

CONSTELLATIONS 2022

Open call for artists, curators, producers, and practitioners active and/or interested in the expanded field of public art

Open call dates: 19 November 2021 - 9 January 2022



Image courtesy of UP Projects

Introduction

We are pleased to announce the open call for [Constellations](#), our free, nine-month learning and development programme for artists, curators, producers, and practitioners active and/or interested in the expanded field of public art.

Constellations is curated and delivered by [UP Projects](#), working in partnership with [Flat Time House](#) and [Liverpool Biennial](#). By 'the expanded field of public art', we mean the work that happens at the intersection of contemporary art and culture, social practice, and the public realm.

The programme explores issues and best practice in relation to this field and supports a diverse group of practitioners - the [Constellations ° Cohort](#) - to develop their practice, collaborate with others, access new networks, and contribute to critical debate surrounding the future of public practice.

The cohort will take part in two strands of activity, taking place between March and November 2022:

- Six online [Assemblies](#) - events that explore urgent lines of enquiry relating to contemporary public art and social practice, involving a range of UK and international speakers.
- Fifteen in-depth seminars, workshops and mentoring sessions which underpin and unpick the discussions above, devised specifically for the cohort of ten early-mid career practitioners from across the country - selected via this open call.

All *Assemblies* will take place within UP Projects' digital participation space, [The Hall](#), along with the majority of the workshops, seminars and mentoring sessions attended by the cohort. However, the cohort will meet in person, together with the programme organisers and partners, at the launch and closing of the programme at Liverpool Biennial's offices and Flat Time House, London, respectively.

Constellations advocates for a broader, more nuanced, understanding of what it means to commission artwork for a public context and work in socially engaged ways. In the UK, while there are increasing opportunities for this mode of practice, there are very few opportunities to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills. Emphasis is often placed on learning on the job which carries risk, particularly when working with communities and vulnerable groups.

Constellations will explore several urgent lines of enquiry addressing notions that point to structural change. These will include questions around how socially-engaged practice can inspire societal shifts, the role of democracy in this work, and how we move beyond sustainability. The participants selected to take part in the cohort will explore the lines of enquiry in relation to their own practices and approaches to making work.

To find out more about the programme, join us for an online event in December 2021 when the lines of enquiry will be announced. Please follow us on social media for more news of this event.

UP Projects has worked in collaboration with Flat Time House on an artist development programme since 2017, and this year we are excited to extend the invitation to curators and public art practitioners as well as artists. The programme draws on the history of John Latham's house as a site for experimental art education where students, artists and the wider public can come together to test the boundaries of what is teachable and knowable. The programme also builds on the legacy of Latham's work as a founding member of the Artist Placement Group, a pioneering organisation in the history of socially engaged practice initiated in 1966 by Barbara Steveni.

UP Projects is also excited to introduce a new partnership with Liverpool Biennial, the largest festival of contemporary visual art in the UK, offering the cohort the opportunity to expand their networks across the North of England and beyond. Independent curator and writer [Jes Fernie](#) is also working with us to develop the programme, bringing her expertise of expanded practice into the mix.

Constellations aligns with UP Projects' core value 'Learning to Learn', which promotes a collaborative and participatory approach to learning and further establishes UP Projects' role as a sector-supporting organisation.

The programme aims to nurture an inclusive generation of public art practitioners that is representative of the diverse communities the sector serves.

Constellations is generously supported by Art Fund, Arts Council England, The Barrington Hibbert Associates Access Fund, and the *Constellations* Patrons and UP Supporters. To find out more please visit our [Support Us page](#). *Constellations* is directed by Emma Underhill, curated by Elisabeth Del Prete and delivered by Jack Newbury at UP Projects. Independent curator and writer Jes Fernie, Gareth Bell Jones and Mary Vettise at Flat Time House, and Sam Lackey and Lily Mellor at Liverpool Biennial are also contributing to the curatorial development of the programme.

The Barrington Hibbert Associates Access Fund

UP Projects firmly believes that development opportunities should be provided free of charge. The programme costs are covered by grant funding from Art Fund and Arts Council England to enable participants to access the programme for free. We do, however, require participants to commit to attending **all** events, workshops, seminars and mentoring sessions held online and in person between March 2022 and November 2022.

In addition, we offer an [Access Fund](#) which covers travel and accommodation costs to and from Liverpool and London, and contributes to any specific access needs including, but not limited to, British Sign Language (BSL) and live caption interpretation, assistive technology and tech materials, additional travel support and/or accessible travel, and supporting with care responsibilities. Live captioning and BSL interpretation will also be available during all *Assemblies*.

In order to be able to support you and meet your needs we encourage you to let us know about any specific access requirements you may have. If any disability or other specific access requirements are disclosed, we will contact you to discuss support requirements you may have and the ways in which these can be met, both during the interview process and as part of the programme.

Constellations ° Cohort

Practitioner-led workshops, Seminars and Mentoring Sessions

As a member of the cohort of ten, early-mid career practitioners selected via this open call you will attend the series of six online *Assemblies* and a programme of workshops, seminars and mentoring sessions.

Practitioner-led workshops aim to offer a diverse range of perspectives and approaches in relation to the expanded field of public art and will be led by invited experts, researchers, artists and practitioners. Workshops may include short presentations and will encourage you to experiment with alternative forms of learning through activities, exercises, and discussions among group members, each addressing a different line of enquiry.

Together with the online events, the practitioner-led workshops will provide you with opportunities to develop an advanced understanding of contemporary, socially engaged art and public art debates in relation to the programme lines of enquiry; developing innovative ideas that challenge the understanding of your practice and approaches to produce/curate projects in the expanded field of public art, and articulate how your own practice is positioned in relation to contemporary socially engaged art and public art debates.

You can find here a list of contributors to previous iterations of the [*Constellations artist development programme*](#) and the [*Assembly pilot 2021*](#).

Seminars will be facilitated by Flat Time House and UP Projects to open up discussion and reflect on the lines of enquiry addressed during the *Assemblies*, including how these relate to your individual practices.

The in-depth analysis, critical thinking, and creative experimentation that you undertake will inform the content of the final *Assembly* as well as help define lines of enquiry for future *Constellations* programmes. The seminars are also an opportunity for you to learn about each other's practices and develop strategies of mutual support and collaboration.

Supporting individual development, each member of the cohort will be offered three **mentoring sessions** with established practitioners (curators, practitioners or artists) over the course of the programme.

During both the seminars and mentoring sessions, you will be encouraged to translate contextual knowledge developed during seminars and workshops into your individual practice; innovating, taking risks, and experiment with your own approaches to making work.

Resources

Online resources will be produced throughout the *Constellations* programme and hosted on UP Projects' website. These will include accessible event recordings and texts capturing a critical overview of the key issues, salient points, and lines of enquiry for the public art sector.

Schedule

March 2022:

- Assembly event, 16 March 2022, online (12:00 - 13:15 BST)
- Practitioner-led workshop, 19 March 2022, Liverpool Biennial (full day, in person activities)
- Seminar, 20 March 2022, Liverpool Biennial (full day, in person activities)

May 2022:

- Assembly event, 18 May 2022, online (12:00 - 13:15 BST)
- Practitioner-led workshop, 19 May 2022, online (10:00 - 13:00 BST)
- Seminar, 20 May 2022, online (10:00 - 13:00 BST)
- Mentoring, 20 May 2022, online (14:00 - 15:00 BST)

June 2022:

- Assembly event, 15 June 2022, online (12:00 - 13:15 BST)
- Practitioner-led workshop, 16 June 2022, online (10:00 - 13:00 BST)
- Seminar, 17 June 2022, online (10:00 - 13:00 BST)

July 2022:

- Assembly event, 20 July 2022, online (12:00 - 13:15 BST)
- Practitioner-led workshop, 21 July 2022, online (10:00 - 13:00 BST)
- Seminar, 22 July 2022, online (10:00 - 13:00 BST)
- Mentoring, 22 July 2022, online (14:00 - 15:00 BST)

September 2022:

- Assembly event, 14 September 2022, online (12:00 - 13:15 BST)
- Practitioner-led workshop, 15 September 2022, online (10:00 - 13:00 BST)
- Seminar, 16 September 2022, online (10:00 - 13:00 BST)

November 2022:

- Assembly event, 2 November 2022, online (12:00 - 13:15 BST)
- Mentoring, 3 November 2022, online (14:00 - 15:00 BST)
- Practitioner-led workshop, 5 November 2022, Flat Time House, London (full day, in person activities)
- Seminar, 6 November 2022, Flat Time House, London (full day, in person activities)

Eligibility and Submissions

Please confirm within your application that you meet the following criteria:

- You are based in the UK.
- You are able to articulate why a programme that explores issues and best practice in relation to the expanded field of public art is beneficial to your practice.
- You have an interest in developing or further developing your practice, collaborating with others and accessing new networks.
- You have been out of formal accredited education for at least two years. This means you will have completed your course during or before 2019. You are not required to have undergone formal art school training and no further education qualifications are required. However, you should demonstrate at least two years of experience of working at the intersection of contemporary art, social practice and public realm.
- You can commit to attending all 21 sessions (events, workshops, seminars, and mentoring sessions) between March - November 2022.

Eligibility and Submissions Details

Submission Deadline: 9 January 2022 at 23:00 BST

To apply, please send the following information in the form of a PDF of no more than 10MB to constellations@upprojects.com responding to the following questions:

- Why is this learning opportunity of interest to you and how would it help you develop your work? (max 200 words)
- How does your practice reflect an interest in working at the intersection of contemporary art and culture, social practice, and the public realm? (max 200 words)
- What is your experience of involving people and communities in debate, collaboration or social interaction as part of your work? (max 200 words)
- When working with people and communities, how do you consider issues surrounding equity, diversity and inclusion? (max 200 words)
- During one of the seminars, we would like you to facilitate a 1-hour session attended by the rest of the cohort. What might the focus of that session be, and how might you facilitate it? (max 200 words)

Please supply the following items in your PDF:

- A maximum of five images of your work/projects you have curated or produced and/or links to websites or other relevant material.
- A current CV (please include your contact number, email and home address).
- We welcome applications from practitioners with any disability or specific access needs. Applicants with a disability or specific access needs are encouraged to complete the Disability Disclosure Form, so we can discuss any specific support requirements you may have. Please follow this [link](#) to access the form. The information in this form will be kept strictly confidential on a secure server and for no more than 1 year.
- A completed Equal Opportunities and Monitoring Form available to download [here](#). We will use a positive action approach in selecting the participants in the cohort and the information in this form will be used to ensure we are meeting our equal opportunities objectives. It will be kept strictly confidential on a secure server and for no more than 1 year. Should you be successful some of this information will be reported to our funder the Arts Council England in an anonymised form.

Applications may be made using alternative formats such as video or audio (max duration 15 minutes), rather than in writing. Please submit the application to constellations@upprojects.com, and please do contact us if you have any questions regarding the open call, submissions details or the access fund.

Online Interviews will be held on w/c 24 January 2022 and successful applicants will be notified by the w/c 31 January 2022.