

Joy Artist Development Programme Information Pack



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**




The Daisy Trust
Supporting the
Hammersmith and Fulham Community

**TURTLE
KEYARTS**

1

KEY INFORMATION

Applications open: Friday 17th July, 10am

Applications close: Monday 17th August, 10am

Informal chats/interviews: w/c 17th August, by arrangement

Please note we will offer to have short, informal conversations with candidates whose applications we would like to know more about. You may be accepted onto the programme without a chat with the team, or we may invite you to talk to us about your idea if we feel we need further clarification.

Programme start date: 4th September 2026

Apply here: [ONLINE APPLICATION FORM](#)





ABOUT US

Turtle Key Arts is an innovative and vibrant arts charity with a UK and international reach.

We produce and devise original groundbreaking art that entertains and inspires.

We believe access to the arts helps improve quality of life through creative opportunities, social interaction, confidence and self-esteem.

We produce a portfolio of performing companies which currently includes Ockham's Razor, Amici Dance Theatre Company, Sadiq Ali Company, ALK Productions and Open Sky.

We design and produce arts participation projects, free to all participants, throughout the UK for disabled, disadvantaged and socially excluded people including autistic young people and adults and people living with Dementia, Dyslexia or HIV.

Visit turtlekeyarts.org.uk for more details.

“Turtle Key Arts promote many initiatives and implement a series of measures to engage with the most vulnerable and disadvantaged parts of society” Everything Theatre

connected
kes me feel connected
kes me feel connected
kes me feel connected
kes me feel connected

(x2)



3

WHAT THE PROGRAMME INVOLVES

The Joy Artist Development Programme, part of Joy Festival 2026, is designed to support emerging disabled artists in developing their professional artistic career and practice. The programme will offer 4 artists a programme of 1:1 mentoring, networking, professional seminars with leading disability arts organisations, plus rehearsal time culminating in a performance slot during the Joy Festival Studio performance week. This will be an opportunity for artists to perform a work-in-progress extract in front of an audience, of up to 15 minutes maximum.

This will be followed up with 6 months of informal mentoring with Turtle Key Arts, and you will be part of the Joy Artist Network, where we will share opportunities in the sector and offer opportunities to meet up and attend Turtle Key Arts events.

Joy Artists will be paid a total of £1000 for commissioning of the work and their involvement in the programme, plus a performance fee of £250.



4

WHO WE'RE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for emerging disabled artists who would like to take the next steps in developing their artistic career. By 'emerging', we mean people who are in the early professional stages of their career. This is someone who is serious about their artistic practice and wants to grow, but who has not yet had much professional experience or many opportunities. Professional experience usually means you have been paid. 'Emerging' does not mean somebody who is young in age - it could be someone who is older but is just starting out in their work.

The Joy Artist Development Programme is for artists who work in the performing arts. This could mean people who make theatre, dance, music, circus, spoken word – anything that would be performed live in front of an audience.

Because the programme involves a performance opportunity, we are looking for artists who have something they are currently working on.



5 DATES

Mentoring sessions:

- Session 1: Friday 4th September – in person @ Lyric Hammersmith
- Session 2: Week commencing 7th September
- Session 3: Week commencing 14th September
- Session 4: Week commencing 21st September
- Session 5: Week commencing 28th September
- Session 6: Week commencing 5th October

The specific day/time each week for sessions 2-6 will be arranged between the artist & their mentor, and can be either online or in person.

Seminars:

- Monday 7th September 3pm – 5pm
- Monday 14th September 3pm – 5pm
- Monday 21st September 3pm – 5pm
- Monday 28th September 3pm – 5pm
- Monday 5th October 3pm – 5pm

Rehearsals:

- Tuesday 6th – Friday 9th October 10am – 6pm (please note each artist will only be required one of these days)

Joy Studio Performances:

- Tuesday 13th October (tech only, time tbc)
- Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th October from 6pm

We expect artists who successfully apply to the programme to be available for all the above dates. We will make exceptions for unavoidable absence of occasional dates.





APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, we ask all applicants to answer some simple questions about themselves and the work they create. You can apply via an [online application form here](#), which also allows you to submit a video or recording for each question if you prefer. If Google Forms aren't accessible to you, please email us a Word document or video/audio file which contains your answers to the questions, which are written in full below.

If you need to apply a different way, please email niamh@turtlekeyarts.org.uk to let us know.

Selection Criteria

We will select successful artists based on the criteria below:

- The applicant is eligible for the scheme.
 - This means they are an emerging artist (someone at the early stages of their artistic career, who has limited, if any, professional experience).
 - It also means that they are somebody who identifies as D/deaf, disabled, neurodivergent and/or chronically ill.
- The artist would benefit from development support at this moment.
- Their proposed development feels clear, thoughtful or exciting.
- The scheme can realistically support what they need at this stage of their career.

We are interested in building a balanced cohort across artforms and lived experiences.

Feedback will be offered to unsuccessful applicants on request, subject to team capacity.





APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Eligibility

Joy Festival is created to support disabled, D/deaf, neurodivergent and/or chronically ill artists. Please confirm you identify as disabled, D/deaf, neurodivergent and/or chronically ill.

2. About you and your practice

Tell us about yourself and your creative practice. This can include the kind of performance, theatre, live art, music, dance, cabaret, writing or interdisciplinary work you make.

3. Tell us about the idea or project you would like to develop

What idea, skill, project or part of your practice would you like to develop through this scheme? Remember that as part of the programme, there will be a work-in-progress performance of your work.

4. Why now?

Why would this opportunity be useful to you at this point in your creative journey?

5. What support would help?

What kind of support would be most useful for you? For example: mentoring, producing advice, rehearsal space, access support, dramaturgy, peer exchange, technical advice, marketing, funding advice or help shaping a future performance.

6. Examples of your work

Please share up to 3 links, files, images, scripts, recordings or descriptions of previous work. We understand not everyone will have formal documentation, but we'd love to see it if you do!

7. Access requirements

What access support would help you take part in the application process, selection process and programme? This will be considered separately from artistic assessment.



Informational text label on the left side of the window.

ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

DR EDWARDS
& BISHOP KING'S
FULHAM CHARITY


The Daisy Trust
Supporting the
learning and social inclusion community

**TURTLE
KEYARTS**