

UNLIMITED...

Applying for an Emerging Artist Award 2020

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

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.

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 (2020 – 2022) is supported with funding from Arts Council England, Arts Council of Wales, Creative Scotland and British Council.

Who can apply?

Emerging disabled artists and who are based in England, Wales and Scotland are encouraged to apply. By 'emerging' we mean someone who has yet to receive a major exhibition or showcasing opportunity on their own and someone that has not had extensive media coverage for their work. We do not define an emerging artist by age.

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?

Emerging Artists awards are for artists who wish to create a new piece of work, which can include participatory or multidisciplinary practices. 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 to make a small piece of work, and to share it with an audience or with participants in some way.

Key Criteria:

- disability-led
- quality, innovation and ambition

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

Partnership Awards

There are Partner awards across all strands. Partner awards bring additional funds – more money to disabled artists - and help us reach areas of the cultural sector that are new to us or where work by disabled artists is underrepresented.

Approximately half the total awards money will be for Partner awards, and the rest to applications not linked to Partner Awards.

Each partner has additional criteria. This means they are often looking for something specific, for work for a specific audience, or from artists/companies that meet specific criteria.

- For Emerging Artist awards, we have Partner Awards with Coventry 2021 and The Art House

For further information, please see the Partner Award section at the end of this document which shows all their criteria and funding levels.

How to apply

The application process is in two stages:

1. Expressions of Interest
2. Full Application, only completed by those shortlisted

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

Access support is available for all applications including alternative formats and funding for access support.

Commission Timelines

- **Thursday 1 October 2020** – Application portal for Expressions of Interest opens
- **Tuesday 27 October 2020, 12pm** – Deadline for Expression of Interest submissions
- **Wednesday 3 December 2021** – Shortlist announced, application portal for Full Applications opens
- **February 2021, 12pm** – Deadline for Full Applications
- **March 2021** – Funding decisions announced
- **May 2021** – Projects begin
- **Spring 2022** – Projects must be completed

Expression of Interest

You will need to supply:

- The answers to four basic eligibility questions
- Contact information and the name of the project, artist(s) and any partners for the project
- An approximate amount that your project may cost. You are not asked to supply a budget and you can change this amount if shortlisted and making a full application
- The primary artform of your project
- Brief project overview (80 words) – if shortlisted, this provides us with copy about your project to put on the press release
- Project description (400 words maximum) – this is where you can tell us your idea
- If it is for a Partner Award, this is where you explain how your application links to their additional criteria (200 words maximum)
- Links or short biographies for the lead artist and any partners (100 words each)
- The answers to an Equal Opportunities monitoring form - these are kept separately to your application
- 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. You are strongly encouraged to show us examples of your previous work.

All applications will receive an email confirmation. Please check your inbox for this confirmation. **If you do not receive a confirmation email, please contact us ASAP**, at the latest within 24 hours of the deadline so that we can ensure your application has been received.

Full Application

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a Full Application and will receive tailored guidance from the Unlimited Team and relevant partners 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 any partners 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 partner(s)
- If it is for a Partner Award, how your application links to their additional criteria (200 words maximum)
- A letter of recommendation from someone in the arts sector (2 pages maximum)
- The answers to an Equal Opportunities monitoring form which are kept separately to your application
- Supporting material in the form of images, video, audio or documents, relevant to the project proposal or showing previous work.

Selection Process

All eligible Expression of Interest applications will be assessed by a panel. The panel will be disability-led. The Selection Panels for all awards will be announced over summer 2020 and information placed here: weareunlimited.org.uk/apply-to-unlimited/selection-panel

Any questions?

[Please see the FAQ for further information.](#)

If after reading all information provided you have further questions, please let us know by contacting info@weareunlimited.org.uk or on 07506 679968.

Emerging Artists Partnership Awards

Anyone applying to Unlimited can make up to two applications, providing one is for a Partnership Award.

Each partner has additional set criteria. You will need to respond to these in your application. Some partners have addition elements which are encouraged. These are not set criteria but are aspects in which that a partner has a stated interest. You do not have to respond to these unless you wish to.

These awards are all for applicants applying for up to **£10,000** and one award is available for each partner unless otherwise stated.

Coventry 2021 Emerging Artist Partner Award

Three separate awards are available.

Coventry is UK City of Culture for 2021. They are working with local, national and international partners to establish a range of artistic interventions, commissioning artists from different art forms to help deliver truly inventive and playful projects across the city. They are committed to a series of step changes including making long-lasting, tangible social change in Coventry and the wider area.

[Coventry UK City of Culture website](#)

For this award, there are additional criteria. We are looking for work that:

- Is by artists of any discipline based in a CV postcode or regularly working in Coventry; applications will also be accepted from artists based in the Midlands who are working in partnership with named artists who live in a CV postcode.

Coventry City of Culture Trust encourages artists whose work explores any of the following themes: Environment, Nature and Green Futures; Public Realm / Spaces; Digital; Community collaboration and co-creation. Artists are encouraged to consider how their work may sit under one of these elements.

Coventry 2021 will work with successful applicants to ensure work is featured appropriately within the range of opportunities within Coventry 2021 and its legacy.

The Art House Emerging Artist Partner Award

The Art House champions equality of access and higher diversity in contemporary visual arts practice. Artists and audiences are invited to engage with the creative process through a rich programme of residencies, exhibitions, events, workshops, and professional development opportunities.

The Art House have an accessible residency space and encourage applications from artists who would benefit from the use of such space to support this award.

[The Art House website](#)

For this award, there are additional criteria. We are looking for work that:

- Is by an artist with a practice that includes the visual arts, including those where this is in combination with other art forms.