

UNLIMITED...

Applying for a Main Commission 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.

What kind of work are we looking for?

We are looking to commission **new work** which may be at an early stage of conception or may have already had some research and development. We are

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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.

These awards can fund three stages of activity:

1. Research & Development (optional - you may have already completed this)
2. Creation & Production
3. Showcasing & Presentation

Commissions must be completed and available to tour or be shown by Spring 2020, and complete their Unlimited-related touring by September 2020. Commissioned work should aim to be shown at a variety of locations throughout the UK. In addition, commissions will be considered for Southbank Centre's Unlimited Festival, if appropriate, and other festival opportunities celebrating Unlimited (within the UK and possibly internationally). In addition, it is hoped that some of the work will be of interest to international promoters and tour with the support of British Council.

If you want to test out an idea before committing to a full commission, we recommend applying for a Main R&D Award.

Key Criteria:

- disability-led
- quality, innovation and ambition
- strong track record of creating work and reaching audiences
- strong artist/producer relationship evidenced
- strong collaborations and partnerships (these can include those with non-disabled led companies/artists/producers)
- flexibility/adaptability to ensure works engage with a range of venue sizes/scales
- lead artist or company is resident in England

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

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 Commissions fund are:

Farnham Maltings Partnership Commission

The commission by Farnham Maltings and Unlimited is for a project that gives innovative and exciting responses to the context of rural touring and village halls, and that places audiences at the heart of their artistic process.

Farnham Maltings can provide expert advice and resources to those who are invited to submit a Full Application to the Farnham Maltings partner award. It is expected that the commissioned piece will tour to at least 3 rural communities during the project.

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

- to be in the form of an event and/or performance
- suitable for touring in village halls and rural contexts
- and that have audience response and engagement at the heart of their creative process
- are applying for up to £25,000

Wellcome Collection Partnership Commission

The commission supported by Wellcome Collection and Unlimited is for a project that challenges how we think and feel about health. The award will support a creative 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
- are applying for up to £80,000

How much can you apply for?

Unlimited Main Commission Awards will range between **£20,000–£80,000** depending on scale and ambition, with an additional minimum match funding of 10% required. Applicants will be expected to include costs for access and mentoring within their bids. It is expected that between five to ten works will be commissioned.

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:** commissions begin
- **Spring 2020-September 2020:** commissions to tour/ be presented

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 brief project overview (80 words maximum)
- 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 (links or 100 words maximum)
- Optional: 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)
- Details of Research & Development activity (optional, 500 words maximum)
- Details of Creation & Production activity (500 words maximum)
- Details of Showcasing & Presentation activity (500 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 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, please let us know by contacting Clara Giraud at clara@artsadmin.co.uk or on 020 7247 5102.