

**Invitation for Expression of Interest for
Operation of the
'Espace Artisanal de Mahebourg' at the
National History Museum, Mahebourg**

(REF: MMC/EOI/01 of 2023-24)

Introduction

The 'Espace Artisanal de Mahebourg' found in the courtyard of the National History Museum, on an approximate area of 1807 m², comprises of 7 buildings (kiosks), one (1) of 81 m² and rest (6) of 42 m² each and one toilet. The kiosks are made of wooden structures with iron sheets roofs, conform to traditional architecture of Mauritius that is 'Maison Creole' type.

Constructed in 1993 by the National Handicraft Centre, then renovated in 2010 by the Tourist Village Company Ltd, the aim of the 'Espace Artisanal' was to improve tourist infrastructure while promoting the local handicraft sector in Mahebourg. It was managed by the Tourist Village Company Ltd and then by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA - now SME Mauritius Ltd).

Currently, the 'Espace Artisanal de Mahebourg' is being renovated by the Tourism Authority under the aegis of the Ministry of Tourism.

To ensure its sustainability, the Mauritius Museums Council is inviting Expression of Interest for the management of the 'Espace Artisanal de Mahebourg' to stimulate visits and lifestyle within the compound of the National History Museum, Mahebourg.

Project description

The Mauritius Museums Council intends to lease six (6) vacant kiosks (1 of 81 m² and 5 of 42 m²) of the 'Espace Artisanal de Mahebourg' to interested parties to operate food and beverage outlet, bookstore, artisanal shops while ensuring regular events to attract visitors abiding to the best sustainable practices. Local products and entrepreneurs would constitute the core of the attraction.

Terms of Reference

1. The applicant may be a single entity, company or a group of entities, coming together to operate the 'Espace Artisanal de Mahebourg'.

2. The applicant should submit a fully comprehensive and detailed Business Plan comprising of the following
 - Profile of the Individual Promoter/Company/Joint Venture
 - Registration of the Individual Promoter/Company/Joint Venture
 - Testimonials / Recommendations / Any other related documents & certificates
 - Audited Financial Statement for the past two consecutive years
 - Years of experience in the field/s
 - Capital and Resource Investment and Management Plan for the operation of the ‘Espace Artisanal de Mahebourg’
 - Proposed time frame for the operation of the ‘Espace Artisanal de Mahebourg’
 - Proposed Operating hours
 - Proposed Annual Rental Fee to be paid to the Mauritius Museums Council
3. The applicant shall demonstrate in the Business Plan that he/she holds sound financial capacity to develop a similar project for the operation of ‘Espace Artisanal de Mahebourg’.
4. The applicant shall demonstrate in the Marketing Plan the strategy to attract more visitors (locals and tourists).
5. The applicant shall take charge of the regular maintenance cost of the ‘Espace Artisanal de Mahebourg’ as from date of the lease period from an as is where is basis.
6. The applicant shall take charge of the utility bills (electricity, water and waste water, telecommunications, among others) in relation to the operation of the ‘Espace Artisanal de Mahebourg’.
7. The applicant shall ensure maintenance and management of six (6) parking slots put at the disposal of the tenants during the period of the lease.
8. Before the final award is made, applicant would be required to make an in-person pitch of the proposed operations at the ‘Espace Artisanal de Mahebourg’.
9. The applicant should apply and obtain the necessary Fire and Health clearances.
10. The Mauritius Museums Council will rent the ‘Espace Artisanal de Mahebourg’ to the successful promoter upon a payment of an annual rate. A Memorandum of Understanding would be signed between the Mauritius Museums Council and the successful promoter for a lease of two (2) years which shall thereafter be renewed with increase in rent ranging 5-10% per year.

Deadline for submission of Expression of Interest (EOI)

Interested parties should submit their Expression of Interest not later than **Tuesday 29th August 2023 at 10 15 hours at latest**. The Expression of Interest in a sealed envelope clearly marked **“Expression of Interest for Operation of the ‘Espace Artisanal de Mahebourg’”**, should be deposited in the Tender box situated at Mauritius Museums Council, 1st Floor, Mauritius Institute Building, Chaussée, Port Louis.

EOI received after the prescribed date and time shall not be considered.

Note: Pursuant to this EOI, a shortlist of interested parties will be carried out. These parties will then be informed accordingly.

EOI document received by e-mail will not be considered.

Site visit

Attendance to a site visit is highly recommended prior to submission of the EOI. Interested parties are invited to attend a site visit on **Thursday 17th August 2023 at 10 30 hrs**. Contact Person: Mr Ramracheya, Director on 5915 1231 or 631 9329

Clarifications

All clarifications sought by the applicants in respect of this Expression of Interest shall be addressed to the Secretary, Departmental Bid Committee on: mimuse@intnet.mu not later than 7 days prior to the deadline set for submission of the Applications.

Rights of the Mauritius Museums Council

The Mauritius Museums Council reserves the right to accept or reject the whole Expression of Interest and to annul the EOI exercise without incurring any liabilities whatsoever to any participant/s or any obligation to inform those who have expressed interest on the grounds for rejection.

Date: 1st August 2023