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**ARTS COUNCIL
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Without Walls Blueprint Open Call 2024

About Blueprint

Without Walls is delighted to be able to offer an open call for Blueprint support towards the Research & Development of new and ambitious outdoor arts projects.

Blueprint is 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.

The programme has supported over 100 projects since 2018. Many of these have gone on to full creation, whether that's with support from Without Walls or through different routes.

Please note that being supported through Blueprint does not necessarily lead to a full commission from Without Walls, but projects that have been supported through Blueprint are welcome to apply for creation support in due course if they wish to do so.

The maximum grant available through Blueprint is £10,000. For Blueprint 2024 we are specifying that projects that receive support should be working towards premiering their projects from May 2026 onwards. The timeline for Blueprint 2024 is:

Deadline for submission of all proposals:	Friday 8 December 2023, 12pm
Notification of supported projects:	Mid-March 2024
Supported projects to be completed by:	March 2025
Open Call for Creation Support for 2026:	June – July 2025

You can find examples of the projects that have previously been supported through Blueprint on the [Without Walls website](#).

A glossary of words and phrases used in this document is available at the end of this document.

Without Walls Programming Priorities

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

The Without Walls Artistic Directorate have responsibility for selecting which projects Without Walls will support through our Blueprint and Creation funds. You can [find out more about the festivals that make up the Artistic Directorate here](#).

Without Walls has identified several priority areas for development including:

- Work led by global majority artists
- Work led by deaf, disabled, learning disabled and neurodivergent artists
- Work that involves elements of co-creation with communities
- Work that incorporates an innovative approach to environmental responsibility

Your project does not have to fall into one of these categories to receive support and we encourage all artists to apply, even if this is your first time working in outdoor arts.

For the 2024 submission round all proposals should include a writer or dramaturg as part of the creative team. This is to help promote the strongest possible structural and narrative development for the projects that we support.

Writing your proposal

We have recently streamlined our submission process to try and make it as straightforward as possible. We now ask everyone to complete a single question outlining your idea and the collaborators involved.

Particular points that you should cover include:

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

You will also be asked to indicate whether your project is led by:

- Global majority artists
- Deaf, disabled, learning disabled or neurodiverse artists
- Female artists
- LGBTQIA+ artists

We will only consider your project to be led by one of these groups of people if the majority of your Board or Creative Team members identify as belonging to that particular group.

Eligibility

We are looking for proposals from UK-based artists from all disciplines and genres. We would like to see proposals for work that is innovative and ambitious, that challenges the idea of what outdoor arts can be.

When developing proposals please bear the following points in mind:

- Without Walls exists to support the development of new and ambitious work by **UK-based artists**. Projects can be developed in association with international artists, but **the lead partner in the project must be based in the UK**.
- Without Walls supports work designed for **outdoor arts festival touring** and artists should be committed to exploring touring opportunities for the work beyond Without Walls festivals.
- Proposals can be adaptable in scale, suitable for daytime and / or evening presentation and may include promenade or processional elements.

How to submit proposals

Please ensure you read the relevant eligibility and guidance criteria.

All proposals should be submitted online via the **Blueprint Open Call page**.

You can save your progress while completing the form but we recommend keeping a backup copy. To help with this an **Application Template** is provided for you to draft responses before copying them into the online submission form.

Please bear in mind that you will be asked to submit a detailed budget identifying how you intend to develop the idea.

The deadline for receipt of proposals is 12pm (midday) on Friday 8th December 2023. Please note that we are unable to accept proposals submitted after this deadline.

For further information please contact the Without Walls team at proposals@withoutwalls.uk.com

Access Support

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

The guidance and submission materials are available in a range of formats. Please let us know what your specific requirements are, and we will do our best to support you – whether through providing documents in an alternative format or through arranging a support worker.

If you would like to request assistance with completing and submitting your proposal, please contact grace@withoutwalls.uk.com providing an outline of your access requirements. You can also call us on 0161 843 5270.

You can also answer Section 2 of the submission form in a video or audio format if that suits you better. Please share a link to the video or audio in the sections provided in the submission form. Alternatively you can send your video or audio to proposals@withoutwalls.uk.com with the name of the artists / company and project title in the subject line.

Glossary

This is a list of words and phrases that we use in our application process, the definitions are to offer clarity on what we mean by these terms within the context of the open call, they may be used differently in other organisations or groups.

- **Access** – When we talk about making work more accessible, we mean removing the barriers which disabled people may face accessing the arts and providing solutions to ensure everyone can experience the arts.
- **Artistic Directorate** – The Without Walls Artistic Directorate is made up of some of the UK’s most highly regarded outdoor arts organisations and festivals. The Artistic Directorate partners all invest their own commissioning funds into the Without Walls programme of new outdoor shows and present a selection of the works at their festivals and events.
- **Arts Council England** – Arts Council England (ACE) is the national development agency for creativity and culture. They invest public money from the government and The National Lottery to help support arts and culture across England. ACE is the major funder of Without Walls. [Find more information.](#)
- **Blueprint** – A Without Walls investment programme dedicated to supporting Research and Development projects. See definition of Research and Development below.
- **BSL** - British Sign Language.
- **Consortium** – A consortium is an alliance of companies, individuals, or other entities that work together to achieve a specific objective.
- **Creation Support** – Without Walls uses the term ‘creation support’ to describe funds that we provide to artists to help them create new work.
- **Creative Case for Diversity** The Creative Case for Diversity is the framework that Arts Council England uses for approaching questions of diversity. The Creative Case for Diversity is a way of exploring how arts and cultural organisations and artists can enrich the work they do by embracing a wide range of influences and practices. [Find out more about the Creative Case for Diversity.](#)

- **Diversity** – Diversity is the range of human differences, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, social class, physical ability or attributes, religious or ethical values system, national origin, and political beliefs.
- **Environmental Sustainability** – Without Walls recognises the role that it needs to play in tackling the climate emergency. This includes facilitating opportunities for artists and festivals to explore how they can make the creation and touring of their work more environmentally sustainable. Environmental sustainability is defined as responsible interaction with the environment to avoid depletion or degradation of natural resources.
- **In-kind support** – Support in kind means a non-cash contribution to your project, such as materials or services that are provided free of charge or at a reduced rate.
- **Match Funding** – Match Funding is funding from other sources.
- **National Lottery Project Grants** – This is one of the main ways in which artists can receive funding from Arts Council England. [Visit the Arts Council England page on Project Grants for more information.](#)
- **NPO, short for ‘National Portfolio Organisation’** – National Portfolio Organisations are leaders in their areas, with a collective responsibility to protect and develop our national arts and cultural ecology. They receive long-term funding from Arts Council England. Without Walls has been a NPO since 2018.
- **On costs** – All performance-related costs that are not included in your presentation fee (=artist fee), This could include accommodation, transport, per diems and technical costs to be covered by the presenter.
- **Outdoor Arts** – Outdoor arts, also called street arts, includes many different art forms including theatre, dance, music, puppetry, comedy, pyrotechnics, visual art, digital art and circus. Outdoor arts take place in public space in a variety of contexts including city and town centres, shopping centres, high streets, parks and a variety of rural locations. Outdoor arts can take place in daylight or darkness throughout the year, and are often (but not always) presented in the context of a festival, and often (but not always) free of charge to attend.
- **Partnership** – An association between two or more people, groups or organisations.
- **Presentation fee** – Your artist fee for presenting the work. This usually does not include accommodation, transport, per diems and technical costs associated with your performance to be covered by the presenter.
- **R&D** – Short for Research and Development [see full definition below].
- **Research and Development** – Going through a Research and Development phase means that a person or group takes time to develop a new idea or explore a new way of working.
- **Touring show** – A touring show would visit a number of locations over a period of time, and would be designed to be presented in a variety of locations.
- **Touring Support** – Without Walls uses the term ‘Touring support’ to refer to financial support that we provide to festivals to help them present a Without Walls show/work.
- **Without Walls** – Without Walls is a network of festivals and organisations dedicated to supporting the development, creation and touring of new work by UK artists. Without Walls is a commissioning and touring network, not a funding programme.
- **Work led by** – Without Walls will consider a project to be ‘led by’ a particular group of people if the majority of key creative team members identify as belonging to that group. This means that some projects may be able to answer ‘Yes’ in more than one category. Please refer to the guidance notes for more detailed information.