



Transforming Narratives - Digital Collaborative Grants

About Transforming Narratives:

Transforming Narratives is a ground-breaking three-year project to establish Birmingham as a leading international centre for contemporary Pakistani and Bangladeshi arts, for the mutual benefit of Birmingham and cities in Pakistan and Bangladesh. It is managed by Culture Central, supported by Arts Council England and delivered in association with The British Council. For more information, please visit: www.transformingnarratives.com.

About this Opportunity:

Culture Central, in partnership with Arts Council England and the British Council, are launching Digital Collaborative Grants. These grants will enable opportunities for connection and collaboration between creative and cultural practitioners in Birmingham, Pakistan and Bangladesh and potentially offer creative responses to the questions raised for society by the Covid-19 pandemic. We will offer at least 12 grants of up to £4,000 (total value of £50,000) to enable digital and artistic conversations, critical thinking and commissions.

Update 14 May 2020. We have added additional information to the guidelines and form – this is highlighted in yellow.

Purpose and artistic scope

- Applicants need to be living and / or working in Birmingham, Pakistan or Bangladesh.
- These funds should enable digital collaboration between creative and cultural practitioners in Birmingham and creative and cultural practitioners in Bangladesh and/or Pakistan. Applications for digital collaborations between Pakistan and Bangladesh are also welcome.
- The digital collaborations may offer an artistic response or acknowledgement of the current global pandemic and its implications across the globe, or any other topic of interest to the applicants. Responses could be based on a theme, an artistic output or a 'big idea', explored critically, drawing on a range of

perspectives and questions. Imaginative and future-focused responses are encouraged, looking beyond themes of isolation, such as memories of space, new realities and the future of public spaces and mass social gatherings. 'Big ideas' for exploration may include how we can share human creativity across geographies to build understanding of each other's lives, cultures and experiences and how we can focus on creative and cultural collaboration and learning about each other's practice.

- **Contemporary and cross art form proposals are strongly welcome and will be reviewed favorably.**
- Applicants should consider drawing on a range of free and paid for platforms which go beyond Skype Calls and Webcam conversations. These can include social media platforms such as Facebook Live, Zoom, YouTube, WhatsApp, Instagram. Also, can include collaboration platforms like Slack, Iovox, Concept Inbox, Prevue, Fluid UI) and/or immersive tech and gaming platforms.
- Proposals should be genuinely mutual and collaborative, with meaningful participation from all partners. Applicants should also be mindful of the similarities and differences between the geo-political context and effects of the pandemic in each location.
- Applicants are encouraged to identify the benefits and new possibilities of digital collaboration over face-to-face participation in their responses, beyond the existing limitations of restricted travel and current conditions.
- Applicants may use these grants to establish new partnerships or can build on existing partnerships. Where partnerships already exist, applicants should advise on how this grant will enable deeper and more meaningful collaboration, **whilst using the opportunity to extend the scope of any existing work.** Applicants without an existing partner are welcome to get in touch with Transforming Narratives and the British Council (please see contact details in the application form) to draw on support for identifying potential partners in each location (subject to timescales and the type of contacts required).
- Applicants should consider their longer term aims and aspirations for the digital collaboration. This may include an artistic output, an online 'public' event, seeding of thought-leadership, a written report or building the foundations for a future face-to-face exchange as examples.
- Applicants should consider 'closed' conversations with collaborators and/or 'open' two-way conversations with the wider sector or members of the public.
- Applicants will own the copyright to their work but must be willing to share generated content and/or creative outputs through Transforming Narratives digital platforms and physical events (subject to suitability) and should consider this when shaping their proposal.

- Applicants will be required to submit a short report at the end of the digital collaboration, within an agreed format which is appropriate to their proposal.

Grants guidance

- Grants of up to £4,000 per applicant (covering all partners).
- Grants can cover purchasing subscriptions to digital platforms (where necessary), contributors time (including planning and development) and materials (where needed, such as posting packages or parcels)
- Funding cannot include contribution towards applicant utilities and bills.

Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed according to the programme criteria which responds to the purpose and artistic scope. The assessment panel will include representatives from:

- Transforming Narratives
- Arts Council England
- British Council (including representatives from Pakistan and Bangladesh)
- Representative from cultural sector in Birmingham

Timeline

The closing date for applications is Friday 19 June at 5pm (UK), 9pm (Pakistan), 10pm (Bangladesh).

Activity	Date
Open call live	11 May 2020
Deadline for enquiries and requests for support in identifying potential partners	12 June 2020
Deadline for proposal submissions	19 June 2020, 5pm (UK), 9pm (Pakistan), 10pm (Bangladesh)
Applicants informed	3 July
Digital Collaborations take place	July 2020 – September 2020



Open Call: Digital Commissions

Please complete the application form below and submit this to transformingnarratives@culturecentral.co.uk by **Friday 19 June 2020, 5pm (BST)**.

Applicants seeking support with identifying partners should get in touch with Culture Central and/or the British Council (see details at the end of the application form) no later than Friday 12 June 2020. It may not be possible to facilitate introductions and connections after this date, given numerous closures to offices and many individuals and organisations working part-time.

As part of our commitment to accessibility, we welcome video applications or written submissions. For video submissions, please submit a different video for each answer and share a private YouTube link within the associated response box. Videos will not be assessed on quality, but we ask that we can clearly see and hear the speaker. Please note videos should all be within the maximum time indicated after each question.

Applicant Name:	
Organisation:	
Address:	
Contact Number:	
Email:	

Please complete Questions 1-4 using the form below:

Question 1: Tell us about yourself and the partners you would like to work with:

Please limit answers to 300 words or a link to a 3-minute video submission. Please include up to three links to your website or portfolios (including any digital work)

Question 2: Tell us about your plans and ideas for Digital Collaboration, particularly responding to the purpose and artistic scope of these grants:

Please limit answers to 600 words or link to a 5-minute video submission

Question 3: What are you hoping to achieve by the end of the Digital Collaboration?

Please limit answers to 300 words or link to a 3-minute video submission

Question 4 (Optional): If you are planning any 'open' elements, such as digital public events or live streams, briefly outline your digital engagement plan, how you would manage such a campaign and estimated audience figures:

Please limit answers to 300 words or link to a 3-minute video submission. Indicate N/A if this question is not applicable to you

Question 5: Please tell us how you plan to spend the grant:

Please attach a written budget, clearly outlining each item of expenditure, with day rates for stipends and fees (up to 1 side of A4, size 12 font)

Question 6: Provide a timeline of activity:

Please attach a timeline of activity, including any milestones covering project design and inception, collaboration and delivery and outputs (up to one side of A4, size 12 font)

Who to contact?

For support with identifying and contacting partners in:

- Birmingham - please contact: transformingnarratives@culturecentral.co.uk
- Bangladesh - please contact: Ifra.Iqbal@britishcouncil.org
- Pakistan - please contact: Ahsan.Abbas@britishcouncil.org

Please note, the deadline for enquiries and requests for support in identifying potential partners is 12 June, at 5pm (UK), 9pm (Pakistan), 10pm (Bangladesh).

We will endeavor to support you with identifying and contacting partners, though this may not always be possible, depending on the type of request and timescales. We will do our best to facilitate introductions to relevant partners based on your proposal and project idea but are unable to guarantee partners are available and/or able to enter new partnerships.