2022 Venice Fellowships Programme

October 2021
Programme Overview

- **The Venice Fellowships Programme** is a unique opportunity for creative individuals, students, researchers, artists and professionals at the start of their careers, to spend a month in Venice during the world’s most important art or architecture biennale.

- **Every year British Council partners** with institutions and organisations who have committed to funding one or more Fellowship place.

- **The Partners** will invite candidates of their organisations to apply for the programme by responding to the British Council criteria and specific eligibility and shortlisting of applications. British Council will assess these shortlisted candidates against the programme criteria.

- **70 Fellows will then embark on a one-month experience at the Venice Biennale** to develop a proposed project and will also gain work experience acting as an exhibition ambassador at the British Pavilion.

- **As Fellows**, you will be required to attend an Induction Training and you will be invited to participate in a series of talks and workshops to network and build together a community of practice.
Work Experience – Exhibition Ambassador

- Consists of a full month exhibition work inside the British Pavilion.
- **The requested time committed will be of approx. 24h per week.**
- The work rota system will be set out by a contracted Venice Steward Manager and could vary from half to full day shifts throughout the week, as the Biennale is open to public from **Tuesdays to Sundays, from 10am to 6pm.**

**Main responsibilities:**
- To attend the Induction Training in February 2022.
- To be an exhibition ambassador at the British pavilion and give a warm and friendly welcoming approach to all visitors.
- To hand out guides and support visitors with exhibition information.
- To support the pavilion invigilation and care and ensure COVID-19 safety measures are being adhered to by all.
- Report any issues and/or risks to the Venice Steward Manager and British Council team.
- Report and capture audience feedback and monitor the visitor numbers.
- To support the pavilion access when required via chairlift.
- To monitor and report the conditions of the exhibition space and installations.
- If of any fellow’s interest, they could propose any educational activities, workshops and/or events to engage more deeply with the visiting public, and/or also lead on guided / mediated tours.

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Your Project **(any selection of creative/innovative pieces of tasks, activities, study and/or work during a set of time with the intention to achieve a specific outcome or final piece)**

We welcome any proposed idea that fellows would like to develop into a project during their time in Venice and beyond. **Projects must include:**

- **Values and approaches:** genuine camaraderie and generosity, community-network building (Venice and/or UK), inclusion, interdisciplinarity, horizontal learning, innovative, creativity, flexibility, mutuality, experimentation and testing.

- **Project topics** could vary, but ideas must be connected in some level to the Venice Biennale, the 59th Art Biennale, the British Pavilion and/or Sonia Boyce artworks themes.

- **Co-design / Collaboration:** with any other individual/institution/organisation/department beside your own, and bring a local community building aspect engagement, to share back, feed in or contribute to it when back in the UK.

- A clear sense of what your project could bring to its audience/community and how you would like to continue to develop and disseminate more widely in Venice and back to the UK with your community groups in a **mutual and collaborative approach.**

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59th International Art Exhibition, la Biennale de Venezia (the Venice Art Biennale)

❖ Will run from 23rd April until 27th November 2022 (pre-opening on 20th – 22nd April).
❖ Title: The Milk of Dreams and curated by Cecilia Alemani.
❖ Name from a book by Surrealist artist Leonora Carrington, where the artist describes a magical world where life is constantly re-envisioned through the prism of the imagination, and where everyone can change, be transformed, become something and someone else. The exhibition takes us on an imaginary journey through metamorphoses of the body and definitions of humanity.

The British Pavilion: Sonia Boyce OBE RA

❖ The exhibition will feature a major solo exhibition of new work from the artist.
❖ Sonia Boyce is known for her highly innovative and experimental approach to art making, using performance and audio-visual elements in her work.
❖ Since the 1990s, her practice has become increasingly improvisational and collaborative, inviting a broad cross-section of participants to come together and speak, sing or move in relation to the past and the present.
In the Castle of My Skin 2 and 1, 2020 with Anna Barham, Lindiwe Matshikiza, Harold Offeh, Flora Pheles, Alberta Whittle - and (MIMA Collection) Francis Alÿs, Lynn Chadwick, Lucy Harvey, Andrew Logan, Jacqueline Poncelet, Bridget Riley, Martin Smith Plywood structure, wallpapers, objects, videos, drawings and prints © Sonia Boyce. All Rights Reserved, DACS/Artimage 2020. Photo: Stuart Whipps


Exquisite Cacophony (film still), 2015 © Sonia Boyce. All Rights Reserved, DACS/Artimage 2020. Photo: Sonia Boyce

Paper Tiger Whisky Soap Theatre (Dada Nice), 2016 Villa Arson, Nice. Nine-channel HD video installation with wallpaper © Sonia Boyce. All Rights Reserved, DACS/Artimage 2020
Short-term outcomes we are aiming for:

- To have a diverse cohort of fellows to explore and build together a community of practice and form new connections.

- Have a diverse set of projects and ideas to showcase fellows creativity and innovation when approaching the set criteria's of the programme.

- **Programme impact** – *for that we are aiming to work with an external consultant to evaluate 2022 programme and make recommendations around the future of the programme.*
Shortlisted Applications: general values and exhibition ambassadors we are looking for in Fellows

A desire to work in collaboration and learn together.

Bring a horizontal learning approach: “I know something you don’t know, and you know something I don’t know”.

Genuine camaraderie.

Be an active/open listener.

Optimistic, reliable, creative and innovative.

Willingness to experiment and try things (not necessarily succeed, as failure is part of the experiment and trying process).

Be open, honest, flexible, generous and inclusive.

Be constructively critical to things that could be done better or differently.

People-concerned / people-centred, and some level of experience or confidence in working with people from the most diverse settings and engaging with them.

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Shortlisted Applications: approaches for proposed ideas we are looking for in Fellows

- Have the values described on the previous slide.

- **Topics** could be the most varied, but ideas should be connected in some level to the Venice Biennale, the 59th Art Biennale, the British Pavilion and/or Sonia Boyce artworks themes.

- **By project** we mean any selection of creative/innovative pieces of tasks, activities, study and/or work during a set of time with the intention to achieve a specific outcome or final piece.

- **Must work in collaboration with any other individual/institution/organisation/department beside their own**, and bring a local community building aspect engagement, so that fellow could share back, feed in or contribute to it when back in the UK.

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Logistic and Timeline:

- **Grant total will be £1,800:** to cover flight costs, travel and medical insurance, anything related to COVID-19, visa costs (if needed), accommodation and living costs while in Venice for the full month.
- An additional sum will be available to those in **Group 1** to cover the additional expense over the pre-opening week as travel and accommodation is normally more expensive during this period.
- The group dates will be shared by the British Council team after the shortlisting process and fellows should indicate three preferable travelling months. *Please note that exact preferred months cannot be guaranteed as British Council will need to accommodate the groups in numbers of 10 throughout each month of April-November 2022. British Council will try its best to accommodate all individual needs whenever possible.*
- *Please note the fellows must be aware and compliant* with Covid-19 and UK Government travel advice for travelling abroad and specially to VENICE.

- Deadline for British Council to communicate the selected candidates to Partners: **from 15th to 31st December 2021.**
- **Fellows Contracts:** will be issued from January-March 2022.
- **Fellows Induction Training and Workshops:** February - March 2022.
- **Fellows Travelling dates (Group 1 to 7):** from 18th April 2022 to 29th November 2022.

**WHO CAN APPLY?**

Fellowships are open to all candidates recruited through one of the **Venice Fellowships 2022 Partner Institutions.** Unfortunately, no application can be accepted by the British Council without prior approval and selection by a valid Partner Institution.
How to Apply?

Please send to your institution partnering with the British Council, the application form and please complete our equality and diversity monitoring form – this is voluntary and anonymous.

Deadline: please contact your institution for a deadline date.

To make the application process more accessible, we are encouraging applications in TWO formats: written or video (image + audio). Candidates are encouraged to apply with the one they feel most comfortable with.

Feedback? If you were interested in applying for our Venice Fellowships 2022 Programme but you did not / couldn’t this time, we would like to hear from your experience and perspective, the reasons why you did not apply this time, and further suggestions you might have: please complete our feedback survey here, it takes 3 to 5min to complete it.
Questions or Concerns?

If you have any questions relating to the Venice Fellowship Programme or application process, please speak directly with your institution contact in the first instance.

Or send an email to venicefellowships@britishcouncil.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST AND COLLABORATION!