

Callout

The Mill's Supported Artist Scheme



HELLO & WELCOME

We are delighted to announce we are welcoming applications to our Supported Artist Scheme 2025. The scheme is supported with funding from Arts Council England.

Through the scheme, we are seeking applications from artists who wish to develop their creative practice in **dance and movement**. The artists selected will create new work by engaging with local communities in Bicester. This work could include but is not limited to live performance, workshops, classes, or film.

The scheme begins with a 3-month research and development (R&D) programme from January to March 2025.

If you would like this information in a different format, please contact holly.gilson@themillartscentre.co.uk

ABOUT THE SUPPORTED ARTIST SCHEME

The scheme aims for artists to work collaboratively with a chosen community group(s), ensuring that the process and result is relevant and resonates with the users. Artist will need to have a flexible approach, being willing and able to accommodate the needs of the community group(s).

In 2023 we recruited our first two Supported Artists, and we are now looking to recruit a third artist to the scheme. We would like our third artist to focus on engaging with local communities in Bicester to create their new work.

Our Supported Artists will:

- receive financial and in-kind support to develop their creative projects and develop their own professional practice.
- be given the opportunity to showcase their work to regional partners and peers, creating opportunities to maximise their artistic impact and increase further opportunities within and outside of the county.
- work with the Community Engagement Officer to identify and facilitate links with community groups from Banbury and Bicester to help inform the R&D programme.
- spend 3 months working with their community group.

It is expected that the R&D phase will lead into a proposal where we will continue to work with the artist and community group(s) from April 2025 – March 2026 to create new work. This will include additional seed funding and ongoing in-kind support outlined in the call out.

In June 2025 the Mill will host a sharing and networking event in which all 3 supported artists will be invited to share an update on their projects with industry professionals and community groups to help inform the next steps.

KEY INFORMATION

Eligibility: Both new and established individuals/companies
Artists who wish to develop their own creative practice in dance and movement.
We encourage applications from artists from the global majority and/or artists who identify as male or non-binary.

Dates:

Stage 1
January 2025 – March 2025

Stage 2
April 2025 – March 2026

Sharing and Networking Event
June 2025

You will receive: A contribution of £1,500 (Payment will be made in monthly instalments)
£300 contribution towards travel costs (paid on expenses)
In-kind support, including:

- *Mentoring:* Support and advice from Mill staff to help inform and develop artists' projects and professional practice.
- *Marketing and fundraising:* Promotion of artists' work through The Mill's marketing platforms and support with additional fundraising opportunities.
- *Creation space:* Space in The Mill building for artists to facilitate work with community groups, rehearse and develop new work.
- *Desk space:* Hot desk space at The Mill.
- *Performance and showcasing opportunities:* Support to present the work created through performance and showcasing opportunities in and outside of the Mill.

ABOUT THE MILL

The Mill aims to be the cultural heart of Banbury and the surrounding area. Proudly celebrating a diverse creative programme of high-quality arts experiences; telling stories that encourage everyone in our communities to learn and take part; to have fun and be inspired.

We want to be an exemplar, vibrant, indispensable Arts Centre of which Banbury is rightly proud; relevant to the whole community through a diverse programme which celebrates both taking part in and seeing first class arts and entertainment experiences.

We are much more than just a building; we will work throughout the region to support artists to create and present the highest quality arts experiences.

For more information, please visit our website at www.themillartscentre.co.uk.



HOW TO APPLY

Please provide a CV and supporting artist's statement of no more than 500 words covering the following:

- What you would like to do
- Who you would like to work with
- How you and your work meet The Mill Arts Centre Values:
 - *Heart & Trust*
 - *For All*
 - *Quality*
 - *Creativity*
 - *Bold & Forward-Thinking*

The closing date for applications is **midday on Tuesday 26th November**.

Shortlisted artists will be invited for an informal interview on Tuesday 3rd December, with a view to start from January 2025.

For more information, please contact Holly Gilson at holly.gilson@themillartscentre.co.uk.