

Briefing document

Anhar: Culture and Climate Platform

Overview

Art Jameel and the British Council are delighted to present **Anhar: Culture and Climate Platform**, which supports ambitious projects in the arts and cultural sector that engage with the climate emergency. Focused on supporting cultural practitioners in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)*, this collaboration brings together Art Jameel and the British Council's long-standing goals and climate-focused programmes in an effort to diversify and increase support for creative responses to the climate emergency. **Anhar: Culture and Climate Platform** builds on findings and key priorities for the MENA cultural sector following the **Culture and Climate Summit**, a workshop and seminar that explored the role of culture and the arts in addressing the climate emergency, organised by Art Jameel and supported by the British Council in March 2023.

**Countries in the MENA eligible for this programme include:*

Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

Climate change and COP28

The UAE will host the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP28) in Dubai from November 30 – December 12, 2023. In this decisive decade for climate action, COP28 will seek to unite the world towards agreement on bold, practical, and ambitious solutions to the most pressing global challenge of our time. It will be a milestone moment when the world will take stock of its progress for the first time since adopting the Paris Agreement in 2015. This will help align efforts on climate action, including measures that need to be put in place to bridge the gaps in progress.

Looking after the planet requires understanding and empathy, collaboration and connections, imagination and innovation. It is also imperative that we involve younger generations in these efforts. In the British Council's fourth survey of almost 40,000 young people (aged 18 – 34) across 36 countries, climate change was highlighted as the most important issue for them. The next generation are the custodians of the future, and it is envisaged that this will be reflected in successful applications.

Art Jameel and the British Council are aligned in harnessing this moment of regional and international focus on the climate emergency to launch legacy programmes by and for the creative and cultural scenes of the MENA region.

We are inviting applications in response to this open call from individuals and organisations from across the arts and culture sectors and based in the UK and MENA Region.

We hope that the breadth of projects supported will stimulate conversations and connections, bringing together people, cultures and communities to understand each other's perspectives and collaborate on creative responses and solutions towards climate change.

We are curious about the imaginative leaps that artists and creative practitioners can make, and about how their creative problem-solving abilities can be harnessed to help communicate pressing issues in climate science to a wider public.

Detailed Brief for Tier 3

For Tier 3 we are looking for proposals for interdisciplinary and collaborative ways of working that will bring together artists, educators, creative professionals, scientists and technologists. We are particularly interested in collaborations between individuals and organisations of differing backgrounds who may not traditionally have had the chance to work together.

We welcome action-focused, interactive responses, which tackle difficult issues head on, push boundaries and are a catalyst for real change. This means thinking beyond a single artwork, event and/or digital moment, and instead focusing on mass participation and engagement, ideally leading to longer term movements and campaigns. We are interested in ideas that have high impact, sustainability, the potential to be scaled up, or those which can be shared globally using digital platforms and tools.

We particularly welcome ideas which specifically engage young people (aged 18 – 24) and which recognise the importance of sharing knowledge and experiences across different ages and generations. This could include a focus on curriculum development or widening engagement with science within the education sector, and projects that respond to young people's changing patterns of cultural consumption and production in the digital space. When working with children and vulnerable adults, we take safeguarding seriously and expect all projects to meet the [British Council standards](#).

We are also interested in foregrounding the voices of individuals and communities already experiencing the consequences of climate change in different settings. We want to see ideas grounded in lived experience, which connect with and draw upon credible scientific research.

As part of our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, we actively invite groups and communities who are underrepresented in climate change discussions to respond to this brief. This includes taking an inclusive approach to the development of your idea, considering the audiences you want to reach.

Finally, we are looking to support low carbon solutions and environmentally friendly practice in project planning and delivery, as well as in your choice of partners and suppliers.

Tier 3 Collaborative Project Examples:

For example (1): you have identified a localised environmental or ecological issue of pressing importance (e.g. drying up of water sources/ destruction of habitats/ extinction events/ cultural heritage being obliterated by commercial developments) and you want to mobilise artists and communities to intervene and raise awareness, adopting tactics and approaches from a UK partner with a track record of campaigning work in this field.

For example (2): an academic partner has identified an area of climate science that is poorly communicated and understood, being trapped in the discourse of research and policymaking; together you wish to explore how artists, educators and digital innovators can widen understanding of the issue among young people, leading to increased empowerment and change.

Further examples of projects that can be supported include:

- Research and/or residencies in industry such as fashion or architecture that focuses on improving sustainable practices
- New and exciting public art and performances that are large-scale, high profile, impactful, and that raise awareness of the climate emergency in cutting-edge and unignorable ways.
- Artwork that focuses on climate change storytelling – in collaboration with science/academia as well as with stakeholders from across the cultural sector.
- Situated projects: arts initiatives and residencies in natural environments and/or urban ones that have a focus on improving green place-making.
- Capacity building: improving climate emergency “literacy” of the arts and culture sector - e.g. a partnership between universities in UK and MENA that want to adapt existing curricula/course on arts/ecology etc

Eligibility for Tier 3 Grants

- Tier 3 applications must include at least one partner in the UK and one partner in the MENA region OR partners in more than one MENA country. Applicants must be living in their respective country at the time of applying and for the duration of this project.
- Tier 3 applicants can apply for between £25,000 and £50,000 (\$30,500 to \$70,000) to realise their creative idea. Applications that demonstrate in-kind or matched support are welcome, although this is not essential. Match funding cannot be provided through other British Council funded programmes.
- Applications should be jointly submitted and signed by all named collaborators, with a supporting letter from each partner stating their role in the project. A partner based either in the UK or in MENA can lead on the proposal. Project resources and responsibilities should be distributed fairly and equitably between all partners.

- Individuals, organisations and/or informal collectives/networks are all eligible to apply but should have demonstrable experience of managing similar projects and grants.
- We expect applications to embed [principles of equality, diversity and inclusion](#) through their core proposal and idea (including, where relevant, costs relating to captioning videos, using sign language interpretation or translating content).
- We are interested in new, original ideas in response to this brief. Existing projects and programmes are not eligible. Exceptions apply for existing ideas which have reached a pilot or proof-of-concept phase but have not been realised publicly.
- Applicants will be expected to plan, design and realise their project during the calendar year 2024.
- Applicants can use any platforms to showcase their project idea, but must provide detail on how this will be realised and confirm that agreements in principle are in place with host organisations, festivals, online sites, media partners etc.
- Applicants from a range of different sectors are welcome and encouraged. All outputs and responses should be innovative in their nature, demonstrating creativity in working across disciplines, including arts and culture, education, science and digital technology.
- Applicants should demonstrate that they have taken into consideration the local context in their relevant countries, including climate change priorities. The concept or idea should address a specific need or issue in a creative and/or innovative way.
- Successful applicants will own the copyright of any work created but must grant the British Council and Art Jameel, as the commissioning partners, free and unequivocal use for non-commercial purposes of any arising outputs, which may include promotion of works through our digital channels or exhibiting works in the future. This would all be done in collaboration with the artists/creative producers of the work.
- Successful applicants may be invited to take part in additional showcase opportunities and British Council and Art Jameel alumni programmes in the future.
- Successful applicants will be required to maintain regular communication with Art Jameel and the British Council, offering project updates and supporting the project monitoring and evaluation.
- Successful candidates will be required to produce a narrative and financial report at the end of the project, including activities, reach, impact, outcomes and actual spend.
- Prior to contracting, and as part of the British Council's delivery standards, the successful partners will need to pass due diligence requirements, including ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) and financial screenings, and comply with [safeguarding standards](#).

Selection criteria

Applications will be reviewed by a diverse panel of representatives from the British Council and Art Jameel, along with guest panellists, representing a range of sectors.

Our assessment of successful applicants will be based on the following criteria:

- Big ideas – the project should take an interdisciplinary approach and address key climate themes responding to specific social, cultural and climate issues in the identified MENA countries.
- Quality – the experience of the applicants in delivering high quality work in their respective field(s), integrity and originality
- Collaboration – the partners involved and the nature of the collaboration, with a particular emphasis on the level of mutuality within the partnership. This includes demonstrating mutual benefit throughout the project cycle, including budget allocation
- Impact – the potential impact Anhar will have on the partners and audiences involved, including estimated audience participation and engagement, as well as potential for additional showcasing, scaling up or further development beyond the scope of this commission. An understanding of the local context and climate change priorities is an asset
- Budget – the extent to which costings are appropriately calculated, reflect good value for money, are relevant to the proposed approach and are distributed amongst partner.
- Applicants may be approached with clarification questions or to attend an interview with the panel. Applicants must be available to respond and/or attend an interview (conducted digitally).

Key dates

Special 'Advice Surgeries' will be available to applicants to Tier 3 grants on **Wednesday October 18, 2023** and **Wednesday November 15, 2023 at 10am GMT / 12pm MEST/ 1pm GST. You can sign up by emailing ccp@artjameel.org**

How to apply

Applications should be submitted by **December 15, 2023** by midnight in your local time zone. Applications submitted after this date and time will not be considered by the reviewing panel. If you have any questions about grant criteria and eligibility please email ccp@artjameel.org and allow at least three working days for a response.

Applications can be submitted through the online application available on Art Jameel's website. Applications for Tier 3 must include a detailed budget using the provided budget template, accessible through the online form. Applicants who may have additional access needs and would prefer to submit their application in another format should get in touch prior to the deadline. We will endeavour to do everything we can to accommodate any needs.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Data protection and consent

Art Jameel and British Council comply with data protection law that meet internationally accepted standards. You have the right to ask for a copy of the information and biodata we hold on you, and the right to ask us to correct any inaccuracies in that information. If you have concerns about how we have used your personal information, you also have the right to complain to a privacy regulator.

For detailed information, please refer to the privacy section of our website, www.britishcouncil.org/privacy or contact your local British Council office. We will keep your information for ten years from the time of collection.

About Art Jameel

[Art Jameel](#) supports artists and creative communities. Founded and supported by the Jameel family philanthropies, the independent organisation is headquartered in Saudi Arabia and the UAE and works globally. Art Jameel's programmes – across exhibitions, commissions, research, learning and community-building – are grounded in a dynamic understanding of the arts as fundamental to life and accessible to all.

Art Jameel's two institutions – [Jameel Arts Centre](#), an innovative institution for contemporary art and ideas in Dubai, UAE, and [Hayy Jameel](#), a dedicated complex for the arts and creativity in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia – are complemented by digital initiatives plus collaborations with major institutional partners and a network of practitioners across the world.

About the British Council

'Anhar: Culture and Climate Platform' is one of many activities the British Council is delivering in the run up to COP28. We are working with partners in the UK and across the MENA region to create opportunities for cooperation, dialogue and action which address the shared challenge of climate change.

Find out more about our previous Climate Commissions here:

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection/be-inspired/creative-commissions>

The British Council supports peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide.

The British Council works in two ways – directly with individuals to transform their lives, and with governments and partners to make a bigger difference for the longer term, creating benefit for millions of people all over the world. It works on the ground in more than 100 countries.

The British Council helps young people to gain the skills, confidence and connections they are looking for to realise their potential and to participate in strong and inclusive communities. Their work in arts and culture stimulates creative expression and exchange and nurtures creative enterprise.

The British Council connects the best of the UK with the world and the best of the world with the UK. These connections lead to an understanding of each other's strengths and of the

challenges and values that we share. This builds trust between people in the UK and other nations which endures even when official relations may be strained.