

OUR YEAR
Wakefield District 2024

UNBOUND

Dynamic artists for public spaces -
a development programme.

Supported using public funding by



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Call Out: 'UNBOUND' Artist Training & Mentoring Opportunities for Wakefield/ West Yorkshire Based Artists.

Have you ever dreamed of taking your art practice into the public realm and civic spaces? Do you want to learn how to make that a reality?

If you have an active arts practice and are interested in gaining knowledge and insights to enable you to develop, or diversify your career, as an artist who delivers work (such as murals, installations, sculptures and more) in public spaces and in collaboration with communities, then this bespoke training and development opportunity may just be for you!

Spread over 6 months, with a mix of in person and virtual workshops and networking opportunities, the programme also offers the chance to shadow and be mentored by an experienced artist delivering a real time project in a public space, alongside creative producers.

We have up to 12 places available on this programme which is open to West Yorkshire based artists (with preference given to artists living or working in the Wakefield district).

Alongside training and mentoring you'll have the opportunity to network as part of a cohort of West Yorkshire based artists, draw from the connections of programme producers Beam and YVAN (Yorkshire & Humber Visual Art Network), and engage with the exciting Our Year 2024 celebrations taking place across the Wakefield District.

1. KEY DETAILS

Summary: UNBOUND - an opportunity for ambitious and active early career Wakefield/ West Yorkshire based artists seeking to develop their practice to deliver artworks in public spaces.

Timeframe: August 2024 - January 2025

Time Commitment/ Format: 1 full day in person workshop, 1 x half day workshop, 4 x 3 hour Zoom workshops, plus mentoring at times to be agreed with mentor and Beam/YVAN.

Content: Specific content for the workshop programme and suitable matching with a mentor will be informed by the artist's needs assessment which forms part of the application process for this opportunity. This will be a co-created initiative.

Application Deadline: Wednesday 17th July 2024, 9am

Criteria: We are seeking 12 ambitious and dynamic West Yorkshire based artists, (with preference given to artists living or working in the Wakefield district).

Access Costs: We can provide assistance with agreed access costs. Please let us know if there are any barriers to participating in the programme which you require support with.

Travel Expenses: We can offer all candidates an expenses allowance of £100 to cover programme related travel.

Location: Wakefield, West Yorkshire & Online. We will utilise venues which have easy public transport access.

Selection Process:

- Applications will be scored based on submissions. Clarification calls may be sought w/c 22nd July prior to final selection decisions.
- Artists living and working in the Wakefield district are particularly encouraged to apply.
- We welcome applications from all regardless of their age, gender, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability, neurodivergence, religion or belief, occupation, caring responsibilities or lived experience.
- We encourage applications from those currently under-represented in the arts sector.

Partners: The programme is funded by Wakefield Council, Cultural Development Fund and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. It is being delivered on behalf of Wakefield Council by Beam and Yorkshire & Humber Visual Arts Network (YVAN).

2. CONTEXT

2.1 Public Art in the Wakefield District

In 2021, Wakefield Council published a Public Art Framework to support the development of public art across the district. The purpose of the Framework is to provide guidance to help develop the ambition of using creativity and culture as key drivers to creating more attractive places to live, work and visit and to improve the local economy, community wellbeing, skills development and help strengthen community resilience.

In March 2023, A Guide to Developing Murals & 2D Art Across the District was published to encourage the commissioning of murals and to support early career Artists in gaining skills to deliver art projects in the public realm.

For further information about the Framework and Guide please visit the Public Art webpage: www.wakefield.gov.uk/culture-and-heritage/public-art

Following the adoption of the Framework, a Public Art Steering Group was established to act in an advisory capacity to support and advocate for public art in the district, including the delivery of major new public commissions by leading UK Artists as part of the Wakefield new city centre sculpture trail. For further information about the Wakefield Sculpture Trail please visit: experiencewakefield.co.uk/sculpture-trail

2.2 Our Year

This programme is being delivered as part of 'Our Year' - Wakefield District 2024. This year-long initiative will see 366 days of cultural activities for everyone across the Wakefield District including the delivery of a number of exciting public art commissions. experiencewakefield.co.uk/our-year-2024/

2.3 Why we're doing this

The project partners want Wakefield/ West Yorkshire based artists, particularly those underrepresented in the cultural sector, to be given opportunities to grow their skills and confidence to be able to deliver creative commissions in public spaces.

This programme has been developed to address some of the challenges and barriers that exist for artists seeking to deliver their work in public spaces and we want to support both early career artists, as well as mid career artists who may wish to diversify their practice.

The programme is designed to be flexible and respond to the needs of participants. You will be asked to complete an artist's needs assessment as part of the application, which will be used to help shape the programme.

2.3 About you

- You will be highly motivated to use this professional development opportunity to take your development as an artist to the next level
- You will have a keen interest in engaging with people as part of your artistic practice
- You will have a strong interest in exploring the potential for presenting your work in public places and spaces which you will explore through this opportunity

2.4 What are the benefits?

You will gain:

- Understanding about what is involved in designing artworks for public places and spaces
- Understanding of the costs involved
- Knowledge of the practical considerations when designing and delivering artworks for public spaces
- Hands on experience around public consultation and engagement and how this can feed into the design development process
- Increased connections
- Signposting to further opportunities and networks
- Space/ time to consider how you might develop your own artistic practice in public spaces
- On completion of the programme a certificate of participation will be issued.

2.5 What will it involve?

- Following selection you will have a 121 meeting with Beam/ YVAN to outline your aspirations for the programme and to support you to develop a mentoring plan and

to help us to identify the most appropriate mentoring relationship for your needs. We can also go over your application responses and answer any queries or questions you may have at this point, including access needs. We will ask you to sign up to a mentoring agreement.

- In tandem with the 121 meetings we will also facilitate connections between you and the other members of the artist cohort to make informal introductions. This will take place over the summer.
- In autumn the workshop programme will commence with a full day in person workshop in Wakefield (venue tbc), followed by a mix of in person and online sessions covering topics such as - how and why artists work in the public realm, community and stakeholder co-creation, practicalities of delivery, and more. The specifics of the programme will be refined once we have assessed artist needs through the application process.
- Throughout the programme we will seek opportunities to make informal connections between the cohort of artists on the programme as well as with the artist mentors.
- Following allocation of an artist mentor you will be introduced and establish a mutually agreeable programme of activity - which may include - shadowing project meetings and site visits, time with the mentor during the artistic development process, supporting community engagement activity etc.
- You will be asked to keep a learning journal in line with your mentoring plan to document activity and learning and for review at the end of the programme.
- Beam and YVAN will provide ongoing support via email and phone as required.
- Upon completion an evaluation meeting will be held to review your experience and to help to signpost you to further resources and contacts.

3. OUTLINE PROCESS AND TIMEFRAME

| ACTIVITY | OUTLINE TIMING |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Brief promoted | w/c 17th June 2024 |
| Deadline for applications | Wednesday 17th July 2024, 9am |
| Clarification phone calls as required | w/c 22nd July 2024 |

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| Artist cohort appointment | By 31st July 2024 |
| Initial meeting / mentoring planning with Beam/ YVAN and potential informal meeting of the cohort. | July/ August 2024 |
| Workshop session 1 + 2 (Full day) in person - Wakefield | w/c 9th September 2024 tbc |
| Workshop session 3 - virtual (max 3 hours) | w/c 30th September 2024 tbc |
| Workshop session 4 - virtual (max 3 hours) | w/c 21st October 2024 tbc |
| Workshop session 5 - virtual (max 3 hours) | w/c 11th November 2024 tbc |
| Workshop session 6 - (Half day) in person - Wakefield | w/c 2nd December 2024 tbc |
| 1-2-1 meeting with Beam/ YVAN | 1 session - timing and format to be agreed |
| 1-2-1 meetings with mentor | Up to 4 sessions - timing and format to be agreed |

4. ACCESS & SUPPORT

- If you require support or have any access requirements to complete the application process please do not hesitate to contact us via the details below.
- If you have an Access Document you can attach this to your application.
- The application form provides space for you to provide details about any access support you may require in order to participate in the programme. If you would like a conversation about your access needs to participate - please get in contact with us directly.
- We will support the programme to be a safe space for our cohort of artists by agreeing a set of safe space guidelines with the group at the first orientation session. These will broadly follow those set out by the Social Art Network [‘Safer Spaces Agreement’](#).

5. APPLICATION PROCESS

- Deadline for applications: **Wednesday 17th July 2024, 9am.**
- To apply please access our online application form which includes a needs assessment survey. **Link:** <https://forms.gle/ESmqvCoKkeFe2oGs7>
- Please contact us if you would prefer to send your application in an alternative format such as a video or audio recording.
- Applications will be appraised on the potential for impact on the applicant's future career.
- An assessor from a diverse background will act as an external critical friend sitting on the selection panel for this opportunity. *Our critical friend is Rina Arya, Professor and Head of the School of Arts at the University of Hull. Rina has worked as a consultant for artists' organisations and as a mentor for artists. In her own research she is very interested in decolonising and the ways in which spaces and languages can be made more inclusive.*
- Clarification calls may be sought w/c 22nd July 2024 prior to final selection decisions.
- Artists living or working in the Wakefield district are particularly encouraged to apply and we intend to award a minimum of 50% of places on the programme to artists living or working in the Wakefield district, with the rest of the participants drawn from the wider West Yorkshire area.
- We welcome applications from those underrepresented in the arts sector.

6. CONTACT DETAILS

For all enquiries please contact: info@yvan.org.uk

Find out more about the delivery organisations here:

www.beam.uk.net X & Instagram [@beam_artsUK](https://www.instagram.com/beam_artsUK)

<https://www.yvan.org.uk/> X & Instagram [@yvanetwork](https://www.instagram.com/yvanetwork)

Programme delivered by:

