

Innovate Artists

Information for applicants

We are recruiting one more artist to join our existing cohort of Innovate Artists. Are you an early career artist (or at a critical stage in your career) ready to take risks and explore fresh ideas?



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Who are Lincoln Arts Centre

Lincoln Arts Centre is the University of Lincoln's public arts centre with a focus on contemporary visual and performing arts. We aim to become the home for the next generation of artists and artistic ideas, with a focus on contemporary visual and performing arts because we believe in a world transformed by creativity.



Image by Phil Crow

What is an Innovate Artist

A Lincoln Arts Centre Innovate Artist is an artist, company or collective either early in their career or at a critical juncture in their career. They work with Lincoln Arts Centre to develop new ideas, or support existing projects.

Innovate artists can work on self-initiated ideas or be placed on a project being delivered at the arts centre.

You will join a family of Innovate Artists from a range of disciplines which will grow each year, with between 20-25 artists, collectives or companies by the end of 2026.

So far we've worked with sixteen artists and companies who have developed new ideas, built sets for their shows, developed funding bids for ideas, gone on international go-see trips and research and developed a new idea which have been tested in front of audiences.

Every year we will work with Innovate Artists who will receive a seed commission to explore a new artistic idea. In addition to a host of entrepreneurial guidance, templates and support to turbo charge your professional career.



Image by Phil Crow

What are we looking for

We are looking for local artists, companies or collectives:

1

We will accept applications from artists, companies or collectives based in Lincoln/shire, those who live in a 45-mile radius of Lincoln, or those who have deep rooted connection to the Lincoln County

2

We will only work with artists that align with our [values](#) and our [artistic policy](#).

3

We are a multi-disciplinary arts centre and are keen to work with artists, companies or collectives that are working across: dance, theatre, visual art, music or spoken word.

We are particularly seeking artists that are interested in the following:

- ▶ The best events for children, young people and their families
- ▶ Supporting creative health interventions
- ▶ High quality & accessible performance work that will fill a 444 seat auditorium
- ▶ Creative health or social prescribing, with a focus on artistic practices that are already engaged in social prescribing.

Lincoln Arts Centre actively celebrates diversity. The contribution of diverse perspectives makes our world a better place. This opportunity is open to everyone. We are keen to hear from artists who are from the global majority, Deaf or disabled.

What support is on offer

- ▶ The artist/collective/company will receive a £2300 seed commission for their idea
- ▶ A paid opportunity to present work-in-progress at one of our DEMOs; an evening of new work and facilitated feedback, with technical support and professional documentation
- ▶ Business support including a template business plan and set of template budgets and a fundraising strategy
- ▶ Opportunity to connect with other Innovate Artists and Lincoln Arts Centre's Associate Artists: our three-year programme for established artists with National and International reputations

Equity, Justice and Inclusion

We will do our best to meet all access needs of artists for the duration of the programme. We are aware that individual access needs can vary and change.

If you have an access request or want to talk your specific needs through with someone, please contact enquiries@lincolnartscentre.co.uk or call **01522 837600** and we'll get a member of our team to speak with you.



Image by Andrew AB Photography

What is expected from an Innovate Artist

- ▶ To be successful as an Innovate Artist, you need to be entrepreneurial, pro-active and to take charge of your own work within the structures and support available. We'll help you take risks, undertake research and develop ideas
- ▶ We'd expect you to advocate for the organisation and support us to demonstrate impact and gather insights
- ▶ Engage positively with Lincoln Arts Centre and University of Lincoln staff team and invite them to activity
- ▶ You might be asked to share your findings or your practice at a symposium or conference
- ▶ An openness and willingness to work with students and provide learning opportunities.

What we can't support

- ▶ Artists that do not live or work within Lincolnshire, or within a 45-mile radius of Lincoln, or have deep rooted connections to Lincoln County
- ▶ When fair pay, and fair working hours aren't considered in plans
- ▶ Where activities don't consider access.

Key dates

▶ Expressions of Interest

Opens Friday 13th March 2026;
Closes Monday 13th April 2026.
Interviews will take place 24th April 2026.

13
Mar

13
Apr

▶ Programme start

All Innovate Artists will be in place by the end of April, with public announcements taking place in May.



Image by Richard Hall

How to apply

You can apply via written or video application using this link:

Apply now



To help you to prepare your application, here are the questions we ask that you think about with how much weight we will give to each answer in our shortlisting.

- ▲ Tell us about your idea (2000 characters / 60% weighting). Pay particular attention to the 'What are we looking for' section of this document (near the bottom of page 4). You can use bullet points.
- ▲ Tell us how you would capitalise on the support offered and what it would mean for you (2000 characters / 40% weighting). You can use bullet points.

We don't expect overly long answers, keep it concise and to the point. If you want, you can include videos or images You can also listen to our audio application by [visiting this link](#).

We expect this to be an extremely competitive process. Please only apply if you think your project is relevant to this 'What are we looking for' section, on page 4 of this document.

Got questions?

We're hosting an online question-and-answer session where we will explain a bit more about the programme and answer and questions you have on **Monday 23rd March 2026, 18:00 – 19:00**.

This will take place on Zoom and can be British Sign Language interpreted on request.

If you want to attend and require BSL, please inform us a week in advance so we can arrange this for you. Alternatively, if you would like a one-to-one meeting with a BSL interpreter, we can arrange that. Just get in touch using the details below.

You can contact us by phone, email or meet us at our box office. Please use the contact information below and a member of our team will be able to help answer any questions wherever possible.

A Telephone: 01522 837600 (Box Office)

B Email: enquiries@lincolnartscentre.co.uk

C Online: visit the [Our Team page](#) to contact specific departments.

If you'd prefer to speak face-to-face, pop-in to see us Monday - Friday (10.00 am - 4.00 pm), and a member of our team would be happy to chat.



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