

Artist Commission Brief

UCL Trellis 2

Deadline for expressions of interest: 20 January 2020

UCL Public Art & Engagement East - Trellis Commission Opportunity

1. Introduction

An expression of interest is sought from artists with a current or past relationship to east London to take part in Trellis 2; a funded artist and academic research opportunity from 2020 - 2021 offered by the UCL Public Art & Engagement teams.

We are seeking artists to create meaningful partnerships with academics from UCL that engage communities in east London and result in new artwork (digital, publication, exhibition, performance). The resultant work must be demonstrated at a public exhibition in spring 2021.

We will consider visual artists from any discipline, and are especially interested in those with socially engaged practice. Researchers from all academic disciplines will be sought who have existing or future research in east London, or an interest in developing their research into the communities of east London.

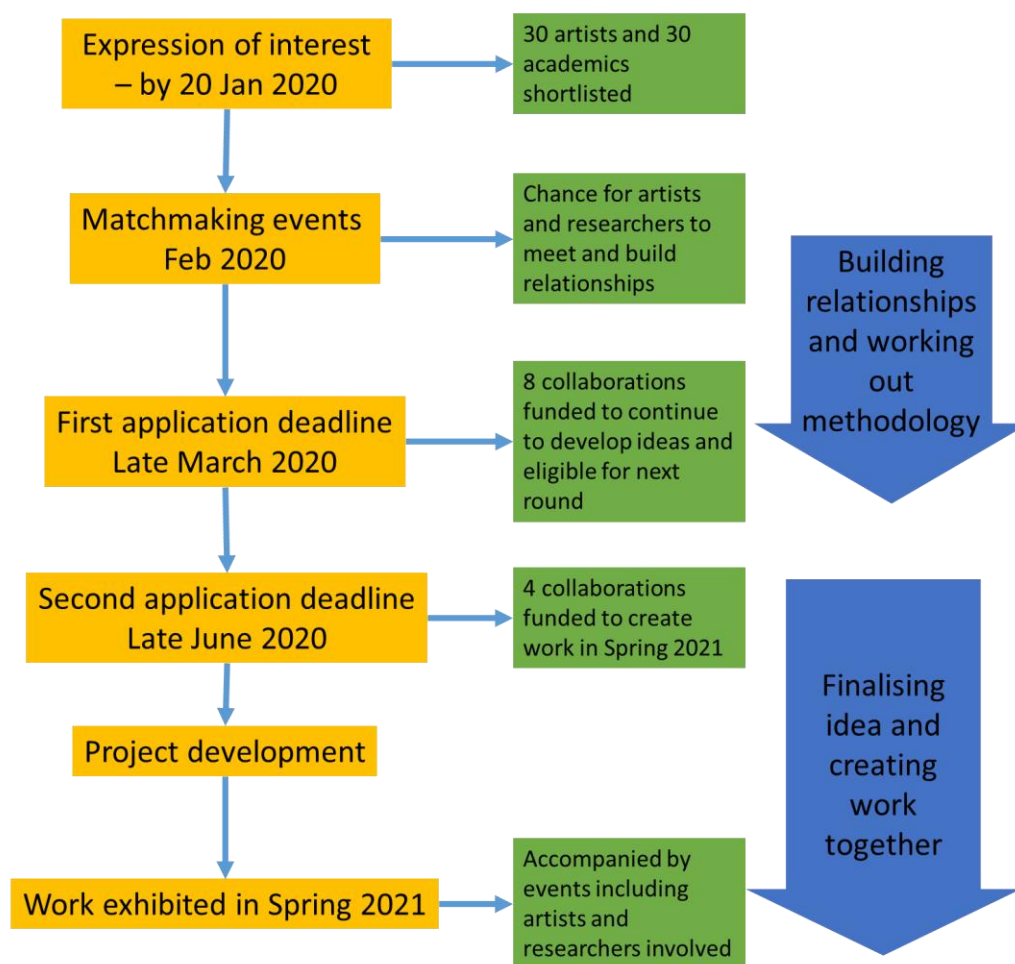
UCL is particularly interested in the boroughs of Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest, but those with links to other east London borough are welcome to apply (Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge).

Shortlisted artists and academics will be introduced in February 2020. (See below for timeline)

2. Process:

Trellis aims to be a supportive process of collaboration. The main stages are as follows:

Trellis 2 – process



Throughout this process you and any academics you work with will be supported by the independent curator, Rosie Murdoch, and members of the UCL Culture team, including Sam Wilkinson, Head of Public Art, and Lizzy Baddeley, Trellis Project Manager.

Detailed timeline:

Event	Date
Expression of interested deadline	20 January 2020
Matchmaking Events (it is compulsory to be able to attend at least one of these, and recommended to attend both)	Tuesday 11 th Feb 2020 – 12-3pm Wednesday 26 th Feb 2020 – 6pm-9pm
First Application deadline	Sunday 29 th March 2020
Announcement of 8 collaborations (Each funded £2,000)	Monday 6 th April 2020
Second Application deadline	Sunday 28 th June 2020

Presentations	Tuesday 7 th July 2020
Announcement of 4 commissioned (Each funded £15,000)	Monday 13 th July 2020
Making Phase	July 2020 - March 2021
Results Shared	Spring 2021 (details TBC)

3. Themes:

We will be recruiting UCL academic researchers concurrently with artists, and so it is not yet confirmed what research interests they may have.

However, we will be focusing on the following thematic areas, which are at the heart of the UCL East expansion, and so are looking for artists who can see potential in their practice around:

- Culture
- Engineering
- Technology
- Social Science
- Business
- Urban Living
- Natural Environment

Artists and researchers at UCL may have already formed academic and artist collaborations and we welcome applications from these artists, please indicate this relationship and who it is with in the expression of interest.

4. Expression of Interest

We are not asking you to spend ages on an application at this stage, the process (outlined above) is designed to select partnerships through a process of meetings, discussion, a joint written application and then funded collaborative research.

In order to be transparent and to help you understand if this process is likely to suit you we will be looking for evidence of your preparedness for becoming a Trellis artist through this process. It is expected that you will demonstrate one or more of the following attributes:

1. A significant and demonstrable interest in east London as a landscape and its community.
2. An ability to respond to research in your thinking.
3. An ability to collaborate in your art practice.
4. An established approach to working with communities, academics, public spaces.

An expression of interest is due by 20th January 2020 and should be sent to public.art@ucl.ac.uk.

Any enquiries in advance should also be sent to this address and will be responded to by the curator Rosie Murdoch, who is overseeing the longlisting process with Sam Wilkinson, Head of Public Art for UCL.

Please send a PDF saved as "Application [your name]":

- Artist name
- Email address, postal address and telephone number
- A short statement on how you demonstrate one or more of the attributes outlined above, and why you are interested in the opportunity. You do not need to cover all of the attributes in this expression of interest, as we will ask for more of this at a later stage.
- Your availability for the matchmaking events on Tuesday 11 or Wednesday 16 February.
- A link to your website and/or three images attached as a PDF.

Expressions of interest and images should be **no longer than two single sides of A4** saved as PDF.

We are **not** calling for ideas for works or partnerships (unless you already have a relationship with an academic at UCL, in which case please give the name of the UCL researcher). **All ideas should be formed in collaboration with UCL academics following the matchmaking events.**

Please indicate any current or historic relationship you have with UCL. This could be as a student, employee, collaborator or organisational involvement.

Please submit expressions of interest to public.art@ucl.ac.uk

Please ensure you include 'Trellis' in the subject line.

All documents submitted will be stored by UCL and shared with Rosie Murdoch, independent curator, for the purposes of shortlisting.

You will be notified if you have been successful by Friday 31st January.

5. Context

Trellis:

Trellis 2 builds on a pilot which took place in 2018-19. The Trellis pilot brought together a group of 40 researchers and artists and resulted in nine initial knowledge exchange partnerships, and four commissioned works which were displays in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park during October 2019. [More information.](#)

UCL Public Art:

This project is the first in a programme of initiatives where we support artist/researcher collaborations. UCL Public Art whilst in its infancy is establishing opportunities for artists to work with academics across UCL, to animate the campus through programmes of temporary and performance works, to integrating permanent work into the Bloomsbury Estates and at UCL East.

The public art programme is also tied into the Museum and Art collections at UCL to widen access and engagement with the UCL collections.

UCL East:

UCL has embarked on an extensive building and refurbishment programme – Transforming UCL. This is about creating sustainable spaces that meet UCL’s world-class aspirations and commitment to excellence and innovation.

Transforming UCL is the largest capital programme in the University’s history. It will see substantial investment of over £1.2 billion over the next 10 years to refurbish and develop some of our most iconic buildings whilst also bringing forward new world class buildings. Together these will enable and support the University’s continued growth as we continue to build now and for the future.”

“UCL was founded in 1826. The first English university established after Oxford and Cambridge. UCL was the first to open up university education to those previously excluded from it, and the first to provide systematic teaching of law, architecture and medicine. As London’s Global University, UCL is among the world’s top universities, as reflected by its performance in a range of international rankings. UCL currently has over 41,000 students from 150 countries and over 13,000 staff.”

UCL’s Bloomsbury campus has limited room for growth and UCL East presents a unique opportunity to build an open and accessible new campus pioneering a radical approach to cross-disciplinary working, partnership, collaboration and public engagement.

A new UCL campus on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park will be the largest single expansion of UCL since its foundation in 1826.”

For more information visit <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-east/>