

TARA ✕ THEATRE

ARTISTS MAKE SPACE

APPLICATION PROCESS

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Deadline: 5th January 2022

Who Can Apply

Open to 'Early Career*' artists based anywhere in the UK and Bangladesh.

Artforms include:

1. **Performance/Movement/things we experience** – Theatre, Live Art, Dance
2. **Sound-based projects** – Music, Sound art
3. **Spoken/written word** – Zines, Performance spoken word, Poetry, Novels, Graphic novels, Text-based art
4. **Lens-based projects** – Film, Photography
5. **Gallery art** – Painting, Drawing, Printmaking, Sculpture/Installation
6. **Applied art/things we use** – Fashion, Weaving and textiles, Ceramic/Metal work, Design: furniture/shelter/other, 'Public art': murals/cinema banners/rickshaw painting, Graphic art/book making
7. **Cross-discipline/Mixed media/Everything else** – Curatorial projects, Community-based workshops/projects, Conceptual projects, 'things we never imagined'

**We ask you to self-define as 'Early Career'. Generally, this is 1-5 years of experience, but we understand that this can mean different things for everyone due to their personal circumstances*

The Commission

7 commissions of £6000 available to apply for.

The commissions will be shared between 1 British artist and 1 Bangladeshi artist who will be paired together. The matchmaking will happen after the selection process has been completed, and it will be based on aligning the topic of exploration for the commission.

The 2 artists will be responsible (with guidance) for how they spend the £6000 to cover:

- The 2 artists fees
- Resources needed to complete the commission

The £6000 commission does not include production costs for the showcase, which are covered by the British Council in the UK, Bangladesh and online. The process of exchange and collaboration will be a guided process led by Tara Theatre with Britto Arts Trust across 11 weeks between February – August 2022 with artist mentors from both UK and Bangladesh.

The awarded artists' works can be Bangla language led or/and in English.

Exhibition and Presentations:

There will be a showcase for the commissions digitally and across 3 cities in Bangladesh - Dhaka, Chittagong & Sylhet in association with our partner organisation Britto Arts Trust. In the UK, the resultant works will showcase in 4 cities, including London, Birmingham, Manchester & Glasgow.

How to apply

- Please outline your practice as an artist (150 words)
- Please describe the process and output of a piece of art you have worked on that you are particularly proud of (150 words)
- What would you gain right now from mentoring and artist development (150 words)
- Is there an art form different to your own that you feel you could learn from? What is it and why? (150 words)
- How would you approach responding to any of the three commission prompt questions below? (250 words)

You can apply in a written format or by submitting an audio or video response to opportunities@taratheatre.com. The equivalent to the 150-word count is roughly 1 minutes and the 250-word count is roughly 1 minutes 45 seconds. There is no preference placed on any form of application.

Deadline for submissions is **5th January 2022**

Interviews will take place in **February 2022**

SELECTION PROCESS

We will select artists from the UK and Bangladesh who:

Would benefit from collaborative peer to peer development as well as industry mentoring in order to develop their practice.

Artists who are at a point of experimenting with and reflecting on their process as an artist.

Artists that could benefit from public exposure in Bangladesh and the UK to support their career growth.

Artists who have clarity in their approach to the commission, but don't need to have all of the answers right now.

COMMISSION PROCESS

Artists Make Space has been initiated to mark seventy years of the British Council in Bangladesh and its work in providing a safe space for people to creatively engage and voice their views through a range of artistic mediums. The programme aims to nurture a new generation of Bangladesh and UK artists to connect and co-create new work together. In this context the participating artists are invited to reflect on the following questions relating to culture, heritage and social spaces in both Bangladesh and the UK.

The commission will explore one or more of the following question(s):

1. How in Bangladesh or the UK have we inherited things that we can't touch or see?
2. Do we have any choice over what we inherit from the land and people around us?
3. When does cultural heritage become personal heritage?

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Throughout the process artists will be asked to record their process of development through video blogs or short videos for the website.

There will be 7 mentors, with one attached to each commission. They will interact with each pair in 3 sessions towards the start of the creation process. They will be supported on a day-to-day basis by Tara's project producer and the Britto Arts Team.

Each session is a 3–4-hour weekly zoom. Each artist will be expected to commit to a total of 11 sessions.

BACKGROUND

ARTISTS MAKE SPACE

British Council Bangladesh

British Council Bangladesh is a place for people to creatively engage, voice their views through a range of artistic mediums and collectively negotiate the world in new ways. To recognise its role as a safe space for the cultivation and articulation of ideas over 70 years, **Artists Make Space** is a programme to nurture a new generation of Bangladesh and UK artists to connect and co-create new work together.

Small grants will be awarded to 14 artists from Bangladesh and the UK working across 7 artforms to work together and create new works that will be exhibited online and physically (as restrictions permit) in both British Council Bangladesh and/or a partner venue in Bangladesh including **WOW Dhaka 2022** events and at partner UK venues through **Tara Theatre (London)** and **Transforming Narratives (Birmingham)** in spring 2022.

History:

Artists will be invited to reflect on the past seven decades of history in Dhaka and the regions of Bangladesh during which British Council Bangladesh has developed its work and to create short or small scale works through a process facilitated by Tara Theatre, UK and with the support of artistic mentors and the British Council Arts teams in Bangladesh and UK, as well as to draw upon their own lived experience as young artists of the 21st century engaging in this exchange between both the UK and Bangladesh. Created works do not need to be created exclusively in English language, and Bangla-led projects with translation into English are welcomed.

Artists & Facilitating Partners:

The grants will be awarded to emerging artists as an opportunity for them to develop their skills and practice, to enable both a national and international platform for their work and to build connections with peers in both Bangladesh and the UK. The UK

artists may include artists of Bangladeshi heritage as well as those without any prior connection to Bangladesh.

Tara Theatre has an established Artist Development programme and has actively been connecting with artists from Bangladesh specifically in the context of its forthcoming season reflecting on the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence in 1971 Through its recent appointment of Abdul Shayek in 2020 as Artistic Director Tara Theatre is also engaging more actively in working with artists from across all artforms.

Transforming Narratives is a programme managed by Culture Central (Birmingham) in partnership with co-founders the British Council and Arts Council England to enable the cultural sectors of Birmingham, Bangladesh, and Pakistan to build meaningful and enduring relationships through the creation of new works and cultural leadership and exchange opportunities. In February 2022, Transforming Narratives will host a **conference event** reflecting and celebrating the 3 years work enabled through the programme and this will provide a platform to present the work of the supported artists.

Britto Arts Trust is an artists' run non-profit network officially founded in 2002 in Dhaka, Bangladesh with a global reach. It is permanently based in Green Road, Dhaka but works extensively in different locations across the country. Britto is an expansive and sustainable contemporary art environment and culture that seeds and promotes multiple interdisciplinary practitioners, groups and networks for the Bangladesh art scene. It provides an International and local forum for the development of professional art practitioners, a place where they can meet, discuss, experiment and upgrade their skills on their own terms. Britto works as a catalyst for supporting and promoting new ideas. To name few, Britto's major international presence include the 54th Venice Biennale in 2011, KUNSTVALAAL: INEXACTLY THIS 2012 Amsterdam, Juming Museum Taipei in 2014, Unseen Co-op, Amsterdam 2017, Palais de Tokyo in 2019, Dhaka Art Summit 2014 & 2020, India Art Fair 2017-2020, Jakarta Biennale 2021, Taiwan Annual in 2018 & 2021 and 'documenta fifteen' in 2022,

WOW Dhaka

British Council Bangladesh partnered with Southbank Centre to bring the first WOW (Women of the World) Festival to Dhaka in 2019 profiling the work of women leaders, pioneers, artists from across the country to audiences of all genders. British Council Bangladesh continued to work with local partners to produce WOW events in 2020 and 2021 and is planning a WOW Dhaka in 2022. The Artists Make Space commissions should also align with and be promoted through British Council Bangladesh's WOW Dhaka Festival in providing a safe space and in profiling the

work of women artists. WOW Dhaka 2022 events will also enable a potential platform for presenting the artists involved in the Artists Make Space commissions.

