:

- Consider the architecture and environment of Expo 2020's site and visitor usability, including public health and safety standards
- Be robust enough to withstand high levels of usage, considering a projected 150,000 daily visitors to Expo 2020
- Stand out conceptually, artistically and technically
- Engage meaningfully with a broad, contemporary audience base, and encourage interactivity and engagement
- Provide a memorable, captivating focal point that will bring the concept of the sabeel to life in a non-literal way
- Show some flexibility in terms of concept as well as adaptability to place, design and install
- Consider availability of materials locally and have the capacity to be produced within a budget commensurate to benchmarked standards for a drinking fountain in the UAE market
- Meet the specified deadlines of the application, production and installation processes

6. What are the requirements and restrictions to keep in mind while putting together my application?

For guidance, applicants may use the ballpark range of AED 8,000-12,000 as a typical per unit cost when exploring materials and design (excluding the core fountain unit and installation). Sabeel 2020 guidelines encourage applicants to embrace innovation, originality and creativity in their designs, while keeping in mind the importance of maintaining cost efficiency and sustainability.

You may access the technical specifications and list of health and safety regulations required for realisation of design [here](#).



7. What is the application process?

Practitioners are invited to respond to the above brief with outline drawings, a budget and a completed application form by **September 10, 2019, 11:59 pm** (Gulf Standard Time). The application form is to be completed online in Arabic or English and requires the following information:

- A brief introduction to yourself and your practice (in Arabic or English, max. 500 words)
- A summary that highlights your relevant experience of working to brief or commission for projects in the public realm (in Arabic or English, max. 500 words)
- A statement on your approach to addressing this project's brief (in Arabic or English, max. 500 words)
- A draft budget in PDF format (in English, in AED)
- Up to three high-resolution concept drawings of your proposed design, with each file labelled [Conceptdrawing1_FirstnameLastname] to correspond with the sequence in the application. All labels and information accompanying the drawings must be in English
- Up to three high-resolution preliminary technical drawings of your proposed design, with each file labelled [Technicaldrawing1_FirstnameLastname] to correspond with the sequence in the application. All labels and information accompanying the drawings must be in English
- A PDF containing up to 10 images/videos of your relevant previous work, accompanied by captions summarising each work shown. The file uploaded must be labelled [Previouswork_FirstnameLastname]. All labels and information within these files must be in English

8. What are the next steps after my application is submitted?

You will receive an email confirmation once your application has been successfully submitted. Only successful candidates will be contacted by October 2019.

Section 3 – Competition selection process

1. Who are the jurors?

The Sabeel 2020 jury includes:

- Nasser B. Abulhasan
- Hani Asfour
- Manal Ataya
- Shumon Basar
- Marjan Faraidooni
- Asif Khan
- Christopher Turner

2. How will the winning designs be selected?

Upon receipt of all submissions, every application will be reviewed by Art Jameel. Jurors will convene to select the top three winning designs, of which at least one will proceed to the commissioning stage to have their designs produced across the Expo site.

3. How many applications are being accepted?

All proposals submitted by **September 10, 2019, 11:59 pm** (Gulf Standard Time) will be considered.

Section 4 – Competition prizes

1. How many winners will there be, and what will they receive?

Three shortlisted submissions will be selected by the jury. Of these, at least one will be mass-produced to become the iconic sabeel of the Expo 2020 site.

A prize of AED 100,000 will be paid to each successful applicant selected as a winner.

Section 5 – Post-competition

1. Where will the winning fountains be displayed, and for how long?

For the duration of the event, the fountains will be situated in the public realm of the Expo 2020 site.



2. Will there be a contract with the competition winners?

A separate commissioning contract and any other necessary agreements will be executed by the commissioned designer(s) and Expo 2020 setting out each party's rights and obligations under the Commission.

3. What happens to the fountains after Expo 2020 is over?

The fountains will remain as part of the Expo 2020 legacy.

4. Who will cover the production and installation costs?

Expo 2020 will cover the production costs, whereby applicants should aim to conceive designs that are commensurate to benchmarked standards for a drinking fountain in the UAE market without compromising the design aesthetic (excluding the internal unit, plinth, infrastructure connections and installation costs).

5. Who will apply for city planning permission and inspections should that be necessary for the installation?

The commissioning team led by Expo 2020.

6. How will the fountains be maintained?

A maintenance agreement will form part of the commissioning contract.

7. Who will own the fountains?

The fountains will be owned by Expo 2020 or a related, relevant entity.

8. Who will retain the copyright of the winning design(s)?

The winning practitioner(s) will be cited in all relevant marketing materials, but concept, IP rights and copyright of the design (including capacity to reproduce the work again for other sites) will remain with Expo 2020.

9. Who will retain the copyright of submitted designs?

Applicants whose designs are in any way showcased, prototyped or reproduced will be cited in all relevant marketing materials, but concept, IP rights and copyright of their designs (including capacity to reproduce the work again for other sites) will remain with Expo 2020.

Section 6 - Application FAQs

1. Can a collective, practice or duo apply?

Yes, but the collective, practice or duo will be considered one practitioner with a shared budget.

2. In addition to photos, can we supply short videos of work in the public realm?

Yes, YouTube and Vimeo links will also be accepted.

3. If I have participated in an Art Jameel-affiliated programme in the past, am I still eligible to apply?

Yes, the open call is open to everyone who meets the criteria.

4. Does the work have to look like a water fountain?

No, originality and innovation are welcome and expected within the confines of producing a practical, working fountain that adheres to health and safety standards.

5. Can I use lights and sound?

Applicants should bear in mind the need for sustainability, but innovative ideas are particularly encouraged.