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**Open Call**

**Support for Research and Development of new outdoor work**

**Without Walls invites artists and companies to request support through the Blueprint R&D programme**

## Introduction

Without Walls is delighted to be able to offer an open call for Blueprint support for Research & Development, alongside a call out for [new projects for creation and touring in 2023](https://www.withoutwalls.uk.com/open-calls/creation-and-touring-2023/).

This is part of Without Walls process of recovery from the pandemic and the open call is designed to create an open and accessible invitation for artists to propose ambitious and exciting outdoor projects to the commissioning partners of Without Walls, who collectively are the Artistic Directorate of the consortium, responsible for selection of the artistic programme. Further information about the Artistic Directorate is in the Appendix (below).

The pandemic has had a radical impact on Without Walls plans. With most of our festivals and events cancelled in 2020, we have been working hard during 2021 to try to catch up with the back log of artists projects that have not yet been completed. This process of catching up will continue throughout 2022, which is why we are not inviting proposals for new work in 2022. [You can read more about that decision in our blog post about our upcoming plans](https://www.withoutwalls.uk.com/2022-2023-important-update/).

Instead we have opted to provide an early opportunity for artists to begin submitting proposals for work that they want to create and present in 2023. By looking to the future in this way we hope to provide artists with the ongoing means to continue creating excellent work as the UK continues to emerge from lockdown.

[A glossary of words and phrases used in this document is available here.](https://www.withoutwalls.uk.com/open-calls/blueprint-fund-2022/#glossary)

## Blueprint programme

Without Walls Blueprint R&D programme supports the Research and Development phase of new and ambitious outdoor arts projects.

Without Walls Blueprint has supported the development of over 80 R&D projects. Many of these have gone on to full creation, some with the support of Without Walls and others through different routes. In all cases Blueprint is designed to enable artists to experiment with new ideas, collaborations and approaches to creating work.

Without Walls recognises 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. This approach can also assist with fundraising for new work, and can be a useful way of engaging commissioners, supporters and partners.

Please note, being supported through Blueprint does not necessarily lead to a full commission from Without Walls, but applicants are welcome to apply for creation support separately if they wish to do so. [A call out for creation support runs alongside this Blueprint open call](https://www.withoutwalls.uk.com/open-calls/creation-and-touring-2023/), which is designed for artists and companies who already have clear details about a project that they wish to present and tour in 2023. There will be a subsequent Open Call for new work for 2023 between May and July 2022.

[Click here for further information about previous Blueprint projects](https://www.withoutwalls.uk.com/programme-type/blueprint/)

## Blueprint Open Call

Without Walls issues Open Calls to ensure that all artists have the opportunity to present their ideas to the consortium in an equal and democratic way. We have found that this is a great way of finding out about new artists and projects – though the large response that we usually receive means that there are always far more projects than we are able to support.

We very much value the work and time that artists put into these Open Calls and thank you in advance for your interest.

## About Without Walls

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

Established in 2007 as a partnership of 5 founding festivals, Without Walls has grown into a consortium of over 30 partners, spanning 3 networks. These are the Artistic Directorate (AD), Touring Network Partnership (TNP) and the Creative Development Network (CDN).

Of these groups the Artistic Directorate is the network that has responsibility for selecting which projects Without Walls will support through Blueprint and through our creation funds.

The partners that make up the Artistic Directorate each have their own interests and specialisms, and each of them presents work to different audiences in different contexts. Each of them invests commissioning funds in the Without Walls programme because they have a shared commitment to supporting artists to create ambitious new outdoor work.

Without Walls is a commissioning and touring network, not a funding programme, and the work that we support has to be able to feed into the programming of a wide range of festivals. The fact that our festival partners provide both commissioning support and presentation opportunities is what sets Without Walls apart from other networks. That is why we need to request information about artists touring fees and plans. It also means that the decision-making process for Without Walls is time consuming, as the festivals meet to discuss the work over a period of weeks and months, working together to align the programming choices of each of the festival partners with the artistic priorities of Without Walls as a whole.

All proposals that Without Walls receives goes through an intensive programme selection process. In the first phase Artistic Directorate partners come together in sub-groups to review proposals according to artform. The entire Artistic Directorate then comes together as a group to review the recommendations from each of the sub-group meetings. The Artistic Directorate then begins to select a programme that meets the priorities of Without Walls. All of the partners bring their own expertise and creative priorities to the group throughout the process.

[For further information about Without Walls, please click here.](https://www.withoutwalls.uk.com/about-without-walls/)

[The Without Walls Artistic Policy, which outlines our approach to programming, is available here.](https://www.withoutwalls.uk.com/policies/ww-artistic-policy/)

## About XTRAX

XTRAX is an independent management and production company based in Manchester with 20 years of experience in outdoor arts. XTRAX was one of the founder members of Without Walls in 2007 and has provided management and development services to Without Walls since 2012.

The XTRAX team serves as the main point of contact for artists wishing to submit proposals to Without Walls. Please note that the XTRAX team does not have any influence on the selection process.

If there is anything that you need to discuss about preparing and submitting your proposal then you can contact the XTRAX team by emailing: [proposals@withoutwalls.uk.com](mailto:proposals@withoutwalls.uk.com)

## Support from Without Walls Artistic Directorate Partners

Collectively the Artistic Directorate partners have a wealth of experience in supporting artists to create work - in some cases as Directors, Producers, Production Managers or Dramaturgs. All have considerable experience of the creation process and artists are invited to identify whether there is any form of further non-cash support that they would potentially like to access.

**Creation Spaces**Several of the Without Walls partners have access to Creation Spaces, that can be made available to artists, subject to availability. These include [101 Creation Space](https://www.101outdoorarts.com/) in Newbury, and Wild Rumpus’ [The Whirligig](https://wildrumpus.org.uk/what-we-do/venue-hire/). Other partners may also be able to facilitate other spaces or support. If you require access to a space, please describe your requirements and it may be possible for one of the partners to offer a residency.

**Access support**

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

The application materials are available in a range of formats on demand. Please let us know what your specific requirements are, and we will do our best to support you - whether through providing the documents in an alternative format or by arranging a support worker. We also accept applications submitted in audio or video format if that suits you better.

If you would like to request assistance with completing your application, please contact Rebecca McGreevy at [proposals@withoutwalls.uk.com](mailto:proposals@withoutwalls.uk.com) providing an outline of your access requirements or give us a call on 0161 227 8383.

## Areas of special interest

Without Walls has identified several priorities for development including:

* + Work led by Black, Asian and other ethnically diverse artists
  + Work led by Deaf and Disabled artists
  + Digital work
  + Work that incorporates an innovative approach to environmental responsibility

Additionally, Without Walls is keen to support artists whose artistic process includes a clear focus on dramaturgy. This could include explaining the approach to structuring the work, producing a visual script, story board or similar document, or explaining the process by which dramaturgy will be addressed and by whom.

Without Walls is also keen to encourage artists to work with experienced directors. In cases where the director of the project has limited experience of outdoor work, please explain whether you intend to invite a more experienced outside eye or mentor into the process.

We welcome proposals that align with these areas of special interest, but it is not compulsory that proposals should fall into any of these categories. Please note there is no guarantee of Without Walls being able to support projects even if they do align with these priorities.

# How to request Blueprint support from Without Walls

**Please read the relevant eligibility and guidance notes for Blueprint.**

The deadline for receipt of proposals is **12pm (midday) on Wednesday 8th December 2021**.

Artists will be informed whether their proposal will be supported by mid-March 2022.

Projects that intend to request creation support from Without Walls for presentation and touring in 2023 (as well as Blueprint R&D support) will need to outline the timeline for each stage of their R&D and creation with an indication of how they will report the results of the R&D work to Without Walls. It would be best if companies are able to feed back at least the initial results of their R&D work by Autumn 2022 in order to help inform the 2023 programming process.

All projects will need to complete their R&D process by December 2022 at the latest.

## Eligibility and guidance

* Without Walls is looking for work from all disciplines and genres, that is innovative and ambitious and challenges the idea of what outdoor arts can be.
* Without Walls supports work that is designed **for outdoor touring** and artists should be committed to exploring touring opportunities for the works beyond the Without Walls festivals.
* Proposals for work could be adaptable in scale, suitable for daytime and / or evening presentation and may also include promenade or processional based elements.
* Without Walls exists to support the development of new and ambitious work by **UK artists**; projects can be developed in association with international artists, but **the lead partner on the project must be based in the UK.**

## Practicalities and money

Most Blueprint investment will be between £5,000 - £10,000 per successful project. Please explain what is required to complete the research and be clear about how the investment will be used in the development of artistic goals.

Please explain whether there are other investors in the project but note that this is not crucial at this stage. Some of the projects supported through Blueprint may be supported by Without Walls creation and touring funds in the next stage of development and production, but future creation support is not guaranteed.

**Important information regarding Match Funding and Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants**

Without Walls is supported through Arts Council England Lottery funding. This means that Without Walls commissioning funds cannot count towards the minimum 10% match funding threshold required by ACE National Lottery Project Grants.

**A note about Covid 19**

At the time of issuing this Open Call (October 2021) there are no statutory restrictions in place in England relating to Covid-19. However please describe whether you have considered Covid mitigation measures in your project planning.

**Creative Case for Diversity Monitoring**

The Without Walls application form asks several questions relating to [Arts Council England’s Creative Case for Diversity](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/diversity/creative-case-diversity).

The questions relating to the Creative Case ask whether a project is ‘led by’ a particular group of people. Without Walls will consider a project to be ‘led by’ a particular group if any of the following criteria apply:

* For organisations – that at least 50% of the Board and Senior team identify as belonging to the group in question.
* For project artistic teams and collaborations – that over 50% of the senior creative team identify as belonging to the group in question. The senior creative team might include; writer, director, choreographer, designer or other lead artist.
* For devising groups or ensembles – that over 50% of the company identify as belonging to the group in question.
* For individual artists – that the lead artist / applicant identifies as belonging to the group in question.
* For partnerships between individual artists or companies and producers – that the above criteria apply to both the artistic team and producing organisation. Where this is not the case and the above criteria apply only to the artistic team, but not the producing partner, then the application must demonstrate that the project will be artist-led and that the artist(s) are empowered with regards to management of resources.

This means that some projects may be able to answer ‘Yes’ in more than one category.

## Creative approaches to access and sustainability

Without Walls is committed to supporting the creation of work that is accessible for everyone. Over the last 4 years we have helped many of the artists that we have worked with in finding creative approaches to making their work more accessible to Deaf and disabled people.

Examples of such approaches include developing scripts that include audio description as part of the text of the show or casting performers that can provide live British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation as part of the action. We have also supported artists to explore technological means of making their work more accessible. We acknowledge that many artists might not be familiar with this process, this is why we will provide training and a range of resources to selected artists. You can already [consult the resources](https://www.withoutwalls.uk.com/project-categories/access-diversity/) we created on accessible practices and we will soon be publishing a guidance document to help you incorporate access in your creative process and budget for it.

Without Walls also recognises the role that we need to play in tackling the climate emergency. In recent years we have facilitated opportunities for artists to explore how they can make the creation and touring of their work more environmentally sustainable, and we aim to expand this work over the next 5 years.

We therefore welcome proposals that reflect both these approaches to creating work. If you plan to incorporate environmental sustainability or creative approaches to access in your piece then please provide us with an outline of your plans as part of your proposal and indicate relevant costs.

## Frequently asked Questions (FAQs)

Without Walls has prepared responses to some of the questions that we get asked most often about the open call process. [The answers to many frequently asked questions can be found on our website.](https://www.withoutwalls.uk.com/open-calls/blueprint-fund-2022/#FAQ)

If you still have questions that you would like to ask then you can contact us for guidance by emailing Rebecca McGreevy at [proposals@withoutwalls.uk.com](mailto:proposals@withoutwalls.uk.com)

We will host an **online live Q&A on Thursday 18th Nov, 10-11am**. This will be an opportunity to ask questions about the Blueprint R&D Open Call and the Creation & Touring 2023 open call. You will also have the opportunity to meet some of Without Walls' festival partners and supported artists. [Click here to register for the event.](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIpd-ysqTssHtxPaC6RowBwrz0Nbs8I1ZN0) The session will be captioned and BSL interpreted.

## How to submit your proposal

**Please ensure you read the relevant eligibility and guidance criteria.**

All applications should be made online via the [Blueprint Open Call page](https://www.withoutwalls.uk.com/open-calls/blueprint-fund-2022/#applicationform).

Please note that you will not be able to save your application as you go along, so we therefore recommend that you work on a draft and copy the contents once you have a finalised version that you are happy to submit. You will be asked to submit a detailed budget identifying how you intend to develop the idea. [An application template can be found here](https://www.withoutwalls.uk.com/open-calls/blueprint-fund-2022/#documents).

When you have finalised the application, please click on ‘submit’. You will then receive an email confirming that your application has been received.

## Timeline

**The deadline for receipt of proposals is** **12pm (midday) on Wednesday the 8th of December.**

Deadline for submission of all proposals: **12pm (midday) on Wed 8th Dec 2021**.

Notification of supported projects:Mid-March 2022.



**Appendix: The Without Walls Artistic Directorate**

The Without Walls Artistic Directorate includes some of the UK’s most regarded outdoor arts and performance festivals. The Artistic Directorate work with artists, promoters and commissioners from across the UK to invest their own commissioning funds into new high-quality, sustainable outdoor shows that are available for touring. The current list of Artistic Directorate partners is:

**101 Creation Space, Newbury** - <https://www.101outdoorarts.com>

Head of Outdoor Arts: Simon Chatterton

**Brighton Festival** - <http://brightonfestival.org>

7th – 29th May 2022

Head of Artistic Planning: Tanya Peters

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

13th – 19th May 2022 (esp. 21st – 22nd May)

Head of Production & Programme: Mark Denbigh

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

27th May – 19th June 2022

Festival Producer: Fiona Curtis

**DaDa** - [www.dadafest.co.uk](http://www.dadafest.co.uk)

11th – 12th June 2022

Joint Artistic Directors: Nickie Miles-Wildin and Grace Ng

**Timber Festival** - <https://timberfestival.org.uk>

1st – 3rd July 2022

Directors: Sarah Bird and Rowan Cannon

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

1st – 3rd July 2022

Artistic Director: Andrew Loretto

**Certain Blacks** - <https://certainblacks.com>

22nd – 24th July 2022

Artistic Director: Clive Lyttle

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

4th – 7th August 2022

Artistic Director: Jeremy Shine

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

19th – 21st August 2022

Directors: Sarah Bird and Rowan Cannon

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

26th Aug – 10th September 2022

Artistic Director: Bradley Hemmings MBE