



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University



Wheatley Fellowship 2023–24

Birmingham School of Art and Eastside Projects invite applications from visual artists for an Incidental Artists placement in Birmingham supported by the Wheatley Fine Art Fellowship.

DATES

Online Pre Application Workshop: Thursday 25 May, 12.30–1.30pm

Application Deadline: Sunday 18 June, midnight

Interviews: Wednesday 12 July

Start date: November 2023

Public Outcome: Late 2024 - timeline to be agreed as the project proposal develops

FEES AND BUDGET

Artist Fee: £10,000 (£9k tax free stipend + £1000 project fee)

Public outcome production budget: up to £10,000

Incidental Artists

'When setting out a new allotment you should always think first about where you will sit.'

Vanley Burke, artist, Birmingham.

Artists are catalysts. We are the dreamers and doers, collaborators and supporters, guests and hosts who work alongside communities to imagine and co-evolve our civic infrastructure.

In the mid-1960s the Artist Placement Group (APG) proposed and made strenuous efforts to radically transform artists' relation to society. Adopting the role of the incidental person, the group proposed getting involved in the processes of other organisations, from steel factories to government offices. APG considered artists a hugely underused human creative resource that offered a potential benefit of tangential thinking and making. We are interested in both this function of artists 'to watch the doings and listen to the noises' and APG's concept of the open brief. We are further exploring these approaches by inviting Incidental Artists to work

with us as allies, collaborators, agents of wider change, and attention magnets in a variety of contexts over an extended period of time. Find out more [HERE](#).

This opportunity is not imagined as an Incidental Artist placement at either the School of Art or Eastside Projects, but as a placement in Birmingham supported by and connecting to, both organisations.

It is expected that the Fellowship will culminate in a public outcome/s that will be developed with Eastside Projects and presented as part of their programme. The form this takes will be defined during the feasibility and development stages, but for example it might emerge as a participatory project, public artwork, exhibition, events programme, performance, or digital work.

The selected artist will also be expected to engage with students at the school during their Fellowship, but again what this looks like will be developed during the Feasibility Study stage.

Find out more about the School of Art [HERE](#)

Find out more about Eastside Projects [HERE](#)

Recent Wheatley Fellows include [Sofia Niazi](#), [Harun Morrison](#), [Joey Holder](#) and [Alice Theobald](#).

Timeline

November 2023 - January 2024: Feasibility Study - research period leading to propositions / relationships / prototypes / structures and a proposal which has the potential to be developed as a public outcome in collaboration with Eastside Projects.

February 2024: Planning with Eastside Projects and staff at the Birmingham School of Art, including thinking through how the project will engage communities at the School, Eastside Projects and beyond.

March–December 2024: Project development and realisation of public outcomes - please note this timescale is indicative and dates will be agreed in response to the project proposal.

The artist will be expected to commit at least 40 days across this period to the Fellowship.

The Incidental Artist will be supported with:

- £9000 tax free stipend from the Wheatley Fellowship.
- £1000 additional project fee from Eastside Projects.
- Up to £10,000 production budget to realise the public outcome.
- Access to workshops, equipment and technical support at the School of Art, with the potential to connect into wider facilities, departments and research networks across Birmingham City University.
- Desk space at Eastside Projects and/or the School of Art.
- Introductions to individuals, networks and communities connected to both the School of Art and Eastside Projects in Birmingham and beyond.
- Artistic, collaborative and curatorial support from Eastside Projects.

How to Apply

We particularly welcome applications from artists who have Black, Asian, or Global Majority heritage, who are from lower socio-economic backgrounds, or who are disabled or d/Deaf.

Eligibility

To apply you need to:

- Be based in the UK.
- Have at least three years professional experience as an artist.
- Not be enrolled on a BA, MA or PHD course between November 2023 and December 2024.

Online Pre-Application Workshop

Thursday 25 May, 12.30–1.30pm

Join us for an informal session where Stuart Whipps from Birmingham School of Art and Ruth Claxton from Eastside Projects will talk through what we are looking for in an application.

There will also be plenty of time for you to ask any questions you have about the opportunity, or the application process. [BOOK HERE](#)

Application Process

We have designed our application process to reflect the time, energy and effort of

application making and acknowledge this is unpaid labour. We aim to keep the application process to a minimum and so are asking for initial expressions of interest through an online form.

Application Deadline: Sunday 18 June, midnight

Please submit your application using our online portal which you will find [HERE](#).

If you have any issues uploading your application please contact us on info@eastsideprojects.org. Please note we work Tuesday to Friday.

We strongly advise you to prepare everything in advance, and then upload it to avoid losing information.

We would like you to submit the following, and no more:

1. Your **contact details** (name, address, email, phone number)
2. **An expression of interest** as either
 - a 500 word statementor
 - **a link** to a three minute audio or video recording hosted online - for example on youtube, vimeo or soundcloud - please make sure you send us any passwords.

that tells us:

- Why you are applying for the Fellowship, and why now.
- How you imagine approaching the Feasibility Study - initial ideas and possible starting points for research.
- How you would like to work with Eastside Projects and the Birmingham School of Art.

3. A **selection of recent work** as either:

- A link to your website

or

- Up to 10 images and an image list which includes title, dimensions and materials. Please compile into a single PDF max size 5MB **OR** send a link to a Google doc/ Google slides presentation - make sure the sharing settings are set to 'anyone with the link can open'.

or

- a link to an online showreel or playlist max 10 mins long - please make sure you send us any passwords.

4. Please tell us about any **access needs** you have - both in relation to the interview and the Fellowship itself.

5. We also ask you to agree to comply with Eastside Projects' [Code of Conduct](#), and complete an **Equal Opportunities survey**. This information is held separately from your application and is used to understand more about who the opportunity has reached. You will find it on [THIS LINK](#)

Interviews

Wednesday 12 July - in person in Birmingham or on Zoom.

Feedback

We will give individual feedback to all shortlisted applicants who are interviewed, but anticipate receiving a large number of applications so unfortunately cannot offer feedback to everyone who applies.