**Without Walls commissions and touring opportunities for new outdoor work in 2016**

**Without Walls invites artists and companies from any discipline to request support for the creation and touring of new outdoor work for presentation and touring in 2016.**

**Background**

Founded in 2007, Without Walls is a consortium of UK arts festivals that work together to deliver an annual programme of new outdoor arts by British artists.

**In 2016 the consortium members will be:**

* **Ageas Salisbury International Arts Festival** - [www.salisburyfestival.co.uk](http://www.salisburyfestival.co.uk)

27th May – 11th June

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

7th — 29th May 2016

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

June 24th - July 3rd

* **Norfolk & Norwich Festival** - [www.nnfestival.org.uk](http://www.nnfestival.org.uk)

13th May – 29th May

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

4th – 7th August

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

1st July – 3rd July

* **Out There** Festival, Great Yarmouth [www.seachangearts.org.uk](http://www.seachangearts.org.uk)

17th – 18th September

**With affiliated membership from:**

* **Showzam**, Blackpool - [www.showzam.co.uk](http://www.showzam.co.uk)

13th – 20th February

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

19th – 21st August

* **101 Outdoor Arts Creation Space**, Newbury - [www.101outdoorarts.com](http://www.101outdoorarts.com)

Our creation centre partner

In addition to these core members we have an Associate Touring Network (ATN) that (subject to funding) will be able to support the touring of the Without Walls shows in subsequent years (from 2017 onwards). Supported through Arts Council’s Strategic Touring Funds, the Without Walls ATN extends the reach of Without Walls by presenting shows developed by the consortium the year after its creation and initial tour. It also delivers strategic audience development initiatives that will help reach new and diverse audiences across England. Successful shows from our programme in 2016 may be invited to tour to this network in 2017 and/or beyond.

**Achievements**

Without Walls has been breaking new ground in the development and creation of outdoor arts in the UK, working in partnership to deliver opportunities for British artists to create new work of the highest quality, and making that programme available to the widest possible audience.

Since its formation in 2007, Without Walls has developed and toured over 80 new shows by UK companies and supported the Research and Development of over 30 projects. 82% of shows created by Without Walls have toured beyond the Without Walls touring network, including international tours to 22 countries.

You can see some information about the shows that we have supported on our website;

<http://www.withoutwalls.uk.com/programme-archive/>

**Programme for 2016**

In 2016 we aim to create a new programme of outdoor projects by UK artists; subject to a successful Grant for Arts application.

We will be looking to support the creation and touring of a range of exciting and ambitious projects of different genres, styles and forms.

In 2016, financial constraints mean that we will not be looking to support large scale work though Without Walls.

We will prioritise investment in work that meets one or more of these agendas;

1. **Innovation, risk and new boundaries**

We are keen to support artists that experiment with new ideas and techniques, digital technology and ambitious material. All work we support must meet this priority.

1. **Small scale work**

Small scale work from any discipline but that is suitable for playing on a variety of settings both urban and rural.

1. **Culturally diverse and deaf and disabled artists**

We are committed to supporting work that is led by and features culturally diverse, deaf, and disabled artists.

Additionally we are also keen to support the following:

* Work for families and children that demonstrates innovation and excellence,
* Outdoor circus work that explores the dramatic possibilities of circus technique
* Innovation and digital development – work that pushes the boundaries of new technologies
* Work with a focus on innovative audience engagement

***Please ensure you read the guidance notes below***

**Eligibility and guidance**

* Without Walls exists to support the development of new and ambitious work by **UK artists;** we can support projects that are developed in association with International Artists but ***the lead partner on the project must be based in the UK.***
* We are looking for work from all disciplines and genres. We are looking for work that is innovative and ambitious and challenges the idea of what outdoor arts can be.
* In 2016 we are only able to support small scale to mid-scale projects.
* The work must be suitable for touring and artists should be committed to exploring touring opportunities for the works in addition to the Without Walls festivals, and should be available for touring in 2017 (and beyond), subject to bookings. The pieces we support need to be suitable for both civic, urban spaces and park sites/ rural locations.
* The festivals take place in a range of locations across the UK, so the ideas proposed **must be suitable and available for touring to a minimum of 4 consortium members** and other festivals in addition to the Without Walls partners in Year 1, and should be willing to tour to the festivals on the Without Walls Associate Touring Network (if required) in Year 2.
* The work should be (Ideally) available from May – September, in order to be available to tour to as many Without Walls festivals as possible.
* Proposals for work could be adaptable in scale, suitable for daytime and/or evening presentation and may also include promenade or processional based elements.

Most projects supported by Without Walls are shows that we have commissioned. However in some cases we will support the touring of a project that has already raised its creation costs, provided that the show has not already toured in the UK, and provided it clearly meets our priorities.

**Commissioning funds**

* We have some money to invest in commissioning new work. In addition to the money raised by Without Walls, the individual festivals all also contribute commission funds in to selected Without Walls projects.
* It is extremely unusual for Without Walls to fund 100% of any project. Our commission funds have normally been between 20% - 60% of any project. For larger scale (and more expensive) projects, Without Walls is normally one of several commissioning partners.
* **Important information regarding Grants for the Arts**

Without Walls is supported through Grants for the Arts so a project commissioned by

Without Walls is unable to apply to Grants for the Arts for match funding. If you have already raised money from Grants for the Arts to create your show, you can propose the project as a piece for touring, but we cannot invest commissioning funds.

Other considerations when allocating our budget;

* We will look to create a balanced programme of genres, styles and scales of work
* We will consider the potential audience reach of our projects when assessing the level of our commissioning contribution. It is unusual for us to support the development of a show that is expensive to create and to present, that does not also reach a large audience. If your show is designed for very small audiences, please be clear about how many times a day the show can be presented and therefore how wide an audience it can reach.

**Without Walls artistic policy**

* Present and develop work from a new and emerging generation of street artists
* Support and encourage artists who may not have had previous experience of street arts into the sector
* Help stimulate new, surprising and engaging street arts collaborations between artists from different disciplines
* Prioritise the development and presentation of work with culturally diverse and deaf and disabled artists
* Work with established companies and artists who are keen to experiment and develop new approaches to their work
* Draw on the consortium's considerable experience and awareness of international street arts to help provide new stimulus and opportunities for collaboration between UK and international artists

**How to submit your proposal to Without Walls**

Please complete the attached form and submit a detailed budget identifying how you intend to develop the idea by **Thursday 5th November 2016** to:

[**proposals@withoutwalls.uk**](mailto:proposals@withoutwalls.uk)**.com**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**What do you mean by small / medium / large scale?**  
There are no clear rules for defining scale but we normally think of projects as;

* Small Scale – if they are ideally suitable for audiences of under 500 people in one performance
* Medium Scale – if they are ideally suitable for audiences of 500 – 1500 people in one performance
* Large Scale – if they are capable of reaching 1500- 5000 people in one performance

**Do I have to request commission money from Without Walls or can I just request support to tour to the Without Walls festivals?**

Most of the shows we present are commissioned by Without Walls. If you have already raised the money you need to create your project you may not need to request commission money; Without Walls will sometimes support the touring of new projects that we have not commissioned through the network.

**How much money can I request from Without Walls as a commission?**

If you do request commission money from Without Walls please note that we do not normally support the full creation costs, so please indicate how much your total budget will be, and how much of this amount you would like Without Walls to contribute.

In the last year our commission funds for small or middle scale work have ranged from £2,000 - £20,000 though sometimes one or more of the festival partners have also contributed in addition to this. In 2016 our budgets will be very much reduced so it is unlikely that Without Walls could contribute more than £15,000 to any one project.

**Can I apply for a commission even if I have been unsuccessful in an application for R&D in the past?**Yes.

**What do I need to include in my creation budget?**Please include all costs related to the rehearsal, development, build, design and creation of your piece, including all artists/creative fees, materials and costs related to rehearsing your project. If you are VAT registered please do not include VAT that you can reclaim.

Please do not include performance costs, as these should be shown separately.

**What should I include in my performance fee?**

Please include all costs required to enable you to set up and present your show at a festival, including all artists /creative team fees and company costs/overheads if required.

Please do not include travel, accommodation, per diems/food as this will be offered separately in addition to the budget.

**Do I need to include technical costs in my performance fee?**Please only include technical costs that you have to bring with your show and that could not be provided by the festival locally. The festivals will expect to provide technical equipment for you on site, including items such as sound, power, crew support for get in.

**Can I apply for support to tour an existing outdoor piece?**We cannot support the touring of projects that have already toured in the UK

**Can I apply for a commission to redevelop an existing piece?**Without Walls exists to support the development of new work, so it would be unlikely that we would offer commission investment to redevelop an existing piece. You would need to demonstrate that it was substantially different for us to consider this.

**Can I apply for a commission to create an installation or a durational piece?**

Yes, please explain how many people can experience the piece in the course of one day / session.

**Can I apply to create and tour a piece that requires the involvement of local/community participants at each festival?**

Yes but please be aware that most outdoor festivals do not have permanent outreach staff, so it can be difficult to support projects that require a lot of investment in terms of recruiting and supporting community involvement.

**I have received some development money from Grants for the Arts to research my piece; can I still apply for commission funds to create my piece?**

Yes provided your R&D process is clearly separate from your creation process. The important point is that Without Walls cannot be used as match money to a Grants for the Arts application, or vice versa.

**If I receive a commission from Without Walls can I still tour to other festivals that are not part of the network?**  
Yes although please be aware that some festivals may request that you do not perform in the same city or town within a set time period of your performance, so if you are unsure of this please check with the festivals.

**I already have some commission funds in place from other festivals that are not part of Without Walls; can I still apply to Without Walls for support?**  
Yes, please explain which other festivals have committed support and check whether they require to premiere the piece; if this is the case please confirm the date of the premiere so we can see whether this would exclude any of the Without Walls festivals

**Can I apply for commission money in 2016 and tour the piece in 2017**

No this is not possible.

**I have applied for some funding but I don’t know yet whether it is confirmed; can I still apply to Without Walls for a commission?**  
Yes but please be sure to tell us when the outcome of your application will be known.

**What happens after I submit my proposal?**

All the proposals will be circulated to all the members of Without Walls and discussed at a series of programme meetings. We hope to let you know whether your proposal has been shortlisted by the week of 23 November and then whether it has been supported by week of 14th December.

**How can I find out more about Without Walls?**You can look at our website [www.withoutwalls.uk.com](http://www.withoutwalls.uk.com)

**Contact**

For further information please contact the Without Walls management team, based at the XTRAX office:

+44 (0)161 227 8383 | [info@withoutwalls.uk.com](mailto:info@withoutwalls.uk.com) | [www.withoutwalls.uk.com](http://www.withoutwalls.uk.com)