



SOCIETY FOR  
HELLENISM AND  
PHILHELLENISM

**SOCIETY FOR HELLENISM AND PHILHELLENISM**

**2024: "YEAR OF LORD BYRON AND PHILHELLENISM"**

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR ORGANIZING ACTIONS AND EVENTS**

**June 2023**

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## 1. Introduction

2024 marks 200 years from the death of the great romantic poet Lord Byron, who sacrificed his life in the Struggle for Greece's independence. The Society for Hellenism and Philhellenism (SHP) and the Philhellenism Museum, declare 2024 as the "YEAR OF LORD BYRON AND PHILHELLENISM" with the aim to highlight and honor the great British Philhellene and his contribution to Philhellenism internationally, and to institutionalize Philhellenism as a set of values on which Western civilization relies.

The SHP and the Philhellenism Museum organize, sponsor, support, and finance a series of cultural activities and events in Greece and internationally.

## 2. The Society for Hellenism and Philhellenism

### 2A. Purpose

The Society for Hellenism and Philhellenism (SHP) ([www.eefshp.org](http://www.eefshp.org)) is a non-profit organization aimed at studying and promoting Greek culture and the Philhellenic movement from classical antiquity to the present through a series of actions and initiatives in Greece and internationally. The SHP highlights and showcases the uniqueness of the Philhellenic movement and the timeless contribution of Greek culture to the formation of the fundamental values of Western civilization. The SHP organizes and implements a range of cultural activities open to the public, such as exhibitions, guided tours, concerts, conferences, publications, and media productions in Greece and internationally. Additionally, the SHP has established the International Philhellenic Committee, consisting of a network of cultural and academic organizations to promote the Society's goals internationally.

### 2B. The International Lord Byron Prize and Medal

The SHP has established, in collaboration with the Academy of Athens, the international Lord Byron Prize and Medal in honor of the great poet and Philhellene who breathed his last in Messolonghi, fighting alongside the Greeks. Lord Byron embodied the values of Hellenism, namely freedom, respect for human dignity, and the independence of the spirit. He sealed these values and the rights of freedom fighters with his untimely death.

The International Lord Byron Prize is bestowed annually to three significant international figures from the political, cultural, academic, or business world whose careers are characterized by a long-standing Philhellenic stance or who have contributed to society through actions inspired by the values of Hellenism. Each one of the three honorees receives a silver medal, a diploma, and a grant of \$10,000, which is donated in their name to a foundation of their choice engaged in activities that serve and promote the values of Hellenism and Philhellenism.



The Lord Byron Medal is also awarded annually by the SHP to private or public organizations and researchers who contribute to the promotion of Hellenism and Greek studies, to individuals or organizations that support the work of the SHP, and to descendants of Philhellenes who offered their support to Greece during the Greek Revolution.

## **2C. The Philhellenes Monument**

The SHP designed and constructed on its own initiative and funding, the Philhellenes Monument, which will adorn Vasilissis Sofias Avenue in front of the War Museum. During the Fourth National Assembly in Argos in 1829, according to the 8<sup>th</sup> Resolution, it was decided to erect two monuments for the Philhellenes. One for those who died in Greece and another one for those who participated in the Struggle. Unfortunately, the above decision remained unfulfilled until 2021. The SHP took on the task of fulfilling this duty by erecting the Philhellenes Monument, made of white Dionysos marble, on which more than 2,000 names of Philhellenes who offered their services, and often their lives, for the liberation of Greece are engraved.

To promote the Monument, the SHP has undertaken a series of activities that enrich the cultural map of Athens (cultural walks in the city with guided tours "In the footsteps of the Philhellenes," screenings of the film "The Philhellenes" - a dramatized documentary about the Philhellenic movement and the actions of volunteers in Greece, which was carried out on the initiative and funding of the SHP, collaborations with other organizations, etc.).

For the historical documentation of the Monument, the SHP, in collaboration with the Philhellenism Museum, is producing a series of publications concerning American Philhellenism, German Philhellenism, French Philhellenism, British Philhellenism, as well as a volume containing the biographies of the Philhellenes whose names are engraved on the Monument.

## **2D. Philhellenism Museum**

The Philhellenism Museum was established by the SHP and has been operational since early 2021 in the City of Athens ([www.phmus.org](http://www.phmus.org)). The collections of the Philhellenism Museum include more than 3,500 art objects, paintings, books, documents of great historical value, etc., that narrate the history of Philhellenism from the Renaissance to the present.

Among other things, the Museum features the largest international collection of artworks related to Lord Byron, as well as personal items, and many significant documents related to the actions of the Philhellenes during the Greek Revolution, up to the establishment of the Modern Greek state. Some notable items include the Cross of the Savior medal received by George Canning's son from King Othon, along with related correspondence, the pistols of Philhellene Frank Hastings, one of the two surviving copies worldwide of the first Greek bond issued by the Greek Administration in 1824-1825, original



handwritten letters from Philhellenes (such as Lord Byron, Eynard, Chateaubriand, Victor Hugo, Alexandre Dumas, Lafayette, Fabvier, Chiappe, Derigny, Pouqueville, etc.), particularly emblematic paintings depicting the Battle of Navarino, European painters' works depicting themes from the Greek Revolution of 1821, Philhellenic art objects, and more. The Philhellenism Museum's website offers free access to the digital collections of the Museum.

### **3. The rationale for the call for funding proposals**

The SHP, in collaboration with the Philhellenism Museum, designs, supports, finances, and implements a suite of actions and events with educational and cultural content, aiming to raise public awareness on the continuous Philhellenism, the need to preserve and highlight the recent historical past as a source of inspiration for contemporary artistic creation, and further expand the cultural map of the country in cooperation with other museums and cultural entities.

Philhellenism as a movement has its roots in classical antiquity, reached its peak in the late 18th century and onwards, and expresses a sense of respect and admiration for the Greek culture, as well as the adoption of the values of classical education. Indeed, the epitome of classics can be traced back to ancient Greece, especially during the Golden Age of Pericles when science and art flourished in a unique and human-centric manner. Ancient Greek literature crystallized this turning point in the evolution of world civilization and provides us with the essence of ancient Greek thought as a timeless tool for understanding the world.

The adoption of this Greek education by Western societies has acted as a catalyst for the evolution of humanity, recognizing Greece as the cradle and reference point of Western civilization.

Today, in an era of rapid developments, climate crisis, and constant challenges, it is particularly important for contemporary people to engage with classical values as a reference point and impetus. The exponentially advancing technological progress without a stable ethical framework, the threat of artificial intelligence, the cold perception of reality through economic indicators, and the overall devaluation of humanist principles, create the impression that modern societies are attached to an uncontrollable chariot that could be derailed. In order for contemporary individuals to redefine their position in the ever-changing environment, they need to reconnect with classical values and draw strength and tools from them to adopt policies aimed at addressing the challenges of the present and future. Classical education, and especially ancient Greek literature, indeed offer the necessary tools for better understanding the modern world and reevaluating priorities, highlighting the significance of values such as respect for life, freedom, democracy, balance, measure, and civility, as well as human rights.



The challenges are immense, especially in a world that is called upon, for example, to embrace artificial intelligence, address pandemics, and mitigate climate change. It is therefore particularly important to define the decision-making framework that will allow these significant processes to take place. Thus, Philhellenism, beyond a historical ideological movement of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, must be seen as a way of life that traverses the historical continuum from the dawn of Western civilization in ancient Greece to the present day, and prove to be the most valuable asset in humanity's arsenal to tackle modern challenges.

The SHP and the Philhellenism Museum, acting as custodians of the Greek culture, endeavor through their actions to serve as a channel for the diffusion and dissemination of classical values and humanism.

The life and work of Lord Byron are intertwined with the Greek Revolution and the Struggle of the Greeks for freedom. During his travels to Greece, Lord Byron defended its independence both with his sword and his pen, culminating through his writings in raising international public awareness of the suffering of subjugated Hellenism. With the clear literary voice that characterizes him, he was the first to express the position that Greece, then a province of the still-powerful Ottoman Empire, could be liberated. His work is filled with admiration for Greek civilization and, through the literary mirror of Romanticism, offers an authentic source of our intangible cultural heritage.

The SHP, and the Philhellenism Museum, dedicate the year 2024 to Lord Byron and Philhellenism to honor the great poet for the service he offered to Greece. To commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the poet's death in Messolonghi in 1824, the SHP and the Philhellenism Museum invite cultural entities and organizations throughout Greece and internationally, to organize activities and events centered around the life and work of Lord Byron and the Philhellenism movement in general.

#### **4. Description of the invitation**

Financial grants will be provided to cultural initiatives and events that promote, among other things the following:

- a. Informing and educating the public about the history of Philhellenism, its role in shaping the history of modern Greece, and its enduring presence.
- b. Highlighting the work of Lord Byron and promoting Greek cultural heritage as the cradle of Western civilization based on classical values.
- c. Preserving historical memory and conducting historical research on emblematic figures of Philhellenism.
- d. Promoting cultural exchanges with institutions in Greece and internationally, fostering dialogue, active public participation, and artistic creation based on the Philhellenic movement and its connection to modern reality and the future.



- e. Strengthening the cultural landscape of Greece, with a special focus on mountainous, island, inaccessible, and generally less privileged regions, involving local bodies and communities.
- f. Raising awareness among young people about the need for a deeper understanding and knowledge of the recent historical past as a source of inspiration and creativity.
- g. Reviving interest in preserving intangible cultural heritage through offering experiential experiences.
- h. Expanding the country's cultural agenda based on the timeless values offered by ancient Greek literature and Philhellenism.
- i. Creating a framework for developing intercultural actions that promote contemporary artistic creation, with an emphasis on young people from the region, vulnerable and marginalized social groups, and diverse cultural audiences.
- j. Creating inclusive actions where people can participate regardless of their permanent residence, gender, nationality, financial ability, educational and social background, opinions, etc.

## 5. Proposed actions

The proposed actions may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Music (classical, contemporary, traditional, etc.)
- Theater (drama, Puppet Theater, etc.)
- Dance (classical, contemporary, etc.)
- Music Theater
- Visual Arts / Performance (painting, sculpture, photography, etc.)
- Exhibitions, lectures, conferences, seminars, and overall educational and scientific activities
- Educational workshops and various artistic activities

Additionally, the proposals may optionally focus on some of the following thematic categories:

- Philosophical and narrative approaches to Philhellenism.
- Exploration of the historical framework in which Philhellenism developed and the examination of the political scene of the time (American Revolution, French Revolution, Napoleonic Wars, Holy Alliance, etc.).



- Influence of currents and trends in the flourishing of Philhellenism (archaeological knowledge, romanticism, neoclassicism, secret societies, etc.).
- Practical consequences of Philhellenism on a political, social, and economic level internationally.
- Influence of artistic creation on shaping public opinion and influencing the press, and vice versa.
- Influence of Philhellenism in promoting human rights, feminism and abolishing slavery.
- Vision and proposals for supranational collaborations, overcoming entrenched political, economic, and cultural reflexes and prejudices in the face of overarching threats such as the energy crisis, pandemics, climate crisis, etc.
- The continuous Philhellenism and its impact on the evolution of society, politics, and the economy globally.

## 6. Eligible Entities

Eligible entities for proposal submission are cultural non-profit organizations, associations, educational institutions, non-profit companies, etc.

## 7. Evaluation

For the evaluation of the proposals, the Society for Hellenism and Philhellenism and the Philhellenism Museum have established an Evaluation Committee consisting of individuals with important social impact and scientific adequacy from Greece and internationally.

## 8. Procedures - Proposal Submission Deadline

The starting date for electronic proposal submission to the email address [info@eefshp.org](mailto:info@eefshp.org) is set for July 1, 2023, at 11:00 AM, with a deadline of September 30, 2023, at 3:00 PM.

Applications that are not submitted electronically cannot be evaluated.

In any case, a new application can be submitted until the deadline for funding applications. The eligibility expenditure start date is defined as October 1, 2023.





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The proposals to be submitted should concern **original creations** aimed at the development of collaborations and compositions of cultural heritage and contemporary creation. Proposals with a significant impact on a wide range of audiences in Greece and internationally, promoting international cooperation and cultural routes, will be preferred.

Proposals must provide detailed cost estimates, be adequately justified, and include a detailed budget and nominal reference to all contributors. They should also indicate the percentage of costs they will self-finance and whether they intend to seek sponsors.

Each entity has the right to submit up to two proposals, but only one proposal per entity will be selected. The selected entities will enter into a contract with the SHP and will be funded for the implementation of specific actions. They will receive the approved funding amount through a transfer to their bank account to cover the pre-approved expenses, based on the project timeline and plan. It is necessary for the candidates to prove that they do not have any debt to the public sector or to EFKA (National Social Security Fund), meaning they should be tax and insurance compliant.

Maria-ElectraTsintou

Dimitrios Georgiou

Museologist

Administrator and Legal Representative

Philhellenism Museum

Society for Hellenism and Philhellenism

Society for Hellenism and Philhellenism