

The Work Room

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hello@theworkroom.org.uk

The Work Room (TWR) is opening a call out for members to submit proposals to a second round of the BEYOND fund, for projects starting August 2022 onwards.

Overview

Riffing off the idea of circular giving, BEYOND was created to direct money from annual membership fees, back to artist members in the form of seed funding for member led projects.

Funds raised through membership fees and individual giving are accrued and ringfenced annually in the TWR's budget. Members are then invited to submit proposals to utilise these funds for their projects. Piloting a first round in 2018, the fund had been paused during the period in which TWR waived its membership fees, to support member during the pandemic, but is now re-opening for proposals.

Through BEYOND, we hope to support projects and practices that take dance beyond the studio to connect more people to dance, while also fostering collaboration and artistic community within TWR membership. Recognising the wide range of contexts in which our members are engaging people in, and with dance, **Beyond** will seek to encourage, nurture and kick-start a range of artist-initiated projects through this seed funding initiative.

Proposals from members will be invited as joint proposals from two or more members wishing to work together, or from individual members working with one or more members during their project.

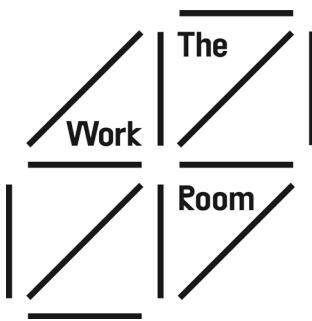
In the 2022/23 financial year, there is a total of £7500 to allocate as seed funding of £1500 to kick-start projects.

Background and Process

Responding to feedback gathered through [What Next?](#) conversations, which identified a desire from members to minimise time spent on application processes, TWR engaged on a process of evaluation of BEYOND, including consultation with a working group of artist members, to develop an alternative application and decision making process. This round of BEYOND will trial the new model put forward by the working group, as an experiment and as research into possible alternative models of decision making.

In keeping with TWR's core values of generosity, inclusivity and experimentation, we see this as a valuable opportunity to be led by our members and continue asking how to best support members. We welcome feedback from members on this process, and hope to apply the learning across our wider programmes.

You can read a summary of the working groups process [here](#). If you are interested in reading a detailed report on the full review process, this can be downloaded [here](#).



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How it Works

This iteration of BEYOND trials a simple model in which awards of £1500 are made at four intervals throughout the year, using a chance/random selection process. The funding timeline for each award is shown below.

Applications for the fund can be submitted at any time in the form of an Expression of Interest, to be considered in the next draw.

Funding available	Deadline for EOI	Funds Allocated	For Projects starting
Summer Award Award 1- £1500	EOI's received on and before: Tuesday 14 June 2022	<i>Awarded on 28 June to 'In the Gardens'</i>	August 2022 onwards
Autumn Award Award 2- £1500	EOI's received on and before: Tuesday 6 September	<i>Awarded on 20 September to 'A Wee Open Floor Day (working title)'</i>	November 2022 onwards
Winter Award Award 3 - £1500	EOI's received on and before: Tuesday 29 November	w/c 12 December	January 2023 onwards
Spring Awards Award 4 - £1500 Award 5* - £1500	EOI's received on and before: Tuesday 21 February 2023	w/c 6 March	April 2023 onwards

***Award 5** is a Focussed Award which addresses historic exclusion and underrepresentation. Please see Page 5 for further information

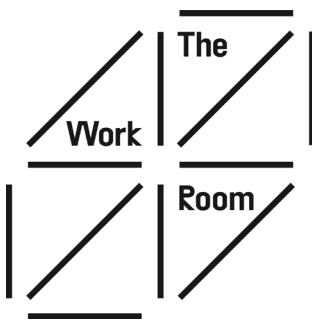
To Apply

Members are invited to submit a short one page/3 min **Expression of Interest (EOI)**, giving a brief overview of the project, the members involved, and their relationship to the people they will engage with (either during this activity or in the future).

Expressions of Interest can be made in written, [audio or video](#) format using the [Beyond EOI Form](#), answering the following questions:

1. Please give a brief overview of your project and what activity the seed funding would support? (*approx. 1-2 paragraphs/4-8 sentences*)
2. What is your relationship to the people you are proposing to engage with (during this activity or in the future) and any relevant experience? (*approx. 1 paragraph/3-4 sentences*)

As a guide, written applications should be around half an A4 page and video/audio applications under 3 minutes. However, this is a suggestion to indicate the level of detail/time required so members shouldn't spend lots of time editing their responses down, if they require more words.



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[Download the Expression of Interest Form here](#)

You can read an example EOI submitted by Summer Award recipient Kirstin Halliday [here](#).

Members thinking of applying can also arrange a meeting with a member of TWR team to chat through the suitability of their project or receive support in communicating their idea and putting together their EOI.

Applications can be submitted at any time of the year by completing an Expression of Interest form and sending it to applications@theworkroom.org.uk with 'BEYOND EOI' in the subject line. If there is anything about your idea that you would find particularly useful for the peer review panel to suggest, comment on or respond to, please also include this in your covering email.

For Spring 2023 awards, members should indicate in their cover email whether they wish to be included in the **awards draw for artists from underrepresented groups** (further information below).

Any specific information shared will be held in confidence by TWR team, but please be aware that members on the peer review panel will be informed which proposals are being entered into the selection. They will not be given specific information on how individuals identify or which members this applies to.

[Eligibility](#)

Expressions of Interest should:

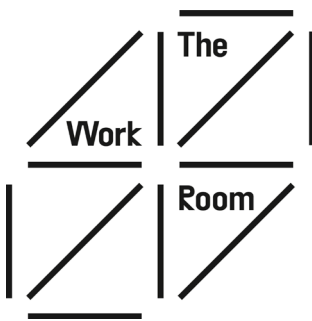
- be from a current member of The Work Room
- involve two or more members in some capacity
- aim to connect more people with dance and choreographic practice
- consider the suitability of the project and practitioners involved to engage with the proposed groups, people or communities, ethically and safely

BEYOND will not support proposals which:

- Are predominantly about engaging people as audience or presenting existing work
- Request use of studio space (please see our studio residency programme instead)
- Are primarily aimed at engaging professional dance artists (please see our Member-led Events programme instead)
- Have already secured significant funding from other sources
- Have received BEYOND funding previously

If you are unsure about a project's suitability, please get in touch with TWR to discuss this in advance of submitting and EOI and we will be happy to help advise.

Members can only apply or be named in, one proposal at a time. Please ensure you have a person's consent before naming them in your proposal.



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Please note that BEYOND is intended as **seed funding**, to kickstart ideas and collaborations. We recognise that meaningful engagement takes time and resource, and therefore it is unlikely that this funding will support the delivery of full projects.

Some examples of activity Beyond might support include, but **are not limited to**:

- planning and delivering workshops or classes
- piloting a specific dance related activity or event with a group, space or community you have existing relationships with
- building relationships, meeting and consulting with people to shape a future co-creation project
- connecting with people in your local area through a creative idea or activity
- supporting people to take part in dance or choreographic activity by offering bursaries, travel or access support

Activity might take place outdoors, in person, online or in local spaces

[The Selection Process](#)

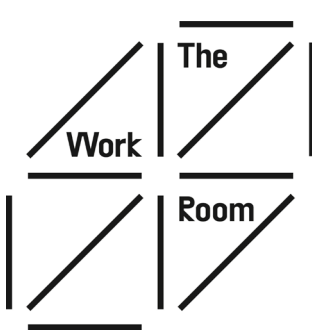
All Expressions of Interest will be read by a panel of members, to check their eligibility and suitability for the fund against the eligibility criteria, and to provide some general responses, comments or suggestions on projects for all applicants.

If there is no competition, an eligible application will be awarded funds. A process of random selection will be used if there are two or more eligible applications. The members panel will witness the random selection process and be asked to confirm the legitimacy of the process.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome and receive a short peer response to their project.

Members awarded funding will then meet with TWR to work out and agree a basic budget and timeline for their activity, and any additional in kind or access support TWR can offer to support or promote the activity.

Eligible proposals not selected, will be given the option to have their EOI entered into the next draw, if it suits their timeline. Members awarded funding cannot reapply for funds until the following year.



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[*Focussed Draw Recognising Historic Exclusion and Underrepresentation](#)

This section has been updated from November 2022

The Work Room is learning and working to better address the systemic inequalities which have unfairly disadvantaged and historically excluded certain people from a career in dance and the arts, and who are currently underrepresented in our programme, including: Black people, Asian people, People of Colour, Disabled, D/deaf and Neurodivergent people and people with chronic illness, people with parental or caring responsibilities and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds or who identify as Working Class.

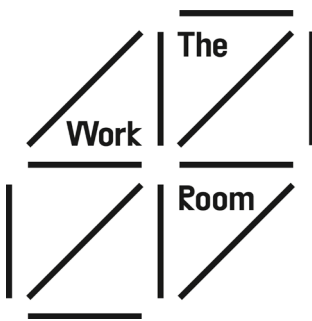
We recognise the potential of a chance based system to reinforce these inequalities by statistically disadvantaging those who may be within a minority demographic in our membership and producing a programme which does not comfortably reflect our commitment to EDI. In an attempt to counter this, in addition to the four awards open to all members, a further award of £1500 will be open to members who self-identify with one or more of the above demographics TWR has recognised as currently underrepresented in our programme. This award will be drawn in Spring 2023, exclusively from EOI's of those who self-identify in this way and have elected to be included in this draw. All eligible EOI's that have been submitted to the previous draws and were not awarded funding, will have the chance to be entered in this draw, if they wish.*

We are conscious that those who have been historically excluded face different barriers and are not one homogenous group. While this focussed draw is an attempt to rebalance any statistical disadvantage a random selection might produce in our programme, we are also aware that representation has to go alongside wider efforts to address the root causes of systemic inequalities. We will monitor both those who apply and those who are selected carefully, and withhold the right to adjust or refocus the parameters around the fund, as necessary.

**The timeline for awarding the Focussed Draw has shifted from the initial launch of Beyond, which had previously intended the focussed draw to take place as part of the Summer 2022 draw, anticipating the highest number of submissions at this point. However, a small change to the guidance which permitted unsuccessful EOI's to roll over multiple times (rather than capped at one) has meant that the Spring 2023 draw is now likely to have the highest number of EOI's and therefore the decision has been made to postpone the Focussed draw to this round, to ensure that it has the widest reach possible. Updated 16 November 2022*

[BEYOND Gathering](#)

TWR will host a Beyond Gathering event towards the end of the funding cycle, where those who received support through the BEYOND fund will be invited to share learning and reflections from their projects with the wider membership and dance community, and receive input, suggestions and questions to support them in their next steps. Keep an eye out on our website and socials for information about the event in 2023



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Some Questions Answered:

As this is a new model, we have included some potential Questions and Answers about BEYOND

Q. If you are using a random selection process to make decisions, why is any form of application/information about the project required at all?

A. Although the selection process does not involve judging EOI's, some information is required so the peer review panel can ensure that the proposals are suitable for support through the fund. As a membership organisation, we share a responsibility for ensuring that supported projects are suitable, ethical and safe for those involved, and that appropriate care and rigour is still shown to the activity supported.

Q. How will the random selection work?

A. All applicants are asked to submit a project name as part of the EOI. Project names will be entered into a random selection process using digital random selection tool www.wheelofnames.com to select a recipient. You can read about the algorithm and how the wheel works [here](#). Members participating on the peer review panel will witness the selection and be asked to verify its legitimacy. TWR will also record the selection for transparency

Q. Why has TWR decided to use a different model of awarding funds for BEYOND?

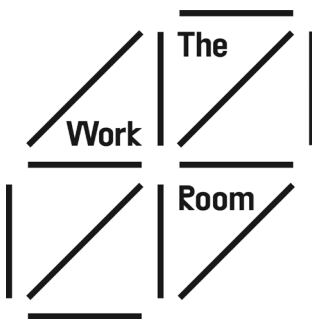
A. This model has been proposed by a working group of artist members, responding to feedback from the membership around lengthy application processes which were identified as a barrier to some. The model is put forward as an experiment rather than a perfect model, and we hope to be a valuable learning opportunity into artist led decision making and the different ways that a membership organisation such as TWR might distribute funds to members. You can read more about the process of the group and how they arrived at this decision, [here](#)

Q. Under the Pay What You Can fee model I did not pay anything in membership fees, can I still apply to BEYOND?

A. Yes, regardless of whether you paid membership fees or how much, any current member of TWR can apply to the BEYOND fund.

Q. We are making a joint application, but only one of us self identifies with the demographics TWR recognises as underrepresented. Can we put our project forward for both Spring Awards?

A. This decision comes down to the individual in your pair who self identifies in this way. They can choose to put your proposal forward on this basis, or not. Having this more focussed draw is intended to give individuals who experience marginalisation or exclusion due to systemic inequalities a greater chance of being successful when using random selection, so if you are someone who has or does experience systemic exclusion in the dance, then we encourage you to put yourself forward, however there is no expectation to.



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Q. My religion prevents me from gambling or participating in the lottery, does this mean I can't apply?

A. Although there is a process of random selection used to award funds, there is no cost incurred by individuals applying to BEYOND and those unsuccessful do not stand to lose anything by entering, meaning the process does not fall under the definition of gambling. Membership fees are paid to access the wider professional programme and opportunities TWR offers and individual giving donations are made voluntarily by people wishing to support our work. As a charitable organisation TWR has decided to use the sums raised from these two strands to create the BEYOND fund for artists projects, but no money is given directly in exchange for applying to BEYOND. However, if you are unsure or feel this still goes against your beliefs, a member of TWR team would be happy to talk with you to hear your concerns and find an appropriate solution.

Q. I am unsure if my idea is suitable, should I still apply?

A. If you are unsure, we recommend getting in touch with a member of TWR team to discuss your idea, before dedicating time to writing up an EOI

Q. I have an idea but I don't know any members to work with. Can I apply as a solo artist?

A. No, you can't apply to work entirely alone for Beyond, but you could apply as a lead artist working with another member at some stage of the project, such as mentoring session or similar. The Work Room would be happy to introduce you to some practitioners from the membership whose practice might align, or share a call out as part of newsletter or closed Facebook group, so do get in touch.

Q. Can we also collaborate with people who are not member of The Work Room?

A. Yes, you can also apply to work with other practitioners so long as there is at least two members involved in the project.

Q. My project will engage people in the future, but its not at that stage of the project yet, can I still apply?

A. Yes, we understand that as seed funding, many ideas will be in early stages of development and may not yet be at a place to engage others. In your EOI, you should share the wider aims of the project and how it will connect with others (now or in the future) and then identify what activity this seed funding will support.