



The Liminal Space



Frequently asked questions

- [Please read: Guidance for applicants to join Mindsets + Missions for Museums and Science Centres of the Future](#)
- You can also view our [webinar recording](#) and [accompanying presentation](#) document for further information

1. What does Research and Innovation mean in this context?

Research and innovation is about advancing our knowledge, developing new technologies and systems, and addressing global and local challenges. When people and communities are involved in research and innovation, it becomes more useful and relevant to everyone, and museums, galleries, and science and discovery centres are ideally placed to do this work. Mindsets + Missions aims to support research and innovation to take place within these organisations in collaboration with typically underrepresented communities for the purpose of addressing key societal issues and telling new stories, discovering better ways of working *with* communities, and creating more equitable and inclusive spaces overall.

For more information, read [Research and innovation for all: UKRI's public engagement strategy](#)

2. What is the aim of the Learning Programme?

This is an opportunity for dedicated time, space and attention to be given towards the developing work that engages underrepresented audiences in research, inquiry, knowledge sharing and innovation. The cohort will consist of a range of organisations, changemakers, activists, and typically underrepresented communities for a rich diversity of knowledge, perspectives, and vision for how museums and science centres can best serve citizens of the future.

3. What can the £2000 (minimum of £500 for individuals) in Phase 1 be used for?

This is a development grant to secure and support successful applicants' commitment to the Learning Programme. We expect participants to retain travel funds from the payments as part of their commitment to the learning programme, and welcome organisations to use of a proportion of the funds to support the inclusion of any existing community partners if appropriate.

4. Is there extra support for individual applicants living in remote areas?

Please reach out to [Craig](#) to discuss any financial barriers that you feel the Phase 1 grants are not sufficient to cover.

5. Can we still apply for the grant in Phase 2 without being part of the Learning Programme Cohort in Phase 1?

While the Phase 2 grant applications will only be available to those organisations who participated in the Learning Programme, applications which include partnerships with non-cohort members will be welcomed.

6. What sort of work can the Phase 2 grants cover?

Full details and guidance documents will be made available once applications for the Phase 2 grants open in April 2023. Projects which embody the knowledge and learning from Phase 1 and concentrate on engagement and ethical relationships with underrepresented audiences through research and innovation will be prioritised for funding.

7. I don't have a specific idea; can I still get involved?

Yes, it is not necessary to have a project idea to apply to join the Learning Programme. We simply ask that you and your organisation are willing to be involved in knowledge sharing, inquiry, evaluation, and learning dissemination with cohort members, colleagues, and your existing networks.

8. How is "underrepresented" measured in the context of our audiences?

It is important that you identify yourself who is underrepresented within the context of your own setting and work. However, these groups usually fall along racial, socio-economic, geographical and gender boundaries, as well as other protected and non-protected characteristics.

9. Who in my organisation is best suited to represent us within the Learning Programme?

It is important that this person is connected to projects and programmes so that they can oversee and reflect on day-to-day practices within the organisation. It is also vital that they have sufficient seniority and influence so that they can lead on implementing new initiatives and ideas, train and support colleagues, and be listened to by senior members of the organisation.

10. Can more than one person from my organisation apply as an individual?

If you are from a non-museum/science centre organisation, you can choose to apply as a team through the 'individuals' pathway. This means that if you feel an application from your team is more valuable to the Learning cohort than an individual application from yourself, you can choose to apply in this way.

11. Can an organisation put forward two members of staff for phase 1?

We advise that the same person represents your organisation at each of the Learning programme meetings in March. This allows for continuity within the cohort and streamlined communication of learning back into your organisation. If you feel that a second person is a valuable addition to your application, please detail why within the form and the selection committee will review this with the rest of your application answers.

12. What sizes of organisations are eligible to apply?

The Learning Programme will benefit from variety and diversity in all ways, and so we welcome applications from organisations of all shapes and sizes.

13. Will there be an even geographical spread of applicants chosen?

Yes, we are actively working to have representation across from across all regions of the UK.

14. Does our involvement with any other grants affect our eligibility for Mindsets + Missions?

No, Mindsets + Missions is a stand-alone programme, and no other grants, funding or programmes will influence the selection of successful applicants

15. What is meant by “significant grants”?

As with all questions in the application form, this question is simply designed as an opportunity for the selection committee to ‘get to know’ your organisation. Use this to tell your organisation’s story.