



Bristol Beacon Resident Artists

Application Guidance and FAQs

About Bristol Beacon

Bristol Beacon is a music charity, renowned venue and award-winning music education hub.

Our purpose

We're here to help make space for music every day, with everyone, with you! We do this through a remarkable programme of live music performance, participation and education.

We believe that by connecting people through incredible live music experiences, we will create a more united and joyful society.

How we work

We value the contribution that every one of us makes to achieving our purpose, and we commit to the following values and behaviours to make it happen.

- We collaborate with each other
- We are open and honest
- We always rise to a challenge
- We care for each other and ourselves
- We are proud of our work
- We are committed to inclusion
- We believe music can make a difference in the world

Music is at the heart of what we do, but we also host and co-create many other types of events from community group meetings to awards ceremonies, conferences, talks, stand-up comedy and lots more.

Bristol Beacon was originally built in 1867, and we have a long and fascinating heritage as a public space for the people of Bristol, including a rich social and [music history](#).

We have also announced our sustainability commitment to become the first net zero concert venue in the UK by 2030.

About our Talent Development programme

We're making space for the scene. For the artists, producers, and music industry professionals of the future to create, collaborate, grow and glow. Through a programme designed to support creative ambition, we provide access to resources, mentoring, industry workshops, performance opportunities, and professional connections.

Bristol Beacon delivers a range of activities designed to support people's creative development throughout their lives. We recognise that equality of opportunity is only possible when support is given equitably. To meet this need, each year we invest in the pursuits of emerging creatives at all stages of development, who are aged 18+, and either under-represented or face challenges gaining experience within the music industry.

We are committed to providing a platform for emerging talent, as well as working with established artists, and partner organisations, to provide a balanced programme of events and participatory activity which represents the demographics of city today.

Who is the Resident Artist opportunity for? (Essential Criteria)

- Artists creating their own original music e.g.:
 - Songwriters
 - Composers
 - Producers
 - Bands/Duos - individual members of groups are eligible to apply if they are the main music creator within their group and can act responsible for coordinating any group activity
- Ready to pursue music as primary occupation, or already doing so
- Aged over 25
- Bristol based
- At least 3 years professional experience within the music industry
- Track record of commercially released, published, or commissioned work
- Track record of live performance or digital presentation of work
- Evidence of recent growth in local / regional / national profile
- Not under any business, employment, educational, or other contractual obligations that would compromise or restrict participation in the project
- Not signed to a major record label or publisher (Warner Music, Sony Music or Universal Music or any of their affiliates or subsidiaries)
- Not in receipt of significant grant funding or label/distribution advance
- Artists who are either underrepresented in the music sector or face barriers/challenges to progression within the industry

What are the commitments and expectations?

- Able to commit to regular attendance and use of studio facilities
- Able to work independently and express and receive feedback when necessary
- Able to work flexibly and collaboratively within a busy and complex arts organisation
- Able to maintain regular communication for scheduling and progress updates

How are selections made?

- Every application that meets the essential criteria will be fairly considered by both Bristol Beacon's Artistic team and an independent inclusion advisor
- Shortlisted applications will then be assessed by a further panel of independent industry professionals who represent a balance of identities and lived experience
- Top applicants will then be contacted for an informal interview with decisions and final acceptance to the project subject to confirmation of ability to participate

When would I need to be available to attend the activity?

- 1x day in week commencing 17th Aug for Artist Welcome Day
- 1x day in week commencing 14th Sep for Project & Studio Induction
- Oct – Aug: Studio time needs to be scheduled in advance with access generally on Thu-Sat 10am-8pm, with subject to availability
- Group sessions at the beginning, middle and end of project – Dates TBC
- Occasional ad-hoc time for project admin tasks and correspondence

Where will it happen?

- Bristol Beacon, Trenchard Street, Bristol, BS1 5AR
 - Cellars – Sound Studios & Weston Stage
 - Other spaces around the venue
 - Online or external public meeting spaces of your choice

What resources and facilities will be available to use?

- Cellars: Sound Studios – you can view the equipment list [here](#)
- Cellars: Weston Stage – you can view the venue specifications [here](#)
- You also have the option to use a portion of your development grant to purchase or hire any specific equipment you require that we cannot provide

What are we allowed to spend the development grant on?

- Creating or presenting new music (i.e. bring in collaborators such as producers, or session musicians, paying for mixing or mastering, promotional assets)
- Professional development (i.e. advice from professional consultants such as legal experts, music managers, record labels or paying for professional services such as distribution, publicists, pluggers)
- Creative development (i.e. training, purchasing or hiring musical equipment, advice from professional consultants such as producers, engineers)

Who are the other people involved in the project?

- Bristol Beacon staff from Artistic, Marketing, Production, and Technical teams
- Bank of external industry professionals – you can choose who to work with

- You can also utilise the development grants to pay your own contacts to collaborate with or provide services
- The studios will often be used by other local artists, project participants or staff

How does the paid residency aspect work and what is it for?

- Payments will be made on a quarterly basis, dependent on completion of necessary evaluations requirements and invoices being submitted
- The payments are to enable equitable access to the opportunity by helping to remove any financial barriers to participation, this can contribute to:
 - Subsidising income due to the challenges of earning sustainably from music alone
 - Childcare costs, or carer costs
 - Travel costs
 - Difference in earned income if losing a day's pay from another job

What if I have access requirements or additional needs?

- Additional support and financial resources will be allocated to enable participation
- Reasonable adjustments will be made for applicants if required
- Our venue and studio facilities are all fully accessible with a Changing Places accessible toilet

How do I apply?

Please pay attention to the details provided, we recommend you take the time to read the full information relating to this opportunity, including the webpage and the guidance in this document. For applications to effectively be considered, our assessors will require you to directly answer each question in the form to outline where you are currently at whilst demonstrating a clear understanding of how this support will have a meaningful impact on your career development, therefore please read each question before answering any of them to ensure your answers are concise and avoid duplication.

You are able to choose how you prefer to answer the application questions, in the form you are provided with options of typing text or recording video or audio.

Bristol Beacon is committed to being more representative, making space for a wider range of voices and lived experience within our organisation and the wider music industry by working collaboratively as we seek to make our organisation more inclusive.

Ensuring that we reflect the diversity of the communities within which we operate is a key part of our work, and so we're particularly keen to hear from people from a culturally and ethnically diverse background, from d/Deaf and Disabled people and from all of those who are under-represented in the cultural sector or face barriers to progression within the music industry.

We are keen to hear from a diverse range of candidates; if you have any questions or need to receive this application pack in a different format, please contact:

supportforcreatives@bristolbeacon.org