

Alliance for Socially Engaged Arts

Webinar FAQs

1. We have a shared leadership model. Can two people from the same organisation apply and both participate?

No. We appreciate that some organisations have shared leadership models, however the Fellowship is restricted to one individual per organisation to apply and we cannot accept applications from co-leaders wishing to apply as a duo or trio. While the Fellowship is primarily focused on one representative from each organisation, the Fellowship's tri-dimensional focus on the individual, organisation, and collective, encourages fellows to share their learnings with their colleagues to both benefit and contribute to growing the capacity of the organisation as a whole. Moreover, the grant is awarded to the organisation, ensuring that the impact reaches beyond the individual and creates lasting change.

2. Can a leader in a voluntary role for several years apply, or must they be salaried?

You do not need to be salaried, but upon reviewing your application assessors will consider how embedded you are within your organisation and how your role enables you to guide your team, shape strategy, and advance your organisation's mission.

3. Which staff member from my team should apply – for example, is the Fellowship better suited for our Artistic Director or for our Executive Director?

The most suitable person will vary by organisation. It is up to the organisation and applicant to decide who is best suited for this Fellowship. We will only accept applications from individuals in senior positions who are responsible for guiding their teams, shaping strategy, and advancing their organisation's mission.

4. Does my organisation need to be a registered charity, or are other non-profit structures, such as non-profit limited companies, eligible as well?

As long as your organisation is recognised as a non-profit entity within your geographic jurisdiction and adheres to the activities of non-profit organisations, you can apply even if it is not a charity.

5. How is “financial stability” defined for eligibility?

Financial stability means your organisation has the capacity to sustain its activities throughout the 18-month Fellowship. This can include both financial and non-financial resources. As part of your application, you will be asked to share

some financial documents and a summary about your organisation's sustainability, which we will review to ensure:

- Your organisation's debt does not exceed 1.5 times the amount of cash it holds.
- You can demonstrate confirmed and planned income for the Fellowship period to show that both you and your organisation can fully commit.
- You can highlight any non-financial resources that contribute to your organisation's stability, such as owned infrastructure or a strong volunteer network.

6. Do larger (in terms of income and staff members) and more urban organisations have an advantage in the application process?

No. The cohort of Fellows will represent a diverse range of socially engaged arts organisations, varying in size, methodologies, approaches, and other organisational characteristics.

7. Can the professional reference come from within the applicant's organisation, such as from the board or a direct collaborator?

No. Your professional reference letter must come from someone external to your organisation who can speak to your leadership capabilities and impact. This could be a collaborator, partner, artist, community member, or funder—someone who can provide a meaningful account of your leadership qualities and contributions.

8. Can the professional reference be from someone associated with a philanthropic foundation involved in the Fellowship?

No, as this would create a conflict of interest. All foundations in the Alliance will ultimately ratify the cohort of Fellows and must abstain from this process if there is a conflict of interest.

9. If 2024 financial documents are unavailable, can statements for 2022 and 2023 be submitted instead?

Yes, you can submit financial documents for 2022 and 2023 in case 2024 documents are not yet available. In case you are unable to provide an official financial statement for 2024, you will be asked to provide a brief overview of your 2024 accounts by submitting a year-end bank statement showing your organisation's balance, along with a list of receivables and debts, may be submitted instead, along with an explanation as to whether these amounts have been resolved by the date of submission.

10. If an organisation's documents are in a language other than English, do I need to translate these?

Financial and registration documents can be submitted in their original language,

but any additional documentation you provide (e.g., annual reports) must be in English.

11. Can an individual apply who represents a consortium of organisations?

You must apply as a leadership representative of a single organisation, though your organisation may work in partnership with others.

12. Does the letter of endorsement from governance-level need to be in English?

Yes.

13. If an organisation is in the process of founding an NGO, is it still eligible?

We are unable to accept applications from organisations that are still in the process of registering or that have only recently become legally registered. This is because we require organisations to provide financial statements for at least two financial years. Therefore, your organisation must have been formally registered before December 2022 and in operation for at least five years.

14. Will all travel and meeting dates be provided at the start of the Fellowship for planning?

Yes, meeting and travel dates for all group sessions will be shared at the beginning of the Fellowship and you must be able to attend all sessions. There is flexibility for scheduling one-to-one meetings within the defined calendar.

15. Does an organisation need to focus exclusively on socially engaged arts, or can it also work in related fields like sport?

Fellows' organisations can run programmes in different fields, however they must be operating as an arts organisation drawing on arts-based methods, with the majority of their activities focussed on socially engaged arts.

16. Does the engaged community need to be geographical, or can it be defined differently, such as working with artists as a community?

It can be any kind of community, but you must demonstrate how your work with this community is socially engaged to ensure your activities are responsive to their needs.

17. If two people from the same organisation wish to join but will self-fund the second person, should they submit one application or separate ones?

No, only one person per organisation can be accepted. We recommend selecting the most suitable person to apply. We do not accept self-funded Fellowships.

18. Does the Fellowship recognise cultural fields like nightlife and other less typical cultural movements?

Yes, the Fellowship is open to diverse forms of socially engaged arts. We encourage applicants to demonstrate how their work fosters community engagement, social change, and cultural impact.

19. Are there any restrictions on the nationality of the applicants?

No.

20. What if I am selected and I cannot follow all the work sessions?

You need to be available to attend all the sessions throughout the programme in order to be considered for the Fellowship. The programme offers a unique and transformative journey, so it's important to ensure that your participation is a genuine commitment. If you're unable to fully engage, kindly consider that someone else who can dedicate their time may be a better fit for this opportunity.

21. Can recently registered organisations apply?

Although we don't require full legal registration for the entire five-year period, we are unable to accept applications from newly registered organisations. As a general guideline, organisations must have been registered by December 2022 to ensure they can provide the necessary financial documents for the application process.