

Open Call

Support for creation and touring for new outdoor work in 2023

Without Walls invites artists and companies to request support for the creation and touring of new outdoor work for presentation in 2023.

Introduction

Without Walls is delighted to be able to offer an Open Call for new projects for presentation in 2023.

The Open Call is designed to create an open and accessible invitation for artists to propose ambitious and exciting outdoor projects to the commissioning partners of Without Walls, who collectively are the Artistic Directorate of the consortium, responsible for selection of the artistic programme. Further information about the Artistic Directorate is in the Appendix (below).

[A glossary of words and phrases used in this document is available here.](#)

Open Call 2023

Artists are invited to submit proposals for the next round of Without Walls creation support, for new outdoor arts projects in any form which will premiere and tour in 2023.

The current Open Call is the second stage of a programming process for 2023.

Artists wishing to receive creation support for projects that have already been developed through previous rounds of the Without Walls Blueprint programme still need to submit a proposal through this Open Call process. All proposals that we receive will be given the same level of consideration.

Without Walls issues Open Calls to ensure that all artists have the opportunity to present their ideas to the consortium in an equal and democratic way. We have found that this is a great way of finding out about new artists and projects –

though the large response that we usually receive means that there are always far more projects than we are able to support.

We very much value the work and time that artists put into these Open Calls and thank you in advance for your interest.

About Without Walls

Without Walls' mission is to lead excellence in outdoor arts through the creation of inspirational new work of the highest quality by UK artists – from the intimate to the epic – and touring this work to reach large, diverse and new audiences across the country.

Established in 2007 as a partnership of five founding festivals, Without Walls has grown into a consortium of 30 partners, spread across three networks. These are the Artistic Directorate (AD), Touring Network Partnership (TNP) and the Creative Development Network (CDN).

Of these groups, the Artistic Directorate, is the network of festivals that has responsibility for selecting which projects Without Walls will support through Blueprint R&D Fund and through our creation funds.

The partners that make up the Artistic Directorate each have their own interests and specialisms, and each of them presents work to different audiences in different contexts. Each of them invests commissioning funds in the Without Walls programme because they have a shared commitment to supporting artists to create ambitious new outdoor work.

Without Walls is a commissioning and touring network, not a funding programme, and the work that we support has to be able to feed into the programming of a wide range of festivals. The fact that our festival partners are able to provide both commissioning support and presentation opportunities is what sets Without Walls apart from other networks. This is why we need to request information about artists touring fees and plans. It also means that the decision-making process for Without Walls is time consuming, as the festivals meet to discuss the work over a period of weeks and months, working together to align the programming choices of each of the festival partners with the artistic priorities of Without Walls as a whole.

All proposals that Without Walls receive go through an intensive programme selection process. In the first phase Artistic Directorate partners come together in sub-groups to review proposals according to artform. The entire Artistic Directorate then comes together as a group to review the recommendations from each of the sub-group meetings. The Artistic Directorate then begins to select a programme that meets the priorities of both Without Walls and their individual festivals. All of the partners bring their own expertise and creative priorities to the group throughout the process.

[For further information about Without Walls, please click here.](#)

[The Without Walls Artistic Policy, which outlines our approach to programming, is available here.](#)

About XTRAX

XTRAX is an independent management and production company based in Manchester with 20 years of experience in outdoor arts. XTRAX was one of the founder members of Without Walls in 2007 and has provided management and development services to Without Walls since 2012. The XTRAX team serves as the main point of contact for artists wishing to submit proposals to Without Walls. Please note that the XTRAX team does not have any influence on the selection process.

If there is anything that you need to discuss about preparing and submitting your proposal, then you can contact the XTRAX team by emailing proposals@withoutwalls.uk.com

Without Walls programming priorities

Without Walls has identified several priorities for development including:

- Work led by Black, Asian and ethnically diverse artists
- Work led by Deaf and disabled artists
- Digital work
- Work that incorporates an innovative approach to environmental responsibility

Additionally, Without Walls wishes to support artists whose artistic process includes a clear focus on dramaturgy. This could include explaining the approach to structuring the work, producing a visual script, story board or similar document, or explaining the process by which dramaturgy will be addressed and by whom.

We wish to encourage artists to work with experienced directors. In cases where the director of the project has limited experience of outdoor work, please explain how you will approach working in a new context, including for example whether you intend to invite a more experienced outside eye, collaborator or mentor into the process.

Without Walls welcomes proposals from artists who have not worked with us, or in the outdoor arts sector before.

We welcome proposals that align with these areas of special interest, but it is not compulsory that proposals should fall into any of these categories. Please note there is no guarantee of Without Walls being able to support projects even if they do align with one or more of these priorities.

Eligibility and guidance

- We are looking for work from all disciplines and genres, that is innovative and ambitious and challenges the idea of what outdoor arts can be.
- The work **must be suitable for outdoor touring** and artists should be committed to exploring touring opportunities for the works in addition to the Without Walls festivals.
- Proposals for work could be adaptable in scale, suitable for daytime and / or evening presentation and may also include promenade or processional based elements.
- Without Walls exists to support the development of new and ambitious work by **UK artists**; we can support projects that are developed in association with International Artists, but **the lead partner on the project must be based in the UK.**

- Most projects supported by Without Walls are shows that we have commissioned. However 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.
- **For creation support for projects in 2023, please note the work should be available from May – September 2023**, and be available to tour to Without Walls festivals where interest lies ([indicative dates for the 2022 programme are available in our FAQs](#)). It is expected that shows commissioned for 2023 will also be available to tour from April – October 2024, allowing them to tour to [TNP festivals](#), if required.

Important information regarding Match Funding and ACE National Lottery Project Grants

Without Walls is supported through Arts Council England Lottery funding. This means that Without Walls commissioning funds cannot count towards the minimum 10% match funding threshold required by ACE Lottery Project Grants. If you are considering applying for ACE Lottery Project Grants then we recommend that you consult the ACE Enquiries team, or your existing Relationship Manager, for advice on eligibility.

A note about COVID-19

At the time of issuing this Open Call (May 2022) there are no statutory restrictions in place in England relating to COVID-19. However please describe whether you have considered COVID-19 mitigation measures in your project planning.

Creation funds

In addition to the money provided by Without Walls, the individual partner festivals also contribute substantial commissioning support to selected projects. It is extremely unusual for Without Walls to fund 100% of any project. Our creation funds have normally been between 20% - 60% of any project. For larger projects, Without Walls is normally one of several funding partners.

Considerations when allocating our budget

We will look to create a balanced programme of genres, styles and scales of work.

We will consider the potential audience reach of our projects when assessing the level of our commissioning contribution. It is unusual for us to support the development of a show that is expensive to create and to present, that does not also reach a large audience. If your show is designed for very small audiences, please be clear about how many times a day the show can be presented and therefore how wide an audience it can reach.

Access support

Without Walls is committed to ensuring that all our processes and events are as accessible as possible.

The application materials are available in a range of formats on demand (including easy read, large print, and BSL translation). Please let us know what your specific requirements are, and we will do our best to support you - whether through providing the documents in an alternative format or through an access bursary.

We also accept applications submitted in audio or video format if that suits you better.

If you would like to request assistance with completing your application, please contact Daniel Teixeira at daniel@xtrax.org.uk providing an outline of your access requirements or give us a call on 0161 227 8383. Please share any access support requests by Monday 20 June 2022, 10am.

Creative Case for Diversity Monitoring

The Without Walls application form asks several questions relating to [Arts Council England's Creative Case for Diversity](#).

The questions relating to the Creative Case ask whether a project is 'led by' a particular group of people. Without Walls will consider a project to be 'led by' a particular group if any of the following criteria apply:

- For organisations – that at least 50% of the Board and Senior team identify as belonging to the group in question.
- For project artistic teams and collaborations – that over 50% of the senior creative team identify as belonging to the group in question. The senior creative team might include; writer, director, choreographer, designer or other lead artist.
- For devising groups or ensembles – that over 50% of the company identify as belonging to the group in question.
- For individual artists – that the lead artist / applicant identifies as belonging to the group in question.
- For partnerships between individual artists or companies and producers – that the above criteria apply to both the artistic team and producing organisation. Where this is not the case and the above criteria apply only to the artistic team, but not the producing partner, then the application must demonstrate that the project will be artist-led and that the artist(s) are empowered with regards to management of resources.

This means that some projects may be able to answer 'Yes' in more than one category.

Creative approaches to access and sustainability

Without Walls is committed to supporting the creation of work that is accessible for everyone. Over the last 4 years we have helped many of the artists that we have worked with in finding creative approaches to making their work more accessible.

Examples of such approaches include developing scripts that include audio description as part of the text of the show or casting performers that can provide live British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation as part of the action. We have also supported artists to explore technological means of making their work more accessible. We acknowledge that many artists might not be familiar with this process, this is why we will provide training and a range of resources to selected artists. You can already [consult the resources](#) we created on accessible practices and we will soon be publishing a guidance document to help you incorporate access in your creative process and budget for it.

Without Walls also recognises the role that we need to play in tackling the climate emergency. In recent years we have facilitated opportunities for artists to explore how they can make the creation and touring of their work more environmentally sustainable. Our ambition is that over the next 5 years we will work with all the artists and festivals that we support to help make their work more sustainable. You can [consult the resources](#) we have created relating to environmental sustainability on the Without Walls website.

We therefore welcome proposals that reflect both of these approaches to creating work. If you plan to incorporate environmental sustainability or creative approaches to access in your piece then please provide us with an outline of your plans as part of your proposal.

Without Walls recognises the resource requirements that may be involved in producing work in this way, and we encourage artists to include likely costs for delivering this work as part of their creation budgets. When submitting budgets please clearly indicate which budget lines are dedicated to supporting access or sustainability costs.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Without Walls has prepared responses to some of the questions that we get asked most often about the Open Call process. [The answers to many frequently asked questions can be found on our website.](#) If you still have questions that you would like to ask then you can contact us for guidance by emailing proposals@withoutwalls.uk.com.

Guidance Document

We will host an **online live Q&A during the week commencing Monday 13 June**. This will be a chance to ask questions about the Creation & Touring Open Call. You will also be able meet some of Without Walls' festival partners and supported artists. Registration for this online event will open soon [via the website](#). The session will be captioned and BSL interpreted.

How to submit your proposal

Please ensure you read the relevant eligibility and guidance criteria.

All applications should be made online via [the Creation and Touring support page](#).

Please note that you will not be able to save your application as you go along, so we therefore recommend that you work on a draft and copy the contents once you have a finalised version that you are happy to submit. [An application template is available to download here](#). When you have finalised the application, please click on 'submit'. You will then receive an email confirming that your application has been received.

Anticipated Timeline

Deadline for all submissions:

Wednesday 6 July 2022, 12pm (midday)

Final decision:

Mid-November 2022

Appendix: The Without Walls Artistic Directorate

The Without Walls Artistic Directorate includes some of the UK's most regarded outdoor arts and performance festivals. The Artistic Directorate work with artists, promoters and commissioners from across the UK to invest their own commissioning funds into new high-quality, sustainable outdoor shows that are available for touring. The current list of Artistic Directorate partners is:

101 Creation Space, Newbury - <https://www.101outdoorarts.com>

101 Strategic Lead: Simon Chatterton

Brighton Festival - <http://brightonfestival.org>

7 – 29 May 2022

Head of Artistic Planning: Tanya Peters

Norfolk & Norwich Festival - www.nnfestival.org.uk

13 – 29 May 2022 (esp. 21 – 22 May)

Head of Programme & Production: Mark Denbigh

Salisbury International Festival - www.salisburyfestival.co.uk

27 May – 19 June 2022

Festival Producer: Fiona Curtis

DaDa - www.dadafest.co.uk

11 – 12 June 2022

Timber Festival - <https://timberfestival.org.uk>

1 – 3 July 2022

Directors: Sarah Bird and Rowan Cannon

Hat Fair - www.hatfair.co.uk

1 – 3 July 2022

Artistic Director: Andrew Loretto

Certain Blacks - <https://certainblacks.com>

24 July 2022

Artistic Director: Clive Lyttle

Stockton International Riverside Festival - www.sirf.co.uk

4 – 7 August 2022

Artistic Director: Jeremy Shine

Just So Festival - www.justsofestival.org.uk

19 – 21 August 2022

Directors: Sarah Bird and Rowan Cannon

Greenwich & Docklands International Festival - www.festival.org

26 August – 11 September 2022

Artistic Director: Bradley Hemmings MBE