

## Spatial Narratives – Palácio das Belas Artes

By Lia Carreira

### Project development and budget allocation

The proposed creative project focused on archival research, material collection, and the development of a creative exploration, conducted by me in Lisbon between late June and mid-December 2024. The project and research progressed as initially outlined, with an adapted schedule (from the date of contract signing) and minor production delays. The archival search using the APE platform and subsequent local archival research took place during the first four weeks of July (four hours per week). The first two weeks were dedicated to analysis and documentation (four hours per week), while the last two weeks focused on selecting materials and drafting the narrative script and visual design (ten hours per week).

The APE volunteering requirement was fulfilled between August and September and involved developing and planning an on-site searchathon, which was hosted on September 21st at the Makers in Little Lisbon (MILL) makerspace. In mid-August, I held online meetings with the PdBA designer to discuss promotional content and strategies. Between October and December, I dedicated time to developing the digital narrative (20 hours) and finalizing the selection of archival material (10 hours). Since the selected archival material did not require any fee payments for digital copies (as they fall under the CC license attributed by the National Archive Torre do Tombo),



Archives Portal Europe's poster outside the Palacio das Belas Artes; ancient map of Lisboa inside the Palacio das Belas Artes. Photographs by Lia Carreira.



the allocated budget of 20 euros was reallocated to an additional 0.63 person-hours for preparing the digital platform mock-up..

## Outcomes and deliverables

Currently, a working mock-up of the platform has been developed, with finalization and testing scheduled for late December and an expected launch in late January 2025. The project has resulted in an interactive web page to be published on the PdBA's online platform, focusing on the spatial histories of the object of investigation (the Palácio Iglésias in Lisbon). The platform presents multiple and overlapping narratives using spatial attributes as the key format. By focusing on these spatial aspects and considering the continuous expansion of this investigation, the platform offers a randomized distribution of key objects and documents discovered through the APE search tool and subsequent research. These objects are interconnected based on their spatial classification, inviting users to explore different facets of the palace by navigating through the digital space.

Ancient maps and lithographies of Lisboa inside the Palácio das Belas Artes.

Photographs by Lia Carreira.





Screenshot from the video illustrating the online navigation tool created as an output of the project, emphasizing spatial dimensions. [Watch the video on our Youtube channel:](https://youtu.be/VMV9RbBGZmE) <https://youtu.be/VMV9RbBGZmE>

Given the two-dimensional nature of the available archival material in its digital form, the project emphasizes spatial dimensions through an online navigation tool. It utilizes web development resources for interactive 3D applications, specifically Three.js. With the support of the Archives Portal Europe Foundation under the Creative Grant 2024, the project has not only facilitated access to hard-to-reach materials but has also expanded document-based research and made it creatively accessible to the public.

Additionally, the research has yielded an introduction blog post (published on the APE platform on July 2nd), a research progress post (published on September 11th), and an upcoming concluding research remark to be published on the APE blog. The process has also been documented and shared on PdBA's social media channels. Beyond the planned launch promotion posts, this included three carousel posts announcing the APE Creative Grant, three carousel posts promoting the Searchathon (with a call to action to register for the event on Eventbrite), and a series of Instagram/Facebook stories documenting institutional visits, the research process, and findings.