

## Arts in Society at King's: programme information and application guidelines

### **Programme overview and funding levels**

The Cultural Institute at King's is launching a new programme in partnership with Somerset House Studios which seeks to inspire, facilitate and support new collaborations between King's researchers from across the Arts & Science faculties and the Studios' hub of resident artists and designers. We are seeking to support the research and development of innovative projects which offer new perspectives on urgent contemporary social issues.

Seed-funding will be made available to the best proposals that emerge, with awards of up to £6,000 per project. Projects should run between June and November 2017.

### **What kind of projects will be supported? Themes and approach.**

Themes might include (but are not limited to): climate change; migration and the tension between global/local; identity and gender politics; feminism; diversity and race; how digital is shaping communities, industry and manufacture; IRL vs URL; international politics and how they shape UK society; radicalism and activism.

This is a research and development programme which will explore, develop and test new ideas and therefore we do not expect collaborative projects to produce final works for extended public engagement at this stage. Projects should however demonstrate their potential – through evaluation – to generate new knowledge or data relating to social issues through the engagement of a wider public with the work; as well as their potential to significantly enhance public understanding of these issues. **We will showcase the ideas developed to an invited academic and industry audience in the winter of 2017.**

Approaches might include, **but are not limited to**:

- arts experiences which are tested through small focus groups;
  - illustrative projects which share and communicate new knowledge arising from academic research and invite audience response and feedback;
  - interactive projects which give participants a greater understanding of social issues;
  - participatory projects which enhance understanding and offer new perspectives through the engagement of communities in the creation of new work.
- (The Cultural Institute and Somerset House Studios teams may be able to assist in brokering additional partnerships for community-engaged work, where target communities fit with our networks.)

We envisage that the testing and evaluating of these different project outputs with audiences take place at the showcase event planned for winter 2017, rather than requiring stand-alone events built into and delivered as part of individual project plans.

**What criteria will be used to be considered for Cultural Institute support?**

All projects must include a lead academic who is a member of King's College London and is undertaking research which will inform or be further developed by the proposed project.

All projects should:

1. involve an equal collaboration between an artist and a King's academic;
2. be innovative and test new ideas;
3. produce high quality and original prototype outputs;
4. have a clear vision of the ways in which the work could enhance or alter understanding of a key social issue;
5. demonstrate the potential to produce new data and knowledge to inform future research and publications;
6. have the potential to provoke further debate around a key social issue;
7. have a creative and dynamic dialogue with potential audiences embedded as part of feedback process;
8. provide an opportunity for a King's student (or students) to engage in the R&D process as a learning experience.
9. build in a clear evaluation mechanism (see also point 5 in FAQs below).

**How long should projects last?**

Projects should commence in June 2017 and be completed and evaluated by 30 November 2017.

**Who will be on the panel assessing which projects will receive support?**

Katherine Bond, Director, Cultural Institute at King's College London

Sophie Branscombe, Innovation Manager, Cultural Institute at King's College London

Marie McPartlin, Director, Somerset House Studios

Andy Franzkowiak, Producer, Cultural Institute at King's College London

### **Selection process, including proposal surgeries**

- Following the first Open Space workshop, participants should be in contact with each other to explore possible project ideas as appropriate.
- If you need further help in identifying an academic or artist partner, please email [sophie.branscombe@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:sophie.branscombe@kcl.ac.uk) and we will facilitate introductions as appropriate.
- We will run a follow-up Ideas Development Lab on Tuesday 25 April, 5-8pm at which collaborating artist-academic partners will have the opportunity to share and develop their idea through a facilitated process prior to the submission of a formal proposal.
- The deadline for submitting Project Proposals is Monday 8 May.
- On receipt of a completed Project Proposal form, each project will be assessed against each of the criteria listed above. (1 'criteria fully met', 2 'criteria partially met' and 3 'criteria not met'. Projects will need to receive a rating of at least 2 on each of the 5 criteria to be considered for Cultural Institute support.)
- The best scoring projects may be invited to attend a surgery to explore the project idea further, and receive further advice on project design and delivery.
- Project teams will be asked to submit an updated Project Proposal form following the surgery if necessary.
- Following project surgeries, the selection panel will assess the final proposals, with higher scoring projects more likely to receive support.
- Applicants will be informed by email on the outcome of their Project Proposal.
- An agreement letter will be sent to the project applicants and project funds transferred to a departmental account and to the artist partner as required.

### **Application Timeline**

- Open Space Workshop: Tuesday 14 March 2017, 5-8.30pm, River Rooms, Somerset House New Wing
- Follow-up Ideas Development Lab: Tuesday 25 April, 5-8pm, room TBC, Somerset House New Wing
- Application deadline: Monday 8 May 2017
- Project surgeries if required: w/o 15 May 2017
- Decision made (feedback or approval): w/o 22 May 2017

## Further FAQs

*1. Are Teaching Associates or Visiting Professors eligible to apply for funding under this scheme?*

All projects must include a King's team member who is undertaking King's research which will inform or be further developed by the proposed project. Teaching Associates who are not undertaking research at King's are not eligible to lead a project on their own; they may however lead a team which includes a King's academic whose research will inform the project.

*2. Can academic staff costs be covered by seed-funding support? If so, can these be fully economic costed?*

For staff who are already paid a full time salary by King's, staff time cannot be covered. However, academic staff costs may be considered for staff members who are not employed full time at King's. Direct staff costs only, rather than full economic costing, may be covered.

*3. Can artist fees be covered?*

We expect freelance artists to be paid appropriately for their time on the project, so do build this into the project budget.

*4. Can the money be used to fund a PhD fee waiver or stipend?*

Yes, the money can be used for fee waivers or stipends, but the projects are only intended to last a maximum of six months, so the waiver or stipend should not last longer than this period unless a strong case can be made.

*5. What level of evaluation or research is anticipated?*

The Cultural Institute will provide a self-evaluation template although some project leads may wish to include the cost of an external evaluator in their budget.

*6. Can projects include more than one artist, and more than one academic partner?*

Yes, you can work with more than one artist/organisation or academic partner, as long as their roles in the project are clearly defined and everyone is happy with the arrangement. The lead partners in the project must be from Somerset House Studios and academics from King's Faculties of Social Sciences & Public Policy, Natural & Mathematical Sciences, Arts & Humanities and the Dickson Poon School of Law.

*7. Can I work with an artist/organisation other than the ones I met at the event?*

This programme aims to facilitate and support collaborations between King's academics and Somerset House Studios artists. Artists who aren't connected with Somerset House Studios are not eligible for this particular programme.

8. *What contracts will the artist/organisation have to sign when they start working on the project?*

The Cultural Institute will issue a contract to both the lead academic and the lead artist, setting out the terms of their involvement in the project. The Cultural Institute will support the administration of project funds held in academic accounts as required, and can advise on any other contracts required on a case-by-case basis. If you have any questions, the Cultural Institute can advise.

9. *Can the funding be used for a research project?*

The funding has to fulfil the criteria outlined above. This can include evaluation or research as long as it can be undertaken within the timeframe and budget.

10. *Can I supplement the funding from the Cultural Institute with other funding, or leverage additional funding based on a Cultural Institute award?*

Yes. If you already have other funding in place this can be supplemented by Cultural Institute support providing the project fulfils our criteria. If you are applying for other support, but have yet to hear the outcome, please clarify this on the Project Proposal form.

Sophie Branscombe  
Innovation Manager  
Cultural Institute, King's College London

Please contact [rachel.scott@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:rachel.scott@kcl.ac.uk) with any further questions.