

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

Southbank Centre Presents

The Southbank Centre is looking for eight cultural programmers and curators aged 21 – 32 to take part in Southbank Centre Presents – a bespoke programme designed to equip the next generation of cultural programmers and curators by developing their curatorial toolkit and practical experience. The work the cohort programmes and curates will sit at the heart of the Southbank Centre's 75th anniversary celebrations in the summer of 2026.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can apply for this programme?

The programme is open to cultural programmers and curators aged 21 – 32 with up to three years prior experience in programming or curation. You could be working in an organisation in a junior role in a producer, programmer or curator capacity and want to use this opportunity to continue to grow your curatorial and programming skills without needing to leave your current role. You could be working in a freelance capacity and need a peer network that empowers you to continue to learn your craft.

I'm a producer. Will this programme be useful for increasing my skills around producing?

This programme has been designed specifically for programmers and curators. There are similarities and overlaps with the skills required of producers, and we would welcome applications from producers who have experience of programming and curation and are looking to move into these roles. However, if you are looking for opportunities to develop specifically as a producer, some brilliant organisations in our sector offer the following opportunities:

[Live Event Producing](#)

[Emerging Filmmakers](#)

[Women in Film](#)

[Commercial Theatre Producing](#)

[Participatory Producing](#)

What age do I have to be to be considered?

If you haven't turned 21 or have turned 33 by 12 July 2025, your application will not be considered.

What kind of experience qualifies me to apply?

You do not need to have any qualifications to take part. But, we would like to see evidence that you are currently working, or have worked, in programming or curation in some capacity. In designing the programme, we have aimed the content for those creatives who have up to three years' experience, and as a result, experience can include curating a panel at a local arts centre, programming a multi-art form event, or any work where curation and programming have been part of your role—even in a smaller capacity. This is not a programme for complete beginners but for those who are still developing their creative voice and skills.

In the online registration form, we will ask you to upload some examples of your creative work that you are most proud of. These can be links to videos, audio files, social media profiles or websites. You can also send us attachments in the form of documents or photographs.

We are asking for examples of your work to understand more about you as an emerging creative.

What kind of time commitment does this programme require from me?

This programme is part-time and structured around monthly evening sessions, so that it allows you to balance it with work or other commitments. The majority of these sessions will take place at the Southbank Centre or other venues across London. There is a week-long residential retreat, 10 – 15 August 2025, which is outside of London with full attendance required. You will also be expected to attend any events you programme and/or curate. Commitment is essential throughout the full project.

Do I get paid to be part of the programme?

Participants will be paid for any programming and curation work at the Southbank Centre. We know that financial circumstances might prevent people from being able to get involved with programmes like Southbank Centre Presents. As such, we are offering grant payments to participants who feel that they would be prevented from taking part due to financial circumstances. This would mainly be to cover the week-long residential. If you would like to apply for a grant then we will ask you to answer these questions:

Are you currently working? Full time / part time / irregular / Not in employment currently.

Are you currently employed as PAYE or freelance?

We ask these questions to help inform us how best to allocate our grant payments. How you answer these questions has no bearing on decision making about your application.

When does the programme start and end?

The programme lasts 20 months through to the end of February 2027.

Will I get to curate or programme my own event?

Yes! As part of the cohort, you'll have the opportunity and budgetary support to curate events within the Lambeth and Southwark communities, alongside partners.

Can I curate whatever I want?

For the Southbank Centre's 75th Anniversary you will gain experience of working within a curatorial and programming brief that will provide you with structure as well as opportunities to explore your own ideas. In addition, there will be opportunities with budget and support provided to programme and curate events with local community organisations.

What kind of art forms and disciplines are included?

As a multi-art form arts venue, the Southbank Centre welcomes a broad range of interests, including:

Literature, Poetry and Spoken Word

Contemporary and Classical Music

Performance and Dance

Visual Art

Tech-based Art

Film and Moving Image

Architecture and Spatial Design

Creative Education and Community Engagement

Can I apply if I'm not based in London?

The programme involves in-person commitments at the Southbank Centre and within local communities, so proximity or ability to travel to London regularly is necessary. The Southbank Centre will not be able to financially support participant's travel from outside London.

How to Apply

Please go to the Application link here where you will need to complete our Online Application Form, where you will be able to share your work with us, along with providing information about you.

We have provided the questions below, so you can reflect on these ahead of submitting your information. If you are unable to complete your form in one go, this is fine as you can save the form and come back to it again later.

Can I record myself for the application?

Please note we cannot accept videos or audio files. If you wish to answer via an audio recording, please provide a URL link for us to access the file. This needs to be an audio file of no longer than three minutes.

When you upload your file, please ensure you label it with your full name otherwise we will not be able to match your recording to your registration form.

When is the deadline to apply?

Applications close on Sun 18 May at 11.59pm.

When will interviews be held?

Interviews will take place in person during the week commencing Mon 16 June.

What other support will I receive during the programme?

You'll receive guidance and mentoring from cultural practitioners across our art form departments. You will be offered a laptop and phone for the duration of the project, if you need these to help with your learning or work. You will be able to access workspace at the Southbank Centre where you can meet your cohort or work on your own work outside of the evening sessions.

We will also work closely with the cohort to introduce you to different departments within the Southbank Centre to broaden your understanding of how a large, multi-art form arts centre works.

Will I receive feedback if my application isn't successful?

Unfortunately, we won't be able to offer any feedback at the application stage. Anyone who comes through to the interview stage will be offered feedback if they are unsuccessful at that stage.