

Innovate Artists

Information for applicants

We are recruiting five more artists to join our existing cohort of Innovate Artists. Are you an early career artist (or at a critical stage in your career) ready to take risks and explore fresh ideas?



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Who are Lincoln Arts Centre

Lincoln Arts Centre is the University of Lincoln's public arts centre with a focus on contemporary visual and performing arts. We aim to become the home for the next generation of artists and artistic ideas, with a focus on contemporary visual and performing arts because we believe in a world transformed by creativity.



Image by Phil Crow

What is an Innovate Artist

A Lincoln Arts Centre Innovate Artist is an artist, company or collective either early in their career or at a critical juncture in their career. They work with Lincoln Arts Centre to develop new ideas, or support existing projects.

Innovate artists can work on self-initiated ideas or be placed on a project being delivered at the arts centre.

You will join a family of Innovate Artists from a range of disciplines which will grow each year, with between 20-25 artists, collectives or companies by the end of 2026.

So far we've worked with eleven artists and companies who have developed new ideas, built sets for their shows, developed funding bids for ideas, gone on international go-see trips and research and developed a new idea which have been tested in front of audiences.

Every year we will work with a new cohort of Innovate Artists who will receive a seed commission to explore a new artistic idea. In addition to a host of entrepreneurial guidance, templates and support to turbo charge your professional career.



Image by Phil Crow

What are we looking for

We are looking for local artists, companies or collectives:

1

We will accept applications from artists, companies or collectives based in Lincolnshire or who live within a 45-mile radius of Lincoln.

2

We will only work with artists that align with our [values](#) and our [artistic policy](#).

3

We are a multi-disciplinary arts centre and are keen to work with artists, companies or collectives that are working across: dance, theatre, visual art, music or spoken word.

We are particularly seeking artists that are interested in the following:

- ▶ Those that have a choreographic practice, with a focus on embedding technology into live performance
- ▶ New musicals or musical theatre
- ▶ Creating new popular works in any discipline specifically designed for families
- ▶ Creative health or social prescribing, with a focus on artistic practices that are already engaged in social prescribing.

Lincoln Arts Centre actively celebrates diversity. The contribution of diverse perspectives makes our world a better place. This opportunity is open to everyone. We are keen to hear from artists who are from the global majority, deaf or disabled.

What support is on offer

- ▶ Each artist will receive a £2300 seed commission for their idea
- ▶ A paid opportunity to present work-in-progress at one of our DEMOs; an evening of new work and facilitated feedback, with technical support and professional documentation
- ▶ Business support including a template business plan and set of template budgets and a fundraising strategy
- ▶ Opportunity to connect with other Innovate Artists and Lincoln Arts Centre's Associate Artists: our three-year programme for established artists with National and International reputations

Equity, Justice and Inclusion

We will do our best to meet all access needs of artists for the duration of the programme. We are aware that individual access needs can vary and change.

If you have an access request or want to talk your specific needs through with someone, please contact enquiries@lincolnartscentre.co.uk or call **01522 837600** and we'll get a member of our team to speak with you.



Image by Andrew AB Photography

What is expected from an Innovate Artist

- ▶ To be successful as an Innovate Artist, you need to be entrepreneurial, pro-active and to take charge of your own work within the structures and support available. We'll help you take risks, undertake research and develop ideas
- ▶ We'd expect you to advocate for the organisation and support us to demonstrate impact and gather insights
- ▶ Engage positively with Lincoln Arts Centre and University of Lincoln staff team and invite them to activity
- ▶ You might be asked to share your findings or your practice at a symposium or conference
- ▶ An openness and willingness to work with students and provide learning opportunities.

What we can't support

- ▶ Artists that do not live or work within Lincolnshire or within a 45-mile radius of Lincoln
- ▶ When fair pay, and fair working hours aren't considered in plans
- ▶ Where activities don't consider access.

Key dates

▶ Expressions of Interest

Opens Tuesday 20th January 2025;
Closes Monday 24th February 2025, 11.59 PM.
Interviews will take place 11th March 2025.

20
Jan

24
Feb

▶ Programme start

All Innovate Artists will be in place by early April, with public announcements taking place in May.



Image by Richard Hall

How to apply

You can apply via written or video application using this link:

Apply now



To help you to prepare your application, here are the questions we ask that you think about with how much weight we will give to each answer in our shortlisting.

- ▲ Tell us about your idea (2000 characters / 60% weighting). Pay particular attention to the 'What are we looking for' section of this document (near the bottom of page 4). You can use bullet points.
- ▲ Tell us how you would capitalise on the support offered and what it would mean for you (2000 characters / 40% weighting). You can use bullet points.

We don't expect overly long answers, keep it concise and to the point. If you want, you can include videos or images You can also listen to our audio application by [visiting this link](#).

We expect this to be an extremely competitive process. Please only apply if you think your project is relevant to this 'What are we looking for' section, on page 4 of this document.

Got questions?

We're hosting an Instagram Live session on **Friday 24th Jan at 3.00 pm.**

If you require some guidance and would like a meeting supported by a BSL interpreter, this can be arranged by emailing **enquiries@lincolnartscentre.co.uk.**



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