



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University



Wheatley Fellowship 2024–25

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 Q&A Session: Thursday 13 June, 1–2pm

Application Deadline: Friday 12 July, midnight

Interviews: w/c 22 July

Start date: November 2024

Public Outcome: Late 2025 - 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, film, performance, or digital work.

The selected artist will also be expected to engage with students and the research community 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](#), [Alice Theobald](#) and [Verity Jane Keefe](#).

Timeline

November 2024 - January 2025: 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 2025: 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 2025: Project development and realisation of public outcomes

This timescale is indicative and dates will be agreed in response to the project proposal. The selected artist will be expected to commit at least 40 days across this period to the Fellowship and to spend a significant amount of that time in Birmingham.

The Wheatley Fellow 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 a public outcome/s.
- £75 towards artist healthcare and wellbeing.
- 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 the School of Art and/or Eastside Projects, it is also possible to use Eastside Projects to experiment, produce or test work when we are not hosting exhibitions or other activity.
- 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.

Eligibility

To apply you need to:

- Be based in the UK.
- Have at least three years professional experience as an artist outside a formal education setting.
- Not be enrolled on a BA, MA or PHD course between November 2024 and December 2025.

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

ONLINE PRE-APPLICATION Q&A SESSION

Thursday 13 June, 1–2pm

Join us for an informal session where we 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](#)

Please note this session is interactive and an opportunity for potential applicants to ask questions so will NOT be recorded.

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.

DEADLINE: Friday 12 July, midnight

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

We strongly advise you to prepare everything in advance, and then upload it to avoid losing information. If you have any issues uploading your application please contact us on info@eastsideprojects.org. Please note we work Tuesday to Friday.

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** which introduces yourself and tells us why you are applying for the Wheatley Fellowship and what your starting points would be if offered the Incidental Artists Placement in Birmingham.

Please note, we do not expect you to have a fully formed plan at this stage, but we are interested in research themes, starting points, communities or contexts that are of interest to you, and/or possible approaches you would take in the feasibility study phase as you develop your proposal.

Send as either

- a 500 word statement
- or
- a four minute audio or video recording
- or

- You may have another way you prefer to share your ideas. This might be a visual representation of your thinking process, or it might be something entirely different. Please bear in mind we will have about five minutes to look at this part of your submission.

3. An **Artists Statement** introducing your practice as either

- 250 words

or

- a 3 minute audio or video recording

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 - particularly in relation to the selection and interview process, but also more broadly if you feel this is relevant at this stage.

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

w/c 22 July - in person in Birmingham or on Zoom.

Feedback

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