



International Changemakers Bursary - Digital Collaboration

Background

Coventry UK City of Culture 2021 has been inspired by the city's pioneering activism in inventing the twin cities movement after WW2, extending the hand of friendship, and building cultural partnerships with cities around the world. Our programme will reflect the internationalism of the city, as a home of diverse migrant communities and a place of sanctuary for refugees and asylum seekers, its role in peace and reconciliation, and its position as a dynamic, revolutionary city tackling global social issues. Coventry has always been a city of movement and exchange, a city of changemakers.

Why digital?

Coventry has a long history of invention and innovation and is home to two world-class universities with expertise across science, technology, design and engineering, as well as an internationally significant cluster of gaming companies responsible for some of the worlds' best-known mobile and console games. Coventry is also part of the UK's only multi-city 5G test bed programme which will enable the city to stay at the forefront of digital innovation – whether driverless cars or inventing new forms of mobile and immersive content for both gaming and storytelling.

Coventry City of Culture Trust is embracing the city's digital past and using this as a springboard to explore ideas for the future. At a time where international travel is limited, it is more important than ever that we embrace our digital ideology and infrastructure and set our own path for new ways of collaborating across borders.

About the bursary programme

Delivered in partnership with the British Council, the **International Changemakers Bursary - Digital Collaboration** aims to support the creation and development of 10-15 partnerships and projects between changemakers in Coventry and their international counterparts.

Given our ever-changing global context, and the growing move towards digital engagement, we are interested in exploring how we can continue to evolve the city's spirit of internationalism when travel is increasingly restricted. We hope to see imaginative, bold and creative responses to international digital collaborations and want to support our creative community in developing these partnerships to prototype new ways of generating content using online platforms and tools. Some ideas for how this bursary could be used, include:

- Collaborating with, and learning from, creative and cultural practitioners, including artists, activists and changemakers working around the world.
- Utilising and reimagining online platforms as a space to formulate and test creative ideas which could be co-developed.
- Developing projects with partners, including through building prototypes together, curatorial investigation, action-research or the creation of art works.

We are inviting applications from creative and cultural individuals living or working in Coventry (CV postcode), spanning everyone from artists, activists, third sector professionals, and community leaders. All applicants must have an international partner in one of the eligible partner countries listed below and

will be required to provide evidence of the partnership, such as thorough email correspondence or a letter of support.

Applicants do not need to have any previous international experience, although some experience of working in partnership is essential. The bursaries can be used to establish new partnerships or can build on existing partnerships. Where partnerships already exist, applicants should advise on how this bursary will enable deeper and more meaningful collaboration, whilst using the opportunity to extend the scope of any existing work.

Applications should complement or respond to one of 12 City of Culture's themes, which correspond to each calendar month between May 2021 – April 2022. These themes include:

May – Welcome
June – Sanctuary
July – Harmony
August – Freedom
September – Peace
October – Utopia
November – Coventry in the World
December – Light
January – Being Human
February – Hope
March – Amazing Women
April – Green Future

Whilst we are interested in creative outputs from the collaborations, such as showcase events, digital exhibitions, multi-media artworks etc, we are more interested in the process and how this can be documented and shared. Opportunities will be available for successful applicants to share details of their collaborative journey and creative outputs (where available). These may include some or all of the following:

- Social media feature of each partnership on the Coventry City of Culture Trust channels
- Opportunity to contribute a guest blog post for the Coventry City of Culture website on your collaborative project during your corresponding month. For example, if your event is about human rights, we may invite you to write a feature blog in August, which focuses on the theme of 'Freedom'
- Contribute towards a podcast about international digital collaboration for the cultural sector, which will be part of a "Festival of Ideas" series of events running throughout the City of Culture year
- Potentially have your artistic output showcased within another City of Culture programme event, depending on the content and format suitability

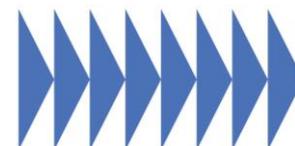
We envisage that these creative outputs, aligned to one of our themes, would be delivered in the corresponding month. For example, if your collaboration focuses on 'Peace' the creative outputs would be realised and promote in September.

Applicants and their partners will wholly own and hold the copyright to any content they co-create or co-produce. However, applicants should grant full rights for promoting, sharing and showcasing the outcomes of the bursary through Coventry City of Culture Trust and British Council channels, both online and in person.

Applicants will be required to contribute to the programme evaluation, which may include a written report (although alternative formats can be agreed and accepted). Applicants must be ready to submit receipts and are required to keep copies of all expenditure related to their collaboration.

Bursary amount

Applicants can apply for up to £4,000 for their collaborative project to cover reasonable fees, technical support, platform costs, workshop material, international bank transactions and translation costs. Bills



and infrastructure costs are not supported, although WIFI boosters will be considered for collaborations in areas without stable internet connectivity. Applicants with additional access needs can apply for separate funds and we will endeavour to do everything we can to support these.

Eligible countries

The fund is designed to primarily support exchange to the following countries:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

A small number of collaborations outside of these locations can be supported for exceptional proposals. However, please note unrestricted funds are limited and we would strongly encourage applicants to apply for collaborative projects in the above listed countries.

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed by a small group made up of City of Culture Trust (Senior Producers), the British Council and Arts Council England. Assessments will be made according to the following criteria:

Individual or organisational track record

We will review the track record of the individual, including their experience in their relevant sector and of working in partnership. We aim to support a variety of individuals in the city and actively encourage and welcome applications from cultural practitioners who are not practicing artists. Emerging creative and cultural practitioners and leaders with less experience are also welcome, although they must demonstrate their 'creative potential' in their application.

Impact of the experience

We will assess the level of impact of the proposed project on the applicant and their partner, including the difference this will make to their future work and practise.

The idea, including its connection with the City of Culture theme

We are interested in bold, innovative ideas for collaboration that go beyond the usual online meetups and live streamed events. We are looking for interdisciplinary approaches to collaborations and will be looking at the strength of connection to the chosen City of Culture theme.

Mutuality

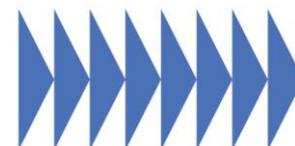
It is important that this collaboration is mutually beneficial and supports the work, practise and networks for your chosen international collaborator. We will be looking at mutual benefit across all aspects of your proposal, including budget allocation.

Future collaboration

We will assess the potential for long term impact and future collaborations generated by the bursary.

Finances

We will assess the viability of the proposed budget. Applicants who apply for £4,000 must clearly articulate why they require the full amount available. Although not necessary we will favour applications which include match funding or in-kind support.



Application Timeline

Application Opens	3 rd December 2020
Application Surgery (via Zoom)	14 th December 2020: 6pm – 7.30pm
Application Closes	18 th January 2021: 10pm
Assessments and Interviews (if necessary)	w/c 25 th January 2021
Confirmation of Successful Applicants	Early February 2021
Delivery Period (creative outputs delivered in corresponding month)	March 2021 – 1 st June 2022
Cohort Digital Gathering	November 2021
Programme Final Meeting	May 2022

How To Apply

Applicants should fill in an application form [here](#) or alternatively, you may want to submit a video application where you respond to each of the questions. This can be in English or British Sign Language.

For those submitting video applications you may send us your videos directly or upload it onto a file sharing platform like Vimeo or YouTube. Videos do not need to be highly edited; they can simply be a recording of you chatting directly to camera via your phone or laptop. If your media is password protected, please include the password.

Completed applicants forms or videos should be sent to Stephanie Ridings at BursaryManager@coventry2021.co.uk.

At the point of submission you must also complete the Equal Opportunities Form which can be found here - <https://forms.gle/f78T9gT7pGfExucJ7>

Any Questions?

If you have any questions, require any assistance with the language and terminology, or your eligibility for this application, contact Stephanie Ridings at BursaryManager@coventry2021.co.uk or call on 07765788249. Stephanie will be able to clarify any questions for you and/or arrange support for you.

We will be holding an Application Surgery at 6pm-7.30pm on Monday 14th December via Zoom video call (Video link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87039913615>). At this session will run over the programme and answer any questions.

Access support is available for all applications, including alternative formats and tailored support.

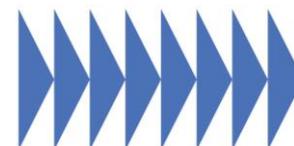
Payment Schedule

Successful applicants will receive 80% of the travel grant prior to the delivery of their collaboration. The remaining 20% will be paid on completion of a final report to an agreed format. Applicants who may find this challenging, please contact the team. We will make exceptions based on discretion.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The City of Culture has the following aims:

- Coventry's citizens positively influence and shape the city they want to live in
- Coventry's culture contributes to the social and economic prosperity of the city and region
- Coventry is a global and connected city
- Coventry is recognised as a future facing pioneering city



Applicants will be required to complete a final report within one month of the completion of the visit. Questions will be based on the number and types of cultural exchanges and partnerships made, your professional development and the impact that the trip will have on your work in relation to one of the thematic areas of the City of Culture programme.

Documentation

Successful applicants will be required to share successful applicants to share details of their collaborative journey and creative outputs. See information above.

Environmental Considerations

In a time of Climate Emergency, we are committed to delivering the most environmentally friendly and sustainable City of Culture as possible. We encourage all applicants to consider environmental impacts at each stage of their creative process. We are on hand to offer support and guidance or a sounding board when needed. A full version of our ecological charter will be supplied within the bursary agreement.

