

UNLIMITED...

Applying for an Emerging Artist 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.

The **Unlimited Emerging Artist Commission** strand is supported by Spirit of 2012 who fund projects 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 have an age limit for this opportunity but applicants must be 18+ and not in full-time education.

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Shape Arts 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?

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. The work can be linked to any subject or theme.

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 project 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 the end of September 2019 at the latest. The work may continue to be showcased following that.

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

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 much can you apply for?

Emerging Artist Awards 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. The budget should demonstrate any other income, such as Access to Work, other commissioning or presenting fees and support in-kind.

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/

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

Award 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
- **Spring 2019 - Sept 2019:** work to be completed and presented to industry professionals

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)

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 (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 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.