



**CONVENTION
HOUSE
RESIDENCIES**

EAST ST ARTS

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Residency Overview

We are delighted to announce **Four Creative Residencies** with a focus on technology, the environment and making. The residencies will provide you with opportunities to:

- experiment with a range of technology
- engage in the organisation's priorities around the environment, the circular economy and access and inclusion with a focus on tech
- explore ideas through creating and making, in support of your practice

These residencies are funded by Garfield Weston Foundation as part of our rebuilding programme post COVID.

Alongside the support for your development you will be given the opportunity to play a role in the development and direction of Convention House as an artist-led space; ensuring the setup and provisions are bespoke to artists' ambitions - whilst also being welcoming, accessible and responsive to local communities.

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As well as our other activities each residency will contribute to the development of Convention House, including:

- Moving the venue forward and increasing its lived-in experience
- Kickstarting ways of working that draw on and contribute to the opportunities provided within Convention House, East Street Arts and our neighbourhood
- Testing and developing models of collaborative working and operating communal equipment
- Expanding the range of technical and digital equipment in the building to ensure it meets a wide range of needs
- Contributing to the creation of a community of users, contributors and wider advocates for the building and its facilities
- Embedding open source approaches for democratising technology and allowing it to be accessible to all
- Continuing to establish the venue as a maker space in the neighbourhood for local communities, artists, inventors, activists and others
- Working in collaboration and alongside our Online Residencies
- Contributing to artist-led documentation of the process of setting up a piece of equipment, writing safe systems of work and running workshops demonstrating its use
- A programme of workshops and skill sharing sessions, including creating a portable taster session offer to our neighbours
- Knowledge share though a focus on Creative Commons licensing and a wiki site for dissemination of learning

Residency Overview cont.

We are looking for artists who are at any stage of their career, working within any discipline, including individuals who incorporate art or creativity into their work, though may not describe themselves as an 'artist'. We are also interested in inventors, activists, technologists, and entrepreneurs!

We are interested in people who have the ambition to incorporate technical equipment and technology into their practice and creative work, but may have faced barriers when trying to do this. We are also interested in those who have embedded tech into their practice but are looking to expand on or collaborate on this further.

Are you interested in learning new skills whilst sharing yours with fellow artists and our neighbours?

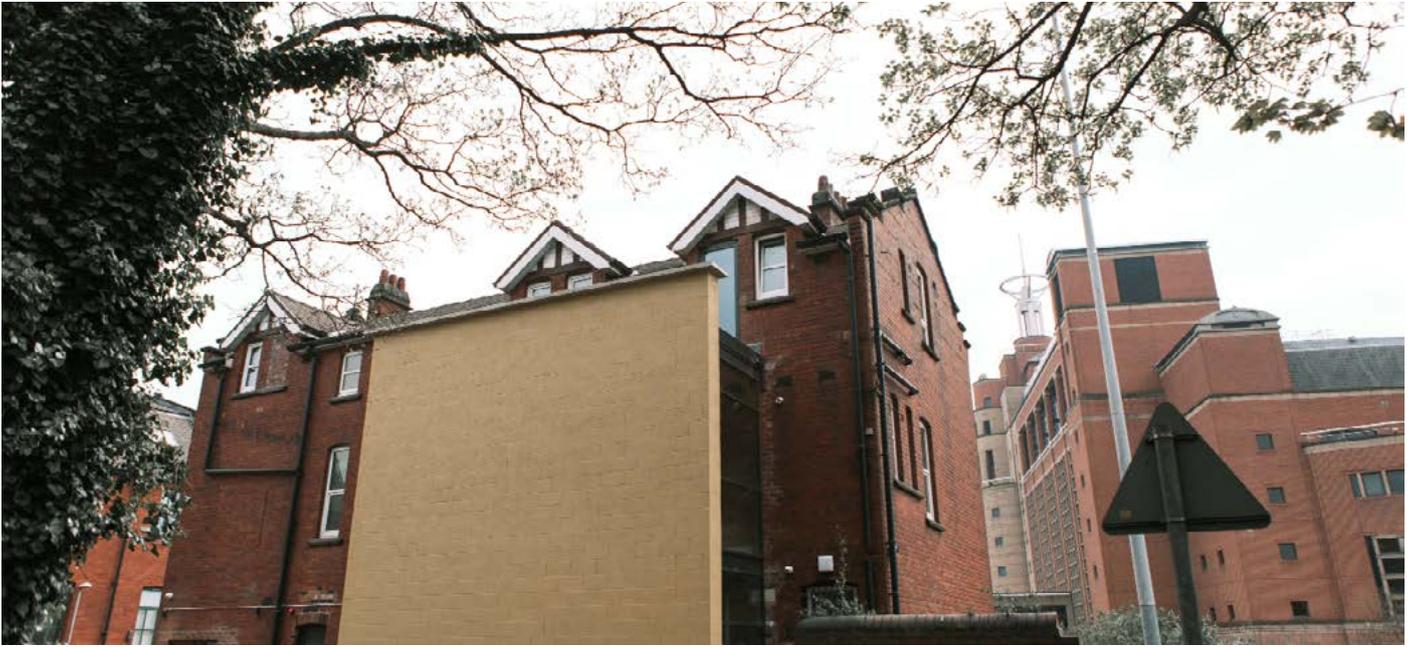
We want you to make this your home for a while, experiment, take advantage of what we have available whilst contributing to the space for yourselves and the next users to enjoy.

We will aim to support you in achieving a balance during your residency of time to explore and develop your practice as well as becoming an active member of our growing creative community.

You will be invited to regular check-ins with us, invited to openings and events for East Street Arts projects and activities, and can even join us for the Art Hostel's Tuesday Night Tea! Most of our staff will be just next door in an open plan office and kitchen that you can always pop into if you need something or would like a change of scenery.

We are welcoming and we enjoy seeing what new artists can bring and add to the mix.





About East Street Arts

East Street Arts is an arts charity that provides affordable space, resources, professional support and opportunities for artists to engage with their audiences and peers across the UK and beyond.

We believe participation in art is an essential part of people's well-being, learning and leisure and our neighbourhood's vitality. Our community facing programme encourages participants to learn, experiment, play and develop skills and experiences through workshops, events, exhibitions, public art and socials.

Convention House is part of a thriving complex of three buildings providing; workspace, maker facilities, and a responsive event and exhibition programme. Convention House sits next to our East Street Arts HQ; Patrick Studios, and the pioneering 60 bed Art Hostel.



About Convention House

Convention House is our new art and tech hub where diverse art, technology, environment and business communities converge.

It is a unique centre where artists, technologists and social entrepreneurs can collaborate, test, experiment, make and innovate. A space where audiences, participants and neighbours can experience and bring new ideas, play with analogue and digital equipment and develop new skills.

At East Street Arts, we love making new things happen. From working with people and creating space for them to experiment, play and gain new experiences - to helping them grow sustainable practices (such as developing income possibilities) and everything in between.

We know this kind of creativity, sharing and exchanging of knowledge and skills can change people's lives. And we see Convention House becoming a lively making hub for anyone who wants to get involved and have a go at making and experimenting.

Technology and the digital are inherently political, in terms of access, inclusion and wider socio-economic contexts. Convention House aims to address this through broadening access whilst encouraging those who engage with the space to think about tackling these barriers.

We aim to operate a circular economy ethos across all our buildings and programming that encourages recycling, re-use, and reduction of materials and processes that have a negative impact on our world and the climate; which will be particularly relevant in Convention House when thinking about the carbon footprint of digital and using new and old technologies.

Convention House, with care and consultation from artists and communities, is growing into a thriving creative space, and is currently home to:

- Sable Radio - an online radio station + creative platform who broadcast, run workshops, produce podcasts and curate programmes all from their studio in Convention House
- Northern Sustainable Darkroom - a photographic research facility based in Leeds and London. As part of the wider Sustainable Darkroom network, it focuses on the innovation and development of sustainable alternatives to photographic processes
- Creative You! - A programme of participatory arts activities, digital capability upskilling, practical skills in job search through creative engagement

Alongside specific projects, there is a range of activities currently taking place in Convention House, such as:

- An on-going diverse range of workshops, events and exhibitions that we host through our engagement with local communities and creatives
- Regular events in connection to our public-facing programme of commissions such as Season For Change and our Neighbourhood Plan work
- Various members of staff work within Convention House, as well as a technician who brings a wealth of experience, energy and enthusiasm for incorporating new areas of tech/digital.

Benefits of the Residency

Fee: You will receive £3000

Time: We are anticipating you will spend 20 days working with us over a period of three months. (Based on Artists Union England rates of pay guidelines 2020)

We will make a reasonable contribution to travel and we can offer free living accommodation for your residency (if needed) in Convention House and all studio and facility time is free.

Additional support: Alongside this we have allocated £500 for you to access a mentor of your choice, who has an existing practice based around the area of your residency. They will also be supported by East Street Arts Convention House team and Technician.

There is potential for you to help us to add to our growing collection of equipment, as well as input into the planning, purchase and set-up of technical equipment. We aim for this to enable you throughout the commission to identify processes you would like to try or experiment with.

East Street Arts has an artist access budget which will be available to you if you need it. Our team is happy to work with you to develop a project specific access rider, or use any existing information around any access needs that you may have.

We are looking for artists who are at any stage of their career, working within any discipline, including individuals who incorporate art or creativity into their work, though may not describe themselves as an 'artist'. We are also interested in inventors, activists, technologists, and entrepreneurs!

We are interested in people who have the ambition to incorporate technical equipment and technology into their practice and creative work, but may have faced barriers when trying to do this. We are also interested in those who have embedded tech into their practice but are looking to expand on or collaborate on this further.



How to apply

To apply please send a short proposal including responses to the below questions, as well as attachments or links to your existing work. You can also apply by uploading video or audio formats if you would prefer..

- Your name and contact details (phone number, email and preferred methods of contact)
- Where you are based
- How would you like to access Convention House (hybrid, digital, daily visits to site, live on site)
- Tell us about your current practice and give us examples of your work
- Tell us about the project you want to explore with us
- How will Convention House and this residency help you with this project and contribute towards your broader practice?
- How will you contribute to the growth of Convention House as a space? Please consider our aims around environment, access and community.
- How do you plan to share the outcomes from your residency?
- Is there any particular mentor you would like to work with and why do you think they will help support your project? We can also try to help you to find a suitable mentor if you would prefer
- Is there a particular bit of equipment or software that you would like access to?
- What one thing would you like to bring with you to make Convention House feel like home

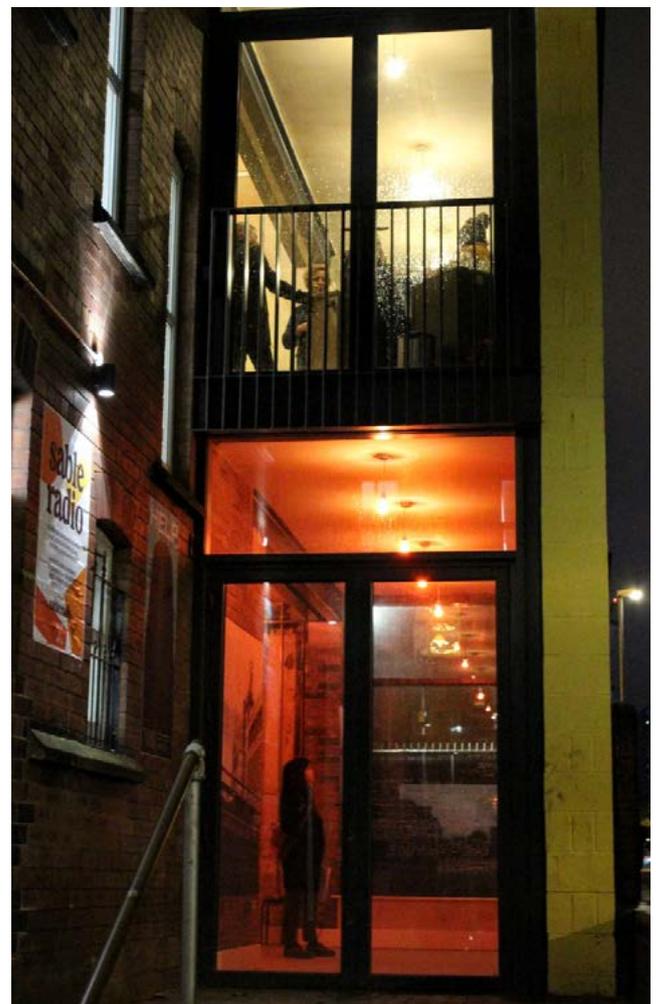
The residencies are due to start in May 2022. However we are flexible and start dates can be arranged with the selected artists to suit their availability. We recommend that the artists plan to undertake them within a one to three month period.

Whilst much of the activity will take place at Convention House, we are keen to make this accessible to those who would prefer to take part remotely due to access needs or who are shielding due to COVID. We are also open to a hybrid residency.

If you are interested in applying and want to talk through your idea first, or want to find out more, you can contact Jon Wakeman on jon@esamail.org.uk or call 0113 248 0040. Please title your email, in bold; RESIDENCY ENQUIRY.

Deadline: 12 noon Tuesday 3rd May

Selection will take place from Weds 4th May



More Information

What does technology mean and can you plug-in a lump of clay?

Such questions are what intrigues us at East Street Arts and in Convention House. What is (im)possible, what things can artists discover and how can we disseminate the results?

We love process, playing with materials, adapting old things to make something new, traditional craft equipment, and the ever developing digital-based technologies. We consider; programmable knitting machines, jigger and jolly equipment, kilns, dark rooms and risographs to software as art, creative coding, electronics and microcontrollers, internet of things, bio hacking and AI... all as exciting technological equipment.

Just like we are very open in our definition of artist and want to be open to a wide range of practitioners, we are very open in how we define 'technology' and what we consider 'technical equipment'.

Dictionary definitions of technology include:

- Technology is the sum of any techniques, skills, methods, and processes used in the production of goods or services or in the accomplishment of objectives, such as scientific investigation.
- Technology refers to methods, systems, and devices which are the result of scientific knowledge being used for practical purposes.



"With clay tablets, humans overcame the limitations of their brains 5,000 years ago. The first singularity took place in the Stone Age"

[David Krakauer, WIRED 2017](#)

Equipment we currently and will have at Convention House;

- Dark Room
- Macs, various
- Pottery: wheels, slab roller, kilns inc. raku, jigger and jolly machine
- Ceramic 3D printer
- Hand Tools for woodwork
- Printmaking equipment
- Laser Cutters
- 3D printer
- Risograph Printers
- Electronics lab and microcontrollers
- Digital Cameras
- Design and Photo editing software
- Audio and Video equipment and software
- 3D Scanning

A few of the things we've liked recently;

[Mediamatic, Amsterdam](#)

[Vital Capacities \(partners in this project\)](#)

Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds & Shape Our Futures: Merlin Sheldrake

3D Technology in Fine Art and Craft: Exploring 3D Printing, Scanning, Sculpting and Milling: Bridgette Mongeon

[Home Made Bio Electronic Arts, Migros-Kulturprozent](#)

[Processing Foundation](#)

'Junior Science' series 62 of Ladybird books

EAST ST ARTS

making space for artists

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eaststreetarts.org.uk

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