



Competition Specifications

creation of the flag of Saint-Martin

Summary

<u>ARTICLE 1 - PURPOSE OF THE CONTEST</u>	P.3
<u>ARTICLE 2 - CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION</u>	P.3
<u>ARTICLE 3 - CALENDAR</u>	P.4
<u>ARTICLE 4 - GRAPHIC CONSTRAINTS</u>	P.5
<u>ARTICLE 5 - COMPOSITION OF THE FILE</u>	P.5
<u>ARTICLE 6 - SUBMISSION PROCEDURES</u>	P.7
<u>ARTICLE 7 - SELECTION PROCESS</u>	P.8
<u>ARTICLE 7BIS - RULES ON IMPARTIALITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY</u>	P.10
<u>ARTICLE 7ter - JURY SCORING GRID</u>	P.10
<u>ARTICLE 8 - RIGHTS AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY</u>	P.12
<u>ARTICLE 9 - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS</u>	P.13

ARTICLE 1 - PURPOSE OF THE CONTEST

The Collectivité of Saint-Martin is organizing an open graphic design contest for the Saint-Martin flag as part of the "My Saint-Martin Flag" project. The objective is to select the flag that achieves the highest combined score-based on the jury's assessment and the results of the consultative citizen vote (see Article 7.4) to serve as the representative flag of the Collectivité of Saint-Martin.

Consequently, it is not intended to replace the French national flag or the Unity Flag.

ARTICLE 2 - CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

2.1 Eligibility

The contest is open to any person who can demonstrate:

- A lasting connection* to Saint-Martin, with no age or professional training requirements:
- Residency in Saint-Martin for a continuous period of at least 10 years.
- Being part of the Saint-Martin diaspora.

Applications from minors are accepted without age restrictions. They must be countersigned by a legal representative (parent or guardian), who assumes responsibility for the entire administrative process and agrees to the assignment of rights on the minor's behalf should they be selected as the winner.

In cases involving children participating in the flag creation project through their school, applications may be submitted by the school principal or the teacher leading the project, provided they include formal written authorization for participation from the parent or legal representative.

Proof of the connection* to Saint-Martin will be requested only from the winner, not from all applicants. The following are excluded from participation: members of the Steering Committee (COPIL), the Technical Committee (COTECH), and the jury, as well as Collectivité staff members directly involved in the project.

"Connection" is defined as any tie to the territory's culture and values, based on a combination of integration criteria across culinary, cultural, community, and linguistic aspects.

2.2 Individual or collective participation

Applications may be submitted on an individual or collective basis. In the case of a collective application, a single representative must be designated to represent the group throughout the selection process. All members of the collective must sign the declaration on their honor.

2.3 Single proposal

Each participant or collective may submit only one proposal; failure to comply with this rule resulting in multiple submissions, will lead to disqualification from the competition.

ARTICLE 3 - CALENDAR

Étape	Date
Opening of the competition	August 11, 2026
Submission deadline	September 30, 2026, at 12:00 PM (noon) Saint-Martin time
Pre-selection by the jury	October 2026
Finalist validation interview	Mid-october 2026
Announcement of the finalists	Mid-october 2026
Citizen advisory vote	October 2026
Online announcement of the winner	End October 2026
Official unveiling of the flag	December 7, 2026

Note

The Collectivité reserves the right to modify this schedule in the event of force majeure, legal constraints, or for reasons of public interest, without entitling candidates to compensation.

ARTICLE 4 - GRAPHIC CONSTRAINTS

4.1 Format and ratio

An official template is made available to all candidates when the competition opens. It can be downloaded from www.mysaintmartinflag.com or obtained in paper format from the Collectivité's Department of Cultural Affairs (Direction de l'Action Culturelle). Candidates are encouraged to create their designs using this template. Proposals created on a different medium are accepted, provided they adhere to the template's proportions (2:3 ratio). (Appendix C – 2:3 ratio template)

4.2 Colors

Candidates are free to choose their own colors, symbols, and graphic elements. Recommendations resulting from the public consultation process available in Appendix B* serve as a highly recommended source of inspiration. These recommendations are factored into the jury's evaluation criteria, specifically regarding the design's identity and representativeness (30 out of 100 points). Any candidate whose proposal deviates significantly from the aspirations expressed by the public during the consultation process must justify this in their statement of intent.

4.3 Symbols and originality

The flag must not reproduce the French national flag, the Unity Flag, or any other flag. Any resemblance to the French national flag or the Unity Flag is prohibited. The inclusion of the official emblem of the Collectivité of Saint-Martin is permitted. The official vector file of the emblem is available for all candidates to download at www.mysaintmartinflag.com. In such cases, the emblem must be reproduced faithfully, without distortion or alteration of its colors or proportions.

4.4 Technical and symbolic requirements

The technical and symbolic requirements applicable to proposals submitted for the competition are detailed in Appendix B (Competition Technical Dossier), available for download at www.mysaintmartinflag.com alongside the competition brief.

ARTICLE 5 - COMPOSITION OF THE FILE

Important

Any incomplete application will be automatically rejected without individual notification. The selection committee will not request additional documents after the competition closes.

This submission package is designed to ensure the authenticity of the creative process and prevent the use of generative artificial intelligence tools. Candidates must demonstrate that the creation is the result of original, personal human effort. The following are required:

1. The completed and signed application form
2. A copy of an identification document
3. The creative process statement
4. The flag design
5. The statement of intent

5.1 The completed and signed application form

The official form (Appendix A) must be filled out, bear an original signature, and be included in the application package. It is available for download at **www.mysaintmartinflag.com** and in hard copy from the Department of Cultural Affairs.

5.2 Creative Process Note (MANDATORY ITEM)

- **Sketches and rough drafts**

Photographs or scans of sketches—even preliminary or informal ones—are accepted. These sketches may be created by hand or on a graphics tablet.

- **Creative process notes (minimum 300 words)**

This document must provide a chronological description of your approach: inspiration research, references consulted, the evolution of the concept, and the reasons behind your final choices. It must be written in the first person and reflect your personal creative journey.

- **List of tools used**

You must specify the drawing, vectorization, and color-grading software used. This list is a declaration of the tools employed and will be reviewed by the jury.

5.3 Flag design

The flag design is not subject to any specific format requirements. Accepted formats include hand-drawn sketches (scanned or photographed), digital files (PDF, PNG, JPG), or vector files (AI, SVG, EPS) for professionals, provided the design is clear and legible.

5.4 Statement of Intent

A written statement of at least 300 to 600 words (maximum two A4 pages), in French or English, explaining:

- What the elements of your flag represent
- Why this flag represents Saint-Martin
- What you intended to convey through your choice of colors and shapes

ARTICLE 6 - SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

6.1 Digital Submission

Applications must be submitted via the competition's official online form, accessible at www.mysaintmartinflag.com once the competition opens. This form is hosted on Microsoft Forms and is accessible to all candidates, including those residing outside Saint-Martin.

An automated acknowledgment of receipt is sent to the candidate upon validation of the form. If no acknowledgment is received within 24 hours, the candidate should contact mysaintmartinflag@com-saint-martin.fr.

The date and time of form submission are definitive. Any form submitted after 12:00 PM (Saint-Martin time) on September 30, 2026, will be automatically rejected.

6.2 Physical submission

The application must be submitted in a sealed envelope to the Department of Cultural Affairs no later than September 30, 2026, at 12:00 PM (Saint-Martin time), bearing the following mandatory information on the envelope:

CONCOURS DRAPEAU DE SAINT-MARTIN - NE PAS OUVRIR

Direction de l'Action Culturelle - Collectivité de Saint-Martin

Baie de la potence - immeuble de l'établissement portuaire de Saint-Martin Galisbay

Digital files must be submitted on a USB drive. Written documents (Appendix A, statement of intent, process description) must be submitted as original signed hard copies. A submission receipt will be issued to the candidate. Submissions are accepted during the opening hours of the Department of Cultural Affairs (8:30 AM – 12:00 PM, Saint-Martin time). Any submission received after the closing date and time will be rejected.

6.3 Common rules

Regardless of the chosen submission method, only one application per person or collective is accepted. Any application that is incomplete, including missing documents, unreadable or corrupted files, or an unsigned Appendix A, will be deemed ineligible, with no possibility of supplementation after the closing date of September 30, 2026, at 12:00 PM (Saint-Martin time).

Submissions by mail are not accepted.

ARTICLE 7 - SELECTION PROCESS

7.1 Jury Composition

The deliberating jury consists of six members appointed by the Steering Committee (COPIL):

- Three institutional representatives from the local authority (including a jury chair)
- A recognized expert on cultural identity
- A graphic designer or art director
- A representative from the neighborhood councils

A seventh seat is reserved for the outcome of the citizen advisory vote (in accordance with Article 7.4); the result is converted into a score incorporated into the scoring matrix set out in Article 7ter, on the same basis as the votes of the four individual members.

The impartiality rules set out in Article 7bis apply in full.

7.2 Selection Process

The selection process takes place in two stages: a creative pre-selection followed by an advisory vote.

The Department of Cultural Affairs, with operational support from the project management assistant (AMO), verifies the administrative eligibility of each submission received. This check covers the presence of all required documents (signed Appendix A, files in the requested formats and resolutions, checked declarations) and adherence to submission deadlines.

Incomplete or non-compliant submissions are deemed ineligible and are not forwarded to the jury. This verification is based exclusively on factual, verifiable criteria; it does not include any assessment of the quality, originality, or creative content of the proposals, which are matters solely for the jury to decide.

Each eligible submission is assigned an anonymization number, which is used for the citizen advisory vote and for all public communication. Anonymity is strictly maintained until the finalist validation interview (Article 7.5) at which point the candidate's identity is necessarily revealed to the jury and remains strict regarding the public until the official announcement of the winner. Any proven attempt by a candidate to reveal their identity prior to this stage may result in disqualification.

7.2.1 Initial creative pre-selection (jury only)

The jury reviews all submissions deemed eligible and carries out the creative pre-selection. At this stage, the jury specifically excludes proposals that bear a clear resemblance to another received proposal (regarding color palette, composition, or symbols), with the jury having sole discretion to assess the degree of similarity; in cases of doubt, the jury may request explanations from the candidate during the interview scheduled under section 7.5.

At the end of this stage, the jury selects a maximum of 10 proposals, identified only by their anonymization number to advance to the next round.

Pre-selection threshold: proposals scoring below 60 out of 80 points (based solely on the jury's scoring using the grid in Article 7ter) are automatically eliminated before the list of 10 finalists is compiled. In the event of a tie between two proposals at this stage, the "identity and representativeness" criterion is the deciding factor, and the jury chair's vote prevails.

7.2.2 Advisory citizen vote and jury scoring – second stage

The 10 selected proposals are submitted simultaneously to:

- An advisory vote by the public (residents and the diaspora), identified solely by their anonymization number;
- Scoring by the jury based on the criteria in Article 7ter and the complete submission packages (visuals, statement of intent, process description, and declarations from Annex A).

The specific voting procedures (platform, duration, participation criteria) are determined by the Steering Committee (COPIL). The score achieved by each proposal is converted into a numerical value using the formula defined in Article 7ter and incorporated into the scoring matrix alongside the votes of the jury members.

At the end of this voting period, the 3 proposals with the highest consolidated score (jury score converted popular vote score) are selected for the validation interview outlined in Article 7.3.

The consolidated score (out of 100 points) applies only to the 10 previously shortlisted finalists for the purpose of ranking them against one another; no minimum threshold is required at this stage, as only the relative ranking is taken into account.

7.3 Validation interview for the 3 finalists (mandatory)

Objective

The 10 submissions currently rely on the sworn statement in Annex A and the process note describing the creative approach, which serve as the basis for evaluation at this stage. Prior to the final deliberation, the 3 candidates with the highest consolidated scores are invited individually to present and defend their creative approach before the jury. This interview serves as an in-depth verification of the creation's authenticity and the non-use of artificial intelligence, supplementing the written declarations already submitted. The interview is mandatory. Any candidate who fails to attend the interview will be disqualified, and the next candidate in the consolidated ranking will be invited in their place.

The interview focuses particularly on:

- Presentation of the creative approach and sketches
- Symbolic choices and their personal significance
- Tools and software used
- Sources of inspiration
- Any questions from the jury regarding the authenticity of the creation or its similarity to another proposal

The practical arrangements for the interview (location, duration, and format in-person or via videoconference for the diaspora) are determined by the Steering Committee (COPIL).

7.4 Final Decision

The winning flag is selected by the jury from the three finalists who underwent the validation interview, based on the consolidated scoring matrix (Article 7ter). The result is then submitted to the Territorial Council of Saint-Martin for adoption, in accordance with Article II of deliberation CE 140-02-2026. The jury's decisions are final and not subject to appeal. The identity of the winner is revealed only at the time of the official announcement.

ARTICLE 7BIS - RULES ON IMPARTIALITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Principles applicable to competitive examinations organized by a local authority

The selection board is bound by the principles of impartiality, equal treatment of candidates, and transparency throughout the procedure. Accordingly, members commit to upholding these principles; should a direct family connection exist, a member may be subject to replacement.

Record Retention Rules

All submitted dossiers, jury minutes, and deliberation documents must be retained by the Collectivité for a minimum period of 10 years following the selection of the winner, and held at the Territorial Archives of Saint-Martin.

ARTICLE 7ter - JURY SCORING GRID

Principle of transparency

The scoring grid is made public before the competition begins. Each jury member applies it individually to pre-select the finalists. The final deliberation incorporates the results of the citizen advisory vote as an additional, non-scored criterion.

Criterion	Points	Description
Identity and representativeness	25 pts	Does the flag reflect the entire Saint-Martin community? Does it embody the values that emerged from the citizen consultation?
Originality and creativity	20 pts	Is the proposal original? Does it stand out from existing flags in the Caribbean region?
Graphic quality and readability	15 pts	Is the design legible at all sizes? Does it work in black and white? Are the colors consistent ?
Technical feasibility	10 pts	Can the flag be reproduced using four-color printing and embroidery? Does it comply with the competition brief?
Quality of the statement of intent		Is the symbolism clearly explained? Is the link to Saint-Martin's identity convincing and well documented?
TOTAL	80 pts	
Citizen advisory vote	20 pts	Score obtained during the popular vote among the 10 finalists, calculated in proportion to the number of votes received relative to the leading proposal (see formula below).
TOTAL	100 pts	Jury score plus citizen score

Reminder regarding the pre-selection threshold: proposals failing to reach 60 out of 80 points are automatically rejected. In the event of a tie between two proposals, the "identity and representativeness" criterion is decisive, and the Chair's vote carries the casting vote.

Popular vote conversion formula

Popular vote score = (number of votes received by the proposal ÷ number of votes received by the leading proposal) × 20

Example: If the leading proposal receives 1,000 votes and another proposal receives 400 votes, its score is $(400/1,000) \times 20 = 8$ points.

This formula ensures that the proposal with the most votes always receives the maximum score (20 points) and that differences in popularity between proposals are reflected proportionally in the score, without the popular vote outweighing the combined expert criteria (100 points).

Scoring grid application rules

Pre-selection threshold (Article 7.3): proposals failing to reach 60 out of 80 points (jury score only, prior to incorporating the popular vote) are automatically excluded before the list of 10 finalists is drawn up. In the event of a tie between two proposals at this stage, the "identity and representativeness" criterion is the deciding factor.

Consolidated score (out of 100 points): this score applies only to the 10 pre-selected finalists; it is used to rank them against one another and determine the 3 winners for the validation interview (Article 7.5). No minimum threshold is required at this stage; only the relative ranking

among the 10 finalists is taken into account.

Final deliberation: the jury meets after the close of the consultative vote and incorporates the popular vote score using the formula above. The final decision is based on the consolidated score (out of 100 points), following the validation interview with the 3 winners.

ARTICLE 8 - RIGHTS AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

8.1 Assignment of the winner's rights

By participating in the competition, the candidate agrees, if selected as the winner, to assign on an exclusive and permanent basis to the Collectivité of Saint-Martin all economic rights regarding the selected work, for any use, reproduction, modification, and display, across all media and territories, without time limit.

The assignment becomes effective upon the jury's selection of the winner (Article 7.6), regardless of the date the flag is adopted by the Territorial Council. It shall be the subject of a separate copyright assignment agreement, based on the template in Appendix D of the competition brief, signed by the winner and the Collectivité of Saint-Martin within 15 days of the official notification of the selection.

8.2 Moral rights

The name of the winner (and of the members of a collective, in the case of a joint entry) will be cited in official communications regarding the adoption and implementation of the flag. The Collectivité reserves the right to make minor technical adjustments to the design following its adoption (proportions, color codes, printing standards) without this constituting an infringement of the author's moral rights.

8.3 Proposals not selected

Candidates whose proposals are not selected retain full rights to their creations.

8.4 Warranty of originality

The candidate warrants that their creation is original, that they hold all rights to it, and that it does not infringe upon the rights of third parties. In the event of a dispute regarding the intellectual property of the selected creation, the Collectivité reserves the right to revoke the selection of the winner and to hold a new deliberation.

ARTICLE 9 - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

9.1 Choice of Language for Applications

Applications may be submitted in French or English. No other language is accepted.

9.2 Accessibility

The Collectivité commits to providing the necessary resources to enable the participation of persons with disabilities. Any specific needs may be reported to the Department of Cultural Affairs. The arrangements for the validation interview with the finalists (Article 7.5) may be adapted to this end, notably through the use of videoconferencing.

9.3 Schedule Modification

The Collectivité reserves the right to modify the schedule in the event of **force majeure** or legal constraints, without entitling candidates to compensation. Any change to the schedule will be communicated via email to all candidates who have submitted an admissible application, as well as by publication on the Collectivité's website.

9.4 Applicable Law and Jurisdiction

This competition is governed by French law. Any dispute regarding the interpretation of the competition brief or any serious challenges shall fall within the jurisdiction of the Administrative Court of Saint-Martin.

9.5 Publication of the Rules

The competition brief will be published in the local press and made available online on the Collectivité's website. They are enforceable against any third party upon official publication.

Glossary

This glossary defines the key terms used in the competition documents.

Project Management Support (AMO)	External service provider mandated to support the Collectivité in managing the project.
Anonymisation	Assignment of a unique number to each admissible dossier so the jury evaluates proposals without knowing applicants' identities. Anonymity is lifted only during the validation interview.
Assignment of Rights	Act by which the winner transfers all their patrimonial rights to the Collectivité de Saint-Martin, for any use, on all media and without time limitation.
Steering Committee (COPIL)	Strategic decision-making body of the project, composed of elected officials and institutional representatives. Designates jury members and validates key decisions.
Technical Committee (COTECH)	Operational body of the project, composed of technical staff and Collectivité agents. Monitors progress and prepares decisions for the COPIL.
Legal and Public Procurement Department (DAJC)	Legal department of the Collectivité responsible for validating the compliance of official competition documents.
Deliberation CE 140-02-2026	Official act of the Executive Council adopted on 9 April 2026, authorising the launch of the MySaintMartinFlag project.
French National Flag	The French tricolour flag (blue, white, red) of the French Republic. It remains the official flag of Saint-Martin as a French collectivity. The flag created through this competition is a complement to it, not a replacement.
Author's Rights	Author's rights include two components. Patrimonial rights (reproduction, distribution, adaptation) are exclusively and definitively assigned to the Collectivité by the winner. Moral rights (to be credited as author, to have the work respected) remain with the winner and can never be transferred..

Collectivité Emblem	Official graphic symbol of the Collectivité de Saint-Martin, distinct from the flag. Its integration into the proposed design is authorised, provided it is reproduced faithfully, without distortion or modification of its colours or proportions. The official vector file is available at www.mysaintmartinflag.com .
Validation Interview	Mandatory meeting between each of the 3 finalists and the jury, verifying the authenticity of the creative process and the absence of AI use. Any absent candidate is disqualified.
Vector File	A graphic file format that can be scaled up or down without losing quality (unlike a photo). Examples: AI, SVG, EPS
Generative AI	Technology automatically producing images or designs (e.g. Midjourney, DALL-E, Chat GPT). Its use is strictly prohibited at any stage of the creative process, including for image enhancement.
Four-Colour Printing (CMYK)	Printing technique using 4 colours (cyan, magenta, yellow, black) to faithfully reproduce a flag's colours on all media.
2:3 Ratio	Standard flag proportion: 2 units of height to 3 units of width. The official template (Annex C) complies with this ratio.
Admissibility	A dossier meeting formal requirements: complete documents, respected deadlines, correct formats, signed Annex A. An inadmissible dossier is not passed to the jury.
GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)	European regulation governing the collection and use of personal data. Competition data is retained for a maximum of 5 years.
Consolidated Score	Final score out of 100 points: jury score (max 80 pts) + citizen consultative vote score (max 20 pts). Used to rank the 10 finalists and identify the 3 candidates called to interview.

Soualiga	Original Arawak name for the island of Saint-Martin, meaning 'the salt island'. A pre-Columbian historical reference frequently cited during the consultation as a source of inspiration.
Unity Flag	Cultural flag adopted in 2022 as a shared symbol of the whole island of Saint-Martin. It is not the official flag of the Collectivité. The competition flag must not resemble it.
Citizen Consultative Vote	Vote open to the population (residents and diaspora) to express a preference among the 10 finalist proposals. Its result is converted into a score (max 20 pts) and integrated into the consolidated score.

Rappel Calendrier du projet / Reminder Project timeline

Date	Français	English
10 aout 2026 / August 10th 2026	Restitution publique	Public presentation
11 aout 2026 / Aug 11th 2026	Lancement du concours de création du drapeau	Launch of the flag design contest
30 sept 2026 à midi (heure de Saint-martin) Sept 30th 2026 at 12 noon (Saint-Martin time)	Clôture du concours de création du drapeau	Deadline of the flag design contest
Oct 2026	Vote consultatif citoyen	Public consultative vote
7 dec 2026 / Dec 7th 2026	Installation officielle du drapeau	Official installation of the flag

Contacts officiels / Official contacts

Contact Presse - Collectivité de Saint-Martin Press contact - Collectivité of Saint-Martin
Nathalie Longato-Rey Directrice de la Communication Collectivité de Saint-Martin Tél : 0590 29 56 60 Cel : +590 690 65 89 52 Nathalie.longato@com-saint-martin.fr

Contacts techniques / Technical contacts

Référente technique - Collectivité Press contact - Collectivité	Page web & réseaux sociaux Website & social media
Claudine Lake-Mingau Directrice de l'Action Culturelle Tél : +590 690 63 91 25 claudine.lake@com-saint-martin.fr	Réseaux sociaux (Instagram · Facebook Youtube) @MySaintMartinFlag Email projet mysaintmartinflag@com-saint-martin.fr