

# UNLIMITED...

## Applying for an Emerging Artist Award

### Introduction

In March 2018 Unlimited will award a number of commissions to develop, produce and show ambitious projects by outstanding disabled artists and companies across all artforms.

### About Unlimited

Unlimited exists to promote high quality art by disabled artists and companies, challenging negative perceptions and attracting new cultural audiences. Unlimited stands for creativity, ambition, quality, diversity and equality - values that can be seen across everything the programme does and funds.

Unlimited was at the heart of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad, celebrating the work of disabled artists on an unprecedented scale. Shape Arts and Artsadmin, along with Senior Producer Jo Verrent, were successful in securing a further award from Arts Council England of £1.8 million to act as national delivery partners for the next phase of Unlimited commissions from 2016-20. Additional support is provided from Arts Council Wales, British Council, and key partnerships with Disability Arts Online, Southbank Centre and Tramway will continue.

The **Unlimited Emerging Artist Commission** strand is supported by Spirit of 2012, who fund partners across the UK which provide opportunities in sports, physical activity, arts and culture, volunteering and social action.

### Who can apply?

UK-based emerging disabled artists across all artforms are encouraged to apply. We define an 'emerging artist' as someone who has yet to receive major exhibition or showcasing opportunities and has not obtained extensive media coverage for their work. We recognise that some artists, due to disability, may face barriers to education and training opportunities which their non-disabled peers do not have. We do not define an emerging artist by an age bracket.

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

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and fatigue conditions. If you identify as such, and/or have experienced access barriers, we invite you to apply.

### **What kind of work are we looking for?**

The Emerging Artist strand is looking to commission **new work** and **participatory projects**. These may still be at a very early stage of conception, or may have already undergone some research and development. We are looking for work in any artform, that is: innovative, excellent, and led by disabled emerging artists. Unlimited is about art, not about disability; some work may reference disability, some may not.

You can apply for one of the two funding strands:

**1. CREATE** – Emerging artists can apply for funds to 'Research and Develop' (R&D) an idea and create a new piece of work. If you have already undergone a period of R&D for this proposal you can apply for funds to create, produce and showcase the work.

Commissioned work should aim to hold a scratch performance, exhibition or showcase, to get audience feedback and test their ideas, by mid-August/early September 2019 at the latest. In addition, commissions will be considered for Southbank Centre's Unlimited Festival in Sept 2020, if appropriate, and other festival opportunities celebrating Unlimited (within the UK and possibly internationally).

**2. PARTICIPATE** – Emerging artists can apply for funds to run a participatory project. These projects are focused on the process of working collaboratively rather than the final outcome and may not result in a final performance / exhibition or sharing. They may take the form of a series of workshops, discussion groups or creative sessions across any art form.

We are funding participatory projects that are creatively-led by emerging disabled artists in collaboration with an established arts organisation or mentor. These sessions should be open to disabled participants and disabled and non-disabled participants.

### **How much can you apply for?**

It is expected that Unlimited commission awards will range between **£2,500–£10,000** depending on scale and ambition. It is expected that between four and six projects will be commissioned.

Applicants will be expected to include access support for the creative team, audiences and participants. 10% of the budget must be match funded (funded from another source, including in-kind support): the budget should demonstrate any other income, such as access-to-work, other commissioning or presenting fees, and support in-kind.

### **Key Criteria:**

- disability-led
- quality, innovation and ambition
- artist/producer relationship planned or developed
- collaborations and partnerships (including with non-disability led companies/artists/producers) planned or developed

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

### **How to apply:**

The application process is in two stages:

- Expressions of Interest
- Full application, only from those shortlisted to apply

Apply online at: [weareunlimited.org.uk/apply-to-unlimited/](https://weareunlimited.org.uk/apply-to-unlimited/)

Access support is available for all applications, including Word documents available to download online.

### **Award Timelines**

- **1 September 2017, 12pm:** application portal for Expressions of Interest opens
- **6 November 2017, 12pm:** application portal for Expression of Interest closes
- **4 December 2017:** shortlisted and non-shortlisted applicants notified
- **5 February 2018, 12pm:** deadline for full applications from shortlisted applicants
- **March 2018:** selection panels, decision-making and launch
- **May 2018:** R&D processes begin
- **Sept 2019:** last dates for presentation of work-in-progress if applicable/suitable.  
Note: for PARTICIPATE, you do not need to 'present work' but may be asked to discuss and share the process at relevant opportunities.

### **Expression of Interest**

You will need to supply:

- The answers to three eligibility questions
- Contact information and the name of the project, artist(s) and producer for the project
- Supporting material in the form of images, video, audio or documents, relevant to the project proposal or showing previous work. (Optional)
- A project overview (80 words maximum) and description (400 words maximum)
- Information about any partners involved in the project (200 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)

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.

## **Full Application**

Shortlisted applicants 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 (200 words maximum)
- Full biographies or CVs for lead artist(s) and producer(s) involved
- Supporting material in the form of images, video, audio or documents, relevant to the project proposal or showing previous work.
- Peer endorsement: a letter of recommendation and/or press or media coverage (2 pages max)

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 which may include representatives from Spirit of 2012, Arts Council England, British Council, Southbank Centre, Tramway 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](http://weareunlimited.org.uk/apply-to-unlimited/selection-panel)

## **Will there be further opportunities to apply for Unlimited funding?**

Yes. Unlimited will be awarding grants up to 2020. These will be:

- Call out in 2018 for awards in 2019. Types of award: Main Commissions; Main R&D Awards and Emerging Artist Commissions.
- Call out in 2019 for awards in 2020. Types of award: Main R&D Awards and Emerging Artist Commissions.

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

If after reading all information provided you have further questions, please let us know by emailing [info@weareunlimited.org.uk](mailto:info@weareunlimited.org.uk) or call Fiona Slater at Shape on **020 7424 7336**.