BOOM 2024-25 - Application Information

BOOM is OCM’s annual career and creative development scheme for artists or producers working with sound and music. OCM wants to work with creators who are interested in making inspiring, new music, and sound experiences for audiences in unusual and public spaces, outside of concert halls or galleries. OCM wants to help artists to develop their skills to work in new places, including digital, with a focus on making music and sound for audiences from all backgrounds.

OCM will support four artists or producers through the BOOM programme, which will run for eight months from August 2024 to March 2025, and welcomes applications from all genres, creative specialisms, and backgrounds. OCM recognises that some communities have not been represented in BOOM previously. OCM wants to make sure this opportunity is open to everyone, no matter what your background or the challenges you have faced. For example OCM would love to hear from you if you identify as being from the Global Majority, a lower socio-economic background, a woman, trans, non-binary, or are disabled or neurodivergent.

BOOM aims to help artists and producers who are ready to make a creative leap in their career. It is open to early, and mid-career artists, as well as more established practitioners looking to make a real and exciting change in their work. BOOM is not a commissioning scheme; you may produce work during the scheme, but the primary goal is artistic development, whether this results in the production of work or not.

Why we BOOM

OCM knows that new, imaginative work needs support at an early stage. If you are used to working in normal arts venues, you might need new, specific knowledge, training, and skills to begin working outdoors, in unusual spaces, or in the digital space. BOOM supports research, training, and experimentation, which is the foundation for creating work for those spaces.

On BOOM, you will lead your own development, research or training programme over nine months, with OCM’s support. There is no expectation for anyone to make or present a performance or installation, OCM just wants to see evidence of real, and effective learning in your creative practice.

About OCM

OCM’s programme of musical and sonic encounters aims to attract and captivate our (often unsuspecting) audiences. OCM works with artists to create sound and music with the listener’s experience at the heart.
OCM is particularly interested in artists who find powerful ways to communicate in public spaces (real or virtual); performances or installations that create memorable, and meaningful moments for audience members. OCM focuses on placing inspiring, creative work in places that will reach wide audiences. OCM works in spaces outside of concert halls and galleries, and goes beyond the usual format of performers on a stage. You can see examples of previous OCM projects here: https://www.ocmevents.org/projects

OCM is supported using public funding by Arts Council England and is a PRS Foundation Talent Development Partner supported by PPL.

What OCM can offer

BOOM offers:
- A cash contribution of £1,500 towards ideas, research, or skills development.
- Advice, and help with tasks such as fundraising, promotion, business planning, production.
- Contacts and introductions to other organisations e.g. potential partners for future research or projects.
- Mentoring or coaching.
- Networking events with other artists and arts organisations.
- Free and discounted tickets to OCM events.
- Additional money is available for access costs to help improve the experience, which might include transport costs for d/Deaf and disabled artists, a personal assistant or care worker, BSL interpretation, information in large print or another language etc. If you would like to speak to someone about access support before applying, please contact sarah@ocmevents.org

What we are looking for

You do not need to aim to create a finished piece of work as part of the programme. You can spend the time on research, developing practice and exploring ideas. We will choose the people we can assist most effectively using our skills, expertise and resources at OCM. We hope that our relationship with BOOM participants will continue beyond the scheme, so we will look to select artists with whom there is synergy between their work and ours.

We are interested in artists who are:
- From any artistic background (you might not have always worked in music) who want to develop or create new music or sound experiences for audiences;
- Interested in creating audience experiences outside of traditional performance spaces;
- At a turning point in your creative practice - you should be trying something that’s new for you;
- Proactive, and able to be self-directed in your learning.
- Whose work resonates with our own. This could include work that.
  - is socially engaged or reflects the interests and concerns of your communities.
  - makes everyday spaces feel different or extraordinary for people.
  - is playful, intriguing, or unusual.
Who can apply?

- Artists who are based in the UK, with the right to work in the UK.
- You may apply as a solo artist, composer, band, group, producer or a combination of these.
- You may be at any stage of your career (early, mid- or established) but you will be making a developmental leap through this programme.
- Your primary focus is music or sound.
- Everyone who meets the criteria above is welcome to apply. OCM is particularly interested in receiving applications from artists or producers from the Global Majority, those from lower socio-economic backgrounds, women, trans, non-binary people and disabled or neurodivergent people.

OCM actively strives towards equal opportunities for all and diversity in all areas of its activity, and positively welcomes applications from disabled people and people of any ethnicity, age, belief, sexuality, and gender.

Your commitment

You’ll be committing to self-guided development work with guidance and mentorship from the OCM team. You will need to make yourself available for regular catch ups with your OCM mentor.

You also commit to attending three meetings with other artists or producers. These are an important part of the scheme, offering learning, training opportunities, and networking with the other participants, and with artists or industry professionals. Some meetings may include an overnight stay if participants are available and interested. You will be given £100 per meeting towards your time, plus travel expenses. It’s crucial that you are available for full day meetings on the following dates, and it may affect your application if you cannot attend. Please let us know in your application if you are not available on any of these dates:

- Monday 5 August 2024
- Wednesday 6 November 2024
- Friday 14 March 2024

How to apply

Format: If you would like to apply, please send your application as a document or link to a video or audio file. Your application must be a maximum of two A4 sides (font no smaller than 11pt please), or a maximum of six minutes long if video or audio application.

Video Applications: Please send a Youtube, Vimeo, Google Drive or Dropbox link to the same email address. No longer than six minutes long and include a CV (word or pdf) or links to your work (ie links to a website, portfolio or anything that best shows your work).

Audio Applications: Please send Soundcloud, Dropbox, Google Drive, YouTube, Vimeo link to the same email address outlined below.

Please include within your application or CV:
- Your full name and pronouns.
- Your contact details (telephone number and email address).
- Links to previous and current work (up to three links).
- A short biography.
- Name and contact details (telephone number and email address) for two referees who know you and your work well.

Please tell us:
- About the developmental or pivotal point that you have reached in your career.
- How BOOM could help you to make a creative leap in working outdoors or in unusual spaces or in the digital space.
- What you would like to explore and or or build upon during the year.
- Why you would like to work with OCM in particular.
- What areas of advice and help would be most useful to you.
- What kind of training you might be interested in undertaking.
- Your availability for an interview on 8 July 2024 by video call.
- if you are not available for any of the interview dates.
- if you have any access needs and how we can support them.
- How your work engages diverse audiences in unusual or alternative ways.
- What you would use the £1,500 for during the scheme. Previous BOOM participants have used this for residencies, research trips, training, paying for their own time to experiment, hardware or software, workshop or rehearsal space hire, materials, work in progress presentations etc.

Submission:
- Email your application to sarah@ocmevents.org with the subject line ‘Application for OCM BOOM 2024-25’ by midday Monday 17 June 2024.
- Once you have submitted your application please fill out a monitoring form here: https://tinyurl.com/5ahev4au to complete the application. All responses are anonymised and are not connected to your application.
- Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an online interview on 8 July 2024.
- Participants will be notified by 15 July 2024 at the latest. Feedback will be given on request.
- All URLs are also included as clickable links on the OCM BOOM project web page. Find it at www.ocmevents.org
- Contact Sarah Mayhew at OCM if you have any questions or queries about BOOM: sarah@ocmevents.org.