



Trellis 5 Curator

£20,000 set fee

Deadline: 15 May at 9.00am.

Overview

The Cultural and Community Engagement team for UCL East campus are looking for a Curator for Trellis 5. This role will work with artists to support the conceptual development of their artworks and lead on the curatorial vision of the Trellis 5 exhibition in March 2025.

[Trellis](#) is a multi-stage art commissioning programme that connects artists, UCL researchers, and local east London communities to co-create work together.

The programme began in 2018, when the first cohort of artists and researchers came together at a matchmaking event designed so artists and researchers could explore their shared interests. Since then, we have worked with over a hundred artists and researchers, and many local community individuals and organisations through a process which has so far led to 21 commissions across four exhibitions.

Each exhibition has been thematically framed by a curator who worked with the artists and their collaborators throughout the programme. We are now looking for the next curator to bring fresh ideas and vision to the programme with an ethos of collaboration and experimentation underpinning their work. Trellis 5 will consist of five new artist, researcher, and community collaborative commissions which will be exhibited in March 2025 in UCL East.

The curator will join the team in June 2024, in time to be part of the final commissioning panel (19 June), where the 5 commissions will be chosen from a shortlist of 11.

Key responsibilities:

The curator will lead on:

Supporting the Trellis commissions to develop their work. This will include:

- Taking part in bi-monthly meetings with each of the commissions and the project manager, organised in collaboration with the project manager.
- Responsibility for documenting meetings and sharing with project team members.
- Organising studio visits and other ad hoc meetings with artists to support the development of their work, ensuring it will be delivered to a high quality, on time, and on budget.
- Providing ad hoc support and advice around design, development, and realisation of the artworks.
- In collaboration with the project manager, work with the artists and researchers where necessary to support their partnerships with local communities or individuals who will play a part in the projects.
- Stay in regular communication with the artists to understand the development of their project and identify potential challenges as they emerge.
- Support the development of interpretation for the exhibition and ensure that the voices of the artists, researchers, and community collaborators are present in the work and the exhibition.

Working with UCL Cultural and Community Engagement and UCL staff more widely. This will include:

- Working closely with the Project Manager for Trellis (Lizzy Baddeley) on all aspects of the programme. This will include a weekly check in meeting or phone call, sharing updates from the commissions, collaborating on budget tracking etc.
- Collaborating with the Exhibition Manager for UCL East (Matilda Blackwell) on the design, interpretation, and installation of the final exhibition.
- Collaborating with wider members of the Cultural and Community Engagement team on ideas for public programming as part of the exhibition phase.
- Attending meetings with the communications lead (to be identified) in the lead up to the exhibition, and share curatorial vision to inform communications.
- The curator will not be responsible for contractual and financial management aspects of the project, aside from supporting the commissions to stay on budget.
- In order to facilitate team relationship building, the curator is expected to spend time working in the UCL East offices. The amount of time is negotiable, but may be something like one day a fortnight.

Developing a delivering a curatorial vision for exhibition. This will include:

- Working with all commissions, the Project Manager, and the Exhibition Manager to draw out a narrative for the exhibition.
- Leading on the final curatorial vision and narrative which will be used for the exhibition communications, interpretation, and visitor journey.
- The curator will also be part of the commissioning panel for Trellis 5. This will involve reading the applications for the 11 shortlisted collaborations, and scoring both these and a presentation made in the panel meeting.

Pay and hours

The fee for this work is £20,000 and the work would take place between June 2024 and April 2025.

We expect to appoint a self-employed individual who will be paid by invoice. However we are open to hearing from applicants with different working arrangements or job shares.

We have suggested a breakdown of time below, based on a day rate of £300, but this is a suggestion only and we would work with the appointed curator to refine this.

Project timeline:

Month	Main tasks and milestones	Suggested number of days for curator (65 total)
June	Curator start in post. Reading of the 11 artist-researcher applications between the 5 – 19 June. Commissioning panel meeting on 19 June.	3
July	Undertake curatorial kick-off meetings with commissions. Initial meetings with Cultural and Community Engagement Team.	4
August	Summer – unlikely to be much activity with groups. Research and planning.	3
September	Curatorial Meeting 2 – focus on community engagement and discussion around the likely direction of travel for the artwork.	3

October	Studio visits with artists, attending community events if appropriate.	5
November	Curatorial Meeting 3 – confirming the final artwork in terms of media, fabrication, and realisation. The practicalities and process for involving artist, researcher and community will be honed and ready to discuss. Starting to think about exhibition, events and install.	5
December	Draft curatorial vision in place, and kick off with communications lead.	4
January	Curatorial Meeting 4 – Confirming approach for installation / exhibition of the artwork confirming dates and budgets as appropriate.	8
February	Finalise interpretation and install plan, ensure art work making is complete.	10
March	Exhibition install and opening, events, networking etc.	15
April	Deinstall and wrap up/feedback with team.	5

Person criteria:

The opportunity is based at UCL East as part of our east London cultural and community engagement activity. We are particularly interested in applications from curators are from or who have a deep relationship with the east London and its artistic community and in relation to how artists engage and work in partnership with communities.

Essential:

1. **Curatorial Experience:** Previous experience curating exhibitions, preferably in a collaborative and community-focused context.
2. **Curatorial Experience:** Experience developing a curatorial vision to inform communications, interpretation and visitor experience.
3. **Artistic and Cultural Awareness:** A strong understanding of contemporary art practices and cultural trends.
4. **Community Engagement:** Understanding of community engagement principles and experience in supporting artists with a socially engaged practice.
5. **Community Engagement:** Sensitivity to cultural diversity and inclusion in community interactions.
6. **Supporting Artist Development:** Experience of supporting artists to develop their artistic practice through a period of art-making, including helping them creatively overcome challenges.
7. **Collaboration Skills:** Ability to effectively collaborate with artists, researchers, and community members.
8. **Team Collaboration:** Ability to work and communicate effectively within a multidisciplinary team, including UCL staff and project managers.
9. **Adaptability and Flexibility:** Flexibility to adapt to evolving project needs and circumstances and ability to adapt to feedback and integrate new ideas into the curatorial approach.
10. **East London links:** Strong links in east London, either through living here or a strong record of work in the area.

Desirable

1. **Experience of research/art collaboration:** Previous experience supporting collaborations between artists and researchers.

We encourage applications from those who are underrepresented in the sector and at UCL including but not exclusive to: non-graduates, disabled, D/deaf and neurodiverse people, LGBTQ+ people, people from Black, Asian and global majority backgrounds – especially women. We also welcome applicants from a range of educational backgrounds and do not ask for any formal qualifications.

Application process

Deadline for application: 15 May 9.00am

If you are interested in this role, we would like to invite you to apply by sending us:

1. A short-written expression of interest, no more than 2 side of A4.
2. Your CV or a list of relevant past projects you have worked on.

In your written expression of interest please include:

- How you fit the person criteria based on your previous experience.
- Why this project is of interest to you.
- The values you bring to your work.

You are welcome to include links to further information online but please ensure that the information about how you fit the criteria is explained in your written application.

If there is any way that we can make the application process more accessible for you and so easier for you to take part in, please just let us know. You can contact Lizzy on e.baddeley@ucl.ac.uk

Shortlisting and interview

Your application will be read by the interview panel and if successful you will be invited to an interview on **23 May**.

The interview panel will be:

- Lizzy Baddeley, Community Engagement Manager, UCL East and Trellis Project Manager
- Sam Wilkinson Head of Public Art and Cultural and Community Engagement UCL
- A previous artist commissioned by Trellis (TBC).

Further information

Those interested in applying for this role are welcome to [book a short phone call](#) with a member of the UCL East Cultural and Community Engagement Team [via this link](#) to chat about any questions you may have.

Alternatively, you can contact Lizzy Baddeley on e.baddeley@ucl.ac.uk