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SYLLABUS PARTNER

RECRUITMENT PACK AUGUST 2023



Syllabus VI at Wysing, September 2020

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The Syllabus Partners (Wysing Arts Centre, Eastside Projects, Spike Island and Studio Voltaire) invite Expressions of Interest from organisations to join Syllabus as Permanent Partners or as Guest Partners.

Syllabus has secured a landmark grant of £500,000 from Freelands Foundation which will enrich the support available for artists across the next ten years, funding bursaries and access costs for artists, a new online element, an annual Artist Advisor position, robust evaluation and a dedicated Syllabus coordinator. Syllabus will resume activity from June 2024.

Permanent Partners

We are looking for two new UK-based Permanent Partners to join the existing consortium of Wysing Arts Centre (Cambridgeshire), Eastside Projects (Birmingham), Spike Island (Bristol) and Studio Voltaire (Associate Partner, London) and help deliver and shape Syllabus.

Permanent Partners commit to involvement for at least three years and contribute to Syllabus in the following ways:

- Hosting Syllabus activity developed in collaboration with the ten Syllabus artists, Artist Advisor and Syllabus Coordinator. Partners rotate programming across a four-year cycle hosting three three-day physical gatherings and one online programme across this time.
- Gatherings are co-produced with participating artists, but build on partner organisation's programmes, 'personalities' and research interests and so are an opportunity to explore and expand on shared areas of interest together. Find previous examples here: <http://www.wysingartscentre.org/archive/retreats/2020>
- Identifying a lead member of staff to attend the first and final Syllabus gatherings at Wysing (one day each gathering).
- Work with the other Syllabus partners to plan and evaluate the programme by attending at least 4 planning meetings annually (three online and one in person).
- Supporting the annual artist recruitment process by reviewing applications (one day) and joining one of the interview panels (one day).
- Supporting the marketing and communications strategy for the programme, through digital marketing and sharing news of Syllabus opportunities through your networks.
- Hosting two studio visit with Syllabus artists each year (these can be on or offline and are one hour each)

Permanent Partners receive an annual budget of £2,400 if hosting an offline gathering or £750 to host an online gathering.

We imagine the majority of this budget will be spent on delivery, and that most staff time will be provided in kind. In our experience, gatherings offer a professional development opportunity for participating staff and networks of local artists as well as the Syllabus cohort, creating opportunities to connect with artists and to think through ideas collectively.

To make participation possible for a range of organisations, we do not ask for a cash contribution to the programme.

We are looking for partners who:

- Centre artists

- Bring experience of designing and delivering artist development programmes
- Bring experience of co-production and collaboration with artists and others
- Demonstrate a meaningful commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Have organisational models, geographical locations or existing artist support activity that complements the offer from our existing consortium of partners
- Connect into networks of artists who have not historically participated in the programme (e.g by working in regions not currently covered by the current consortium of partners)

Guest Partners

We are also looking for a Guest Partner to join the seventh Syllabus from June 2024 to March 2025.

Our intention is that this role encourages participation from organisations that would not be able to commit to joining as a Permanent Partner, but who would like to be involved in the programme. We encourage Expressions of Interest from the UK and overseas from a wide range of organisations including biennials, festivals, those working outside the visual arts, smaller scale organisations, individuals, artist-led groups and collectives.

The Guest Partner will:

- Contribute to one Syllabus cycle (Syllabus VII) which runs from January 2023–April 2025
- Develop and deliver a programme contribution (a gathering, trip, exchange etc) in collaboration with the ten Syllabus artists, Annual Artist Advisor and Syllabus Coordinator. Examples of previous gatherings can be found here: <http://www.wysingartscentre.org/archive/retreats/2020>
- Contribute to the planning and evaluation of the programme by joining occasional online meetings with Syllabus Partners (maximum of 3 over a year).
- Supporting the marketing and communications strategy for the programme, through digital marketing and sharing news of Syllabus opportunities through your networks.

The Guest Partner will receive a budget of £2,000 for programming costs. You may be able to use space at Studio Voltaire as a base for your programme contribution. Please indicate if this is of interest in your EOI.

We are looking for a Guest Partner who:

- Can offer insight, experience and perspectives not provided by the current consortium of partners.
- Brings criticality and new models to Syllabus and wants to test, challenge and surprise both partners and participants.
- Is interested in collaboration, co-production and sharing knowledge and learning.

Timeline

Monday 2 October	Deadline for EOI's
Tuesday 31 October	Meetings with shortlisted Permanent Partner organisations (online)
Friday 3 November	Meetings with shortlisted Guest Partner applicants
November 2023	New Partner Announcement
January–March 2024	Syllabus VII Artist Recruitment
March–May 2024	Syllabus VII Planning
Early June 2024	Syllabus VII gathering 1: Hosted by Wysing, 4 days onsite - all partners attend 1 day. Focussed on getting to know each other, identifying key themes and sharing practice.
late June 2024	Syllabus VII gathering 2: Online. Host TBC. Focussed on planning and sharing work
End July 2024	Syllabus VII gathering 3: Offline. Host TBC
November 2024	Syllabus VII gathering 4: Offline. Host TBC Recruitment for Syllabus VIII Guest Partner
January 2025	Syllabus VII gathering 5: Offline. Host TBC Recruitment for Syllabus VIII begins (Permanent Partners)
March 2025	Syllabus VII gathering 6: Hosted by Wysing
April 2025	Evaluation and reflection

Recruitment Process:

Deadline for applications: 12 midnight, Monday 2 October 2023.

We use Submittable (an online application portal) for applications. Applications can be made via text, audio or video – please use whichever methods you prefer.

Access the Submittable portal here: <https://wysingartscentre.submittable.com/submit>

You will need to create a Submittable account. Once you have set up an account you can return to your application any time up until the deadline. Please allow enough time to approach us with any questions or queries in using the Submittable website. We are not able to accept applications after the deadline.

We want to remove as many barriers to applying as we can, so applications can be made in writing or in video or audio formats. If your access needs mean there is another method that you would prefer to use please let us know.

In your Expression of Interest, you will need to respond to the following questions:

- 1. Tell us about yourself. (If this information is on your website, feel free to just include website links)**
- 2. What interests you about Syllabus and why do you want to join as a partner?**
- 3. What do you think you could bring to Syllabus that is currently missing?**
- 4. Your contact details.**

After reviewing applications, we will invite shortlisted organisations/groups to meet with us (online) to talk your EOI through in more detail.

We expect interviews will be held on 31 October (Permanent Partners) and 3 November (Guest Partners).

Want to talk it through?

Wysing's Senior Programme Curator, John Eng Kiet Bloomfield, is available to have an informal conversation about the role. Please email john.bloomfield@wysingartscentre.org

About Syllabus

Syllabus is a collaboratively produced alternative and independent learning programme that supports ten artists across ten months. Syllabus is led by Wysing Arts Centre, with consortium partners Eastside Projects (Birmingham), Spike Island (Bristol) and Studio Voltaire (associate partner) (London). Previous partners include Iniva (London), S1 Artspace (Sheffield), New Contemporaries (roaming) and NewBridge Project (Gateshead).

In 2021, Freeland's Foundation agreed a landmark £500,000 grant to fund Syllabus as part of its multimillion pound commitment to support the work of organisations addressing racial inequality in the arts. With this grant, the future of Syllabus is secure for the next ten years.

We look forward to relaunching Syllabus in June 2024. Syllabus VII will be the first iteration of a newly expanded programme, including bursaries and access costs for artists, an online element, an annual guest partner, robust evaluation and a dedicated Syllabus coordinator.

The key aims of Syllabus are:

- To provide professional and practice development and peer to peer learning opportunities to artists who are unable to access traditional post-graduate routes or who would benefit from an intensive period of practice development.
- To diversify the arts sector
- To provide a strong peer network for artists
- To create a meaningful network of arts organisations that work together to share learning and promote best practice with regards to equality and diversity

Established in 2015, and now about to begin its seventh programme cycle, Syllabus aims to reach artists with a range of practices and artistic approaches and bring together individuals

from across the UK who have not yet (or not recently) had access to similar programmes. Through Syllabus we are particularly keen to support people who are currently underrepresented in the visual arts including artists with Global Ethnic Majority Heritage,, those who have faced socio-economic barriers, artists who identify as LGBTQ+, and those with disabilities.

Each year's Syllabus programme is built around a series of co-produced intensive gatherings, which the ten participating artists attend. During the first retreat at Wysing, Syllabus artists, individuals connected to the partner organisations, the Syllabus Coordinator and the Artist Advisor collaborate to identify broad themes for the programme. These form the starting point for an evolving, responsive curriculum that will support individual and collective artistic development and provide access to networks and knowledge across the ten months of the programme. Subsequent weekend gatherings are hosted at partner venues.

The Syllabus artists, Syllabus Coordinator and Artist Advisors work with individual organisations to shape each retreat, which in addition to responding to the interests of the Syllabus artists, reflects the research interests and specialisms and the location of the various partner organisations. Planned activities may include workshops led by the organisations' alumni artists; visits to local arts organisations, network events with local artists etc. Syllabus concludes with a final gathering at Wysing. Examples of previous gatherings can be viewed at:

<http://www.wysingartscentre.org/archive/retreats/>

Participating artists also attend one online gathering and receive mentoring. Artists are encouraged to continue sessions and discussions are continued remotely, with texts and reading lists uploaded onto a shared drive.

Syllabus VII will take place between June 2024 and March 2025, with planning and recruitment for the cohort of ten artists scheduled for Spring 2024.

About Wysing Arts Centre

Wysing Arts Centre leads the Syllabus programme.

"Wysing was founded with a utopian vision to create space for artists to live & work. Today it is ... pioneering an experimental approach to artistic practice, learning & curating." Louise Benson, Elephant Magazine, 2019

Wysing Arts Centre is a progressive organisation in a rural setting that was established in 1989. We enable artists and publics to engage their imagination freely and take creative risks; we believe that everybody has the right to time and space for creativity, away from the distractions of daily life.

The site is ten miles from Cambridge city. It holds 20 subsidised studios, accommodation for up to 80 visiting artists annually, recording and ceramics studios, flexible space to experiment, present and learn, fields, woodland, and several outdoor outworks. Work made at Wysing is seen worldwide. An accessible digital offer increases reach and archives our work; our youth programme empowers future generations.

Wysing invites artists from across the world to stay and reflect on their practice without the pressure of producing new work: time spent without a plan can often be when the best new ideas emerge. We take a proactive, intersectional approach to equity and inclusion, and often support artists who have not been well supported by mainstream gallery and funding systems. Several artists who have spent time at Wysing have gone on to be Turner-prize or Paul Hamlyn Award winners. Some artists go on to be commissioned by Wysing to make artworks, music and performance; many participate in Wysing's lively events.

Wysing engages people of all ages through artist-led workshops, events, online projects, gatherings and an alternative art school called *The Syllabus*. Our young people's programme has a focus on reaching people from rural areas. Wysing is currently building a youth council who will have decision-making powers in the organisation.

We are funded principally by Arts Council England through its National Portfolio scheme. Further funds are raised through Trusts, Foundations and via individual giving. Wysing recently received significant support from the Freelands Foundation to grow and deliver *The Syllabus* over the next decade. More can be discovered about Wysing's programme and history at wysingartscentre.org/ and wysingbroadcasts.art/



Opening event: Ain Bailey *Version 2021* Photograph: Chloe Page

About Eastside Projects

Eastside Projects is an artist-run multiverse based in a free public gallery in Digbeth. We say multiverse because 'organisation' or 'space' are not enough. We mean that we imagine Eastside Projects as a process, as a place where multiple narratives and experiences coexist, where we make visible an evolving set of possible realities.

We commission artists, make art, think-in-public, curate exhibitions, programme events, work alongside communities, build relationships, create production facilities, support artists, produce public art projects, generate and apply research, develop talent, train artist-curators, and imagine new realities.

Eastside Projects is an evolving process. We believe in working alongside others towards change and do so to support Birmingham. Our programming aims to build active communities of interest who contribute and co-produce, rather than simply consume culture. Since 2008 we

have brought world-class art to our city, now we are building a constellation of collaborators who, with us, will explore and expand the role of the artist in public life & support our city and its citizens.

Together we make art.

<https://eastsideprojects.org/>

About Spike Island

Spike Island is more than just a building; we're a public space where people can discover and connect with art, feel inspired, and learn something new or unexpected.

We celebrate the very best of international contemporary art in our museum-scale gallery spaces, while also supporting artists to develop, produce and present innovative work throughout their careers.

We want to make Bristol a great place to see and make art. That's why Spike Island provides a home to a community of over 70 artists, designers, makers, artist-led organisations and creative businesses, right in the heart of the city.

<https://www.spikeisland.org.uk/>

About Studio Voltaire Associate Partner)

Studio Voltaire is one of the UK's leading not-for-profit arts and education organisations. Championing emerging and under-represented artists, we commission and produce exhibitions, collaborative projects, artist development programmes, live events and offsite projects.

Studio Voltaire is a registered charity and part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio. We fundraise for our work through the kind support of individuals, sponsors, public funders, charitable trusts and foundations, and sales of our renowned limited edition artworks from House of Voltaire.

<https://studiovoltaire.org>