**Open Call****: Support for Research and Development of new outdoor work**

Without Walls invites artists and companies to request support through the Blueprint R&D programme

**Introduction**

Without Walls is delighted to be able to offer an open call for Blueprint support for Research & Development.

Without Walls’ Blueprint supports the Research and Development phase of new and ambitious outdoor arts projects, designed to enable artists to experiment with new ideas, collaborations and approaches to creating work. 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.

**[A glossary of words and phrases used in this document is available.](https://www.withoutwalls.uk.com/open-calls/blueprint-open-call/" \l "glossary)**

Blueprint programme

Without Walls Blueprint R&D programme supports the Research and Development phase of new and ambitious outdoor arts projects. The programme has supported the development of over 100 R&D projects since 2018. Many of these have gone on to full creation, some with the support of Without Walls and others through different routes. In all cases Blueprint is designed to enable artists to experiment with new ideas, collaborations and approaches to creating work.

Without Walls recognises 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. This approach can also assist with fundraising for new work, and can be a useful way of engaging commissioners, supporters and partners.

Please note that being supported through Blueprint does not necessarily lead to a full commission from Without Walls, but applicants are welcome to apply for creation support separately if they wish to do so. An open call for the Creation and Touring programme will go live later in 2023, which is designed for artists and companies who already have clear details about a project that they wish to present and tour in 2024.

On the Without Walls website you can view [**Blueprint Open Call webpage**](https://withoutwalls.uk.com/opportunties/blueprint-open-call/) and apply, find out more about the [**last cohort of Blueprint projects**](https://withoutwalls.uk.com/blueprint-2022-artists/) and take a look at the [**full archive**](https://withoutwalls.uk.com/programme-type/blueprint/).

**Blueprint Open Call**

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 and the selection process**

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 – touring this work to reach large, diverse and new audiences across the country.

Established in 2007 as a partnership of 5 founding festivals, Without Walls has grown into a consortium of over 30 partners, spanning 3 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 that has responsibility for selecting which projects Without Walls will support through Blueprint 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.

What sets Without Walls apart from other networks is that our festival partners provide both commissioning, support and presentation opportunities. It is a commissioning and touring network rather than a funding programme; as a result, the work we support has to feed into the programming of a wide range of festivals. This 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 receives 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 Without Walls. All of the partners bring their own expertise and creative priorities to the group throughout the process.

[**The Without Walls Artistic Policy is available to read on our website.**](https://www.withoutwalls.uk.com/policies/ww-artistic-policy/)

**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.From April 2023, Without Walls will operate independently of XTRAX.

**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. 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 by arranging a support worker. 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**](mailto:daniel@xtrax.org.uk) providing an outline of your access requirements or give us a call on 0161 227 8383.

**Areas of special interest**

Without Walls has identified several priorities for development including:

* Work led by Black, Asian and other ethnically diverse artists
* Work led by Deaf, disabled, learning disabled and neurodivergent artists
* Work led by female artists
* Work led by LGBTQIA+ artists
* Work that involves elements of co-creation with communities
* Digital work
* Work that incorporates an innovative approach to environmental responsibility

Without Walls also encourages artists to apply even if this would be their first time working in the outdoor arts. 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 these priorities.

**How to request Blueprint support from Without Walls**

**Please read the relevant eligibility and guidance notes for Blueprint.**

The deadline for receipt of proposals is **12pm (midday) on Monday, 16 January 2023**. Artists will be informed whether their proposal will be supported by mid-March 2023.

Projects that intend to request creation support from Without Walls for presentation and touring in 2024 (as well as Blueprint R&D support) will need to outline the timeline for each stage of their R&D and creation with an indication of how they will report the results of the R&D work to Without Walls. If you wish to apply for the Creation and Touring 2024 programme, your R&D phase will need to be completed by August 2023.

All projects will need to complete their R&D process by December 2023 at the latest, including projects that wish to tour from 2025 onwards.

**Eligibility and guidance**

* Without Walls is looking for work from all disciplines and genres, that is innovative and ambitious and challenges the idea of what outdoor arts can be.
* Without Walls supports work that is designed **for outdoor touring** and artists should be committed to exploring touring opportunities for the works beyond 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**; projects can be developed in association with international artists, but **the lead partner on the project must be based in the UK.**

**Investment**

Most Blueprint investment will be between £5,000-10,000 per successful project. In your application, you will need explain what is required to complete the research and be clear about how the investment will be used in the development of artistic goals.

We would also like you to indicate if there are other investors in the project, but this is not crucial at this stage. Some of the projects supported through Blueprint may be supported by Without Walls creation and touring funds in the next stage of development and production, but future creation support is not guaranteed.

**Creative Case for Diversity Monitoring**

The Without Walls application form asks several questions relating to [**Arts Council England’s Creative Case for Diversity**](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/diversity/creative-case-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 & sustainability**

Without Walls is committed to supporting the creation of work that is accessible for everyone. Over the last four years we have helped many of the artists that we have worked with in finding creative approaches to making their work more accessible to Deaf, disabled, learning disabled and neurodivergent audiences.

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, which is why we will provide training and a range of resources to selected artists. You can [**consult our access resources**](https://www.withoutwalls.uk.com/project-categories/access-diversity/)and as well as 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, and we aim to expand this work over the next five years.

We therefore welcome proposals that reflect both 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 and indicate relevant costs.

**Responses to queries**

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**](https://www.withoutwalls.uk.com/open-calls/blueprint-fund-2022/#FAQ).

We will host an **online live Q&A on Monday 12 December, 11.30am - 1pm**, which [**you can register for now**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-NVN-AGmSyOU82ESS_HJbQ). This will be an opportunity to ask questions about the Blueprint R&D Open Call 2023. You will also be able to meet some of Without Walls' festival partners and supported artists. The session will be captioned and BSL interpreted.

If you still have questions, please contact [**proposals@withoutwalls.uk.com**](mailto:proposals@withoutwalls.uk.com).

**How to submit your proposal**

**Please ensure you read the relevant eligibility and guidance criteria.**

All applications should be made online via the [**Blueprint Open Call page**](https://www.withoutwalls.uk.com/open-calls/blueprint-open-call/#applicationform). 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. You will be asked to submit a detailed budget identifying how you intend to develop the idea.[**An application template is available to download from the Blueprint Open Call webpage**](https://www.withoutwalls.uk.com/open-calls/blueprint-open-call/#documents).

When you have finalised the application, please click on ‘submit’. You will then receive an email confirming that your application has been received.

**Timeline**

**The deadline for receipt of proposals is 12pm (midday) on Monday, 16 January 2023.** We will notify successful applicants in **mid-March 2023.**

**Appendix: The Without Walls Artistic Directorate**

The Without Walls Artistic Directorate includes some of the UK’s most regarded outdoor arts and performance festivals. They 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. They are:

[**Leeds 2023**](https://leeds2023.co.uk)

1 January – 31 December 2023

Creative Lead: Kully Thiarai

[**Brighton Festival**](http://brightonfestival.org)

6 – 28 May 2023

Head of Artistic Planning: Tanya Peters

[**Hat Fair**](http://www.hatfair.co.uk/)

3 June – 2 July 2023

Artistic Director: Andrew Loretto

[**Timber Festival**](https://timberfestival.org.uk)

7 – 9 July 2023

Director: Rowan Cannon

[**Certain Blacks**](https://certainblacks.com), London

22 – 23 July 2023

Artistic Director: Clive Lyttle

[**Stockton International Riverside Festival**](http://www.sirf.co.uk)

3 – 6 August 2023

Artistic Director: Juliet Hardy

[**Just So Festival**](http://www.justsofestival.org.uk)

19 – 21 August 2023

Director: Rowan Cannon

[**Greenwich & Docklands International Festival**](http://www.festival.org)

25 August – 10 September 2023

Artistic Director: Bradley Hemmings MBE

[**101 Outdoor Arts, Newbury**](https://www.101outdoorarts.com/)

Head of Outdoor Arts: Simon Chatterton