BRITISH COUNCIL
NET//WORK
RESIDENCY PROGRAMME

Guidance Notes for UK Organisation Applicants
BACKGROUND
Net/Work will foster long-term cultural and educational relationships and enable opportunities for learning and exchange between UK and international artists working in the field of digital art (art that is made or presented using digital technology).\(^1\)

We are inviting applications from UK organisations to partner with the British Council to design and deliver four residency programmes to host a total of sixteen artists. Each residency will run for four weeks and is open to UK-based and international mid-career visual artists whose practices engage with digital technologies.

The aim of Net/Work is to offer artists a space for reflection, research, practice and skills exchange around digital artistic practices and technologies while growing their creative and professional community. Through our partnership we will create opportunities for artists to make artistic works that reflect on their time in residence.

We are looking for applicants to propose and create a residency programme which will encourage a diverse range of artists to further current projects in development or create new work by introducing them to different technologies, concepts and professional expertise that can help shape the global sector. These artworks will form the basis of a series of digital presentations that will be shared internationally on British Council platforms.

The successful applicant(s) will enter into (a) Consultancy Agreement(s) with the British Council to deliver four residencies over a two-year period that responds to the following brief:

A total of 16 UK and international artists (four per residency) will travel to the UK to participate in Net/Work to explore their digital artistic practices facilitated by expert guidance, workshops and site-visits. At the end of each residency, artists will be invited to submit a proposal for the creation and or further development of an independent and/or collaborative digital work while in residence.

The successful applicant(s) will sit on a selection panel with the British Council and Shape Arts to select proposals by artists to award development grants to those artist(s) to produce, develop and or undertake further research, which will be presented by the British Council, but the artists must host their works on their own website or digital platforms.

As part of our mission to embed art made by disabled and D/deaf artists within the UK and international cultural sectors, applicants must meet British Council Equality, Diversity and Inclusion requirements and their programmes must encourage disabled and D/deaf artists to apply.

ABOUT THE BRITISH COUNCIL
The British Council is the UK’s international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We were founded in 1934 and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1940. We create friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. We do this by making a positive contribution to the UK and the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust.

We work with more than 100 countries across the world in the fields of arts and culture, the English language, education and civil society. Last year, we reached more than 80 million people directly and 791 million people overall, including online, through broadcasts and publications.

Arts is a cornerstone of the British Council’s mission to create a friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and the wider world. We find new ways of connecting with and

understanding each other through the arts, to develop stronger creative sectors around the world that are better connected with the UK.

The British Council Visual Arts team are committed to promoting the achievements of the UK’s best artists abroad. We connect the UK’s visual arts sector with professionals internationally, focusing predominantly on staging and supporting contemporary art projects in areas of the developing world.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:
• Must be a UK arts organisation with a proven track record of working with artists in residence and commitment to supporting artists while in residence; and which

• Demonstrate experience in working with national and/or international partners to deliver collaborative arts programmes

• Have in-house studio facilities including production equipment or partner with an organisation who can provide access to studio facilities and production equipment

• Demonstrate a willingness and commitment to meeting the British Council Equality, Diversity and Inclusion requirements as outlined in Section 4 of the Application

• Demonstrate how your proposed residency meets the aims and objectives to encourage hands-on and research-based learning in digital practices as evidenced through the programme design

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR WITH THIS OPEN CALL?
Applications will be assessed against the project aims and five essential criteria outlined above. They will be reviewed by a selection panel, including representatives from the British Council and Shape Arts.

We want to ensure that all aspects of our work are open to include disabled and D/deaf artists and promote increased access to the arts for disabled artists and audiences around the globe through our programming.

We are looking for applications that propose creative programmes which:
• Meet the programme aim to encourage hands-on and research-based learning in digital practices

• Propose site visits, studio tours and/or workshops with leading professionals in the digital, technology and visual arts sectors

• Offer tuition to participating artists who wish to explore new digital techniques

• Encourage and attract a diverse range of artists to apply, including disabled and D/deaf artists, through the offer of fully accessible programmes which have access support factored into their bid and budget

Applications may be made by individual residency organisations or in partnership with another organisation.
Applicants can apply to either host:

- 4 residencies for 16 artists (4 artists per residency – 2 international & 2 UK)
- 2 residencies for 8 artists (4 artists per residency – 2 international & 2 UK)

**WHAT IS OFFERED IN THIS OPEN CALL?**
This is a chance to participate in international cultural conversations, develop new networks, experience international work and share information about your organisation.

Applicants can apply to either host:

- 4 residencies for 16 artists (4 artists per residency – 2 international & 2 UK)
  - This will mean a fee of up to £18,000
- 2 residencies for 8 artists (4 artists per residency – 2 international & 2 UK)
  - This will mean a fee of up to £9,000

These fees may be used by you to design, host and deliver the residency programme and sub-contractors fees where required. Please outline the breakdown of your expenditure in the application including the cost of any available on-site accommodation.

The British Council will give the artists’ a grant to go towards initial domestic and/or international travel to travel to/from the residency, fees, accommodation, visas where required and subsistence.

Applications may be made by individual residency organisations or in partnership with another organisation.

**WHEN WILL THE RESIDENCIES TAKE PLACE INDICATIVELY?**
- Residency 1: June 2020
- Residency 2: September/October 2020
- Residency 3: June 2021
- Residency 4: August/September 2021

**APPLICATION GUIDELINES & HOW TO APPLY**
- The deadline for submitting applications is **9.00am Monday 9 December 2019**.

- Assessing applications will be a selection committee consisting of:
  - Oriana Calman, Curator, Visual Arts, British Council
  - Jenny White, Head of Visual Arts Programme, Visual Arts, British Council
  - Miranda Stacey, Director of Exhibitions Visual Arts, British Council
  - Emily Medd, Exhibitions Coordinator, Visual Arts, British Council
  - David Hevey, CEO, Shape Arts

- Shortlisted applicants will be notified by **Friday 13 December 2019**. Shortlisted applicants should be prepared to host a site-visit and/or follow-up call during the week of **16 December 2019**.

- You must complete and submit your online application here [https://britishcouncil2.formstack.com/forms/partner_with_us_to_design_digital_arts_residencies](https://britishcouncil2.formstack.com/forms/partner_with_us_to_design_digital_arts_residencies). If you would like the form in an easier read format or if you have questions please contact: visual.arts@britishcouncil.org
## TIMELINE

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<thead>
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<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Open Call</td>
<td>5 November 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for clarification questions (Clarification Deadline)</td>
<td>26 November 2019</td>
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<td>British Council to respond to clarification questions</td>
<td>2 December 2019</td>
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<td>Deadline for submission of RFP responses by potential suppliers</td>
<td>9 December 2019</td>
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<td>(Response Deadline)</td>
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<td>Shortlisting</td>
<td>12 December 2019</td>
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<td>Site visits or interviews of shortlisted applicants</td>
<td>16 – 20 December 2019</td>
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<td>Contract concluded with winning supplier</td>
<td>8 January 2020</td>
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<td>Contract start date</td>
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For any questions please email visual.arts@britishcouncil.org. Note that the deadline for any clarification queries is **26 November 2019**.

We look forward to receiving your applications.