

UNLIMITED

NORFOLK
NSM
NORWICH
FESTIVAL

Partner Award applicant pack



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UNLIMITED

Welcome, and thank you for your interest in the Unlimited and Norfolk & Norwich Festival Partner Award. This pack tells you what the award offers, who can apply, and how. Please read it all the way through before you start your application.

These awards are delivered in partnership with arts organisations in England, Scotland, and Wales. Each award is jointly funded by us and a partner organisation. This brings direct industry investment in from the start.

Partners co-fund the work, offer platforms to showcase it, and champion the artists they commission. This gives artists the chance to realise ambitious ideas and build sector relationships. It also helps more disabled artists reach audiences and communities where their work is underrepresented.

weareunlimited.org.uk



About the award

XXXXXXXX

We're partnering with **Norfolk & Norwich Festival** to offer a £25,000 award for a new theatre, music, dance and/or performance work that centres children and young people, either made for or co-created with them. The award supports a disabled artist based in East Anglia or the South East of England to develop a mid-scale piece for premiere at Norfolk & Norwich Festival.

Large awards (£25,000 and over) are for projects already in development and showing strong potential. This is perfect if you've already started shaping the work, or already have some early support. You're ready for the next stage, and this is your chance to fully realise your project and bring it to audiences.

Criteria



The selection panel will use the following criteria to assess your application.

Unlimited

- ✓ High quality
- ✓ Disabled-led
- ✓ Innovative and ambitious
- ✓ Potential for the work to tour or be exhibited beyond its initial presentation
- ✓ Clear consideration of the work's audiences, suitable venues and future exhibition or touring opportunities
- ✓ Artist has a track record of creating work and reaching audiences
- ✓ The work can be completed within a 16-month timeframe

Norfolk & Norwich Festival

- ☑ Theatre, music, dance and/or performance that centres children and young people, either made for or co-created with them
- ☑ Mid-scale (suitable for audiences of 100–300)
- ☑ Has already undergone a research and development process
- ☑ For commission to premiere at Norfolk & Norwich Festival in May 2028
- ☑ Based in East Anglia (Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, or Peterborough) preferred; artists based in the South East of England are welcome if able to travel

What we expect



- Start the work in July 2027. Aim for the premiere, the work's first public performance in Spring or Summer 2028. An earlier date is fine too
- Hold at least three public events during the commission. These could be performances, exhibitions, or screenings
- A plan for showing or touring the work after the commission ends. Tell us where you might show it and who you expect to see it. Include a separate budget for this



What you'll receive



Alongside the award, you'll join our alumni network with access to our artist database, skill share directory, SUPPORT and DEVELOP opportunities, and a regular artist mailer to keep you connected.

In addition, Norfolk & Norwich Festival will provide the following in-kind support to help bring your work to life:

- Producing support from the Norfolk & Norwich Festival team
- Access to Norfolk & Norwich Festival's networks of schools and socially engaged artists and organisations



Who can apply?

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This is open to:

- ✓ Professional disabled artists, or disabled artists leading the creation of work within disabled-led companies
- ✓ Based in East Anglia (Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, or Peterborough) preferred; artists based in the South East of England are welcome if able to travel
- ✓ Aged 18 and over
- ✓ Not in full-time education

How to apply



Make your application by text, video, or audio through the online portal, or by email using the Word document provided.

- **Apply online here**
- **Download the word document here and send to us via email**

If you need access support to apply or want to apply in another format, we can help. Contact us by emailing **commissions@weareunlimited.org.uk** or call/text 07506 679968.

Deadline for expression of interest is Monday 28 September 2026, midday.

About Unlimited



Our mission is to commission extraordinary work from disabled artists that changes and challenges the world. We'll keep doing this until equity exists across the entire cultural sector.

Our brief is specific. We fund boundary-pushing work that challenges and shifts the cultural landscape. This includes projects that might struggle to find funding elsewhere because of their ideas, form, or approach.

We commission work that has the potential to tour widely and be programmed by a range of venues. Why? Because real change happens when the industry chooses to book work by disabled artists, and when audiences get to experience it.



Application process



We use a two-stage process. This protects your time.

Stage one: expression of interest

The first stage is short and simple. We ask for:

- Your personal details
- Links to previous work
- Links to partner information (where relevant)
- A short description of your project idea (500 words)
- How your project meets both Unlimited and partner criteria

You don't need a full plan or budget at this point. At this stage, we want to hear your ideas. You don't need a fully planned project yet.

We don't give feedback at this stage. We receive a high number of applications, so our panellists aren't able to comment on individual submissions.

Stage two: full application

If you're shortlisted, you'll move to a fuller application. At this stage, we ask for budgets, delivery plans, and an audience development strategy. An Unlimited team member will offer you time to talk this through. Everyone who completes stage two gets feedback from the panel. This can be in writing, in a one-to-one meeting, or both.

Who makes award decisions

Awards are decided by an independent, disabled-led panel. More than half of panellists are disabled. The panel is recruited from across the creative industries, and includes artists, partner representatives, and allies. No Unlimited staff or board members sit on the panel.

How decisions are made

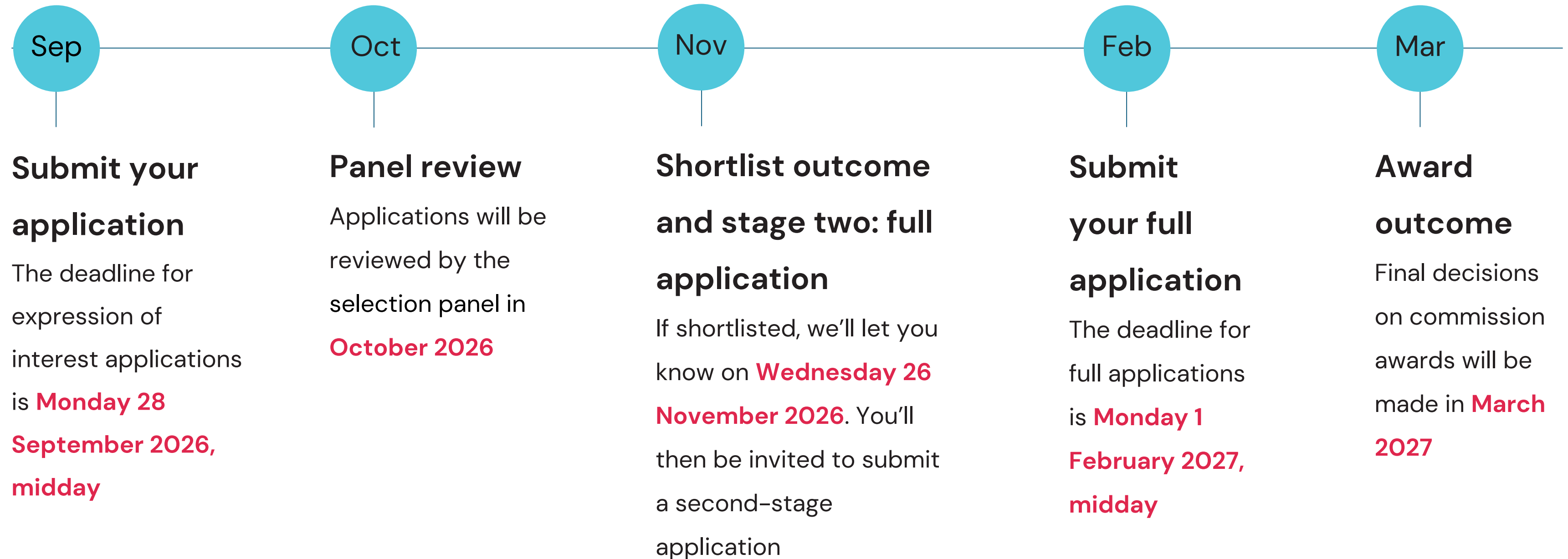
Our Programme team checks every application for eligibility and clarity. The independent panel then reviews and shortlists in October 2026. They consider:

- Is the work ambitious and disabled-led?
- How well does it match our criteria and the partner's criteria?
- Is it clear what the final piece will be, and who it's for?
- And finally – is this a piece they feel excited by, want to champion, or believe is important?

At stage two, our Programme team checks whether the plan is realistic and workable. The panel then makes the final decision in March 2027.



What happens next?



HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?



- Find answers to our most **frequently asked questions**
- **Book onto an info session if needed**
- You can email us on **commissions@weareunlimited.org.uk**.
Or call or text on 07506 679968.

Photography credits

Photo: Luke Witcomb

Ramesh Meyyeppan, LEAR. Photo: Moonrise Studio, courtesy of Arts House Limited

Jez Colborne, Lighthouse. Photo: BD: is LIT

Tamm Reynolds, Midgitte Bardot's Shooting From Below. Photo: Holly Revell

Anna Berry, Breathing Room at Bright Nights. Photo: Andre Pattenden

Clare Adam, Lesley Howard, Gene Zhai and Huang Te, A Common Thread

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