

Constellations ° Cohort 2023

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

Open call dates: 2 March - 9 April 2023



Image courtesy of UP Projects / Image description: A cream triangle graphic overlaid with navy words saying "Constellations [dot] Open Call" on a pink background.

Introduction

UP Projects, in partnership with Flat Time House, and in association with Liverpool Biennial, have launched an open call for [Constellations 2023](#), our free, eight-month learning and development programme for artists, curators, producers, and practitioners active or interested in the expanded field of public art*.

Constellations 2023 supports a group of ten early to mid-career practitioners from across the UK, 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 programme will explore urgent lines of enquiry and best practice in relation to this field, including principles underpinning alternative economies, notions of care, and the potential of art to help communities reimagine new futures.

The *Constellations ° Cohort*, selected from across the UK, will take part in three strands of activity, taking place between July 2023 and February 2024:

- *Constellations ° Cohort* sessions - Fifteen in-depth seminars, workshops and mentoring sessions attended by the cohort. Two in-person gatherings will take place in Liverpool and Southampton, all other sessions will be online.
- [Constellations ° Assemblies](#) - Three free online events open to all artists, curators and practitioners, involving a range of UK and international speakers.
- *Constellations ° Conference* - A series of panel discussions and workshops taking place in Southampton in October and open to all artists, curators and practitioners. The conference is curated by UP Projects and presented in partnership with John Hansard Gallery. It is part of *Co-Creating Public Space*, led by John Hansard Gallery and supported by Arts Council England.

This year we are also pleased to collaborate with [Deveron Projects](#) who will offer one member of the 2023 cohort the opportunity to undertake a paid residency in Huntly, Aberdeenshire in Autumn 2024.

Artists, curators and public art practitioners are often required to adapt and learn while “on-the-job” which carries risk, particularly when working with communities and vulnerable groups. While there are increasing opportunities for socially engaged work, there are very few opportunities to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills. *Constellations* supports practitioners to develop their practice, helping them sustain their careers and develop new ways of working with communities and in public contexts.

UP Projects has partnered with Flat Time House on *Constellations* since 2017, drawing on the legacy of John 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. Flat Time House supports active research into this context and *Constellations* builds 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.

In addition, our partners Liverpool Biennial and John Hansard Gallery offer the *Constellations* ° *Cohort* the opportunity to expand their networks across the North, the Southwest of England and beyond. The programme includes the opportunity to meet in-person, together with the teams from the partner organisations, in Liverpool during the 2023 Liverpool Biennial and in Southampton during the conference.

UP Projects firmly believes that development opportunities should be provided free of charge. The programme costs are covered by our generous funders 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 July 2023 and February 2024 (See dates outlined below).

Constellations 2023 is curated by UP Projects in partnership with Flat Time House and in association with Liverpool Biennial. It includes a conference in partnership with John Hansard Gallery as part of *Co-Creating Public Space*. *Constellations 2023* is generously supported by Arts Council England, the Barrington Hibbert Associates Access Fund, and the *Constellations* Patrons.

* 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 Barrington Hibbert Associates Access Fund



Barrington Hibbert Associates ACCESS FUND

Credit: Image: Courtesy of UP Projects / Image description: A lilac semi-circle overlaid with the words "Barrington Hibbert Associates Access Fund" on a cream background.

At UP Projects we endeavour to make our programmes as accessible as possible to ensure that people from the broadest range of backgrounds are supported and encouraged to take part. We recognise that access to development and career progression opportunities in the arts and culture sector can be challenging, particularly for those from low socio-economic backgrounds or with protected characteristics that are underrepresented in the cultural workforce. We also recognise that the causes of disadvantage do not exist independently, and that a combination of intersecting identities can affect access to opportunity and result in discrimination. We welcome applications from those who are underrepresented in the cultural workforce including people from the Global Majority, LGBTQ+ community, people with disabilities and/or long-term health conditions, those with caring responsibilities, and from a low socio-economic background.

If you are invited for an interview, we encourage you to let us know about any specific access requirements you may have by completing an **Access Requirements Disclosure Form**. The form is optional to complete, and only encouraged if applicable to you. If any disability or other specific access requirements are disclosed within your application, we may contact you further to discuss how we can best meet your needs during the interview process, and if selected, how we can best support you during the programme. Further information can be found below under **How to Apply**.

The [Barrington Hibbert Associates Access Fund](#) covers return travel and accommodation costs to the in-person sessions in Liverpool and Southampton. The fund also contributes towards specific individual access needs on a case-by-case basis, including but not limited to, British Sign Language (BSL) and live caption interpretation, providing assistive technology and digital equipment, additional travel support and/or accessible travel, and supporting those with care responsibilities.

Constellations ° Cohort

Practitioner-led workshops, Seminars and Mentoring sessions

As a member of the cohort, you will attend the series of online *Assemblies*, the **conference** in Southampton, and a programme of **workshops**, **seminars** and **mentoring** sessions taking place both online and in person.

Workshops: Three online **practitioner-led workshops** will be led by invited artists and practitioners, offering a diverse range of perspectives and approaches in response to the lines of enquiry. Workshops may include short presentations and will encourage you to test new ideas through activities, exercises, and discussions among group members. Together with the online events, the practitioner-led workshops will provide you with opportunities to develop an advanced understanding of social practice and public art debates. This may challenge the understanding of your practice and approach to delivering projects, and help you articulate how your practice is positioned in relation to the lines of enquiry.

Seminars: A series of **seminars**, facilitated by artist and *Constellations* alumni [Youngsook Choi](#), will take place in person and online. During the seminars, cohort members will expand and explore further the discussions that the lines of enquiry addressed during the *Assemblies*, the *Conference*, and the workshops. The seminars will also provide you with the opportunity to learn about each other's practices, experiment with your own approaches to making work and develop strategies of mutual support and collaboration. The in-depth analysis, critical thinking, and creative experimentation that members of the cohort undertake during the seminars will inform one of the lines of enquiry to be explored as part of *Constellations 2024*. More information about this process of co-creation, including how terms of collaboration are defined, and how the line of enquiry developed by the cohort is framed and credited as part of the *Constellations 2024*, will be shared and discussed with the cohort during the introductory session in July.

Mentoring: Supporting individual development, each member of the cohort will be offered **three mentoring sessions** with established practitioners selected in accordance with specific skills and/or areas of knowledge you may wish to develop over the course of the programme. During both the seminars and mentoring sessions, you will be encouraged to bring the knowledge developed during the *Assemblies*, the conference and the workshops into your individual practice, innovating, taking risks, and experimenting with your own approaches to your work.

You can find a list of contributors to the previous iterations of *Constellations* [here](#).

Resources

Online resources will be produced as part of the *Constellations* programme and hosted on UP Projects' [Resource Library](#). These will include accessible event recordings with BSL interpretation and captions, and a conference resource by UP Projects in partnership with John Hansard Gallery.

Schedule

July 2023:

- Introductions facilitated by UP Projects & Flat Time House, 10 July [online - 10:00 - 13:00]
- Assembly, 12 July [online - 14:00 - 15:15]
- Practitioner-led workshop, 13 July [online - 10:00 - 13:00]
- Mentoring, w/c 17 July [online - 13:00 - 14:00]

August 2023:

- [Cohort and team arrive in Liverpool 4 August in the evening]
- Liverpool Biennial with seminar + other Biennial activities, 5 August
- Liverpool Biennial with seminar + other Biennial activities, 6 August
- [End of activities in Liverpool 6 August late afternoon]

September 2023:

- Seminar, 15 September [online - 10:00 - 13:00]

October 2023:

- Conference, October [John Hansard Gallery - full day & in-person panel discussion, workshops + other sessions]*
- Seminar, October [John Hansard Gallery - 10:00 - 13:00]*
- Mentoring, w/c 23 October [online - 13:00 - 14:00]

November 2023:

- Assembly, 15 November [online - 14:00 - 15:15]
- Practitioner-led workshop, 16 November [online - 10:00 - 13:00]
- Seminar, 17 November [online - 10:00 - 13:00]
- Mid-programme evaluation session, 24 November [online - 11:30 - 13:00]

January 2024:

- Assembly, 24 January [online - 14:00 - 15:15]
- Practitioner-led workshop, 25 January [online - 10:00 - 13:00]
- Seminar, 26 January [online - 10:00 - 13:00]
- Mentoring, w/c 29 January [online - 13:00 - 14:00]

February 2024:

- Presentation by Flat Time House, 27 February [online - 10:00 - 13:00]
- Seminar, 28 February [online - 10:00 - 13:00]
- Evaluation session, 29 February [online - 11:30 - 13:00]

*Any sessions noted as TBC will be shared during the interview stage (17 - 21 April 2023).

How to Apply

Submission deadline: 9 April 2023 at 23:59 BST

Please consider the following before applying:

Are you based in the UK?	Yes	No
Have you been out of formal accredited education for at least two years? <i>[This means you will have completed your course during or before 2021. You are not required to have undergone formal art school training and no further education qualifications are required. However, you should be able to demonstrate at least two years of experience of working at the intersection of contemporary art, social practice and public realm]</i>	Yes	No
Can you commit to attending all session dates (events, workshops, seminars, and mentoring sessions) between July 2023 - February 2024?	Yes	No

If you have answered “yes” to all the above questions, please proceed to the second part of the application form. If you have answered “no” to any of the above questions, unfortunately you are not eligible to apply.

To apply, please send the following information as a PDF or video recording (max 10Mb - max 5 mins) 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 also supply the following items with your submission:

- A maximum of five images of projects you have curated or produced and/or links to webpages or other relevant material
- A current CV (please include your contact number, email and home address)
- A completed [Equity and Diversity Monitoring Form](#)
- A completed [Access Requirements Disclosure Form](#) (if applicable)

Participants will be selected based on a positive action approach, ensuring people who experience barriers to the arts are represented in the cohort. The information in this form will only be used to ensure we are meeting our equity and diversity objectives. Any information disclosed 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, Arts Council England, in an anonymised form.

Please submit the application to constellations@upprojects.com. You can find further information via our [FAQs](#), 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 17 - 21 April 2023 and successful applicants will be notified on 24 - 28 April 2023.

We respect your right to confidentiality and assure you that the information you provide to us will be handled sensitively and with discretion, and in accordance with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) principles. Your data will be deleted at a point that it is no longer required or after a maximum of one year in line with our data management policy. You have the right to withdraw your consent for its storage and processing. For more details about how we will deal with the information that you provide, please see our Privacy Policy: <https://upprojects.com/privacy-policy>