MINISTERO DELLA CULTURA

BIBLIOTECA NAZIONALE MARCIANA

SUBJECT: Call for expressions of interest for the use of the monumental rooms of the Marciana National Library for exhibition purposes on the occasion of the 62nd Venice Art Biennale (2028), between 5 May and 26 November 2028 (provisional period). PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Marciana National Library consists of two buildings, both of considerable historical, architectural and artistic value, one of which is the Library Building, located at Piazzetta San Marco 13a, the home of the former Public Library of St Mark and the Procurators' Apartments, now a museum area open to visitors and also used for exhibitions and events;

Whereas, among its various objectives, the Library seeks to promote the Sansovino Library, including by organising events, exhibitions and other promotional activities and, for this purpose, makes its premises available to third parties subject to a formal contractual agreement and the conditions set out in the current Regulations for the granting of use of premises, reproduction rights and educational services, adopted by Director's Determination No. 66 of 24 August 2023—a text aligned with the Guidelines for determining the minimum fees and charges for the use of property under the custody of state cultural institutions and sites, pursuant to Ministerial Decree No. 161 of 11 April 2023, and the subsequent Guidelines updated by Ministerial Decree No. 108 of 21 March 2024;

In light of the foregoing,

the Library hereby issues this public notice to invite expressions of interest from parties seeking a grant of use of the Library's monumental rooms (the Sansovino Hall and the Vestibule), at the Library Building (entrance at Piazzetta San Marco 13a), for exhibition purposes during the provisional period from 2 May to 29 November 2028, which coincides with the 62nd Venice Art Biennale and includes not only the days on which the exhibitions are open to the public but also the days required for their installation and dismantling.

Interested parties must submit, by 12:00 noon on 29 January 2027, a proposal covering the entire period concerned, namely from 2 May (coinciding with the anticipated opening date of the Art Biennale and including installation days) to 29 November 2028 (coinciding with the anticipated closing date of the Biennale and including dismantling days),

or, alternatively, one of the following portions of that period:

a) from 2 May 2028 to 15 August 2028 (coinciding with the anticipated opening date of the Art Biennale and in any event including installation and dismantling days);

b) from 16 August 2028 to 29 November 2028 (coinciding with the anticipated closing date of the Biennale and including installation and dismantling days).

Proposals must be submitted by the stated deadline, quoting the subject of this notice, via certified email (PEC) to: b-marc@pec.cultura.gov.it.

Proposals providing for a single exhibition will be viewed more favourably.

The proposal must be divided into two sections:

a) Artistic proposal: This must include the concept of the exhibition, the name(s) of the proposed artist(s), their CV(s), a brief list of the works intended for exhibition, and a preliminary technical description of the exhibition layout.

Only one exhibition project may be submitted if the applicant is requesting the use of the premises for one of the two exhibition periods specified on page 1. A maximum of two exhibition projects may be submitted if the applicant is requesting the use of the premises for the entire period corresponding to the 2028 Art Biennale (May–November). Proposals involving a series of exhibitions or, in any case, more than two exhibition events will not be accepted.

b) Financial proposal: This must specify the proposed concession fee.

In order to prepare the proposal, applicants must review the attached *Regulations governing the concession of spaces, reproduction rights and educational services of the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana* (Regolamento per la concessione di spazi, diritti di riproduzione e per servizi didattici della Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana), and in particular Section IV, *Concessions for the Occasional Use of Spaces*, of the fee schedule, which forms an integral part of the aforementioned Regulations.

The Regulations were adopted by Management Decision No. 66 of 24 August 2023, in compliance with the Guidelines for determining the minimum fees and charges for the concession of use of assets entrusted to State cultural institutions and venues, pursuant to Ministerial Decree No. 161 of 11 April 2023, and the subsequent updated Guidelines issued by Ministerial Decree No. 108 of 21 March 2024.

In accordance with the Regulations currently in force and the fee schedule contained therein, the following minimum amounts are established. The financial proposal must not be lower than:

- **€ 275,000.00** if the applicant requests the use of the premises for the entire period corresponding to the Art Biennale (May–November).
- **€ 140,000.00** if the applicant requests the use of the premises for one of the two separate exhibition periods specified on page 1.

Applicants are required to carefully review the Regulations, available via the link provided below from the official website of the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, together with the relevant fee schedule. The Library's Management will assess the financial offer submitted by applicants on the basis of these provisions.

Among the conditions to be considered, in addition to those set out in the Regulations and any further conditions that may be established and agreed upon by the parties in the Concession Agreement, are the following:

- The project proposals must expressly take into account the highly prestigious historical, architectural and artistic setting and must therefore be compatible with it, as well as consistent with the intended use of the Monumental Halls (*Sale Monumentali*) and their history. Please also note that the Marciana National Library will be involved in the celebrations marking the Year of Saint Mark (in 2028, the 1,200th anniversary of the arrival in Venice of the remains of the body of Saint Mark will be commemorated). Proponents are therefore invited to take this into consideration when developing their project concept;
- Exhibition layout plans must be submitted to the Library Management well in advance, together with complete technical specifications detailing the physical components of both the artworks themselves and their support structures. The Library Management shall be responsible for assessing such plans in light of the applicable safety regulations and the internal protocols governing the use of the Library's premises;
- The Library Management shall submit the detailed implementation plans to the Head of the Prevention and Protection Service (RSPP) for risk assessment. In this regard, the curator of the exhibition initiative shall be required to liaise with the Library in order to coordinate the assessment and management of any risks arising from overlapping activities;
- The Library Management reserves the right to use the halls hosting the exhibition for occasional institutional activities, including, by way of example and without limitation, book presentations, study days and similar events. For such purposes, the Library may temporarily close the museum exhibition route to visitors. The same shall apply in the event of ordinary or extraordinary maintenance works within the premises;

- In order to ensure the proper conduct of such events, or for any other safety-related reason, the Library reserves the right to temporarily restrict or suspend public access to the exhibition. Should this occur, the Library Management undertakes to notify the Concessionaire promptly. In any event, restrictions on access shall not exceed 15% of the total number of days scheduled for the exhibition.
- The Concessionaire may install additional display structures, in addition to the existing display cases, which may not be removed. Such additional structures shall be subject to the approval of the Library and may be installed in the Salone Sansoviniano and the Vestibule only on condition that the central area, intended for the placement of chairs and other equipment used for conferences, remains unobstructed. All installations must be positioned no more than 2 metres from the walls, both in the Salone Sansoviniano and in the Vestibule. By way of example, reference is made to the attached floor plan, which identifies both the areas within which installations (exhibits and display structures) may be positioned and the areas in which such installations are strictly prohibited. The opinion to be obtained by the Management from the Head of the Prevention and Protection Service (RSPP) shall apply to both the Salone and the Vestibule. It is understood that, in any event, for the purpose of approving the exhibition and installation plan, the Library Management shall comply with the instructions issued by the Head of the Prevention and Protection Service, including those relating to specific cases;
- The Concessionaire shall be entirely responsible for the installation and dismantling of the exhibition;
- In the event of closures lasting at least one week, ordered by the national, regional or municipal authorities due to a public health emergency, the parties undertake to review the Concession Agreement. It is understood that the fee agreed upon shall remain payable in proportion to the extent to which the premises have actually been used;
- The terms and organisational arrangements shall be governed by a specific agreement to be entered into between the Management of this Library Institution and the Concessionaire of the premises.

It is understood that the conditions set out above are not exhaustive; they shall be fully and specifically defined in the agreement to be subsequently entered into with the party granted the concession of the premises, to which reference is therefore made.

It should also be noted that the period in question coincides with the 62nd Venice Art Biennale (2028), an event which could represent an additional opportunity of interest.

The Management undertakes to provide interested parties with a response regarding the concession referred to in this Notice by 15 February 2027.

The selected party shall pay, by way of a confirmatory deposit (*caparra confirmatoria*), an amount equal to 10% of its financial offer by 31 March 2027, via the PAGOPA portal, stating in the payment description: “Advance payment of the concession fee for the use of the premises for the 2028 Art Biennale at the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana”.

Under no circumstances shall this advance payment be refunded.

Attachments:

1) **Regolamento per la concessione di spazi, diritti di riproduzione e per servizi didattici** al link dal sito istituzionale della Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana: https://bibliotecanazionalemarciana.cultura.gov.it/servizi/regolamento-concessione-spazi-diritti-riproduzione-servizi-didattici/;
2) **planimetria spazi con definizione spazi preclusi**