

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

COUNTERPOINTS.

Artist Open Call



Credit: Belinda Lawley

What's the call?

Counterpoints Arts and the Southbank Centre are looking to commission an artist or collective with lived experience of displacement or migration to develop new live work for public spaces. The selected artist will work closely with the Southbank Centre's public programming team and Counterpoints Arts' creative producers to create new work to be presented as part of the Southbank Centre's public programme, either in the indoor foyer spaces or the outdoor areas of the Southbank Centre.

The call is in response to the challenges and pressures artists have faced and continue to face in their immediate practice and everyday lives. Counterpoints Arts and the Southbank Centre wish to commission and support artists who are interested in reimagining their practice and how we look at public space and human interaction. Ideas are welcomed for work to be delivered in a time when social distancing restrictions have been lifted.

Who is it for?

This scheme is open to artists with lived experience of displacement or migration, who are in the early to mid stages of their career and have not previously presented their work in a public space. The artist can be making work in any artform, such as music, dance, spoken word, performance, live art, cabaret and comedy.

What are the details?

The selected artist receives the following:

- £5,000 development fee.
- £1,000 development production support.
- Up to £1,000 budget for additional spends to be decided depending on the individual, e.g. travel, access support, child care.
- Separate presentation fee for public sharing of work in 2022.
- Where relevant, rehearsal space at the Southbank Centre.
- Specialist creative producing support for outdoor public spaces from the Southbank Centre.
- Creative producing support from Counterpoints Arts.
- Support from the Southbank Centre and Counterpoints Arts to create a tour pack.
- The opportunity to present work in progress in an informal sharing, before a public performance.
- Networking with organisations across the UK.

The Southbank Centre's creative producers work with the selected artist over several months to develop their work for outdoor spaces. This is bespoke support depending on the artist's specific needs, schedule and artwork. The development process takes place in 2021, beginning in June with the aim to present the work in 2022. The exact timing for presentation is to be decided, depending on the work.

Who are the partners and what are their shared values?

Counterpoints Arts

A leading national organisation in the field of arts, migration and cultural change, Counterpoints Arts' mission is to support and produce the arts by and about migrants and refugees, seeking to ensure that their contributions are recognised and welcomed within British arts, history and culture. Since being set up in 2012, Counterpoints Arts has developed a trusted network of partners and collaborators from across different sectors, and has supported hundreds of artists, organisations and communities to develop new work, skills and connections.

Southbank Centre

The largest arts centre in the UK and one of the nation's top five visitor attractions, the Southbank Centre seeks out the world's most exciting artists, from household names to fresh new talent. They believe in the power of great art and culture to bring people together and add something amazing to people's lives. The Southbank Centre's public programme is the work they present for free in their open public spaces, with a focus on work that engages people in conversation, dancing, singing and encourages a connection with the people around you. The organisation supports artists to take risks and rethink their work to be presented in a public space. Creating work for public spaces allows artists to take ownership and authority in a public institution in the centre of London.

Counterpoints Arts and the Southbank Centre are collaborating because of a shared set of values:

- 'We support artists to share their vision and imagination with the world in their own words. Refugees and migrants make significant contributions to our arts, culture and society which often go unrecognised. They have multiple perspectives that often combine different languages, geographies and cultural perspectives, resulting in new ways of seeing and questioning.

- 'We believe in making and supporting inclusive work that makes connections across artforms and brings people and communities closer together.
- 'We believe in the potential for art to inspire social change.
- 'We believe art has the power to unite us, to heal us, to challenge us, to inspire us and we want to create a fair, safe space for this to happen, that all can engage with.
- 'We believe in democratising the use of public space, in removing the barriers to accessing our work, and in collaborating with artists and communities to make decisions together.
- 'We believe in collaborating with care, for artists, staff and audiences.'

How do I apply?

The application process has two phases.

Phase 1

Send a written or video expression of interest via this Google Form: [Expression of Interest](#)

Share your initial ideas for a piece of work and a bit about you. Please feel free to link to any websites, press or social media that might give more information. The deadline is Wednesday 5 May at 10am. Shortlisted artists are notified by Wednesday 19 May and are then asked to submit a more detailed proposal.

Phase 2

Counterpoints Arts and the Southbank Centre ask shortlisted artists to submit a more detailed application. Each shortlisted artist is paid £200 for their time. The deadline is Wednesday 9 June.

Who is reading the applications?

Both Counterpoints Arts, the Southbank Centre and independent artists evaluate all expressions of interest and applications. The panel consists of the following:

Almir Koldzic – Director, Counterpoints Arts

Dijana Rakovic – Project Manager, Counterpoints Arts

Ruth Hardie – Senior Producer Public Programme, Southbank Centre

Sarah Tarry – Participation Producer Public Programme, Southbank Centre

The successful artist is announced during Refugee Week, 14 – 20 June 2021.

Access

Please get in touch if you require this information in a different format or have any access needs that we can support with.

Get in touch

If you have any questions about this open call or how to apply, please get in touch on one of the email addresses below.

Dijana Rakovic – Project Manager, Counterpoints Arts

dijana@counterpointsarts.org.uk

Sarah Tarry – Participation Producer, Southbank Centre

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