

The Work Room (TWR) is opening a call out for members to submit proposals to a third round of the BEYOND fund, for projects starting April 2024 onwards.



Image: 'In the Gardens' by Kirstin Halliday with Anya Sirina. BEYOND Summer Award 2022. Film Still by Rosie Robb

Overview

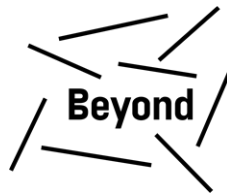
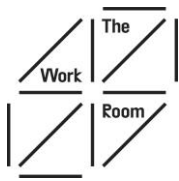
Riffing off the idea of circular giving, **BEYOND** was created to direct money from annual membership fees, back to artist members in the form of seed funding for member-led projects.

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 was relaunched in May 2022 with a revised model for awarding funds. In January 2024, we open the third round of the fund to expressions of interest.

Through **BEYOND**, we hope to support projects and practices that take dance **beyond** the studio to connect more people to dance, while 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** seeks to encourage, nurture, and kick-start a range of artist-led projects through this seed funding initiative.

Proposals are invited from two or more members wishing to work together.

In the 2024 round, there is a total of **£6000** to allocate as 4 x **seed funding awards of £1500**. There is an additional budget to support individuals' access costs.



[Background and Process](#)

Ahead of relaunching Beyond in 2022, TWR engaged in a process of evaluation, which involved consultation with a working group of artist members, to develop an alternative application and decision-making process. This round of BEYOND continues to trial the model put forward by the working group, with some small changes adapted in response to an evaluation of the 22-23 awards.

In keeping with TWR’s core values of **generosity**, **inclusivity**, and **experimentation**, we see this process as a valuable opportunity to be led by our members and continue to experiment and evaluate different ways to support artists in an ever-changing landscape. We welcome feedback from members on this process and hope to apply the learning across our wider programmes.

[How it Works](#)

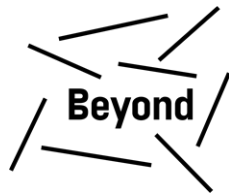
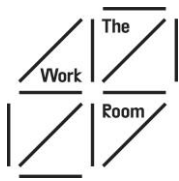
This iteration of BEYOND trials a simple model in which seed funding awards of £1500 are made at four intervals throughout the year, using a chance/random selection process. The funding timeline for each award is shown below.

The fund **opens to Expressions of Interest from 18 January 2024** and 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.

The fund will then **close to further EOIs on 28 November 2024**, to allow the funding pot to replenish ahead of the next awards cycle.

BEYOND 2024 Awards Timelines

Funding available	Deadline for EOI	Funds Allocated	For Projects starting
Spring Award Award 1- £1500	EOIs received on and before Thursday 29 February 2024	w/c 17 March	From mid-April 2024 onwards
Summer Award Award 2- £1500	EOI’s received on and before Thursday 30 May 2024	w/c 16 June	From mid-July 2024 onwards
Autumn Award Award 3 - £1500	EOI’s received on and before Thursday 29 August 2024	w/c 15 September	From mid-October 2024 onwards
Winter Award Award 4 - £1500	EOIs received on and before Thursday 28 November 2024	w/c 15 December	From mid-January 2025 onwards



To Apply

Members are invited to submit a short one-page/4 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 or community you are proposing to engage with (during this activity or in the future) and what relevant experience will support your approach to working with them? *(approx. 1 paragraph/4- 5 sentences)*

As a guide, written applications should be up to an A4 page and video/audio applications under 4 minutes. However, these are just a suggestion to indicate the level of detail required, but members shouldn't spend lots of time editing their responses if they require more words.

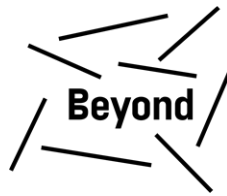
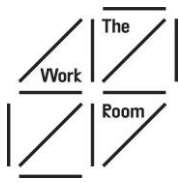
[Download the Expression of Interest Form](#)

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 producer@theworkroom.org.uk with 'BEYOND EOI' in the subject line.

In your email please also include the following:

- If there is anything about your project that you would find particularly useful for the peer review panel to suggest, comment on, or respond to.
- If you are eligible for and want to have your EOI considered under the Rebalancing Approach (more info on page 7).



Eligibility

Expressions of Interest should:

- Be from a current member of The Work Room
- Involve two or more members in some capacity
- Aim to engage more people in 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
- Are to present new or existing performance work
- Request use of studio space (please see our studio residency programme instead)
- Are primarily aimed at engaging professional dance artists or students (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 the suitability of a project, we have created a short eligibility quiz to help you determine if your project would be eligible.

[Take the BEYOND Project Eligibility Quiz](#)

Members can also contact producer@theworkroom.org.uk or call the office on 0141 423 3864 during office hours, to discuss a proposal in advance of submitting an 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.

Please note that BEYOND is intended as **seed funding**, to kickstart ideas and collaborations. We recognise that meaningful engagement takes time and resources, 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**:

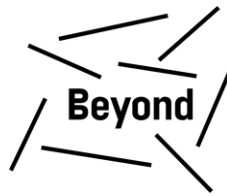
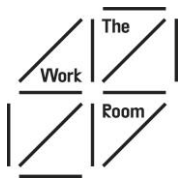
- planning and delivering workshops or classes
- piloting a specific dance related activity or event with a group, space or community you have existing relationships with
- building relationships, meeting and consulting with people to shape a future co-creation project
- connecting with people in your 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

The proposed activity might take place outdoors, in person, online or in local spaces.

[You can read about members' projects which have previously received seed funding from BEYOND on our website.](#)



Image: 'SPRING! A Wee Open Floor Day' by Collective Endeavours. BEYOND Autumn 2022 Award. Image by Brian Hartley



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 supportive responses, comments, or suggestions on projects for all applicants.

All projects found eligible will then be put forward to the awards draw.

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.

TWR uses the random selection tool WheelOfNames.com to award a recipient.

Each eligible project will have one entry in the random selection draw. Proposals from members who have put themselves forward for the [Rebalancing Approach](#) will have two entries per EOI in the draw (more info below). The 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.

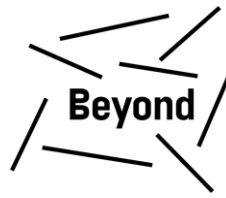
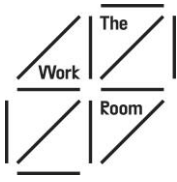
Eligible proposals not selected will be given the option to have their EOI roll over and be entered into the next awards draw if it suits their timeline.

Members awarded funding cannot reapply for funds until the following year.

Selected Projects

Members awarded seed funding will then meet with TWR to receive support in planning and agreeing on a basic budget and timeline for their activity. At this stage we will then discuss any additional in-kind support or access costs TWR could offer to support or promote the activity.

Please note that access costs are to support members with access needs to remove barriers to delivering the project. Project or participant access costs should be factored into the project budget.



[The Rebalancing Approach: Addressing Historic Exclusion with Random Selection Methods](#)

The Work Room is continuously 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.

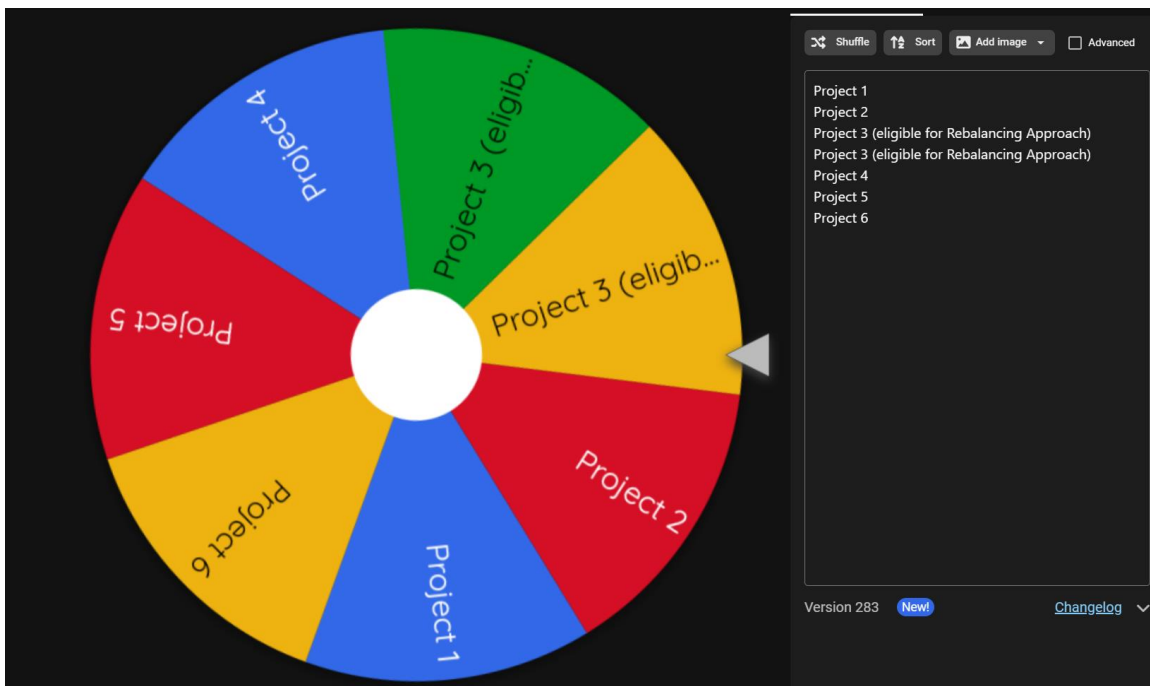
We are committed to ensuring that an expansive range of artists and artistic practices are recognised and resourced through our programmes. We recognise how a chance-based system could produce a programme which does not reflect our commitment to EDI.

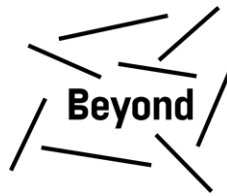
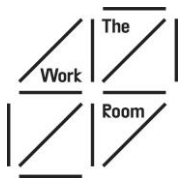
In response to this, for the 2024 awards, we are trialling a **Rebalancing Approach** to support people who have faced discrimination, including:

- People of the Global Majority, Black people, Asian people and People of Colour
- Disabled, D/deaf and Neurodivergent people and people with chronic illness or health conditions.
- People with parental or caring responsibilities
- People from lower socio-economic backgrounds or who identify as Working Class
- Transgender, genderqueer & non-binary people, or those whose gender identity differs from the one assigned to them at birth.

The **Rebalancing Approach** allows members who self-identify with one or more of the above demographics, to have two entries per EOI submitted into the awards draw.

In the example below using the WheelofNames.com random selector tool, there are 6 x Projects in the draw. Project 3 is eligible for the **Rebalancing Approach** so this EOI has 2 x entries in the random selection process and the other projects have one entry each.





We are conscious that those who have been historically excluded face different barriers and are not one homogenous group. While this scheme is an attempt to rebalance any statistical disadvantage a random selection might produce in our programme, we are also aware that representation must 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.

If you self-identify with one or more of these groups and would like to submit your proposal under the **Rebalancing Approach**, please state this in your cover email when submitting your EOI.

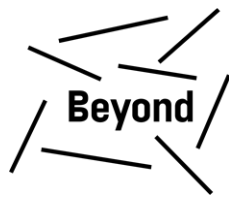
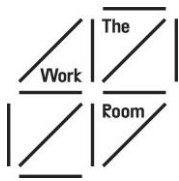
Any personal information shared will be held in confidence by TWR team, but please be aware that members on the peer review panel will be informed which proposals are being entered into the selection as they verify and witness the random selection draw. They will not be given any information on how individuals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

[BEYOND Gathering](#)

TWR will host a Beyond Gathering event in June 2024, 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!

[Useful Links:](#)

- [Beyond Expression of Interest Form](#)
- [Beyond Quick Project Eligibility Quiz](#)
- [Example of a completed EOI submitted by Summer Award 2022 recipient Kirstin Halliday](#)
- [TWR's Guide to making Audio and Video applications.](#)
- [Archive of projects previously awarded BEYOND funding.](#)



[FAQ's/ Some Questions Answered:](#)

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 EOIs, 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 are 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. Eligible project names will be entered into a random selection process using the 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?

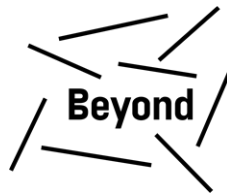
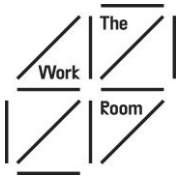
A. This model was proposed by a working group of artist members in 2022, responding to feedback from the membership around lengthy application processes which were identified as a barrier to some. The model is put forward as an experiment rather than a perfect model, and we hope to be a valuable learning 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 the Rebalancing Scheme?

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. The scheme 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 have experienced systemic exclusion in the dance, then we encourage you to put yourself forward, however, there is no expectation to.



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 or your faith leader to hear your concerns and find an appropriate solution.

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

A. We have created a quick [Eligibility Quiz](#), to help you consider if a project is suitable for Beyond. If you are still unsure, please email producer@theworkroom.org.uk to discuss your idea, before dedicating time to writing up an EOI and we will be happy to offer guidance.

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 a 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 members 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 it's 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 engage others (now or in the future) and then identify what activity this seed funding will support.

Q. I am eligible for the Rebalancing Approach. Does this mean I can apply with two projects?

A. No. All members can only submit or be named in one project at a time. The Rebalancing Approach means your EOI has two entries in the random selection process, slightly increasing the statistical likelihood it might be selected. It does not allow members to submit two different projects or be named in multiple proposals.