



YOUNG V&A *DESIGN RESIDENCY*

// OPEN CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Residency dates: 17 January to 15 July 2022

Residency Stipend: £8,000

Deadline for first round applications: 27 October 2021

Deadline for second round applications (longlisted candidates only): 17 November 2021

Interview date: Friday 10 December 2021

V&A Induction dates: Week beginning 17 January 2022 (Dates TBC)

The Victoria and Albert Museum is inviting applications from UK based practitioners working in participatory and child-centred design who wish to develop their practice or portfolio of work. We are interested in practitioners who work in a critically informed way and are interested in developing their practice with a focus on inclusive design processes that effectively engage children and young people.

This invitation connects to a pivotal moment in the development of Young V&A, the Bethnal Green site formerly known as the V&A Museum of Childhood. The museum is currently closed and undergoing a major capital redevelopment, moving from a museum about the social history of childhood, to a museum of creativity for children and young people from birth to 14 years. As a pilot project, this residency aims to inform our understanding of how practitioners can contribute to Young V&A. We intend this residency to explore inclusive design learning opportunities and ways that the traditional hierarchies of design process can be rebalanced to enable engagement with a diverse range of children and young people. We anticipate the resident will explore ways that the voices of children and young people can be paired effectively with creative professionals, valuing their lived experience and unique perspectives within participatory design processes.

Vision for Young V&A

Our vision for Young V&A is to build creative confidence in young people from birth to early teens, harnessing the potential of the full V&A Collection and the expertise of creative practitioners, through a collection-centred and audience-led approach. The museum's transformation takes place in the context of its heritage as a key cultural resource and place of learning in East London since 1872. The vision is driven by the desire to offer dynamic, meaningful, relevant content for young people and their families. Young V&A is underpinned by leading research in early childhood development and cognitive science on the critical role of learning through play. Finally, in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, there is growing global recognition of the importance of creative skills – a focus that will be supported by the museum's focus on applied creativity as a critical skill for the future.

Young V&A will respond to this context with four aims:

- To **INSPIRE** children and young people's creative agency through engagement with art, performance and design;
- To **EMPOWER** educators to drive forward creative education in art, performance and design from early years to secondary school, becoming a national museum resource for creative education;
- To **CONNECT** children and young people with the ingenuity of designers, entrepreneurs, innovators and inventors, and;
- To **INFLUENCE** the sector in building creative confidence through inclusive museum practice for children and young people.

The Residency

This residency specifically connects to the development of the Design Gallery that will feature in the new Young V&A Museum. The Design gallery's three key areas will explore manufacturing processes, design for change through a series of case studies, and the idea of usefulness and user-centred design. The case studies will explore sustainability, materials, micro transport and more, through focus on a particular project and its historic context illustrated through objects from the V&A's collections.

We anticipate that the outcomes of the residency will influence our thinking in presenting and actively engaging children and young people in design through a visual representation of design values or design processes for our target audience. As a learning-led museum, drawing on the diversity of the whole V&A Collection, we invite practitioners working with diverse methods as well as inclusive and imaginative approaches to participatory and child-centred design practice. We encourage practitioners to engage with the Young V&A's vision, exhibits and collections in creative and original ways.

We encourage practitioners to outline in their application how they envision their residency will respond to the vision of Young V&A through practice-based research that can inform the museum's thinking, and in response to the Young V&A collections, Learning Programme and public engagement activities.

We anticipate that the Resident will make use of studio space in South Kensington, accessing the Young V&A's collections during their time in storage at the South Kensington site. In addition, we would expect the Resident to build a strong practical network in East London, playing an active role in local delivery as part of the R&D cycle.

The residency will take place at the V&A South Kensington in London over a six-month period from 17 January – 15 July 2022. The V&A will provide a £8,000 bursary and a studio space within the Museum's Sackler Centre for arts education. The Resident will need to commit to delivery and physical activity with audiences in Tower Hamlets or around East London. We will consider applications from collectives as well as individual practitioners.¹

¹ It should be noted however, that the residency fee is a lump sum for the residency and would have to be divided amongst a group. A lead practitioner must be identified, if a group application is made.

ROLE AND EXPECTATIONS OF THE RESIDENT

The appointed Resident will be expected to:

- Spend time equivalent to at least one day per week² throughout the duration of the residency carrying out research and developing their practice, meeting with/presenting ideas to museum staff and developing ideas for public engagement;
- Undertake one collaborative and participatory project with the YV&A Learning Team, dedicating at least one day per week to engaging in delivery and physical activity with audiences in Tower Hamlets or around East London;
- Make this residency their primary commitment, although a part-time role;
- Undertake museum-focused and/or collections-based research;
- Present their research and work in progress to the V&A museum staff and the general public on a regular basis (e.g. 121s, Work in Progress, Open Studios, InFocus Tours);
- Hold Open Studios (we estimate a minimum of 3 for the duration of the residency);
- Participate in monthly 121s with the YV&A's Senior Producer: Formal Learning and a 'Work in Progress' presentation in late Summer 2022 (an informal 'crit' session with V&A curators);
- Contribute to the dissemination of their residency-related research outputs on the V&A website and networks, through film, photography, podcast, blog posts and social media;
- Author and submit a final report reflecting on their residency research, experience and findings;
- Commit to an induction and orientation at V&A during the start of the residency;
- Commit to residency code of professional practice (to be signed during their induction).

BENEFITS FOR THE RESIDENT

- Access to the V&A's extensive collections (in the galleries and in storage, when and where possible);
- Support in their research from our curatorial departments, the V&A Residencies team, as well as external contacts and networks when appropriate;
- Studio space on site at the V&A South Kensington, with access to a personal computer, including V&A intranet login and email address;
- The selected resident will be part of a community and collective of V&A alumni residents, with access to alumni events and networking opportunities;
- They will be issued a temporary V&A Museum Security pass for the duration of the Residency, subject to Security clearance.

² There is flexibility to accommodate other commitments that the Resident may have (travel, teaching, exhibitions etc.) so the Resident can work more intensively during some periods and less during others but we are looking for a practitioner that will make the Residency a primary commitment.

NB: The V&A cannot offer secretarial or administrative assistance to Residents beyond access to the desk mentioned above and any related stationery required to support the research needs of the Residency. Moreover, the V&A cannot offer technical support for the production of new work and depending on the resident's practice, they may have to use their residency budget to rent equipment or hire specialised support.

RESIDENCY BUDGET

The Resident will receive a total fee of £8,000. This fee will cover the Resident's bursary and production budget for the residency, including but not limited to any equipment, software, materials and technical support required by the resident. It should be noted that the V&A cannot otherwise contribute to the Resident's living costs, including accommodation in central London (if required and to be arranged by the Resident), subsistence and travel costs to and from the artists' normal working location and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The Residency bursary will be disbursed over three instalments: end of January, April and July. Instalments are based on completing project-specific benchmarks, so planning for good personal cash flow is essential, and grant should not be relied upon as sole income stream.

APPLICATION PROCESS: SHORTLISTING, INTERVIEW AND OFFER

The application process for this residency opportunity is a two-stage process.

- **Stage One: Microsoft Forms – Deadline: Wednesday 27 October, 5pm**
 - At this stage, we're interested in finding out about you, your design and co-design experience, as well as information about skills, knowledge, and experience relevant to the residency. We'll also ask for a link to your website or online portfolio of projects relevant to this residency
 - [Click here to access the form](#)

Applications will be considered by at least two members of V&A staff. We regret that we will not be able to provide feedback to unsuccessful candidates. Successful candidates will be informed by email and invited to Stage Two and share their proposal for the residency.

- **Stage Two: Residency Proposal – Between 3 and 17 November**
 - We're very much open to a variety of formats that best suit your needs as a designer and an individual.
 - Successful candidates will be offered a variety of options to present their idea.
 - Formats may include video files or links, audio files, PowerPoint, PDF or Word document. Limits on duration and length will be set when invited to Stage Two.

Following Stage Two, successful applications will be informed by email and invited to interview. Interviews will take place on **Friday 10 December** through **Microsoft Teams** and will include a short presentation and a series of interview questions. The interview panel will most likely consist of the V&A Residencies Producer, a museum curator, a Young V&A Learning staff member, and an external industry professional. We are unable to provide any feedback on unsuccessful applications (we will only be able to provide feedback to applicants that are interviewed).