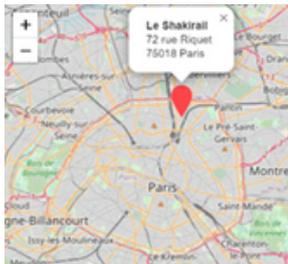




Le Shakirail

A place for culture & solidarity



72 rue Riquet
75018 Paris
France

<https://shakirail.curry-vavart.com/>

The Shakirail is a shared, multi-disciplinary artistic and creative space dedicated to emerging artists, precarious economies, and project leaders in the socio-cultural, educational, solidarity, environmental, and activist fields.

Since 2011, the space has been made available by Curry Vavart, a multidisciplinary collective committed to developing affordable shared workspaces in Paris for precarious creators and cultural & social projects. **The space is a former cloakroom and training centre owned by SNCF (the French railway network),** a partner in the project. The venue consists of two buildings, 600 and 800 square metres, located in a neighbourhood of Paris.

The venue hosts more than 200 artistic projects a year across its various spaces. These include:

- shared workshops for visual and multimedia arts
- shared technical workshops for wood, metal, jewellery, moulding, ceramics, sewing, and electronics
- a film-based photo laboratory
- a multi-purpose hall and outdoor performance spaces
- a rehearsal room for the performing arts
- a music rehearsal studio
- a library
- a communal kitchen
- a partially landscaped communal garden
- a shared office space
- a meeting room for associations



The Shakirail also plays an active role in the dynamics of its neighbourhood and serves as a **resource centre** for the local area. **Both on-site and off-site, the Shakirail teams develop a programme of cultural and social activities,** including hosting community events, offering artistic workshops at the foot of social housing buildings, taking part in neighbourhood events, and coordinating action research on participatory programming by and for Shakirail residents.



Financing

- Public funding (mainly for projects)
- Sponsorship (for specific projects)
- Own funds (membership fees, income from the use of facilities, associative bar, services)

Governance & Team

The Shakirail, along with another venue, La Villa Belleville, is managed by the AGETA/Collectif Curry Vavart association, led by a dedicated team of 80 artist members. This team oversees the activities of both venues and coordinates the overall organisation. The association employs five staff members: two venue coordinators, two local development project managers, and one administrative assistant.

The Shakirail is specifically coordinated by 40 artist coordinators. One employed coordinator works full-time at the Shakirail, supported by a local development manager and an administrator.

Since 2020, Curry Vavart has been approved to host civic service volunteers. Every year, four volunteers are recruited for eight-month assignments at the association's various sites (two at La Villa Belleville in the 20th arrondissement and two at the Shakirail). The association also occasionally takes on interns.

The association AGETA/Curry Vavart is governed by a Board of Directors, consisting of representatives from the various venues managed by the association. Each year, the Board elects an executive team (president, secretary, treasurer). Governance is organised into thematic working groups, which are then validated during collective decision-making meetings (decisions are made by consent). Plenary meetings are held once a month for all the venues managed by the association, and individual venue meetings are held once a week.

Partners and networks (non-exhaustive list)

Socio-cultural and educational partners

- **Local development teams** (EDL) at the gates of the 18th arrondissement and coordination of local players driven by the EDLs.
- **Associations:** Amunanti, 1000&1 Images, Art Exprim, Les Petits Débrouillards, Vergers Urbains, La Permanence chorégraphique, Espoir 18, Paris d'Exil, La Cimade, La Parenthèse, Radio RapTz, Remix the Commons, La Ligue de l'enseignement, Les Oliviers de la Chapelle, coordination d'associations La Bonne Tambouille et Salle Saint-Bruno, collectif Chapelle Charbon, collectif des associations de La Chapelle, Quartier solidaire, Dardard, Humanité et Biodiversité, Astérya, Racines, AMAP and producer groups (Fans de radis, Olives et navets, Corto), coopérative La Louve, etc.
- **Social and prevention centers:** ENS Torcy, Centre social Rosa Parks, Espace 19, GRAJAR, APSAJ, Fond de participation des habitants Chapelle 18, Samu social
- **Schools and cultural establishments:** École Marx Dormoy, École Torcy, École Guadeloupe, École Clignancourt, École Pajol, Collège Aimé Césaire, Vaclav Havel and Maurice Gennevoix libraries, Fonds d'art contemporain, etc.

Institutional partners

SNCF / City of Paris / Mairie du 18e / Région Ile de France / ANCT / DRAC / Agence du service civique / DEJEPS (Jeunesse éducation populaire) and ADAGE accreditation

Professional & artistic networks

Réseau de lieux intermédiaires et indépendants franciliens Actes If / Fédération des réseaux et artistes plasticiens (FRAAP) / Union Fédérale d'Intervention des Structures Culturelles (UFISC) / Coordination Nationale des Lieux Intermédiaires et indépendants (CNLII) / Soleil Nord Est / Consortium Ile-de-France Tiers-lieux / Remix the Commons / La Main foncièrement culturelle

Financial partners

City of Paris (DPSP-SPV, VVV, DEVE, DAC) / Social landlords ICF LA Sablière, RIVP, Paris Habitat, Antin Résidence / CAF / Région Ile de France / DRAC / ANCT / Mairie du 18e / Fondation des Solidarités Urbaines / Fondation Macif

European projects (past or current)

- Presentation of La Villa Belleville as part of the Copter project (2023)
- Participation of the Shakirail as a local partner in the Looking up project (2024-2025)
- Shakirail's participation in the Ecosystème des communs project (2024-2025)
- LOOKING UP (2024-2025)



Focus

Curry Vavart is a multi-disciplinary collective that organises and develops living spaces, creative spaces and shared activities.

Noting the lack of available and affordable work space in Paris for young artists and associations, the Curry Vavart Collective has organised itself to propose solutions to support these artistic and associative initiatives. This project has been enriched by the desire to develop convivial spaces conducive to meetings and exchanges.

Founded in 2006 as an Association under the French law of 1901 (Association pour la Gestion d'Espaces Temporaires Artistiques - AGETA), the Collectif Curry Vavart runs a nomadic activity: its project is based on the temporary possibility of occupying disused spaces awaiting renovation in order to develop artistic and associative initiatives. In each location, a precarious occupation agreement links the Association to a private or public owner and defines the legal framework for the occupation. Between 2006 and 2024, the Curry Vavart collective managed 18 sites, 4 of which are currently in operation.

Opportunities were few and far between, and Parisian land was scarce and expensive, so the Curry Vavart Collective initially developed its projects by squatting - that is, occupying without right or title - industrial spaces that had been disused for several years, in the 10th, 20th and 11th arrondissements of Paris. These activities have always been legal.

2011 was a turning point for the collective, with several partners placing their trust in the project. Two sites were the subject of a precarious occupation agreement, until they were rehabilitated, in the 18th arrondissement with the SNCF and in the 20th arrondissement with the City of Paris.

The Curry Vavart Collective has around 80 active artist members and over 5,000 members, including visual artists, dancers, actors, musicians, circus artists, photographers, video makers, prop designers, town planners, students, cooks, mechanics, workers, electricians, cabinet makers, craftsmen, IT specialists, lawyers, community activists, etc.

The spaces taken over by the Curry Vavart Collective are secured, then fitted out and equipped as living and working spaces; the organisation is based on shared workshops and rehearsal spaces, where the sharing of tools and knowledge is encouraged. If the occupancy contract allows, shared living spaces can also be defined. A small monthly membership fee pays for the running of the Association, and a weekly meeting determines its organisation.

The Collectif Curry Vavart also works with its member artists and companies to produce a wide range of artistic events, both in the spaces it manages and outside its walls, in theatres, concert halls, community spaces, institutions and in the street.

The Collectif Curry Vavart also provides logistical support for the development of young artists, particularly in the performing arts, by offering technical advice, helping to make and assemble sets and props, mutualisation of tools and shared workshops.

The Curry Vavart Collective is developing and supporting initiatives to liven up life in the neighbourhood, particularly through the creation of convivial spaces open to the street, the neighbourhood and its residents: community gardens, places and times for relaxation and discussion, a library, art classes and so on.