



Liverpool Biennial x British Council

Biennials Connect Curators' Week Information Pack

Closing date: 11.59pm, 9 April 2023

Open call for early and mid-career Curators from Sub-Saharan Africa or South Asia

LIVERPOOL BIENNIAL x BRITISH COUNCIL Biennials Connect Curators' Week

2 - 6 August 2023

Application Contents

- Overview
- About the Curators' Week Programme
- Which parts of the trip are funded?
- Key dates
- How to apply
- Who can apply?
- What is the selection process?
- Access needs
- Application guidelines
- About Liverpool Biennial 2023
- About British Council

Overview

As part of a shared commitment to enhancing learning and collaboration between UK and international Curators, Liverpool Biennial and the British Council are joining forces to offer 10 fully-funded opportunities to attend a Curators' networking week, within the 12th edition of Liverpool Biennial.

This programme will consist of talks, workshops, performances, tours, trips and networking opportunities with national peers and artists which will aim to facilitate discussions around themes of care, emancipation, and joy from catastrophe - all central pillars of exploration within Liverpool Biennial 2023 - as well as bringing together working professionals across different countries to share skills and perspectives on curating. Applications are open to early to mid-career Curators living and working in the following countries: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, and Uganda.

About the Curators' Week Programme

These opportunities are open to Curators who are examining or working with practices of care. Our Liverpool Biennial 2023 artists are all responding to care in very different ways, bringing in diverse viewpoints and practices from around the world. We'd like to extend this question of care – what it can mean and the different ways it can manifest – through this programme to support Curators exploring this line of thinking across Sub-Saharan Africa or South Asia.

What we mean by 'care' can be very broad, and might include ideas around sustainability, accessibility, Queer and LGBTQ+ culture, BIPOC and race issues, fighting injustice, community or social practice and more. Applicants might be working with themes of care, or manifesting care through their approach, or ideally – both.

Successful recipients (10 places available) will attend a week-long research and development trip to Liverpool (UK) at a key point in the festival. They will be joined by a

wider cohort of senior international curators working in global biennials and visual arts festivals. Throughout the week, the cohort will have many opportunities to meet UK peers working in the visual arts. The week is designed to encourage Curators at various stages in their careers to build professional relationships with one another and their UK-based peers.

Across the week, recipients will have opportunity to participate in a number of curated talks, workshops, trips, studio visits, presentations and events, all of which aim to facilitate sharing and connectivity between practices and geographies. This will include attending performances by Liverpool Biennial 2023 artists, opportunity to present your practice or interests to the group, hospitality events with local and national organisations, artists and curators, studio visits with local artists, and more. There will also be an opportunity to discover the broader cultural scene in the region with daytrips to Manchester and Leeds to experience Sonia Boyce's Golden Lion winning Venice Biennale exhibition *Feeling Her Way* at the Leeds Art Gallery.

Following the trip to Liverpool, a free digital programme of online talks, facilitated discussions and events will take place from late 2023-throughout 2024 and in the lead up to the 2025 Biennial. This programme can and will be shaped by the discussions that take place at the Curators' Week and by the cohorts' interests, ensuring it becomes and remains a useful and dynamic resource for learning and sharing between Curators who take part.

Participants will also have opportunity to contribute to our digital resource journal *Stages*, alongside the ongoing evaluation of the programme.

The Curators' Week is the second delegation organised as part of the British Council Visual Arts **Biennials Connect** programme. Biennials Connect will bring together an international cohort of visual arts curators to form a sustainable network that supports curatorial practice, professional development, and international collaboration. The programme will focus on in-person delegations at one or two international biennials each year, supported by a longer-term online programme. In Autumn 2023, UK and eligible international biennials and festivals will be able to apply for Biennials Connect Grants to support visual artists' participation in their programmes.

Deadline for applications: Sunday 9 April 2023, 11:59pm (BST)

Which parts of the trip are funded?

There is funding available for return economy flights and UK travel, visa applications, accommodation and per diems for a 5 night trip to Liverpool (arriving Tues 1 – returning Sun 6 August 2023).

Our per diem policy is £25 p/d for the first three days, then £15 p/d thereafter. There will also be several lunches/dinners provided, plus refreshments.

The programme also includes up to two trips to national organisations across the North of England, and free entry into a number of exhibitions, performances and events.

There is an accessibility budget available for those who have access requirements and require provision. A full access rider will be issued and Liverpool Biennial's Access Liaison Officer will be happy to help you.

Participants are welcome to extend their trip, however any costs associated with an extension must be covered by the participant, including additional nights or travel, and any increase in return travel costs as a result of date change.

Key Dates

Application deadline	11:59pm, BST Sunday 9 April 2023
Shortlisting decisions to be communicated to all applicants	Friday 21 April 2023
Delegation dates	Tuesday 1 Aug – Arrive in Liverpool, <i>optional welcome dinner</i> Wednesday 2 Aug – Programme Day 1 Thursday 3 Aug – Programme Day 2 Friday 4 Aug – Programme Day 3 Saturday 5 Aug – Programme Day 4 Sunday 6 Aug – <i>Optional farewell event</i> , Depart Liverpool <i>Delegates interested in applying must be available to travel during the month of August to be considered</i>

How to Apply

Applications should be submitted via online form [here](#) by no later than 11:59pm (BST) on Sunday 9 April 2023. (<https://airtable.com/shrUWS3nOzO362GAj>)

- Provide a short overview of your Curatorial practice (up to 100 words)
- Explain why is the opportunity crucial to your professional development at this time? (up to 200 words)
- Additional Links / Website / CV
- Remember to include your name, country and any access requirements you may have (a full access rider will be issued for successful participants)

Please also complete our Equal Opportunities Monitoring form which is anonymous and will not be used in the selection process: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GVNTFZG>

For more in-depth guidance on how to answer these questions, please see our FAQ section at the bottom of this document.

Unfortunately, we are not able to provide guidance on individual applications, however if you have any questions that aren't covered in the guidance below or if you require the application form in an alternative format you can contact us by email via applications@biennial.com

If you are submitting a video application, please ensure it is no more than five minutes maximum in length (The selection panel will only watch the first five minutes of any longer videos), answering the questions outlined above. It must be delivered in English and/or with an interpreter if necessary. We request that applicants clearly state the question before their responses and submit a clear recording with no distracting background noise. Please note that videos do not need to be professionally recorded. Please upload the video to YouTube or Vimeo and submit it as a link in the above form.

Who can apply?

Liverpool Biennial x British Council Curators' Week Programme is open Curators who are specifically working with or interested in exploring practices of care - either thematically or through their approach, or both.

Applicants may have a specific outcome they are hoping to achieve from this delegation, such as exhibition research, networking, or knowledge and skills building.

We will prioritise applications made by those who have not received support from British Council or Liverpool Biennial in the last two years.

We welcome applications from Curators that meet the following criteria:

- Living and working in the following countries: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, and Uganda
- Consider themselves as early-career or mid-career (guidance for this is outlined below)
- Are working independently or within an organisation

- Are able to demonstrate a clear rationale for why they'd benefit from this opportunity
- Are friendly, generous and open in their approach, with a willingness to share, connect and learn from others
- Are over 18 years old.
- No formal education or qualifications are necessary

Unfortunately, we are not able to accept applications from:

- Organisations or companies (Curators working within organisations are welcome to apply, but must do so individually)
- Full-time students
- Curators living or working outside of the stated geographical areas
- Curators within 12 months of completing an undergraduate course

Collectives are welcome to apply, but please note that only one funded place will be allocated per successful application. We cannot accept multiple applications from the same collective or project.

The programme will be delivered in English.

If you are **early career**, you will have at least one of the following:

- A relevant degree or relevant experience (instead of formal education) working in the arts sector either within an arts organisation or independently
- Experience working with artists on a commission, production, or programme as part of a wider exhibition or festival
- Contributed to an exhibition, public programme or arts publication through research or organisation and administrative support

If you are **mid-career**, you will have at least one of the following:

- Worked as a visual arts curator either within an arts organisation or independently
- Led on the curation of at least one high-profile exhibition that has received significant press coverage
- Undertook research/critical study on one of the themes of the symposium either for exhibition development or publication

Other requirements

Participants will be asked to:

- Provide information including a biography and media of past work and participate in PR activity where necessary.
- Produce a blog or social media post about their activity for use on the Liverpool Biennial and British Council websites or social media channels. These can be completed by text, video, audio and/or images
- Contribute to an evaluation of the programme

What is the selection process?

Applications will be reviewed by a selection panel including the Liverpool Biennial and the British Council.

No assessment will be made of the writing style or the production quality of audio or video recordings. Applications will be assessed against answers to the application questions and eligibility requirements.

Access Needs

We encourage applications from D/deaf, disabled or neurodivergent individuals and will work collaboratively to meet access requirements.

We recognise that applicants may need to put in place unusual/atypical childcare arrangements (beyond those used routinely) and we will work collaboratively to meet requirements.

Please submit the format of application which is most accessible to you (either written or by video) using your support workers as necessary, to ensure we receive it in written or spoken English.

There is a section in the application where you can let us know about the kind of access support you may require during the delegation. It is important that you complete this section to provide us with the information we need to support you with access, should this be required.

Application Guidance

Please find some notes below to support you when you're writing your application.

Please provide an outline of your curatorial practice (up to 100 words)

The shortlisting panel may not be familiar with your work, this is a space to introduce what you do, and how and why you do it. Share your interests, motivation and process in a clear and concise way.

Remember that we're specifically looking for artists who are interested in themes or practices of care to link in with Liverpool Biennial 2023, which you can [read more about here](#).

Why is the opportunity crucial to your professional development at this time? (up to 150 words)

Tell us why this activity will make a significant difference for you now. Try to be as specific as possible. We want to know why this is the right time for you to be doing this.

Tell us how these activities will impact on your current position and how you'll benefit in the short and long term. Are there any barriers you face which might result in you being unable to complete your proposed activity without this opportunity, and what new opportunities could it open up for you?

Link the activity to your ongoing practice so we can understand why what you're proposing is vital to your career.

Additional Links / Website / CV

Add a link to your website, online portfolio, CV or other means of viewing your work online. If you do not have a website, alternative ways to share examples of your practice could be a Dropbox folder of images or a link to a video sharing website such as YouTube or Vimeo (if applicable).

Please do not include links to personal social media accounts unless they are solely dedicated to your curatorial practice.

About Liverpool Biennial 2023

Taking over unexpected and public spaces, historic sites and art galleries, Liverpool Biennial has been transforming the city of Liverpool through art for over two decades. The 2023 edition, 'uMoya: The Sacred Return of Lost Things' is curated by Khanyisile Mbongwa and marks the organisation's 25th anniversary.

'uMoya' addresses the history and temperament of the city of Liverpool and is a call for ancestral and indigenous forms of knowledge, wisdom and healing. In the isiZulu language, 'uMoya' means spirit, breath, air, climate and wind. The festival explores the ways in which people and objects have the potential to manifest power as they move across the world, while acknowledging the continued losses of the past. It draws a line from the ongoing Catastrophes caused by colonialism towards an insistence on being truly Alive.

About British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We support peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide. We do this through our work in arts and culture, education and the English language. We work with people in over 200 countries and territories and are on the ground in more than 100 countries. In 2021–22 we reached 650 million people.

Liverpool Biennial



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Image 1: Dandelion Flowers Ice Cream by Jorge Menna Barreto, LightNight 2019. Photo by Jake Ryan