

1) What is the purpose of the mentoring programme?

The mentoring programme is designed to support people who are at an earlier stage of their creative practice or career, and those who would benefit from the guidance of an experienced mentor and connection to a wider network of creative professionals.

Alongside one-to-one mentoring, participants will have opportunities to connect with fellow mentees and mentors through events and workshops, helping to build confidence, share experiences and create meaningful professional connections.

2) Who is the programme for?

The programme is for anyone developing a career or practice within the creative and cultural sector who would benefit from the support of a mentor and a network of peers. Whether you are just starting out, building a freelance career, exploring a new area of your work or are looking for support with your next steps, the mentoring programme offers a space for you to develop, reflect and grow.

3) What will I gain from taking part?

You will have the opportunity to explore ideas, discuss challenges, receive guidance from your mentor, as well as connect with others working in the sector. Everyone's experience will be different, but we hope you'll leave the programme with greater confidence, stronger connections and motivation to take the next steps in your creative career or practice.

4) What does taking part involve? How much time will I need to commit?

The programme includes up to 12 hours of mentoring, which you'll shape with your mentor to suit your goals and schedule. Some people may prefer longer, less frequent sessions, while others may benefit from shorter and more regular check-ins. You will also be invited to take part in a launch event, midpoint

workshop, celebration event and opportunities to connect with fellow mentees and mentors.

5) How are mentors matched with mentees?

We will match mentors and mentees based on the information shared in your application, including your interests, goals and areas where you'd like support. Your mentor may bring a different perspective, or have a different background to your own practice, but they will bring valuable insight and encouragement to support you in your development.

6) Do I need to know exactly what I want to achieve before applying?

No! While it's helpful to have some ideas about what you'd like to get from the programme, you don't need to have everything figured out before you apply.

You might have a clear goal, such as developing an application for funding, growing your network or exploring a new area of practice. Equally, you might simply be looking for support, guidance and space to explore and reflect on what could come next. The programme is designed to help you explore ideas, build confidence and make progress, wherever you're starting from. Together, you and your mentor can identify goals and areas of focus that feel meaningful and achievable.

7) What happens after I apply?

Once applications have closed, we'll review all submissions and consider how the programme can best support each applicant. If you're offered a place, we'll be in touch with details about your mentor match, programme activities and next steps.

8) Is there a cost to take part?

No. There is no cost to participate in the programme.

Skills Hub: Creative Community Mentoring Programme – Mentee FAQ

