



## **V&A RESEARCH INSTITUTE OFFSITE RESIDENCY IN COLLABORATION WITH CREATE AT THE WHITE HOUSE OPEN CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS**

### **SUMMARY**

Residency dates: October 2017 to January 2018

Residency Stipend: £6,000

Production/Research/Public Engagement Budget: £3,000

Accommodation and standard return ticket to London

Deadline for applications: 20 July 2017

Interview date: 22 August 2017

[The Victoria & Albert Museum](#) (V&A) and [Create](#) are seeking nominations for a four-month residency based at Create's [The White House](#) in Dagenham's Becontree Estate in East London. Nominations can be for contemporary artists, makers and designers of any age and nationality based outside of the United Kingdom.

**Nominators will be asked to submit a joint application with the nominated practitioner.**

### **VARI (VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM RESEARCH INSTITUTE) AND VARI RESIDENCIES**

'VARI' is the Andrew W Mellon Foundation supported Research Institute nestled within the V&A Research Department. Over the five years from 2016 to 2021, VARI will support and resource a portfolio of specific research projects as well as responsive research positions involving academics, makers, designers, conservators, and other practitioners of all kinds, creating a unique research environment.

In line with VARI's aims to incubate new methods for interdisciplinary collections research, a new strand of VARI Residencies has been launched, both onsite at the V&A South Kensington and offsite in East London in collaboration with different partner organisations.

The purpose of the VARI Residencies is to bring together creative practitioners with curators, scholars and diverse audiences to explore cross-disciplinary connections, strategies to see and show our collections in new ways, by creating encounters with new constituencies and/or exploring new methodologies of disseminating and communicating research. VARI Residencies are explicitly for research and do not require residents to exhibit artwork.

## **CREATE LONDON AND THE WHITE HOUSE RESIDENCY PROGRAMME**

Create exists to explore the ways that artists can contribute to the lives of people in cities, by helping artists to connect more closely with communities through an ambitious programme of projects. Their work is primarily focused in east London, home to more artists and arts organisations than anywhere in Europe, and amongst the most economically deprived parts of the UK.

Create are interested in how artists and communities can inform the development of neighbourhoods and in the future use of formerly disused buildings. Create provide opportunities for artists to play a key role within the lives of communities, as residents, collaborators and as catalysts for change. They provide opportunities for artists to lead on delivering public programmes, which include art and social activity, to enable communities to engage in and enjoy a vast array of high quality artistic work in everyday spaces.

In August 2016, Create worked with architects Apparata to transform The White House, a derelict 18th century farmhouse on Dagenham's Becontree Estate, into a new public space for art and social activity. The White House invites artists to live at the house, to make new art and join people living locally to create the vision for this new public building.

The White House residency programme consists of two artists taking up residence for four months at a time, working with people living locally to create new artworks together. Running alongside this is the Front Room Programme - weekly coffee mornings, regular community dinners and film screenings as well as craft workshops and *All Hands On Deck*, a new set and prop-building group formed out of one of the first artist residencies. Local community groups and the artists that live at the house can add to the Front Room Programme, allowing it to grow over time to reflect the interests and activities of the house and the people that use it.

Since opening it has been home to four artists and hosted a range of workshops, talks, dinners and events – so far resulting in a socialist pantomime and a mockumentary film.

The White House was conceived with the history of the Becontree Estate in mind and within the wider history of suburban architecture. The London County Council built the Becontree Estate between 1921 and 1935, creating 26,000 new homes for around 100,000 people on land that was previously farmland in the county of Essex. When it was completed it was the largest social housing estate in the world. An additional 1,000 houses were added in later phases. It was a part of the Homes for Heroes movement and most of the new residents were moved from slums in the east end of London after the First World War. The majority of the population of Becontree worked in the May & Baker and Ford factories. The estate became a part of Greater London in 1965 when Barking and Dagenham joined to become a borough. The right to buy act in the 1980's allowed many residents to buy their council homes, allowing them to adapt their homes.

## **RESIDENCY RESEARCH BRIEF**

The V&A Research Institute and Create are requesting applications from social practice artists or designers working in any form or medium interested in exploring the creative interplay between town and countryside. The residency will be hosted by Create in their White House site on the Becontree Estate in Dagenham, engaging with its communities and multiple histories. An exemplar of the Garden City Movement, Becontree was designed in 1921 and grew to form a part of East London. We are interested in proposals that interrogate the cultural and architectural history of the Becontree Estate and similar garden estate projects while shedding new light on current everyday lived experiences for its residents and imagining new futures for the area. This could take the form of investigating the edges and overlaps between town and country, looking into the origins of garden cities and city farms, or examining the range of processes and drivers of urbanisation in this spot where East London and Essex meet up.

This project supported by the V&A Research Institute dovetails with the work that the V&A has been effecting with East London communities through a variety of programmes and pop-ups as it explores avenues for its participation in the Cultural Educational Quarter that is planned for the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

### **ROLE AND EXPECTATIONS OF VARI OFFSITE RESIDENTS**

Resident will be expected to:

- Carry out research, meet with/present ideas to V&A and Create staff and develop ideas for public programmes;
- Meet local residents in Dagenham and research the history of the Becontree Estate;
- Present their research and work in progress both at Create and at the V&A South Kensington to museum staff and the general public;
- Develop an online presence for their practice on the V&A website, including blogging (technical support will be offered);
- Author a reflexive document concerning their research methodologies and processes that can be a contribution to VARI and Create's developing modus operandi;
- Make this residency their primary commitment during the residency period.

N.B.: The copyright and other intellectual property rights in any works created during the Residency shall vest with the Resident. The V&A and Create shall be granted a non-exclusive, non-commercial, royalty free licence to copy and to reproduce the works for any purpose whatsoever relating to VARI, the V&A and Create's work.

## **VARI OFFSITE RESIDENTS WILL BE OFFERED:**

- A studio space, technical support, accommodation and introductions to the local context of the Becontree Estate in Dagenham by Create's team at The White House;
- Formal affiliation with VARI (V&A Research Institute) as part of the V&A's Research and Collections Division;
- Appropriate introductions to staff and departments of the V&A and support from the V&A Residencies Programme Manager;
- Access to relevant curatorial expertise and V&A collections on display and in storage;
- Temporary V&A Museum Security pass for the duration of the Residency, subject to Security clearance.

## **RESIDENCY STIPEND AND PRODUCTION BUDGET**

The appointed Resident will receive a stipend of £6,000 and will have a production/research/public engagement budget of £3,000, which can be used to make new work or for materials used in public engagement activities.

Please note that apart from a standard return flight to London and accommodation (which will be provided by Create), all other living expenses (food, transport etc.) will have to be covered by the residency stipend.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS: SHORTLISTING, INTERVIEW AND OFFER**

Anyone can be a nominator and nominated applicants can be contemporary artists, makers and designers of any age and nationality who meet the criteria of the residency outlined above.

Nominators and nominated practitioners will be required to submit a joint application form (enclosed) and supporting documents (namely a CV and their portfolio).

All supporting documents must be in PDF format and emailed to [variresidencies@vam.ac.uk](mailto:variresidencies@vam.ac.uk) by the deadline.

Short listing will take place within a few days after the application closing date. Applications will be considered by at least three members of V&A staff and a curator from Create. Once a short list has been selected, unsuccessful candidates will be informed by email and short listed candidates are invited to interview. Please note that we are unable to provide any feedback on unsuccessful applications (we will only be able to provide feedback to shortlisted applicants that are interviewed).

Interviews will include a short presentation and a series of interview questions. The interview panel will most likely consist of the V&A Residencies Programme Manager, a museum curator, a member of the VARI team, a member of the V&A East team, a curator from Create and a member of the *Friends of The White House* group.

**NB:** Please note that we cannot cover travel costs for the interviews. International applicants will be interviewed via skype.

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

We are looking for outstanding practitioners who meet the following Essential Criteria:

- (i) A strong track record of public presentation of their work (through exhibitions, talks, publications etc.);
- (ii) An interest in working in research-led, experimental and community settings and a successful track record of working on collaborative projects;
- (iii) An understanding and desire to work collaboratively with both the public and the Museum community as part of their creative practice;
- (iv) Interest and sensitivity in engaging with different stakeholder groups in the Becontree Estate and Dagenham;
- (v) The ability to work independently;
- (vi) Creative originality and professionalism in their work;
- (vii) A working knowledge of spoken and written English.



## VARI OFFSITE RESIDENCY APPLICATION FORM

*Please do not alter this form in any way and complete each section in the relevant boxes adhering to the word count.*

### 1. NOMINATOR

First name	
Last name	
Nationality (as indicated in passport)	
Current Address	
Telephone no	
Email address	
Relationship to nominated practitioner	

### 2. NOMINATED PRACTITIONER FOR THE RESIDENCY

First name	
Last name	
Nationality (as indicated in passport)	
Current Address	
Telephone no	
Email address	
Website	

### 3. SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE NOMINATOR

Describe your relationship with the nominated practitioner and why you think he/she would be a good candidate for this residency (maximum 1000 words).

### 4. SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE NOMINATED PRACTITIONER FOR THE RESIDENCY

- A. Describe your creative practice and the thinking behind it (maximum 500 words).
- B. Give details of your experience working in a community or educational setting or/and with a museum, historic collection or archive (maximum 500 words).
- C. Give details of how you propose to use this opportunity to develop your practice (maximum 500 words).
- D. Give details on how you propose to respond to the residency research brief (maximum 800 words).
- E. Give details of how you might engage with different individuals and stakeholder groups in Dagenham and/or East London (maximum 500 words).
- F. Give an outline of how you envisage engaging the public with the process of researching and developing creative work. (maximum 500 words).
- G. Please provide any other information or skills that you think are relevant to this application / opportunity (maximum 500 words).

In one email, applicants are expected to submit:

- A. **A completed version of this application form in PDF format.**
  - B. **A CV/resume**
  - C. **Portfolio** (only one pdf file with all images and texts).
- In the subject line of your email, please write: LastName FirstName.**

Important: Do not include any important information in the body of your email. Only information in your application form and the requested documents will be assessed. Also do not submit more than the three required attachments.

### CONFIRMATION

I confirm this information to be correct. I have completed the application form and submitted all additional required materials, by email only.

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Place and date

**Nominator**

Type or input electronic signature

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Place and date

**Nominated practitioner**

Type or input electronic signature