

Arts & Homelessness International

Associates Leadership Programme 2026 – 2027

The first cultural leadership programme for creatives/artists who are or have been homeless

Information Session– Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Can I continue voluntary work alongside the programme?

Yes. The programme is part-time, with a small number of compulsory dates across the year (including a residential retreat in August). It should be possible to continue voluntary or paid work alongside the programme.

2. When does the programme start?

The programme begins in April 2026. The online orientation session will take place on 6th & 7th May 2026, from 10 am – 12 pm.

3. Is the orientation online or in person?

The orientation meetings and the learning sessions are all online.

4. Do I need to be in the UK for the whole programme?

No. You do not need to be in the UK for the entire year. Some activities are online, and in-person dates will be shared in advance if you are shortlisted. Please note that we do not cover international travel cost.

5. How many Associates will be selected?

We plan to select 8 Associates for the 2026–27 programme

6. Who selects the Associates?

The selection panel are made up of Arts & Homelessness International staff, alumni associate, a board member, and a partner or funder.

7. Is the programme accessible?

Yes. We aim to make the programme accessible and will work with the selected Associates to meet access needs, including disability access and wellbeing needs.

8. Can I apply if I already have a project idea?

Yes. If you already have a project and the programme would support its development, that is absolutely appropriate. Please note this isn't a grant application; the purpose of the Associates Leadership Programme is to support your creative development.

9. Can I apply if I don't yet have a clear project idea?

Yes. The programme can support you to explore, refine, and develop ideas during the year. Please note that applicants are not required at this stage to know how they will use their creative budget; its purpose is to support creative development.

10. Can the programme be done alongside university or a placement year?

Usually yes. The programme is part-time, but there are some fixed dates which cannot be moved.

11. What support is available for migrants?

We welcome applicants of all backgrounds. We can explore what support you need, but please note this is an arts leadership programme focused on artistic development. Also, please refer to the criteria section in the information pack.

12. Do I need to provide evidence of lived experience of homelessness?

No. We work on a trust-based model and do not require evidence. Please read the definition in the information pack and tick yes if it applies to you. We encourage all applicants to adhere to our core values of equity, openness, and creativity, and to ensure the programme is taken up by those it is intended to support.

13. Is there an age limit?

No. The programme is open to anyone aged 18+ and is intentionally age-inclusive.

14. What wellbeing support is available?

Wellbeing support is built into the programme.

15. Is there payment for taking part?

Yes. Associates are paid £195 per day for 6 days (retreat and showcase days) (£1,170 total), plus a £500 mobility fund and up to £1,100 creative budget.

16. Can participation affect benefits?

We prefer Associates to be remunerated and can explore options to ensure payments do not negatively impact benefits. For more information on benefits and what you are entitled to claim please visit [Turn2us Benefits Calculator](#).

17. Can emotional support animals attend the summer retreat?

This will depend on the retreat venue and the needs of the group. We are happy to explore this with you.

18. Will the session recording or transcript be shared?

A written FAQ will be shared after the session. Please email us if you have any further questions.

19. Is there an interview stage?

Yes. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an informal interview in early March.

20. Can late applications be accepted?

No. Due to the competitive nature of the programme, late applications cannot be considered.

21. What is the final showcase?

The programme concludes with a public showcase, usually in March, where Associates are invited to share the work they have developed during the programme. Each Associate is given space to present their work in a way that feels right for them. In previous years, this has included exhibitions, performances, screenings, workshops, and installations. Participation is supported and flexible, and the format is shaped by the cohort. Here is an example from the [‘In My Shoes’ showcase](#) and [When She’s at Home! Showcase Event](#)

22. How many learning sessions are there?

There are 5 online learning sessions, run for 2 hours plus in-person summer retreat and the showcase event.

23. Is it possible to get a contacts list? One of my main aims is to increase networking and find collaborators. A list of fellow artists, their areas of interest, and where they are based would be useful whether or not I qualify.

We will not know who the other Associates are until the selection process is complete. However, we do share the names and backgrounds of previous Associates on our [website](#). During the programme, we also try to link Associates with other artists and organisations they are interested in wherever possible.

24. What are the masterclasses and training sessions, and what topics do they cover?

The masterclasses and training sessions are shaped by the needs and interests of the cohort. Topics may include fundraising, project planning, co-creation, curation, evaluation, arts administration, archiving and a range of subjects related to arts and homelessness.

25. I have an appointee would you be able to pay them?

We would need to understand what that means

26. Do we get any formal qualifications and what does the programme generally lead to?

We are currently exploring options around formal qualifications, but at present there is no formal qualification attached to the programme. However, you are encouraged to use your creative budget to book training or professional development opportunities related to your practice, should you wish.

27. What access and support is available?

We welcome access requests at any stage of the process. We are committed to providing reasonable adjustments for the application process, interviews, learning sessions, travel, and placements. Please let us know about any access needs so we can discuss how best to support you.

28. Is the programme for the individual artist's development, or for proposing public engagement projects?

The Associates Leadership Programme is designed primarily to support the individual artist's creative and leadership development with lived experience of homelessness rather than requiring applicants to propose public engagement projects. All Associates will share work at the showcase event in March 2027, which is intended as a moment of celebration of the cohort's journeys and creative development.

29. When will successful applicants be announced?

Successful applicants will be notified in April 2026, following shortlisting, references and interviews, which are expected to take place in early March.

30. Do I need to attend all sessions, even if some are not directly applicable to me?

Yes. All Associates are expected to attend the core sessions of the programme. Even when a session may not feel immediately applicable to your own practice, it forms part of the shared learning experience of the cohort and contributes to the collective development of the group.



Arts & Homelessness International
Charity n°: 1183955

31. Can I contact you with further questions?

Yes. Please email hello@artshomelessint.com

