

Legato VV Team Bid scores and review

The board's objective is to select the city that will provide the best experience for you. The Board's Various Voices team have considerable festival organisation and business experience and have spent 18 months mentoring and assessing, to inform your decision to make history with an unforgettable festival experience in 2026.

The focus on 4 main areas was over 60% of the score:

- The vision - is bold, creative, interesting, challenging and engaging.
- The programme - is logical, accessible and attainable.
- The choir support package - is clear and costed.
- The budget - covers everything, makes sense, adds up and the balance of income and sponsorship / grants is attainable.

There were 3 stages with feedback at every stage to guide bidders to offer the best possible bid. You can read the criteria and process in the Call for bids.

A review and feedback of the process after the decision is announced in December will inform the 2030 festival bid process.

Both 2026 final bidders have worked extremely hard, they have been cooperative and fully committed to offer you the best festival experience.

These are the scores and a final short review of each bid.

Barcelona

Scores

- First round score out of 95 - total 58.3
- Second final round score out of 100 - **total 77.7**

Review

- Barcelona took on board all our feedback and without the experience of a Various Voices festival, shared a strong vision but this did not fully infuse the programme which lacked detail and clarity on the festival experience for each choir, which is the heart of the festival. The budget lacked detail on sources of sponsorship and grants and in the cost estimates to provide the festival they are planning. A heavy reliance on funding and additional income streams from festival participants and attendees. The guest artists suggested are ambitious. A good exciting bid but the lack of detail and substance left it disadvantaged for the 2026 festival bid.

Brussels

Scores

- First round score out of 95 - total 94
- Second final round score out of 100 - **total 98.3**

Review

- Brussels had the advantage of previous bid experience and Various Voices festival attendance. The serious connections translated into the impressive realistic overview of grants and sponsors which underpins this comprehensive and well thought out, attainable festival bid for you and the planet. This is the preferred option for 2026 supported by a strong team we meet in the complimentary video using their great vision to deliver a solid detailed engaging, exciting and accessible programme for Brussels and you.