



FAQ'S AND GUIDANCE FOR MI25 ARTIST CALL OUT

What is Manchester Independents?

Since 2020, Manchester Independents has supported new, independent Greater Manchester (GM) creativity, and put control directly into the hands of the artist, through a unique, collaborative and democratic model with artistic decisions made by our panel of independent Artist Advisors, while partner organisations provided the resources to help make the artistic commissions happen. In 2021 and 2023, we invested over £150K directly into newly commissioned art chosen by artists, across a range of art forms.

Aims and Objectives:

- Support independent, freelance artists from all art forms, including early career, to create and present new work across all GM boroughs
- Be artist-led and democratic in decision-making; supported by our arts partners;
- Cast a national/international spotlight on professional freelance artists in our City Region;
- Create long term legacy opportunities for artists, helping them develop and sustain their careers.

How many and how much would be awarded

We are looking to award 3 commissions of up to £5,000 each for work that has had some development but needs completing.

What do you mean by work that has had some development but needs completing?

This list is not exhaustive, but examples might be:

- Work which has completed R & D but needs finishing off for public presentation.
- Work which has been presented but needs assistance to tour onwards.
- Work which has been presented but needs to be developed or updated.

What support artists will get

Commissioned artists will receive the following support from Manchester Independents:

- A commission fee of up to £5,000.
- An opportunity to pitch work to international producers who will be visiting Manchester on **Saturday 5 July 2025** as part of MIF's International Weekend.
- Training and support in preparation for the international producers networking event.
- Contacts and advice from the Project Manager and MI team
- Connections and matchmaking with venues and organisations
- A page and events listing on Manchester Independents website: www.manchesterindependents.org
- Opportunity to post a blog on the 'news' section of the website
- Social media support through MI's pages
- Connections to other companies and professionals
- Inclusion of events in newsletters.

Can I apply if I am seeking other funding for the project

Yes, but the project must be able to be delivered within the amount requested from MI in your application and must not rely on success with other funding bids.

Who can apply

Independent artists or collectives* working in any artform living and/or working in Greater Manchester who have work that has been in development and would be ready to show 3 – 20 July 2025.

The Lead applicants must:

- Be over 18
- Live in or have their main practice based in Greater Manchester postcode area:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XSJdipjBojWFuXwYYOpETNgBtCwDVw3N/view?usp=sharing>

**For the purposes of this commission we would not expect core-funded organisations to apply.*

When is the work to be delivered

Work must be ready to be shown between **3 – 20 July 2025**.

Where will the work be presented

Through our partners we have access to venues and opportunities for showing the work and will help facilitate partnering between an artist and a venue or artists may have their own connections and links and have a specific venue in mind. Venue availability will be dependent on the nature of the commission and will not be known until after selection.

What should I include in the award request amount

Include a full budget of how you will spend the money – to include fees to other collaborators, making costs and your own technical and production management costs. We will aim to partner you with venues that might offer making and showing space where needed.

How to apply

The on-line application here <https://forms.gle/pBhDZRJ2oppe5TTU8>

Application deadline: **12 noon, Wednesday 2 April 2025**

Please note that we cannot accept late or incomplete applications.

Please remember to upload links to examples of your work as this will strengthen your application and give us a fuller idea of your practice.

What is the selection process

Selection will be made based on the strength of applications in the context of the programme aims and selection criteria (below). Shortlisted candidates may be invited for an interview. The decision to award commissions or not is at the discretion of the panel of Artists Advisers. Outcomes of the decision-making process will be final and will be based on a scoring and balancing process.

Artists will be selected against the following criterion:

- The creative idea itself;
- How clearly you demonstrate consideration of timelines, and that final work can be ready for 3 – 20 July;
- How ready you/your project are to benefit from the MI25 offer;
- That your proposed expenditure is realistic.

Exclusions and requirements

- Please note that we cannot accept late or incomplete applications.
- We cannot consider any applications from artists living outside, or without a work base in, Greater Manchester

Any incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline of **12 noon on 2 April 2025** will be ineligible.

Key Dates

Deadline for applications: 12 noon, 2 April 2025

Shortlisted applicants notified: w/b 28 April 2025.

April/May 2025: delivery/producing period for artists.

Work presented: 3 – 20 July 2025

Pitching event to International Producers: 5 July 2025.

Conditions

Successful candidates will be expected to:

1. Sign an agreement committing to show finished work **3– 20 July 2025**.
2. Attend a number of artists networking & training events.
3. Be registered as self-employed and able to provide a UTR (Unique Tax Reference), have in place your own relevant insurances for yourself and working with others including with the public and in public settings
4. Communicate regularly with the Manchester Independents Project Manager, partners, and relevant collaborators on the development of the commission.
5. Agree to take part in Evaluation and feedback.

Selection

We anticipate there will be a lot more work proposed that can be supported. A cross artform panel of independent artists and representatives supported by some of our partners (with independent artists in the majority) will make the selection. Give your proposal the best chance by helping them see your vision. Be descriptive, be relevant, be inspirational, be outward looking.

Access requirements

We don't want the application process to be a barrier for any artists or companies, so we hope that the below will make the process more accessible.

- **Video/Audio Applications:** We welcome applications in a video or audio format if you prefer.
- **Phone:** If you would like to talk over the phone, just let us know and we can arrange a phone call.
- **Email:** We are always available via email if you have any questions or want to talk through the process in more detail at contact@manchesterindependents.org

Equal opportunities

Manchester independents are committed to equal opportunities. Please don't forget to complete the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form which you can find at the bottom of the application form.