

FOTOFEST COLOMBIA

RIVERS AND MEMORIES

Participation Manual

01 · CURATORIAL PRESENTATION

Open Call

FotoFest Colombia officially opens its third edition: RIVERS AND MEMORIES 2026, a curatorial project that reflects on rivers as territories of memory, resistance, identity, and environmental transformation.

“The open call invites photographers, visual artists, collectives, and creators from different territories around the world to submit projects related to water, river ecosystems, and community memories.”

National and international participants are welcome. The project works to connect photography, memory, community, and territory through cultural and pedagogical processes across different regions of Colombia.

FotoFest Colombia 2026 calls upon Colombian, Latin American, and international photographers whose projects explore the relationship between rivers, memory, territory, communities, and water ecosystems. The open call is available to both emerging and established photographers developing documentary, artistic, community-based, or experimental proposals related to the curatorial theme Rivers and Memories.

More than a photography open call, FotoFest proposes a meeting space to build a collective visual narrative about rivers as territories of life, memory, identity, and transformation. Each submitted project brings new perspectives to this conversation and strengthens a cultural platform that connects photography, community, and territory.

02 · THEME

Rivers and Memories

Water and Territory

Relationships between communities and their water sources. Cultural, spiritual, and everyday connections with rivers, streams, wetlands, and aquatic ecosystems.

Environmental Crisis

Pollution, climate change, and loss of biodiversity. Projects documenting the transformation of water bodies and their consequences for communities.

Resistance

Defense and struggle for the river. Narratives of communities that resist, organize, and build a future around water as a territory of life.

ACCEPTED APPROACHES

- Documentary photography
- Contemporary and artistic photography
- Visual art
- Collective projects
- Community processes
- Photographic pedagogy
- Expanded visual practices related to territory and memory

03 · WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

The open call is for everyone.

All participants must be 18 years of age or older. Applications are accepted from any country or city in the world.

01 PHOTOGRAPHERS

Professional and emerging photographers from any country, with projects linked to the festival's thematic themes.

02 VISUAL ARTISTS

With work linked to the festival's thematic themes: water, territory, memory, resistance.

03 DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKERS

Long-term or recent projects that approach rivers as a space for visual narrative.

04 COMMUNITY PROCESSES

Pedagogical initiatives with communities, popular photography collectives, or participatory projects.

18 years and older · National and International

04 · PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

One project.

Between 10 and 15 photos.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- 10 to 15 images in viewing order
- JPG format
- Minimum resolution: 300 DPI
- Maximum file size per image: 10 MB

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Conceptual description of the project (maximum 500 words)
- Short biography of the participant or collective
- Profile photograph
- Full name, country and city, email address
- Social media (optional)

05 · RECOGNITION FOR SELECTED PROJECTS

6 Selected Projects

Physical Exhibition · Itinerant Circulation · Digital Dissemination

- Official participation in FotoFest Colombia 2026
- Institutional recognition at the festival
- Physical and itinerant exhibition in public spaces
- Professional mounting of the selected work
- Dissemination on the festival's official platforms: social media, press materials, and curatorial pieces
- Integration into national and international networks: partner festivals, exchange platforms, and collaborations
- Visibility to national and international audiences
- Participation in pedagogical activities, community meetings, and academic spaces

Selected projects will be integrated into the visibility and articulation processes driven by FotoFest Colombia, contributing to the dialogue between photography, territory, memory, and social transformation.

06 · REGISTRATION AND CONTRIBUTION

Your registration builds the festival.

WHY IS THERE A REGISTRATION CONTRIBUTION?

FotoFest Colombia is an independent cultural initiative that mobilizes curatorial processes, project review, cultural management, academic programming, community meetings, and the production of on-site exhibitions.

Your registration directly contributes to making the annual edition of the festival possible, supporting the circulation of visual narratives, the development of training activities, the creation of physical and virtual exhibitions, and the strengthening of a platform that connects photographers, communities, and territories through the image.

More than a participation fee, it is a contribution to the collective construction of a space for documentary photography, cultural exchange, and the creation of new national and international connections.

This contribution has the character of a cultural contribution and is therefore non-refundable under any circumstances.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY PROJECT IS NOT SELECTED?

All projects matter.

All photographers who correctly complete their registration will become part of the FotoFest Colombia 2026 National Photographers Directory, a digital record that brings together the visions that responded to the open call.

Likewise, all registered participants will be included in a virtual gallery hosted on the festival's official website, expanding their visibility and allowing their narratives to be part of the collective archive built by FotoFest Colombia.

In this way, each project contributes to the construction of a visual memory about rivers, territory, communities, and water ecosystems, regardless of the selection results.

NATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

\$50.000

COP · Colombian Pesos

INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

USD \$25

US Dollars

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Registration is made exclusively through the official FotoFest Colombia website <https://fotofestcolombiaoficial.com/>. The application is valid when the form is completed, the required files are attached, and the corresponding payment is made.

Incomplete applications or those submitted through other means will not be accepted.

Each participant's contribution directly supports the exhibition setup, the circulation of works in public spaces, and the strengthening of the festival's cultural programming.

This contribution has the character of a cultural contribution and is therefore non-refundable under any circumstances.

07 · USE AND CIRCULATION OF IMAGES

Your rights always belong to you.

Selected participants authorize FotoFest Colombia to use the submitted images exclusively for cultural, curatorial, pedagogical, and dissemination purposes related to the festival. In all cases, copyright will be respected and credited.

AUTHORIZED USES

- Physical exhibitions: installation and touring in public spaces
- Digital platforms: social media and the festival's official website
- Press materials: event dissemination and communication
- Curatorial records: promotional pieces and festival archives

Participants guarantee that they own the rights to the submitted images. The festival may request additional files in case of selection. Registration implies full acceptance of the participation conditions.

The organization reserves the right to make curatorial and museographic adjustments for the circulation of works. Participation in the open call does not guarantee the selection of the project.

08 · GENERAL CONDITIONS

General Conditions

- The registration contribution is non-refundable under any circumstances.
- Participation implies full acceptance of this manual and its conditions.
- Projects must be original works by the author. Participants guarantee that they own the rights to the submitted images.
- The curatorial committee has full autonomy in the selection of projects. Participation does not guarantee selection.
- Incomplete applications or those submitted through means other than the official website will not be accepted.
- The organization reserves the right to make curatorial and museographic adjustments for the circulation of works.
- FotoFest Colombia will use the images exclusively for cultural, curatorial, pedagogical, and festival dissemination purposes, always respecting authorship.
- The festival may request additional files in case of selection.

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