

Without Walls Open Calls Q&A

Please find below answers to the questions participants sent during the Q&A session on Thursday 18th November.

We would also recommend you to read the FAQ and guidance notes on our website:

- R&D Blueprint 2022: [FAQ](#) and [guidance notes](#)
- Creation & Touring support 2023: [FAQ](#) and [guidance notes](#)

1. “I’m looking for more clarity on the definition of a show that has not toured widely in the UK”

Without Walls’ priority is to support the development of ambitious **new** outdoor work, not to support revivals of existing work. It is unlikely we would support a project that has toured to more than one of the Artistic Directorate festivals in previous years, and/or has undertaken a tour over one or more years that has taken in more than 5-10 major UK festivals. This is not a hard and fast rule, but the Without Walls Directors are mindful of the commitment to support **new** work.

Without Walls may make an exception if there was a project that met significant strategic priorities, or was undertaken significant reworking of the original material – but it is best to assume that if the work has already undertaken a UK tour it is unlikely to be supported by Without Walls.

2. “There are many projects that got some way towards development & then had to be annulled; can your funds support actualising them?”

Yes Without Walls is happy to support work that has undertaken R&D – provided it is still new work and has not toured extensively.

3. “Even though touring is in 2023, can some creation happen in 2022?”

Yes.

4. “How digital work can be represented via a touring framework which may/may not involve 'door ticketing' as it may be free”

Without Walls can support work that needs to be ticketed or completely free. If it can be presented in outdoor spaces then Without Walls is interested in hearing about it

5. “Could you clarify the distinction between creation & touring support?”

Most projects supported by Without Walls are shows in which we have invested creation funds, for which we support both the creation and touring. However in some cases we will support only the touring of a project that has already raised its creation costs from other sources, provided that the show has not already toured widely in the UK, and provided it clearly meets our priorities

6. “I still don't understand the difference between the 2 fundings. I would like to apply for the R&D grant. Is this grant for already producing the work or just research?”

The Blueprint fund is designed to support Research and Development, not the costs of full production.

Without Walls' Blueprint is designed for artists and companies looking for support with the Research and Development phase of new and ambitious outdoor arts projects - for example to experiment with new ideas, collaborations and approaches. We recognise that ambitious new work takes time to bring to fruition and that artists can benefit from the opportunity to explore new ideas as part of the development process, before committing to a production. While most Blueprint projects eventually lead to a full production after further funding, some of them will not go further than the stage of research.

A Blueprint project doesn't have to commit to a full production, whereas a project supported through the Creation & Touring support fund will be required to tour to a number of Without Walls festivals.

7. “Can you talk a bit about the Covid restrictions question on the open call. Are you asking for planning around disruptions to the creation process or making a covid performance RA etc”

As the pandemic is not over, we encourage you to mitigate risks and consider whether your plans would be impacted by any people in your team contracting Covid, or any possible further Covid measures such as requirements for social distancing etc. During the creation phase, it might be a good idea to have a covid policy, and ensure your team are all happy with the measures that you are taking to address their safety. This will be especially important if you have any team members with particular vulnerabilities.

We also recommend thinking about how Covid restrictions can impact your piece - are you still able to perform with social distancing? Could you create a version of the show with social distancing in place? If you have interaction with audiences, how do you ensure everyone's safety? Try and plan for different scenarios that would adapt to the Covid situation.

8. "I am completely new to outdoor work, the networks and producers, I feel my application might feel clumsy, any advice in how to make it stronger?, whilst being so new to the process, language?"

Feel free to use your own language in your application. We welcome applications from artists new to outdoor work, and there is no expectation that artists are familiar with the networks. We encourage you to highlight in your application the following: clear development plans and timeline for your project, a budget outlining how you will spend the money, the makeup of your team and explanation of how your work is suitable for a variety of audiences and outdoor contexts. There are lots of resources on the Without Walls website that may help familiarize you with outdoor work, you can find them [here](#).

9. "Do you need to create the work already. Which grant did Jason Singh have?"

If you are requesting support to create and tour a project in 2023 then you need to explain your creation process, including a budget for the creation and touring of the work.

If you want an early answer you can request creation support for the December deadline - or you could put in a proposal for more R&D through Blueprint and then put in a later proposal for the summer 2022 open call.

Jason Singh received R&D support and then later received creation and touring support.

10. “I am interested in the distinction between the two call outs... I have a new dance project that we have just completed R&D phase for. The R&D was very successful and we got more done than expected, meaning the show is almost ‘tour-ready’...we want to do a little more development in response to audience feedback (maybe a week or 2) and adapt it slightly to be suitable for outdoor touring. We are at that middle stage so not sure which one it would fall into...it's new but some work has already been done.”

We would recommend you to apply to Creation & Touring support, building into your budget the additional two weeks of development.

11. “My question is about the video application for the R&D and if there is any limit to how creative it can be, or if there are any recommendations for the format it could take? Thanks.”

Your video should be no longer than 5 minutes. The format is flexible and can be creative as long as your ideas come across clearly. For a R&D Blueprint application, please make sure you include in your recording:

- An introduction to your company and work
- What experience you have of outdoor arts
- A comprehensive description of your project and what you plan to achieve in your R&D
- Details about your creative team and whether you plan on offering a sharing of your work

Share a link to the video or audio in the sections provided in the submission form, or email your video to: proposals@withoutwalls.uk.com If emailing, please include the name of the artist or company and project title in your email, and make sure to submit before the deadline.

12. “The language of the guidance is very tipped towards the performance arts although I can’t see anything that specifies you ONLY want to fund within those disciplines. Our organisation design and produce large-scale immersive and interactive light sculpture that is designed to be shown outdoors to significant and diverse audiences. Are visual artists welcome to apply and have you ever funded anything similar before?”

We have supported projects that are rooted in visual arts, yes - you can see examples on our website and back catalogue, that includes for example [Museum of the Moon by](#)

[Luke Jerram](#). Lights installations are also of interest to many of the festival partners. It is worth considering how the project will work in the context of the outdoor festivals in our network.

13. "I'm wondering how best to plan our timeline for applying to Blueprint now and then for Creation and Touring in May 22. ie: applying to create the full project whilst R&D is in progress potentially without knowing all the answers at that point"

You should plan your R&D schedule for Blueprint in such a way that you can provide a progress report over the course of August or September 2022. We understand that in some cases artists may not have fully completed their R&D by May; if this is the case then we understand that you will be making projections and estimations and that some things will change. We know that plans evolve during creation processes, we ask you to use your skill and experience to answer the questions as accurately as possible. If you need more time to plan your R&D you can always defer your full creation to 2024.

14. "When you say open call projects will be shortlisted in April (from the December deadline) does this mean confirmed. And if not, when will they be confirmed?"

For artists submitting proposals in December we hope to be able to make initial offers of support in March for Blueprint, and in April - May 2022 for Creation and Touring support. However we will only be able to do this if you can supply a clear indication of creation and touring costs for your project. If it is not possible to provide accurate projections of these costs at this stage then it may be worth considering submitting your proposal as part of our next call out in May 2022.

Any offers of support for 2023 touring will be conditional on Without Walls own NPO funding being renewed from April 2023 onwards. This should be known in October 2022, following which we would move to confirm final grant offers.

If you need to draw down funds for your project prior to October 2022 then please indicate this in your proposal, including information about any specific cash flow requirements that you may have.

We understand that it is helpful for artists to have early decisions and will try to work with your timetables as much as possible. So the more information you can share with us the better, including information about your budgets and development plans.

15. “Two questions about beWILDer. Musicled site responsive immersive performance by Deep Cabaret addressing Covid and climate change. ACE funded R&D over summer 2021. Getting ready to tour.

1. Small audiences were crucial. 3 perfs per day at max 10 over 2 days = 60 people. Is this feasible?
2. We were thinking of 2022. DelAying seems increasingly sensible but the momentum is now? What to do?!”

Without Walls has occasionally supported projects with small audience capacities but this can be challenging for festivals who usually attract a very large audience. Festivals will consider whether each project represents value for money when looking at each proposal. If a show is very expensive to present and has a limited audience capacity then it may be difficult for festivals to programme.

The Without Walls programme for 2022 has already been selected, and we are currently only inviting proposals for touring in 2023. It is important to be aware there is extremely high demand for creation and touring funds from Without Walls, and there is no guarantee that we will be able to provide support to any given proposal.

16. “With regards to the R&D process, can the application include multiple artists in collaboration as long as there is a lead artist / project development that makes the application?”

Yes, you can include multiple artists collaborating together.

17. “I am a solo artist and recently completed a R&D sharing of an audio pod walk that incorporated binaural recording and video projection - the content was rooted in community and shared with them in their community spaces. Can I apply for funding with blueprint to develop this piece to looking at touring it further, working with a writer and engages new communities?”

Yes, you can apply to Blueprint if you want to undertake further R&D - just explain what stage in the process you are up to.

18. “How many grants are available under each strand?”

There is not a fixed number of grants available under either strand. The size of each year’s programme is entirely dependent on the number of projects shortlisted, the

funding requirements for each project, and the number of performances that festivals wish to book.

In recent years Without Walls has supported between 10 and 18 projects each year through each of our development strands.

19. "Will there be other open calls for creation and touring in 2023 after May 22?"

A further call out for 2023 proposals will take place between May and July 2022, to enable time for people to continue developing their ideas and plans for 2023. There will be no further open calls for 2023 after that. There will be a call out for projects for 2024 at a later date.

20. Is the commissioning window rolling or are there specific deadline dates ?"

The current open call has 2 set deadlines: 8th December for Blueprint (R&D) and 15th December for Creation and touring. Another open call will take place between May and June 2022, to enable time for people to continue developing their ideas and plans for 2023. The date has not yet been set.

21. "I'm working on an R&D application. How much detail is required for the budget? For example, I am fabricating a prototype puppet and have a ballpark figure for materials costs, based on experience - but does this need to be broken down into individual costs. Also, can I purchase capital items with the grant (such as a camera which the puppet will use in the performance)."

Budgets for both Blueprint and creation and touring support should provide a clear outline of how funds will be spent across the project, but do not need to be fully itemised. We understand that some costs may be estimated. Budgets can also include allowances for any tools or materials which will be essential for the completion of the work.

Without Walls hosted a webinar about pricing outdoor shows on Thursday 25 November, 10.30 am – 12 pm (midday). [You can watch the recording here.](#)

22. "Is there any sense of when the next creation and touring programme would be open after May-July 2022? If R&D is complete for autumn, do you know yet whether there would be a creation round for that to be considered in?"

We will announce the dates of open calls for support of work to tour in 2024 once we have confirmed our next Arts Council Funding for that period, which is expected to be in October 2022.

If you complete your R&D in the autumn 2022 this should feed well into the call out for work in 2024. If you want to apply for support in 2023 then you should respond to the call out in summer 2022, and if your R&D is still ongoing you will need to complete the information with the information you have at that point.

23. "Should all the performances be aimed at being part of a festival, or can we set up our own outdoor event."

The network comprises festivals so we are looking for projects that are suitable for touring to our festival network. You can still present it in other contexts if you wish but it must still be suitable for touring to a range of different festival contexts.

24. "Can you apply for both Blueprint and Creation in the same round?"

Yes – if you wish to apply to both **with the same project**, please complete one version of the Blueprint form and one version of the creation and touring support form. You should plan your R&D schedule for Blueprint in such a way that you can provide a progress report as early as possible in 2022 to inform your request for creation support.

Please note it is unlikely that Without Walls would support the same company to develop **two separate projects** in the same year.

25. "I have a piece that's already received RnD funding working with Compass Festival and performed in Leeds. Would it be eligible for your creation & Touring programme."

Yes, provided it is suitable for touring to outdoor festivals.

26. For creation and touring, you say the work must not have already toured in the UK. We're interested in applying with a project – a site-specific sound walk – that we created a pilot of internationally in 2020, and that we're hoping to make & present for the first time in the UK in February 2022 in our home city without any arts partners (festival/venue). Our application to Without Walls would support the first UK touring in 2023. Would that be eligible?

Yes - any project that has not already toured widely in the UK is eligible for Without Walls support, provided the lead artists are UK-based. If it is site specific you should ensure that is suitable for touring to a range of locations.

27. "I am a producer on a multi day immersive project to tour in 2023 for which we've already done a great deal of R&D. Would apply for the open call/support for creation and touring. My question: I am already working with 1 lead commissioner and together we are in conversation with a few more potential co-commissioners, all UK. What are the pros and cons for Without Walls if there are additional co-commissioners who would also want performances in 2023?"

We welcome projects with other commissioners. Before submitting your proposal you may wish to check with your commissioning partners that they support you making a submission.

Please provide details of any pre-existing presentation arrangements that you have with other partners. This is so we can be aware of any potential date clashes for Without Walls festivals. Please also let us know if any of your existing partners intend to present the work in the same location or city as any of our festival partners, as this may place some limits on which festivals are able to book your work.

28. "Re the deadlines you mentioned...if we applied for the December ones and got a rejection, can we reapply in Summer 2022 having rethought the application?"

Yes, but please explain how your new proposal is different from your previous proposal, and whether any further development work on the project has been carried out since your last application.

29. "We have been developing a new street show, The Wave, with Arts Council England, with a small festival tour from May - July 2022. We want to keep scaling up the production, introducing Night Time performances, scaling up the set and visuals and community engagement after our next tour. What would be the best fund to apply for, BP or C & T? As developing our touring network is a large area we want to grow for 2023."

We would recommend you to apply to Creation & Touring support. However, if the work has already undertaken a UK tour it is unlikely to be supported by Without Walls.

30. "My question is around match funding/fundraising. If at the time of application to both blueprint and open calls, a company has maybe 5-10% of total budget already in place, would the panel advise that we apply for the other 90-95% of funding through Without Walls or to maybe apply for a lesser amount (say 60%) of the total budget from WW and outline in the applications how we will fundraise the remaining say, 35%?"

This would depend on the total size of the budget that you are working with. The largest grant awards that Without Walls has made for creation support in the past have been around £60k, and these have been for significant large scale projects. The majority of our grant awards are for £10k - £40k. If your creation budget is higher than this then it is likely that you will need to secure additional funding from other sources to complete the project.

When you submit your proposal you should provide a clear outline of your plans for additional fundraising, and when you would expect to be able to confirm outstanding match funding.

Grant awards for Blueprint tend to be in the range of £5k - £10k.

31. "At what stage in their career are the artists you typically fund for Blueprint? Is the fund suitable for early stage/emerging artists?"

We support artists at all stages of their careers. Many of the projects that Without Walls supports are by artists who are creating work for the outdoors for the first time. Early career artists may wish to refer to our website, which contains resource guides and information on subjects such as pricing and making your work accessible.

32. "What are the considerations around assessing applications that propose collaborating with communities local to each festival site? Can costs for this be included? Can festival partners in principle support this through sharing invitations with their local communities?"

If planning such work then please include any costs in the calculations for performance fees at each festival. You should also provide as much information as possible about the amount of preparatory work that will be required for each performance, and any time commitments or resources that you will require festivals to provide.

33. “When will the decisions for R&D be made by and therefore what is the earliest date R&D can start?”

The Blueprint selection process will be completed by the end of March 2022. Artists submitting proposals for 2023 creation and touring support will be notified of whether their proposal has been shortlisted by the end of March - you can start your R&D once you’ve received this notification.

34. “Is there any guidance to how much match funding you might expect towards the Blueprint funds?”

No match funding is needed for Blueprint.

35. “For equal collaborations between two artists, if one identifies as disabled, would that count as disability-led?”

In order for us to consider a project as being ‘led by’ a particular group of people, the majority of people involved in the creative direction of the project should identify as belonging to the group in question. For a full breakdown of specific criteria please refer to the ‘Creative Case for Diversity monitoring’ section in the Guidance Notes.

36. “You have identified 4 priorities that cover some really important inclusivity and sustainability issues. Can you clarify how you weigh these alongside artistic merit when assessing applications? If you don’t hit any for example, is the project dismissed? If you hit 3 and another project hits 2 of these priorities does this mean the project that hits 3 is more likely to be funded?”

All the proposals are assessed by members of Without Walls and discussed at a series of selection meetings, where they look at a range of criteria including artistic quality, strategic priorities, innovation, sustainability and access considerations.

When selecting the programme Artistic Directorate partners are considering the balance of the programme as a whole - not how many of our strategic priorities an individual project might contribute to. There is no guarantee of Without Walls being able to support a given project even if it aligns with all of our strategic priorities.

37. “I would like to propose a touring virtual reality van, does this count as outdoor activity?”

If it can be presented at outdoor festivals then Yes. Please provide as much information about the audience experience as possible.

38. “The guidelines for Creation & Touring say "in some cases we will support the touring of a project that has already raised its creation costs, provided that the show has not already toured in the UK, and provided it clearly meets our priorities." We've a project that was unsuccessful in its application to Without Walls last time around for a digital project and raised development costs elsewhere. We premiere in Dublin in the coming months, would we now be eligible to apply for UK touring support, and any pointers for a purely digital project?”

If the work is by UK-based artists and has not toured previously in the UK then it would be eligible for Without Walls support.

39. If we apply and are awarded a R&D Blueprint grant, are we able to apply to the Arts Council for additional funding to support the making of the show? I am aware that any Without Walls funds could not be used at 10% match funding in this instance.

There should be no barriers to applying to ACE for subsequent support for the creation of the work, however please check the Arts Council’s own funding criteria for up-to-date information.

If applying to ACE for support towards other stages of development we would recommend preparing separate budgets for each phase of development, with a clear breakdown of which stage each partner is supporting.