



## **Unlimited Commissions - Information sheet for applicants**

### **Introduction**

Unlimited will celebrate disability, arts, culture and sport on an unprecedented scale, as part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad.

The programme has four pillars:

- **Unlimited Commissions:** a £1.5million commission fund to support the production of quality work by disabled and Deaf artists, and disabled and Deaf led arts organisations
- **Unlimited Talent:** bespoke training and mentoring programme for successful applicants to support the realisation of their commission. Training will be specifically created for the needs of each artist or partnership
- **Unlimited Presents:** Work created through Unlimited Commissions will have the opportunity to be showcased in London and across the UK up to and including games time
- **Unlimited International:** This will support collaboration between artists in the UK and other countries, and showcase new work around the world. It will also promote a global debate amongst young people about disability rights. This pillar of the programme is being led by the British Council and is still in development, full details will be announced in 2010

## **Unlimited Commissions**

Arts Council England is delivering Unlimited Commissions with the Scottish Arts Council, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the Arts Council of Wales on behalf of London 2012 and the Olympic Lottery Distributor.

Commissions totalling £1.5 million will be awarded to produce work by disabled and Deaf artists and arts organisations in the UK which celebrates London 2012.

## **Aims of the commissions**

Unlimited Commissions will support the creation and production of high quality work across all artforms that places disabled and Deaf people at its centre either through its form, content or setting.

Artists are encouraged to explore new partnerships with mainstream presenting organisations, venues and events and new artistic and managerial collaborations.

Successful commissions will have the opportunity to form part of Unlimited Presents, a series of high profile showcase events across the UK leading up to and during 2012. These will include disabled and Deaf led and mainstream arts festivals, as well as opportunities at Live Sites and Open Weekends.

In 2012 itself, these opportunities could expand to include the Torch celebrations around the UK and the major projects of the Cultural Olympiad.

Successful applicants will be offered a programme of professional development through Unlimited Talent to support the realisation of the commission and to facilitate the inclusion of the work at appropriate showcases.

## **What we're looking for**

We welcome proposals from disabled and Deaf artists, and disabled and Deaf led arts organisations, who wish to develop their work, strengthen their artistic practice, challenge perceptions and forge new partnerships with presenting venues and events.

We want to commission high quality work that can be seen and experienced by a broad range of audiences in a wide range of spaces.

Importantly, we are seeking developed ideas that could be ready to be performed or exhibited from late 2010 to the summer of 2012.

These requirements mean that Unlimited Commissions will not be suitable for the early stages of research and development of ideas, or for emerging artists or arts organisations.

If your project is not suitable for Unlimited Commissions, you can submit your proposal as a standard Grants for the arts application at any time, although successful applicants to Grants for the arts outside of Unlimited Commissions will not receive support through Unlimited Talent.

Artists and organisations based in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales should contact their national Arts Council to discuss alternative funding opportunities.

If you're unsure you meet the criteria or if your idea is ready for the scheme, please contact your Arts Council office to discuss your proposal with them.

### **Value of the commissions**

Unlimited Commissions has a total commission fund of £1.5 million over three years.

In the first round, we expect to make 10-15 awards in the region of £25,000 – £50,000.

If your budget is for more, or less than these figures, please do still contact the Arts Council, we can discuss the possibilities with you.

Guidelines on funding levels for subsequent rounds will be provided as the project develops.

## Support

Arts Council staff are available to help develop applications and offer feedback on Unlimited Commissions right up to, and beyond, the closing date.

This could include:

- helping applicants to work through their budget
- recommending an appropriate management structure for the project
- suggesting possible partners

Access support will be available to support your application, for example a sign language interpreter to attend a meeting with the Arts Council or a note-taker to help with the application. Please contact [unlimited@london2012.com](mailto:unlimited@london2012.com) for further information on the support available.

## How to apply

Disabled and Deaf artists, and disabled and Deaf led arts organisations can apply for Unlimited Commissions through Arts Council England's Grants for the arts programme.

Grants for the arts application forms and guidance can be downloaded from our website ([www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding)).

The guidelines are available in a range of formats including:

- Standard English
- Large Print
- Audio CD
- Braille
- British Sign Language (DVD format)

Information about the programme is also available in [languages other than English](#).

Please state '**Unlimited Commissions**' in the project title to help us identify your application.

If you are a regularly funded organisation, you will need to have permission from your Arts Council officer to apply for Unlimited Commissions.

### **Project timeline**

There are three deadlines for the commissions. They are:

#### **Round one**

Deadline for applications                      4 January 2010

Successful applicants notified              12 March 2010

#### **Round two**

Deadline for applications                      1 October 2010

Successful applicants notified              23 December 2010

#### **Round three**

Deadline for applications                      18 April 2011

Successful applicants notified              8 July 2011

If your project does not fit with the above timetable you can submit your proposal as a standard Grants for the arts application at any time.

Artists and organisations based in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales should contact their national Arts Council to discuss alternative funding opportunities.

### **Eligibility**

Unlimited Commissions will support work that is artistically led or managed by disabled and Deaf people, and disabled and Deaf led arts organisations.

Collaborations with a range of arts organisations will be welcomed, however all applications will need to show how disabled and Deaf artists lead creatively.

## **Criteria for assessment**

Applications must meet the standard assessment criteria for Grants for the arts applications. These are:

1. The quality of the activity, or its ongoing effect on artistic practice (or both) and the quality of experience for audiences and those taking part
2. How the activity increases opportunities for the public to engage in arts activities
3. How the activity will be managed and its ongoing effect
4. How realistic the activity is financially, and its future effect

Each application will be assessed and scored against each of these criteria.

In addition Unlimited Commissions is looking for:

- High quality work that could be performance ready from late 2010
- Work that could forge new partnerships with presenting venues and events
- Work that responds to the three core values of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad. These are:
  - celebrating London and the whole of the UK welcoming the world – our unique internationalism, cultural diversity, sharing and understanding
  - inspiring and involving young people
  - generating a positive legacy (eg arts, cultural and sports participation, audience development, cultural skills, capacity building, urban regeneration, tourism and social cohesion, international linkages)

For further information on the themes and values of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad, visit [www.london2012.com/culture](http://www.london2012.com/culture)

## **Budget considerations**

When detailing the budget for your proposal, you should follow the standard Grants for the arts budget guidance at [www.artscouncil.org.uk/grantsforthearts](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/grantsforthearts)

Budgets should not need to include marketing costs as the Commissions will be marketed through a national and regional campaign. However if your project has marketing costs relating to existing commitments, please talk to us.

Costs of access support for your project should be detailed in your budget, but will be discussed in more detail with successful applicants.

If you need further guidance on these points, contact your Arts Council office.

### **Further information for applicants on the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad**

Successful applications will form part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad programme. This will have implications for the sponsorship, commercial exploitation, branding and marketing of the projects.

These implications will be discussed in more depth with the successful artists and clear guidelines will be built into the commissioning agreement. However we have set out key areas for consideration below.

Unlimited may attract direct sponsorship from Olympic and Paralympic sponsors. Artists submitting ideas for the commissions must be willing to have their brands associated with their work.

Any winning organisations that already attract commercial sponsorship will not be able to credit that sponsorship in relation to the Unlimited Commission.

If you have plans in place to present your work such as confirmed dates as part of a tour or festival, please mention this when discussing your application with the Arts Council.

Intellectual property rights will remain with the artist. However, the successful artists and organisations will be required to allow the Olympic Lottery Distributor, UK arts councils, the London Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the International Olympic Committee to use the

commission to promote Unlimited, the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games, and to produce merchandise featuring the commission.

Commissions will be required to incorporate best practice in relation to sustainability and environmental impact. For further information, see the London 2012 sustainability strategy at [www.london2012.com/plans/sustainability](http://www.london2012.com/plans/sustainability)

### **Information for successful applicants**

Successful applicants will be entitled to specific professional development support to ensure that their idea reaches production, as part of Unlimited Talent.

This could include:

- mentoring from experienced artists and practitioners
- training in areas such as production, marketing or access
- brokering relationships with mainstream festivals and producers
- assistance in tour booking
- contract management

### **Additional access support for successful applicants**

For the very first time, London 2012, Arts Council England and the national arts councils will work in partnership with Access to Work delivered by Jobcentreplus to provide practical support and help to meet additional costs associated with overcoming work related obstacles resulting from disability.

In your budget you should include costs for access support needed for you and your co-workers. Further details can be found at [www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk](http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk)

These costs are separate to the access support needed for your audience, such as audio description. Access costs for audiences at the showcases will be covered in the national campaign for Unlimited presents. If you have questions on what should be included in the budget please contact your Arts Council office.

## Contacting us

If you require further information on the application process, please email [unlimited@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:unlimited@artscouncil.org.uk) or phone 0845 300 6200.

If you require access support to help you fill in your application, please email [unlimited@london2012.com](mailto:unlimited@london2012.com)

Alternatively you can contact your Arts Council office:

London: [Jamie.Beddard@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:Jamie.Beddard@artscouncil.org.uk)

East: [Huttson.Lo@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:Huttson.Lo@artscouncil.org.uk)

East Midlands: [Utkarsha.Joshi@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:Utkarsha.Joshi@artscouncil.org.uk)

West Midlands: [Abid.Hussain@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:Abid.Hussain@artscouncil.org.uk)

South East: [Chas.DeSwiet@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:Chas.DeSwiet@artscouncil.org.uk)

North West: [Alexandra.Turner@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:Alexandra.Turner@artscouncil.org.uk)

North East: [Padma.Rao@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:Padma.Rao@artscouncil.org.uk)

Yorkshire: [Wesley.Zepherin@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:Wesley.Zepherin@artscouncil.org.uk)

South West: [Ruth.Hecht@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:Ruth.Hecht@artscouncil.org.uk)

Northern Ireland: Cian Smyth [csmyth@artscouncil-ni.org](mailto:csmyth@artscouncil-ni.org)

Scotland: [Robert.Softley@scottisharts.org.uk](mailto:Robert.Softley@scottisharts.org.uk)

Wales: [Jennifer.Stoves@artswales.org.uk](mailto:Jennifer.Stoves@artswales.org.uk)



LOTTERY FUNDED



LOTTERY FUNDED



Scottish Arts Council



Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru  
Arts Council of Wales

Noddir gan  
Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Sponsored by  
Welsh Assembly Government

