

UNLIMITED...

Applying for a Main Research & Development Award 2019

Introduction

In March 2019 Unlimited will award a number of commissions to develop, produce and show ambitious projects by outstanding disabled artists and companies across all artforms. You can apply for these opportunities from September 2018.

About Unlimited

Unlimited is a commissioning programme, supporting creative projects by disabled artists and companies in artforms including performing arts, literature, performance, painting, sculpture, public artworks, photography, digital artworks, installations, films and more. Unlimited wants to change perceptions of disabled people by commissioning new, ground-breaking and high quality work. Between 2013-2016 we supported more than 2,300 days of performances and exhibitions by disabled artists, which were seen by over 130,000 people.

Unlimited was part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad, and in 2013 Shape Arts and Artsadmin were awarded funding from Arts Council England to continue to deliver the programme. This phase of Unlimited (2016 – 2020) is supported with funding from Arts Council England, Spirit of 2012, Arts Council of Wales and British Council.

Who can apply?

Professionally established disabled artists and companies that support disabled-led work across all artforms and who are based in England and Wales are encouraged to apply. By 'established' we mean artists and companies who have shown work widely in public, with strong critical reception.

Shape and Artsadmin use an inclusive definition of disability based on the **Social Model** approach, which, by focusing on the disabling barriers imposed by society, embraces all physical, sensory and invisible impairments, learning disability, mental health, neurodivergent and fatigue conditions. If you identify as such, and/or have experienced access barriers, we invite you to apply.

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What kind of work are we looking for?

Research and development grants are for artists/companies that wish to explore the initial stages of a new project. We are looking for work in any artform, that is: innovative, excellent, and led by disabled artists. Unlimited is about art, not about disability; some work may reference disability, some may not. The work can be linked to any subject or theme.

This funding is for R&D only, however it's anticipated that the results of all the R&Ds will be shared or showcased in some form as part of each project.

Key Criteria:

- disability-led
- quality, innovation and ambition
- strong track record of creating work and reaching audiences
- existing collaborations and partnerships (these can include those with non-disabled led companies/artists/producers) – or plans to develop these through the R&D
- lead artist or company is resident in England or Wales

We will be looking to support a range of ideas – in relation to artform, scale, and location – across the awards.

Partnership Awards

For this round, Unlimited has partnered with a number of organisations who are providing funding for additional awards called Partnership Awards. There are Partnership Awards available in Main R&D Awards and Main Commissions. Applying for a Partnership Award is optional - applicants can choose to be considered for one or more of these on their application form if they wish.

The Partnership Awards available for the Main R&D commissions fund are:

Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust R&D Award

The award supported by the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust and Unlimited is for a research and development project that explores the potential of the forest as a host for contemporary art, with a particular focus on sculpture. The Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail is situated in Gloucestershire and is a 4.5 mile-long, free of charge site to experience contemporary art in a forest environment. One of the key ambitions within our program is to develop learning opportunities for audiences likely to experience exclusion from the arts and natural environment.

Projects wishing to be considered for this award will also need to meet the following criteria:

- relate to the natural environment and the Forest of Dean's unique location, and is suitable for sharing in an outdoor context.
- outcomes will be aimed at a wide ranging audience.

- demonstrate a willingness to work with a range of forest-related organisations (i.e Forestry Commission England) and other local partners to help shape the work.
- engage with the audience of the Sculpture Trust and enable their learning about contemporary art.

Forma Partnership R&D Award

The award supported by Forma and Unlimited is for research and development projects that blur boundaries of artform, and challenge audiences both through form and content. Artists are asked to consider the experiential quality of their work, and its exploration through cross disciplinary techniques and display methods.

Forma will provide curatorial and production support for the research and development of the chosen project. This work will build on Forma's nearly 20 years experience generating ambitious artworks which bring together approaches and expertise from the worlds of art, music, film and theatre. This could extend to identifying creative or technical collaborators who will allow the project to reach its full potential in consultation with the artist.

Projects wishing to be considered for this award will also need to meet the following criteria:

- to develop an installation or immersive artwork
- to include interactive, live, or moving image elements

GOSH Arts Partnership R&D Award

The award supported by GOSH Arts, the arts programme at Great Ormond Street Hospital, and Unlimited is for a research and development project that will engage with hospital patients, their families and medical professionals. GOSH Arts will offer access to a range of facilities and support the engagement of the hospital population and the wider community in the project.

Projects wishing to be considered for this award will also need to meet the following criteria:

- to engage clinicians and patients from the ophthalmology and audiology departments at GOSH
- to address one or more of the themes of Music, Festival and Community
- to share the outcomes of the work publicly and in a way that the hospital population can engage with them

Wellcome Collection Partnership R&D Award

The award supported by Wellcome Collection and Unlimited is for a research and development project that challenges how we think and feel about health. The award will support an R&D process that brings together any combination of lived experience of health, historical research and contemporary biomedical science, in line with Wellcome Collection's mission to connect science, medicine, life and art.

Wellcome Collection will offer additional support to access its archives and broker relationships with health researchers. Artists might use the award to explore perspectives on their own health or disability, or take an entirely different approach.

Projects wishing to be considered for this award will also need to meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrate an interest in exploring health-based science and research and/or collections & archives relating to health
- Creatively explore varied, perhaps challenging, perspectives on health

How much can you apply for?

Unlimited Main R&D Awards, including the partnership awards, will range between **£5,000 - £10,000**, depending on scale and ambition. Applicants will be expected to include costs for access in their bids. It is expected that between seven and ten Research and Development awards will be funded.

How to apply:

The application process is in two stages:

1. Expressions of Interest
2. Full Application, only from those shortlisted to apply

Apply online at: weareunlimited.org.uk/apply-to-unlimited/

Access support is available for all applications, including alternative formats and tailored support.

Commission Timelines

- **Thursday 13 September 2018:** application portal for Expressions of Interest opens
- **Monday 29 October 2018, 12pm:** deadline for Expression of Interest submissions
- **Monday 3 December 2018:** Shortlist announced, application portal for Full Applications opens
- **Monday 11 February 2019, 12pm:** deadline for Full Applications
- **March 2019:** funding decisions announced
- **May 2019:** projects begin

Expression of Interest

You will need to supply:

- The answers to four eligibility questions
- Contact information and the name of the project, artist(s) and producer for the project
- A project description (400 words maximum)
- Approximate amount you will be requesting from Unlimited, if shortlisted
- Short biographies for the lead artist/company and producing partner (100

- words each)
- Optional: a small amount of supporting material in the form of images, video, audio or documents, relevant to the project proposal or showing previous work.

Full Application

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a Full Application and will receive tailored guidance from the Unlimited Team around the criteria in relation to their project idea. If invited to submit a Full Application you will need to supply:

- The name of the project, artist(s) and producer attached to the project
- Summary of project (200 words maximum)
- A proposal detailing the project and its suitability for Unlimited (1000 words maximum)
- A detailed budget
- Further information about access for artists and audiences (200 words maximum)
- Full biographies or CVs for lead artist(s) and producer(s)
- Supporting material in the form of images, video, audio or documents, relevant to the project proposal or showing previous work.
- Peer endorsement and/or press coverage: a letter of recommendation and/or press or media coverage (2 pages maximum)

Please see our FAQ section for further information including how to apply in different formats.

Selection Process

All eligible Expression of Interest applications will be assessed by a panel including representatives of the funders, and five individuals selected through an open application process. The panel will be disability-led. For up to date information on the Selection Panel please visit weareunlimited.org.uk/apply-to-unlimited/selection-panel

Please ask us if you would like this information in an alternative format.

If after reading all information provided you have further questions on access, please let us know by contacting Sara Dziadik at Shape Arts at sara@shapearts.org.uk or on 020 7424 7336.