

the Albany



Associate Artists 2024

Information Pack



About the Albany

The Albany is an arts centre committed to representing the extraordinary creativity and diversity of Deptford, Lewisham and South East London. Each year over 60,000 people attend our events, ranging from music to theatre, spoken word and family performances; and take part in our award-winning participatory projects for young people and adults over 60.

Alongside four performance spaces, a bar, café, garden and coworking hub, we offer a range of low-cost rehearsal space, meeting rooms and offices for community and creative businesses. We aim to foster a welcoming and inclusive space where everyone is inspired to be creative, and where artists are supported and developed, in part through programmes such as our Associate Artists and Creative Communities schemes.

The Albany has 23 resident organisations, and manages and programmes Deptford Lounge on behalf of Lewisham Council. We are co-lead of the national Future Arts Centres network and lead partner of Fun Palaces.

The Albany was Lead Delivery Partner for We Are Lewisham, the Mayor's London Borough of Culture 2022, with over 400,000 audience members attending over 600 events throughout the year. Also in 2022, we were appointed as Lewisham's Arts & Culture Anchor Organisation, responsible for leading sector support initiatives, facilitating networking and amplifying the creative work happening in the borough.



Our Values

Open and welcoming

We foster an inclusive space, both physically and culturally, where anyone can feel welcome and heard.

A home for ideas, creativity and action

Everyone has the potential to be creative. We believe that creativity can make real change for individuals and on urgent issues around social justice and the climate crisis.

A connector of people

We put our communities at the heart of any process. We share our knowledge to shape change and create something better for everyone.

Responsive and flexible

We're co-operative, willing to listen and adjust our approach according to the task in hand. We love seeing amorphous ideas become reality.

Committed to representing the extraordinary creativity and diversity of Deptford and Lewisham

We are deeply rooted in Lewisham and South East London. We advocate for its residents, representing the diversity of our borough and the voices of Black and Global Majority people

Adventurous and ambitious

We believe that a sense of adventure is essential to achieving our vision. While we are rigorous in our approach and celebrate our successes we're not afraid to try something new.



What is the Associate Artist Scheme?

The Associate Artists Programme builds on the Albany's radical history of co-creation and has democratised the way we work by opening up decision making and access to the opportunities we can provide.

We're building a programme which gives artists more of a stake in the Albany and what it programmes. At the same time, artists will be able to develop their own work, collaborate with fellow Associates and build a network of peer support.

The programme has previously supported artists such as Inua Ellams, Zahed Sultan, Farrell Cox and Thick & Tight.

This time around we are looking for four new Associate Artists who will use their creative expertise to connect to one specific area of focus for the organisation and programme.

These four areas are:

- Deptford Lounge
- Music
- The Albany Garden, the climate emergency and green spaces
- Meet Me at the Albany, elders and intergenerational work
- Wild Card – if your practice doesn't explicitly connect to one of these categories, we'd still like to hear from you and how you might like to work with us and our communities.



What are the benefits?

Associate Artists will be connected to the Albany for 12 months. The programme includes:

An initial £1000 cash investment:

- To be used developing initial ideas
- May be used as match funding
- We have a range of opportunities for the further development of initial ideas, including existing creative programming and engagement opportunities.

In-kind resources:

- One week of space in-kind available to each artist (Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm)
- Access to fundraising support
- One year's Creative Communities Membership, including access to our co-working hub and low-cost rehearsal and movement space.

Access to the Albany Creative team & wider creative community:

We want to build a supportive community that provides access to knowledge and experience, and creates new opportunities. Responding to each artist and/or organisation, we'll aim to connect you with expertise best suited to your development at each stage of your process.

As a cohort of peers, you will support each other across the year.

You will help shape how we can connect artists across the Albany's wider creative community.

A space for your voice to be heard:

We'd like your help in rethinking how we work to establish the best systems for artists and communities to feed into our programming and decision making. This may involve opportunities to attend creative team meetings and planning sessions, and advocate for artists having a seat at the table.

Areas of focus:

This section provides extra information on the four areas of focus of the Associate Artist Scheme. The information here is for context, as examples of the kind of activity we have delivered, to help you to consider which area your practice / idea most closely aligns with.

Deptford Lounge:

The Albany works in partnership with Lewisham Council to programme and manage Deptford Lounge.

Deptford Lounge houses a library and hosts a wide range of events important to the local community – from our biannual Vietnamese Mid-Autumn and Lunar New Year festivals, to New Cross and Deptford Free Film Festival.

Deptford Lounge is particularly focused on:

- Work with and for 15-19 year olds, especially co-created and collaborative activity.
- Film - through New Cross and Deptford Free Film Festival and The Library Film Club.

- Sports - The ball courts on the roof of Deptford Lounge regularly host organisations Sports Fun for All and KSI Coaching, and we're interested in exploring the intersection between Sports and Culture.

[Find out more about Deptford Lounge](#)

Music:

Music is one of the main strands in our presented programme. We regularly present music ranging from intimate gigs in our Cafe and Studio spaces, to 500 capacity events in our iconic Theatre, focussing on jazz, soul, R&B, experimental and electronic.

We're also home to REZON8, a youth-led record label. REZON8 offers free recording sessions to 14-25 year olds two days a week, giving them the opportunity to learn how to use music and lyricism as a tool to positively impact their mental health.

[Find out more about REZON8](#)

The Albany Garden, the climate emergency and green spaces:

The Albany Garden is a green oasis in the heart of Deptford. It provides opportunities for people to get outdoors, connect with nature and wildlife, and grow food. Some of the Garden produce is now served in the Albany CaffA.

We're interested in work which can explore connection between the climate emergency and green spaces that communities can use, and which has the potential to engage audiences and communities to come together to discuss 'live' issues, and take action.

[Find out more about the Albany Garden](#)

Meet Me... at the Albany, elders and generational work:

We're interested in further developing work which meaningfully engages older participants, including collaboratively with younger people.

Our current Elders programme, Meet Me at the Albany, is an arts and social club for over 65s, produced by Entelechy Arts and the Albany, in partnership with Lewisham Council. The current membership is well established and growing, and includes participants aged 65-97.

Meet Me takes place in person at the Albany every Tuesday and we welcome and support people with a variety of health conditions, including dementia, to take part.

[Find out more about Meet Me...](#)

Wild Card:

If you feel that your creative practice doesn't explicitly connect to one of these categories, we'd still like to hear from you and how you might like to work with us and our communities.

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The Albany is a registered charity number 1112521

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Supported using public funding by
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