

Emerging Artist Award 2020 call-out document

Applying for an Emerging Artist Award 2020

Please ask us if you would like this information in an alternative format.

[The Coventry City of Culture Trust](#) has formed a partnership with [Unlimited](#), a national arts commissioning programme that enables new work by disabled artists to reach UK and international audiences.

Through this partnership, we are launching the Coventry Emerging Artist Awards which provides 3 awards of up to £10,000 to d/Deaf, disabled and/or neurodivergent artists who live and/or regularly work within a CV postcode (this covers Coventry and parts of wider Warwickshire).

These Coventry awards are part of a national commissioning round announced by Unlimited.

Coventry City of Culture Trust

The Coventry City of Culture Trust are working to build a cultural programme that reflects Coventry, its people and its ambitions for the future. We are a diverse, modern city which is re-imagining the role culture can play in bringing people together. Coventry is a city of welcome, a city of activists and pioneers, a city of peace and reconciliation, a city of innovation and invention, a City of Culture.

Access and inclusion for d/Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent artists, citizens, audiences and staff is an important focus for the Trust across all our work. We want to lead the way in ensuring our work is accessible, considers potential barriers and provides opportunities for d/Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent artists.

Unlimited

Unlimited is a commissioning programme, supporting creative projects by disabled artists and companies in artforms including performing arts, literature, performance, painting, sculpture, public artworks, photography, digital artworks, installations, films and more. Unlimited wants to change perceptions of disabled people by commissioning new, ground-breaking and high-quality work.

**COVENTRY CITY OF CULTURE TRUST
C/O THE HERBERT ART GALLERY & MUSEUM, JORDAN WELL, COVENTRY, CV1 5QP
WWW.COVENTRY2021.CO.UK**

REGISTERED ADDRESS: THE HERBERT ART GALLERY & MUSEUM,
JORDAN WELL, COVENTRY, CV1 5QP, COMPANY NUMBER: 09808960
CHARITY NUMBER 1165639, LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
REGISTERED IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Unlimited was part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad, and in 2013 Shape Arts and Artsadmin were awarded funding from Arts Council England to continue to deliver the programme. This phase of Unlimited (2020 – 2022) is supported with funding from Arts Council England, Arts Council of Wales, Creative Scotland and British Council.

The Brief

Emerging Artists awards are for artists who wish to create a new piece of work, which can include participatory or multidisciplinary practices. We are looking for work in any artform, that is innovative, excellent, and led by disabled artists.

Unlimited is about art, not about disability; some work may reference disability, some may not. The work can be linked to any subject or theme. This funding is to make a small piece of work, and to share it with an audience or with participants in some way.

Key Criteria:

- disability-led
- quality, innovation and ambition

We will be looking to support a range of ideas – in relation to artform, scale, and location – across the awards.

Coventry City of Culture Trust particularly encourages work that links with themes of;

1. **Art as activism** – using art as activism, injecting your voice into art as a way to raise public awareness around something you want to see changed or challenged
2. **Community Collaboration** - working with our diverse communities and grassroots groups across the city to co-create cultural activity
3. **Environment, Nature and Green Futures** - wild, green and environmental creative projects working across the natural and built landscapes of the city
4. **Digital** - exploring a playful use of digital technology or media

These focuses are already embedded into a number of the Trust's programmes and plans. We are encouraging artists to respond to any of these themes in whatever way they feel appropriate. Artists may want to consider more than one aspect.

You can find out more about the Trust's key themes here;

<https://coventry2021.co.uk/producers/>

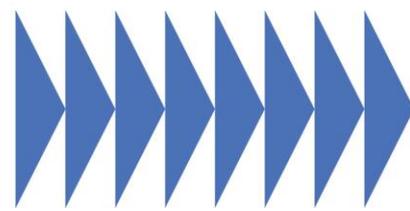
Platforming opportunities will also be given for artists to share the work in relation to the wider Coventry 2021 programme.

Access

We encourage artists to consider creative methods of integrating access for D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent audiences into the work from conception. We can support artists with exploring how best to do this and will work with you on captioning, audio descriptions and other access elements, if required.



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Who can apply?

Emerging disabled artists who are based in a CV postcode or regularly working in Coventry; applications will also be accepted from artists based in the Midlands who are working in partnership with named artists who live in a CV postcode.

By 'emerging' we mean someone who has yet to receive a major exhibition or showcasing opportunity on their own and someone that has not had extensive media coverage for their work. We do not define an emerging artist by age.

We are defining disability based on the **Social Model** approach, which, by focusing on the disabling barriers imposed by society, embraces all physical, sensory and invisible impairments, learning disability, mental health, neurodivergent and fatigue conditions. If you identify as such, and/or have experienced access barriers, we invite you to apply.

Coventry City of Culture Trust are keen to encourage diversity and intersectionality in the arts and so actively encourage proposals from artists from under-represented communities.

What will you receive?

Up to £10,000 commission: Please be realistic about the scale of the project / length of the work. (The Trust can offer advice and support on this if selected)

Production advice and support, if required, for your project: e.g. through online resources or video calls / chats and emails using text, voice and BSL to discuss practical issues, timeframe and access.

Marketing support in promoting the commission and any potential output activity

For most artists, it is assumed access costs will be met by Access to Work. If not, these can be included either within or in addition to the £10,000 commission fee, depending on the nature of the work and the budget requirements.

How to apply

The application process is in two stages:

Stage 1 - Expressions of Interest

Stage 2 - Full Application, only completed by those shortlisted

Apply online at: <http://weareunlimited.org.uk/apply-to-unlimited>

Access support is available for all applications including alternative formats and funding for access support.

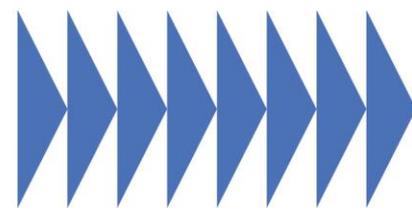
Online Info Surgeries

If you're interested in applying for the Emerging Artist Awards, join us on Zoom for one of our information surgeries. This is a great opportunity to find out more and ask any questions you have about applying for an Unlimited Commission award as well as speak with other artists and organisations.

We'll be co-hosting sessions with Jo Verrent, Senior Producer from Unlimited, across three time slots on **Wednesday 7 October**. Visit <https://emerging-artist-surgery.eventbrite.co.uk/> to book onto a time slot. You don't need to attend one of these sessions to apply.



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Commission Timelines

- **Thursday 1 October 2020** – Application portal for Expressions of Interest opens
- **Wednesday 7 October** – Online Info Surgeries
- **Tuesday 27 October 2020, 12pm** – Deadline for Expression of Interest submissions
- **Wednesday 3 December 2021** – Shortlist announced, application portal for Full Applications opens
- **February 2021, 12pm** – Deadline for Full Applications
- **March 2021** – Funding decisions announced
- **May 2021** – Projects begin
- **Spring 2022** – Projects must be completed Expression of Interest

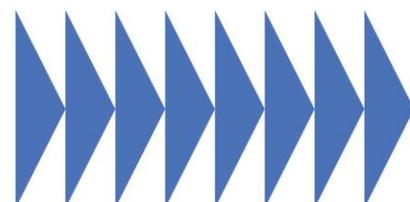
You will need to supply:

- The answers to four basic eligibility questions
- Contact information and the name of the project, artist(s) and any partners for the project
- An approximate amount that your project may cost. You are not asked to supply a budget and you can change this amount if shortlisted and making a full application
- The primary artform of your project
- Brief project overview (80 words) – if shortlisted, this provides us with copy about your project to put on the press release
- Project description (400 words maximum) – this is where you can tell us your idea
- If it is for a Partner Award, this is where you explain how your application links to their additional criteria (200 words maximum)
- Links or short biographies for the lead artist and any partners (100 words each)
- The answers to an Equal Opportunities monitoring form - these are kept separately to your application
- Optional: a small amount of supporting material in the form of images, video, audio or documents, relevant to the project proposal or showing previous work. You are strongly encouraged to show us examples of your previous work.

All applications will receive an email confirmation. Please check your inbox for this confirmation. **If you do not receive a confirmation email, please contact Unlimited ASAP**, at the latest within 24 hours of the deadline so that we can ensure your application has been received.



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Full Application

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a Full Application and will receive tailored guidance from the Unlimited Team and The Coventry City of Culture team in relation to their project idea. If invited to submit a Full Application you will need to supply:

- The name of the project, artist(s) and any partners attached to the project
- Summary of project (200 words maximum)
- A proposal detailing the project and its suitability for Unlimited (1000 words maximum)
- A detailed budget
- Further information about access for artists and audiences (200 words maximum)
- Full biographies or CVs for lead artist(s) and partner(s)
- If it is for a Partner Award, how your application links to their additional criteria (200 words maximum)
- A letter of recommendation from someone in the arts sector (2 pages maximum)
- The answers to an Equal Opportunities monitoring form which are kept separately to your application
- Supporting material in the form of images, video, audio or documents, relevant to the project proposal or showing previous work.

Selection Process

All eligible Expression of Interest applications will be assessed by a panel. The panel will be disability-led. The Selection Panels for all awards will be announced over summer 2020 and information placed here: weareunlimited.org.uk/apply-to-unlimited/selection-panel

Any questions?

Please [see the FAQ for further information](#). If after reading all information provided you have further questions, please let Unlimited know by contacting info@weareunlimited.org.uk or on **07506 679968**.

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